

A serene winter landscape featuring a stone bridge over a stream. The scene is heavily covered in snow, with trees and reeds in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and quiet.

the **CONNECTION**

WINTER 2024

the

CONNECTION

WINTER 2024

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CITY HALL

City Administrator
James Lancaster
jamesl@milanmich.org

Treasurer & Finance Director
Sarah Finch
sarahf@milanmich.org

(734) 439-1501

MONDAY 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
TUESDAY 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
THURSDAY 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
FRIDAY CLOSED

Director of IT Services
John Koehler
johnk@milanmich.org

Community Engagement Director
Jill Tewsley
jillt@milanmich.org

Clerk
Lavonna Wenzel
lavonnaw@milanmich.org

Assessor
Dan Currie
danc@milanmich.org

Building Department
734.439.7089

MAYOR & COUNCIL

Mayor
Ed Kolar
edkolar@milanmich.org

Mayor Pro Tem
Shannon Dare Wayne
shannonw@milanmich.org

Mary Kerkes
maryk@milanmich.org

Josh Kofflin
joshk@milanmich.org

Dave Snyder
daves@milanmich.org

Matthew Stafford
matthews@milanmich.org

Christian Thompson
christiant@milanmich.org

POLICE & FIRE

Milan Police Department
(734) 439-1551

Chief of Police Donald Tillery
donalddt@milanmich.org

Milan Area Fire Department
(734) 439-2843

Fire Chief Robert Stevens
rgstevens@milanareafire.com

2024 IS AN EXCITING TIME TO BE A RESIDENT IN THE CITY MILAN

Happy New Year. A fun and exciting year is in store for the residents of Milan. In 2022, we focused on budget controls, financial accountability, and repairing and/or replacing obsolete city assets. In 2023, we secured significant grant funding and planned for our future infrastructure needs. This year, we will see the emergence of many commercial projects around the city. And, as a result of the sizeable grants secured in 2023, major improvements will occur in our parks and at our wastewater treatment plant.

Commercial growth is a big focus of this administration. Milan has many acres of vacant commercially zoned properties within the city limits. Growing our commercial tax base is extremely important to keep residential property owners from footing the bill for the infrastructure improvements needed within the city. We do not have to grow outside of the boundaries of the city. We simply need to have better uses and opportunities for the commercial properties within the City of Milan.

Milan does not own any vacant commercial properties to market, but we can help create a community where businesses want to be. With that in mind, our focus will be on making Milan a great place to do business. Our commercial landowners will benefit from these efforts. The city staff and administration are hard at work to make that happen. Our efforts are paying off and we are confident that 2024 will be a good year for commercial growth in Milan.

The next two years ('25 & '26) are even more promising with incredible opportunities possibly coming our way. It's too soon to speculate on what could come to Milan, but our work is paying dividends, and the future looks exciting. We look forward to sharing news and information about potential commercial growth in our city.

Milan is gaining the recognition of our friends and partners in Washtenaw and Monroe Counties. Regional business partnerships are being created and these partnerships will be key to diversifying our tax base with additional commercial growth and investments.

It's truly an exciting time to be a resident of the City of Milan.



a message from
MAYOR ED KOLAR

CONNECT WITH WHAT MATTERS

I hope that the holiday season has been fulfilling for all our residents and their families within the City of Milan. The holidays signal a time where hopefully we can all take a step back and really connect with what matters to all of us.

Along with spending time with our friends and families, your city staff has continued to work with our focus centering around preparing to embark on the \$1M SPARK grant the City of Milan received from the Department of Natural Resources. We were lucky enough to be one of the 21 projects selected from the 400 grant requests submitted to the DNR from communities all around the State of Michigan. The City's goal of this project is to create features in Wilson Park that will benefit our multigenerational families in and around the city. The primary features of this project are a fully accessible play structure, relocated basketball courts, pickleball courts, a fitness court, shade structures around the splashpad and a permanent restroom structure.

As we start this process with the DNR, the timelines for these projects are becoming clearer. Per DNR rules we must put out a request for qualifications to select a prime engineer to lead the project. Once this contractor is selected, we will meet with them to discuss locations, designs, and a project timeline. Once design and bid documents are produced, we will put the project out to bid to secure a contractor to perform the construction. The estimation is this project will go out to bid sometime between July and August of 2024, meaning you will not see actual work being completed until spring of 2025. All funds must be allocated to a contractor by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026.

As this project gains momentum, we will work concurrently on the \$3.6M Wastewater Treatment Plant grant from the State of Michigan. We currently have our engineering contractors working with our plant operators to create a viable plan to utilize the money in the most effective way for the operations of the plant. The initial plans call for revamping the UV treatment channels, improving the fine screens in the headworks building, redoing the HVAC and ventilation systems, and replacing old and outdated pumps with newer, more efficient ones. All these components are essential in the daily operation of the plant and will allow the plant to operate more effectively. We can take five years' worth of needed capital improvements and roll them all together into a singular project which will let us do more with the money. This also allows us to utilize the future funds we had budgeted to be reallocated to other areas of our wastewater system that need improvements. This money will help us to jump start our capital improvement plan and set us up for future success if we continue with our commitments to projects.

