



MILFORD COMMUNITY NEWS



Volume 48

November 2014



WE'RE ALMOST DONE!



The Milford Amphitheater Project, a joint project sponsored by the Rotary Club of Milford, the Chamber of Commerce and the Milford DDA is nearing completion. Construction began on July 21, and will be complete by the end of October. Lawn restoration and seeding has been completed, while punch list items are still being executed.



Located on Liberty Street, just west of downtown, the pavilion was styled after the Albert Kahn designed Ford Powerhouse (above left). Seventeen-foot pillars, which anchor the industrial styled steel beams, pick up the geometric pattern of the hydroelectric station, while the brick and limestone detail mirror the Art Deco design.

Built with a unique blend of rustic and streamlined concrete stone, the terraces and walls reflect a ledge-stone look while the capstone for the seatwalls is made of an elegant, smooth surface for seating. The juxtaposition of the rough and smooth provide for an interesting element in the landscape.



Although construction will be complete within weeks, the site will not be occupied until early spring, giving the landscaping time to mature and take root. The entire Amphitheater will be ready for all spring and summer events next year. We can't wait for everyone to see and enjoy it!

Close to \$400,000 has been raised by private contributions. For anyone interested in contributing to the Amphitheater Project, please contact the Village office at (248) 684-1515.

Community Sharing Outreach Center

There is a unique way to support Community Sharing, a non-profit outreach agency, serving Milford, Highland and two mobile home parks in Wixom. Empty Bowls is part of a worldwide grassroots effort to end hunger and food insecurity. Have a bowl painting party where artists will coach participants to paint their own design on empty bowls for a donation of \$15. 'Soup bowls will be painted at the bowl parties; and 'soup bowls will be created by local artisans and students. When one paints a bowl, it is their entrance fee to the Main Event on May 31, 2015 at the Carls Family YMCA at 300 Family Drive, Milford, sharing soup and bread with your family, friends and neighbors. Local restaurants will provide food service. Please go to www.emptybowlproject.org to learn more. There is a menu for making