While we are thankful and appreciative for these grants and the number of things they allow us to accomplish, we have to keep our future projects in sight and ensure that we continually plan to fund them. In doing so, we can stay ahead of maintenance and replacement costs to keep our major assets operating at the top of their efficiency levels for their expected lives.

I am looking forward to working with your newly elected and returning council members and Mayor to continue to ensure we are making the best decisions for the residents of our city, even if those decisions are challenging. The staff that we currently have in place are as efficient and effective as any staff that I have ever worked with, and I look forward to our team working for you in 2024 and beyond.



city administrator
JAMES LANCASTER

news and information from

TREASURER'S OFFICE

UTILITY BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO PAY YOUR CITY OF MILAN UTILITY BILLS

- By Mail
- In Person at City Hall
- Drop box at Police Department
- Online
- Automatic payments

BY MAIL

Mail to:
City of Milan
147 Wabash Street
Milan, MI 48160

IN PERSON

Monday - Thursday
7:30 AM - 5 PM
City Hall
147 Wabash Street

DROP BOX

Available 24 hours a day
Milan Police Department
35 Neckel Court

ONLINE PAYMENTS



To make an online payment, scan QR code or go to: milanmich.org and click the **HOW DO I** button, then select **MAKE PAYMENTS ONLINE**

AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS



To register for automatic utility bill payments, scan QR code or go to: milanmich.org/departments/treasurers_office/utility_billing/

PAYMENT PLANS

Did you know that if you are behind on your Water Bill you can set up a payment plan?

For details:

- Call City Hall at 734.439.1501
- Email the Utility Clerk at karisd@milanmich.org

treasurer & finance director
SARAH FINCH

THE CLERK'S OFFICE

NEW COUNCIL TAKES OFFICE

Council members Jesse Nie and David Baldwin, who have served on our city council since 2020, recently completed four-year terms. Neither sought re-election.

Council member Mary Kerkes completed her second four-year term at the end of 2023. Kerkes was re-elected to serve a third term in November, earning the most votes. Her term runs from 2024-2027. During that term, she will serve as Mayor Pro Tem from 2026-2027.

David Snyder and Matthew Stafford also earned City Council seats in the November election. This will be the first term for both of them. Their terms run from 2024-2027.

Mayor Ed Kolar completed his first two-year term in that position and was re-elected to serve a second term as mayor, running from 2024-2025.

Council members Shannon Dare Wayne, Christian Thompson, and Josh Kofflin just completed the second year of their four-year terms. They each remain on city council until the end of 2025. Dr. Dare Wayne, PhD will serve as Mayor Pro Tem from 2024-2025.



mayor
ED KOLAR



mayor pro tem
SHANNON DARE WAYNE



council member
MARY KERKES



council member
MATTHEW STAFFORD



council member
DAVE SNYDER



council member
CHRISTIAN THOMPSON



council member
JOSH KOFFLIN

EARLY VOTING BEGINS IN 2024

The PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY in 2024 is **February 27, 2024**. Early voting will begin on Saturday, February 17, 2024, and continue through Sunday, February 25, 2024.

Milan Early Voting location for both Monroe and Washtenaw precincts will be held in council chambers at City Hall (147 Wabash Street). Early voting hours will be as follows:

Saturday, Feb. 17: 7 AM - 3 PM

Sunday, Feb. 18: 7 AM - 3 PM

Monday, Feb 19: 8 AM - 4 PM

Tuesday, Feb. 20: 8 AM - 4 PM

Wednesday, Feb. 21: 8 AM - 4 PM

Thursday, Feb. 22: 8 AM - 4 PM

Friday, Feb. 23: 8 AM - 4 PM

Saturday, Feb. 24: 7 AM - 3 PM

Sunday, Feb. 25: 7 AM - 3 PM

Voters must bring a form of government identification to receive a ballot.

news and information from

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FIFTEEN NEW NAMES ADDED TO VETERANS WALL OF HONOR

Fifteen new names were engraved on the Milan Veterans Wall of Honor in 2023. All of the veterans were recognized by Mayor Ed Kolar during the annual Veterans Day celebration on November 11, 2023.

BERNARD V BRANCHEAU*

United States Army - Vietnam (1964 - 1966)

RODGER E COLE

United States Navy - Vietnam

TIMOTHY E. CONKLIN*

United States Navy (1975 - 1981)

WILLIAM D. ENGLE*

United States Army (1966 - 1969)

NORMAN LEE GREASHABER

United States Army - Vietnam

STEVEN J HORVATH*

United States Army (1953 - 1956)

RONALD WILLIAM MERCIER*

United States Navy (1950 - 1957)

LUKE J NEUVIRTH*

United States Navy (2019 - 2022)

THOMAS HAROLD PADDOCK

United States Army - Vietnam (1969 - 1971)

SHAWN PATRICK RANKIN*

United States Navy (1986 - 1988)

ARIC P SCHWAB*

United States Navy (1996 - 2019)

JOHN G. SEITZ*

United States Army - Vietnam

JOHN HERBERT SPENCER

United States Air Force (1957 - 1963)

JOHN EDWARD TRUDEAU*

United States Army (1969 - 1975)

RICHARD "RANGER RICK" WILSON

United States Army (1972 - 1974)

*Names also read during 2022 ceremony but were not engraved on the wall until 2023.



For information about adding a name to the Milan Veterans Wall of Honor scan the QR code or visit:

https://milanmich.org/departments/parks_and_recreation/veterans_wall_information

news and information from

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PLANT A TREE IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

Memorial trees are a great way to honor a loved one and be environmentally friendly.

You can purchase a memorial tree from the City of Milan at any time throughout the year. However, the trees will only be planted in the spring of each calendar year.

As the purchaser of a tree, you may choose the type of tree from our approved list and in which park you want the tree planted. After installation, purchasers will be notified of the exact location of their memorial tree.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of the purchaser to notify loved ones and family members about the memorial tree.

PRICING: The total cost of a memorial tree is \$500.

Price Includes:

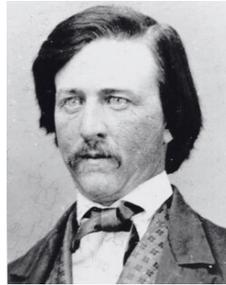
- purchase and installation of the tree
- a small engraved memorial plaque
- 1-year warranty.

For more information or to purchase a memorial tree scan the QR code or go to:



milanmich.org/departments/parks_and_recreation/memorial_tree_program

CHARLES WILSON, THE MAN BEHIND WILSON PARK



On July 8, 1921, the land on which Wilson Park is situated was donated by Charles H. Wilson to the Village of Milan for \$1.

The donation came with a variety of stipulations including that the land be used as a park and called Wilson's Park.

Charles Wilson was born in Portage, NY in 1836. The family settled in Milan in 1856, after having lived in Indiana and Iowa.

Wilson's father operated a grist mill along the Saline River, which Charles and his brother Myron helped operate.

Charles married Alzina A. Mead in 1867. Together they had two children, Fred and Grace.

In addition to working with his father at the grist mill, Charles owned and operated a sawmill in Milan.

Wilson was a businessman and a community leader. He served on the board of the Farmers and Merchants bank and was a trustee of the Union Church. In 1897, he was elected village president.

Wilson died in 1927. He is buried at Marble Park Cemetery.

community engagement director
JILL TEWSLEY

TIM HEATH RETIRES

Tim Heath and his crew at Heath Lawn Care have served our community for several years, mowing acres of park lands, watering plants, plowing snow on public walks and spaces, putting up Christmas lights and decor, emptying garbage cans, and so much more.

In December, after years of service, Tim retired. We want to thank him for his years of service to Milan and wish him all the best in his retirement.

All of the services previously provided by Heath Lawn Care have been brought in-house and are now being managed by our DPW crew.

SEASONAL REMINDERS - TRASH

GARBAGE/RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Set out within required times (Ordinance Sec. 9-5)

In all areas receiving curbside collection service, all solid waste, recyclables, and their containers shall be set out for collection on the curb line, or between the sidewalk and the curb, not earlier than 6 PM on the day before the scheduled pickup and not later than 7 AM on the day of the scheduled pickup. ***Solid waste or recyclables set out for collection later than 7 AM on the day of the scheduled pickup may not be collected.***

GARBAGE/RECYCLING CONTAINERS

To be removed after having been emptied (Ordinance Sec. 9-7)

In all areas where solid-waste or recyclable containers are set out on the curb line or between the sidewalk and the curb, such containers shall be removed by the occupant of the premises by no later than 9 AM of the day after the day of the scheduled pickup.

PLEASE NOTE

- Free bulk item is only the first service day of the month
- Trash cans should be placed in the greenbelt, not the street/sidewalk

DPW CREW AND CITY STAFF LIGHT UP PARADE

The annual holiday parade was a little brighter this past year. The Blizzard Boss, adorned with hundreds of festive lights, traveled the parade route along with members DPW, City of Milan staff, and their family members. See photos right.



news and information from

FIRE DEPARTMENT

MAFD GETS \$40,000 GRANT

The MAFD was recently awarded a \$40,000 grant from the State of Michigan to purchase Wildland/Extrication Turn-out gear which is used for incidents involving Motor vehicle accidents and outside fires. This type of gear will cut down on wear and tear on our structural Turn-out gear.

TWO NEW HIRES. BOTH NAMED ANDREW.

The Milan Fire Department welcomed two new members to their staff in late 2023, Andrew Cranson and Andrew Noland.

PFF Cranson comes to the department fully trained and will also complete Milan's training program. PFF Noland will attend the Fire Academy, EMT class, and complete Milan's training program.

They are both eager to learn the job and excited to serve their community for many years to come! We are happy to welcome them both aboard!

WINTER WEATHER UPDATES

MARKED VEHICLES

During the winter months we respond to several weather-related incidents that include vehicle accidents and road run offs.

Please be aware that when the Fire Department (or any other agency) responds to these incidents, they will mark the vehicle with caution tape when the incident is complete. This indicates that Emergency crews have been on scene and left.

FIRE HYDRANTS

If you have a fire hydrant in front of your property and you are able, during heavy snow accumulation it's very helpful to clear snow away from the hydrant. This makes the hydrant more accessible if it is needed.

fire chief
**ROBERT
STEVENS**

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!



Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.



1 in every 7 home fires and 1 in every 5 home fire deaths involves heating equipment.



Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away from your home as possible.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.



Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CAR SEAT BASICS

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for young children, and properly restrained children have a more than 50 percent greater chance of surviving a crash. When driving with children, always use the appropriate car seat or belt.

THE 4 STEPS FOR KEEPING A CHILD RIDING SAFELY

STEP
1



All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car safety seat as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight or height allowable by the seat's manufacturer.

STEP
2



All children who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their car safety seat should use a forward-facing car safety seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat's manufacturer.

STEP
3



All children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their car safety seat should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle's lap/shoulder belt fits properly, typically when the child reaches 4'9" tall at 8-12 years old.

STEP
4



When children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle's seat belt alone, always use lap and shoulder belts for optimal protection.

ALL CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 13 YEARS OLD SHOULD BE RESTRAINED IN THE REAR SEAT OF VEHICLES

Source: American Academy of Pediatrics, Policy Statement, 2018
To learn more or locate a certified child safety technician, visit NHTSA.gov.

COMMON CAR SEAT MISTAKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

More than 70 percent of car seats are not installed properly.
Most common errors are easy to fix with a few adjustments.

THE HARNESS STRAPS ARE NOT TIGHT ENOUGH

- Harness straps should fit snug to the child's body and should pass the "pinch test," meaning you should not be able to pinch any excess strap material.

THE CAR SEAT ISN'T INSTALLED TIGHT ENOUGH

- Car seats, whether installed with the seat belt of LATCH system, should not move more than one inch from side to side when tested at the point where the car seat attaches to the vehicle.

MOVING CHILDREN TO THE NEXT STEP TOO SOON

- Children should stay in their car seats until they outgrow the height or weight limit of the seat before moving to the next step, such as rear-facing to forward-facing.

THE CHEST CLIP IS TOO LOW

- The chest clip should be secured at the child's armpits to ensure harness straps remain in the correct position.

PUTTING KIDS IN THE FRONT SEAT TOO EARLY

- Children should ride in the back seat of the vehicle until they reach 13 years old. The force of an airbag may be dangerous for children under 13. Buckling up in the back seat decreases the risk of death by one-third.



Michigan.gov/carseats

TIPS FOR BUYING CAR SEATS

You should never purchase or borrow a used car seat that:

- Has been involved in a crash
- Has been recalled
- Has no date of manufacture and/or model number
- Has expired (typically after six years)
- Is damaged or missing parts

Car seats should not be purchased at garage sales or second-hand stores since the history of the seat is unknown.

MICHIGAN SEAT BELTS AND CHILD RESTRAINTS

- Children younger than age 4 must ride in a car seat in the rear seat, if the vehicle has a rear seat. If all available rear seats are occupied by children under 4, then a child under 4 may ride in a car seat in the front seat. A child in a rear-facing car seat may only ride in the front seat if the airbag is turned off.
- All children must be buckled in a car seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9".
- It is recommended that children 8 and older be placed in an age- and weight-appropriate child safety seat if the vehicle's seat belt does not fit properly. All children ages 12 and under ride in a rear seat.
- Drivers, front-seat passengers regardless of age, and all passengers 8 through 15 are required to wear properly adjusted belts.

Children should never ride on a lap, in a portable crib, or in any other device not approved for use in the vehicle.

DONALD TILLERY
chief of police

news and information from

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

MILAN SENIORS FOR HEALTHY LIVING

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Yes! You are old enough to join Milan Seniors.

Milan Seniors for Healthy Living is a vibrant, active group of 50+ folks who love to have fun!

If you are 50 or older, I encourage you to join us for one activity, and then decide if we are right for you.

I can tell you that most folks who stop in are impressed with our activities and come back for more!

Our senior center is an action-packed combination of information, education, stimulation, recreation, socialization, fitness, volunteerism and transportation.

That's right, transportation! If you reside in the 48160 zip code, our van can take you to and from our senior center. Door-to-door service. No more warming the car or scraping windows. We've got you covered.

MSHL is housed at The Riverbank Center (45 Neckel Court). We are open Monday - Thursday from 8am - 3pm.

Please stop by, take a tour, and let us tell you about our awesome programs and services.

MaryAnn Opal
*Executive Director,
Milan Seniors for Healthy Living*



MILAN MAIN STREET / DDA

THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In November, Mayor Ed Kolar appointed three individuals to serve on the Milan Main Street / DDA board to fill the vacancies left by departing members Jade Smith, Liz Smith, and Jessica Meingasner.

Meingasner resigned her position as a board member of Milan Main Street / DDA to take on the position of Executive Director for the organization. Liz Smith and Jade Smith (not related) both recently moved with their families, resulting in their resignations from the board.

Jesse Nie (resident), Patrick Shannon (owner, Hungry Howie's), and Joe Pusta (owner, Lavender Lane) are the new appointees to the Milan Main Street board.

MILAN BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

LOOKING MERRY & BRIGHT

Things are looking merry and bright all around the town for the winter season thanks to the hard-working team of the Beautification Commission. On Sunday, November 19 they filled the planters in the downtown and the garden beds at the various entryways with holiday greens, white birch branches and red berries.



Jesse Stafford, Aby Cryderman, Kelsea Nie, Ed Kolar, Denise Kolar, Barbara Gardinier, and Shannon Dare Wayne (not pictured)

The Beautification Commission also partnered with the Milan Knights of Columbus to secure a Christmas Tree for Tolan Square. The KofC purchased the tree and delivered it to Milan. Our hardworking DPW crew erected the beauty in the Square and made sure it was decorated with hundreds of lights before the holiday season.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

PUMPKIN LAUNCHING

The Great Pumpkin Launch took place in Wilson Park on Saturday, November 4. Kids, teens and adults all catapulted pumpkins of varying sizes into the park using a launching apparatus created by Milan's DPW.

The small pumpkins (provided by **Zilke's**) caught air and flew further than larger pumpkins. **Milan Cares** provided pumpkin patrol services, cleaning up the debris after the event. **The Grostick-Team/Real Estate One** and **Jones Insurance** were prize sponsors, making it possible to award first through third place prizes in the kid, teen, and adult categories.



KID CATEGORY WINNERS



TEEN CATEGORY WINNERS



ADULT CATEGORY WINNERS

BMX UPDATE

Construction of the BMX track in Nature Park is still in the works but we are experiencing a brief pause during winter weather and while we secure all of the required permits.

THE RIVERBANK CENTER

BEAUTIFUL EVENT SPACE IN MILAN

The Riverbank Center (45 Neckel Court) is set in lush park surroundings alongside the Saline River, which offers the ambiance of nature's splendid beauty in all seasons. The Riverbank Center is a popular location for weddings, receptions, birthday parties, family reunions, showers, graduation parties, and other events, meetings and activities.

The Great Room accommodates up to 200 people for dining and is equipped with a full commercial kitchen, reception hall, and outside patio. Large windows showcase the natural beauty of the setting. The West-end Meeting Room can be rented in tandem with the Great Room for events in need of extra space or individually for smaller meetings and events.

The Great Room

Rental includes kitchen and coat room

Weekend Rental Rates (Friday - Sunday)

- Residents (100 or less): \$475 + \$200 refundable damage deposit
- Non-residents (100 or less) \$575 + \$200 refundable damage deposit
- Resident (100 or more): \$600 + \$200 refundable damage deposit
- Non-residents (100 or more): \$700 + \$200 refundable damage deposit

Weekday Rental Rates (Monday - Thursday)

- Residents (100 or less): \$260 + \$200 refundable damage deposit
- Non-residents (100 or less) \$360 + \$200 refundable damage deposit
- Resident (100 or more): \$325 + \$200 refundable damage deposit
- Non-residents (100 or more): \$425 + \$200 refundable damage deposit

The West-end Meeting Room

Rental includes coat room

Maximum capacity: 40

Weekend Rental Rates (Friday - Sunday)

- Residents: \$150
- Non-residents: \$200

Weekday Rental Rates (Monday - Thursday)

- Residents: \$100
- Non-residents: \$150

Wilson Park Wedding Site

Rental includes outdoor area the length of the building, gazebo, and patio

Weekend Rental Rates (Friday - Sunday)

- Residents: \$75
- Non-residents: \$100

Weekday Rental Rates (Monday - Thursday)

- Residents: \$35
- Non-residents: \$60

Outdoor Chair Rental (100 available)

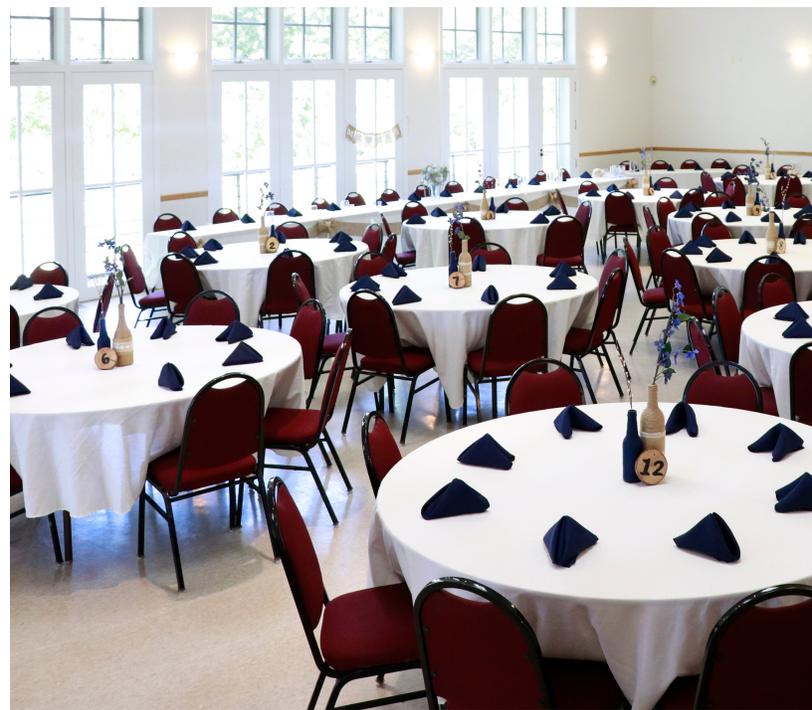
- \$1.25 / chair

A minimum, non-refundable deposit of \$100 and the \$200 refundable damage deposit are required to reserve your desired date(s). All fees must be paid a minimum of 90 days prior to the event.



For more information scan QR code or visit:

https://www.milanmich.org/departments/parks_and_recreation/rental_information_building_and_parks/the_riverbank_center.php



FIVE GREAT THINGS

1

SPARK GRANT

The City of Milan was awarded a SPARK GRANT in the amount of

\$954,500

in support of enhancements at Wilson Park including permanent restrooms, ADA compliant playground, new basketball courts, pickle ball and fitness courts.

2

CTAP GRANT

Milan Parks and Recreation was awarded a Community Tourism Action Plan grant from Destination Ann Arbor in the amount of

\$10,000

to purchase a shade scape for the Splash Pad in Wilson Park.

3

TAP GRANT

The City of Milan was awarded a

\$663,000

TAP Grant
(Transportation Alternatives Program)
in November

4

HOW MANY?

Caballero Finacial, Lee Grace Photography, The Play Station, Hunter & Ellie's, Pink Shamrocks, and Beam Skin Care Co.

That adds up to

6

new businesses that opened in downtown Milan in 2023.

5

WASTE WATER TREATMENT UPGRADES

In October, the City of Milan secured

\$3,600,000

in funding for upgrades to our waste water treatment facility.

COMMUNITY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



COURTNEY & JOE PUSTA

Lavender Lane owners are making Milan scent-sational.

Joe and Courtney Pusta have been a fixture on Main Street and in Milan for many years.

They first began planting Lavender in 2016, bringing products from their crops to the Farmers Market in downtown Milan that same year.

Joe said they first decided to plant lavender in their fields because “we’ve always enjoyed its beauty and calming effect. It’s an extremely versatile plant that appeals to our personalities.”

Joe is a science and detail-oriented individual with a wild and imaginative vision. The cultivation and formulation of product personify his personality.

Courtney is incredibly personable. She connects with customers and community and offers exceptional insight to their customer’s and community’s needs and wants. Festival planning, new product ideas, and customer interactions are her specialty.

Since planting their first crop in 2016, the Pustas have created a hugely successful annual Lavender Festival and opened a retail store on Main Street in downtown Milan.

The festival, now six years old, attracts thousands of visitors to Milan every year. Their shop features a variety of their 100+ lavender products.

The Pustas have donated their time and their lavender to make Milan more beautiful, planting and caring for small lavender gardens including the one on Main Street near the Old Fire Barn.

They both grew up near Woodhaven but are glad to now call Milan and London Township their home.



AUSTIN MYERS

Doing something a-maize-ing!

2019 Milan High School grad Austin Myers is bringing the community together by doing something he loves ...playing cornhole.

Tuesday evenings seemed to be lacking a place nearby to enter a cornhole league, so Austin decided to start one of his own. He approached local business owner Tony Thompson (Fender’s Bar and Grill) to toss out the idea of hosting a weekly league in Tolan Square.

If you drove by Tolan Square any Tuesday evening this summer and wondered why it was packed, it was packed because of Austin. The summer league attracted Milan residents as well as visitors from surrounding areas.

As Daylight Savings Time and colder weather started to creep up on Austin and his cornhole league, he decided to take it indoors for the winter. Austin worked with the Milan Parks and Recreation department to establish an indoor league at the Riverbank Center on Tuesdays.

The indoor league kicked off in November and will continue inside until the weather warms up (probably sometime in May).

If you are looking for something to do on Tuesday nights this winter, check out Austin’s cornhole league.

\$15 to play. Practice rounds start at 5:30 PM. Games start at 6:45 PM. Use the SCORHOLIO app to find information and to register to play.

CONNECT WITH US

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



City of Milan	@CityofMilanMI
Milan Parks & Recreation	@MilanParksAndRec
Milan Main Street / DDA	@MilanMainSt
Milan Police Department	@milanpolice
Milan Area Fire Department	@MilanAreaFire
Milan Public Library	@MilanPublicLibrary
Milan Beautification Commission	@MilanBeautificationCommission
Milan Seniors for Healthy Living	@MilanSeniors

FIND OUR WEBSITES



City of Milan	milanmich.org
Milan Parks & Recreation	milanmich.org/departments/parks_and_recreation
Milan Main Street / DDA	milanmainstreet.info
Milan Police Department	milanmich.org/departments/police_department
Milan Area Fire Department	milanareafire.com
Milan Public Library	milanlibrary.org
Milan Seniors for Healthy Living	milanseniors.org

GET ALERTS



Smart911™



Get connected and be alerted of things that may affect you in our community. Sign up for Smart 911 to receive alerts through text, email, and phone calls with customization options available for your convenience.

To sign up, scan QR code or go to:
milanmich.org/departments/police_department/index.php



EVENTS, HAPPENINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY**
City Hall Closed - Happy 2024
- 2 CORN HOLE LEAGUE**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 5:30 PM (practice rounds), 6:45 PM (games begin)
- 9 CORN HOLE LEAGUE**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 5:30 PM (practice rounds), 6:45 PM (games begin)
- 15 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**
City Hall Closed
- 16 CORN HOLE LEAGUE**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 5:30 PM (practice rounds), 6:45 PM (games begin)
- 16 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
City Hall / 147 Wabash Street; 7 PM
- 22 TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 1**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
8 Classes per session: \$35 (resident), \$40 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in
- 29 TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 1**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
8 Classes per session: \$35 (resident), \$40 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in
- 31 TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 1**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
8 Classes per session: \$35 (resident), \$40 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in

ABOUT TOTAL FITNESS

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS at 3:15 PM at THE RIVERBANK CENTER
INSTRUCTOR: HEIDI CUTLER

Perfect for all ages and all fitness levels. Each class includes aerobics, toning with weights and exercise bands, abdominal and floor exercises, and soothing cool down and stretches. Exercise balls, yoga and Pilates moves are incorporated to keep the workouts fresh.



REGISTER



EVENTS, HAPPENINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

5

TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 1

*The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
8 Classes per session: \$35 (resident), \$40 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in*

6

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall - 147 Wabash Street; 7 PM

6

CORN HOLE LEAGUE

The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 5:30 PM (practice rounds), 6:45 PM (games begin)

7

TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 1

*The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
8 Classes per session: \$35 (resident), \$40 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in*

9 & 10

UNDER THE BIG TOP: FAMILY DANCE



The Riverbank Center - 45 Neckel Court

Enjoy dancing and games for the entire family. Register early. Our dance events sell out quickly.

To register scan QR code or go to:

https://www.milanmich.org/departments/parks_and_recreation/under_the_big_top_family_dance_party.php

12

TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 1

*The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
8 Classes per session: \$35 (resident), \$40 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in*

13

CORN HOLE LEAGUE

The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 5:30 PM (practice rounds), 6:45 PM (games begin)

14

TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 1

*The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
8 Classes per session: \$35 (resident), \$40 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in*

14

VALENTINE'S DAY

- 17** **EARLY VOTING: PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**
City Hall Council Chambers - 147 Wabash Street; 7 AM - 3 PM
- 18** **EARLY VOTING: PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**
City Hall Council Chambers - 147 Wabash Street; 7 AM - 3 PM
- 19** **PRESIDENT'S DAY**
City Hall Closed
- 19** **EARLY VOTING: PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**
City Hall Council Chambers - 147 Wabash Street; 8 AM - 4 PM
- 20** **EARLY VOTING: PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**
City Hall Council Chambers - 147 Wabash Street; 8 AM - 4 PM
- 20** **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
City Hall - 147 Wabash Street; 7 PM
- 20** **CORN HOLE LEAGUE**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 5:30 PM (practice rounds), 6:45 PM (games begin)
- 21** **EARLY VOTING: PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**
City Hall Council Chambers - 147 Wabash Street; 8 AM - 4 PM
- 21** **TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 2**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
6 Classes per session: \$25 (resident), \$30 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in
- 22** **EARLY VOTING: PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**
City Hall Council Chambers - 147 Wabash Street; 8 AM - 4 PM
- 23** **EARLY VOTING: PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**
City Hall Council Chambers - 147 Wabash Street; 8 AM - 4 PM
- 24** **EARLY VOTING: PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**
City Hall Council Chambers - 147 Wabash Street; 7 AM - 3 PM
- 25** **EARLY VOTING: PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**
City Hall Council Chambers - 147 Wabash Street; 7 AM - 3 PM
- 26** **TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 2**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
6 Classes per session: \$25 (resident), \$30 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in
- 27** **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 8 AM - 8 PM
- 28** **TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 2**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
6 Classes per session: \$25 (resident), \$30 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in

EVENTS, HAPPENINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH



- 4 TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 2**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
6 Classes per session: \$25 (resident), \$30 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in
- 5 CORN HOLE LEAGUE**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 5:30 PM (practice rounds), 6:45 PM (games begin)
- 5 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
City Hall - 147 Wabash Street; 7 PM
- 12 BINGO**
The Riverbank Center (45 Neckel Court); 5:30 PM (doors) / 6:30 PM (start)
Milan Seniors for Healthy Living present a BINGO fundraiser. Public welcome.
- 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY**
- 19 CORN HOLE LEAGUE**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 5:30 PM (practice rounds), 6:45 PM (games begin)
- 19 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
City Hall - 147 Wabash Street; 7 PM
- 22 FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 7 PM
- 23 EASTER EGG HUNT**
Wilson Park; 11 AM
- 25 TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 2**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
6 Classes per session: \$25 (resident), \$30 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in
- 26 CORN HOLE LEAGUE**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 5:30 PM (practice rounds), 6:45 PM (games begin)
- 27 TOTAL FITNESS - SESSION 2**
The Riverbank Center / 45 Neckel Court; 3:15
6 Classes per session: \$25 (resident), \$30 (non-resident) or \$5 drop-in

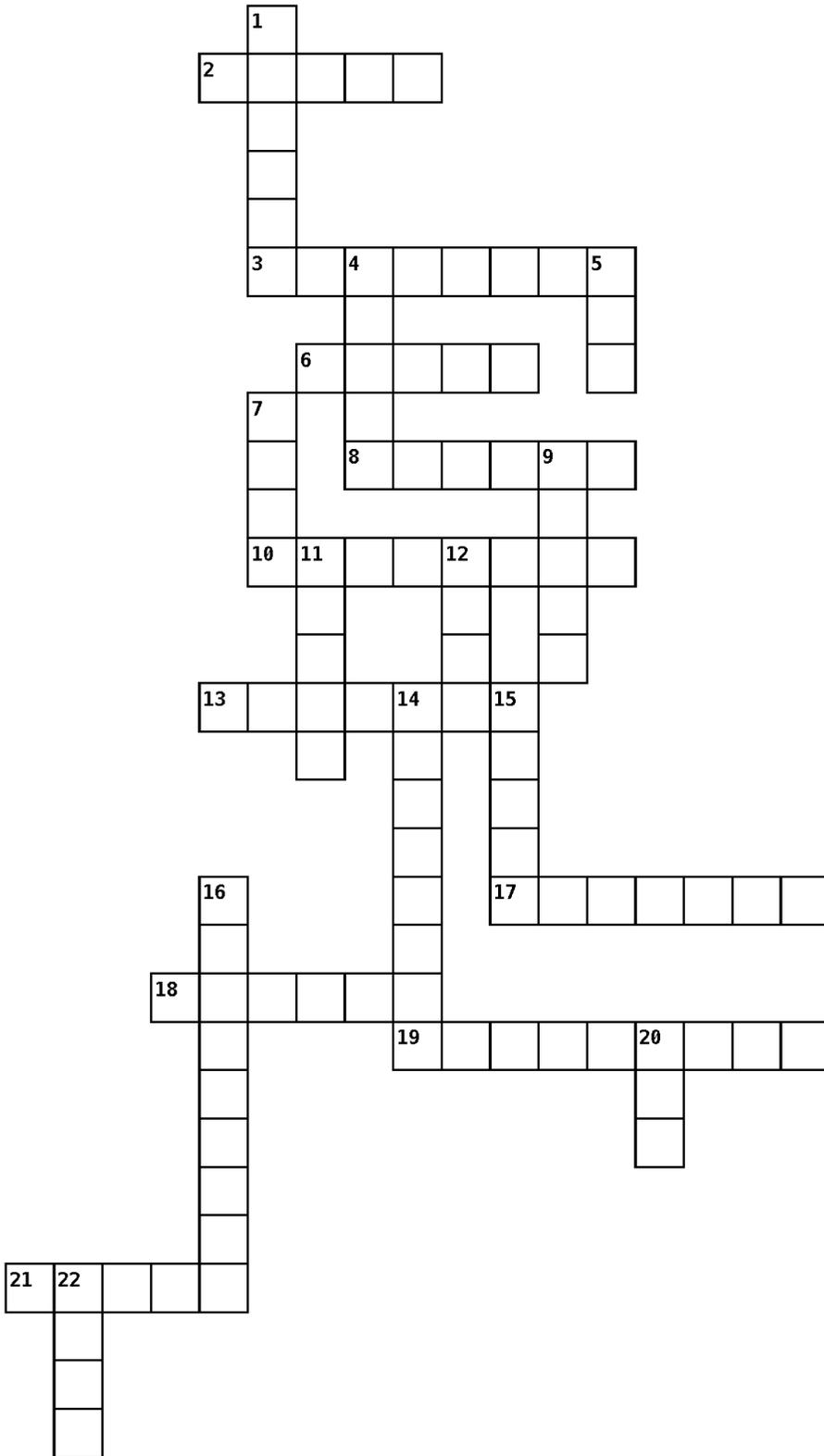
EGG HUNT INFORMATION & REGISTRATION



Scan QR code for
more information
or to register*

*Registration not live
until March 1, 2024*

THE CONNECTION CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 2 type of bird, finance director
- 3 items launched in Wilson Park
- 6 Recent retiree
- 8 Photographer of snowy cover photo
- 10 A new council member
- 13 Park donor
- 17 Square tree donors, _____ of Columbus
- 18 Utility bill payment option
- 19 For Rent: _____ Center
- 21 Mayor

DOWN

- 1 Families can dance under this
- 4 He's A-Maize-ing
- 5 Number of new businesses downtown
- 7 Hunted items in March
- 9 Type of voting
- 11 Whole or _____ Fitness
- 12 Fingers on hand or # of Great Things
- 14 Pusta's crop
- 15 A grant received
- 16 City Administrator
- 20 Attraction coming to Nature Park
- 22 A gem or jewel / MSHL Director

ANSWER KEY



ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO

The photo featured on the cover of this edition of The Connection was taken by City of Milan employee Grace Swaney. On a snowy day last winter at City Hall, Grace looked out the window and felt like she was in a snow globe. She grabbed her phone and captured this photo through the window. She posted the picture on her social media and the response was so positive that we asked Grace if we could use her photo on the cover of this publication and she agreed. Thank you, Grace.

the
CONNECTION

WINTER 2024

milanmich.org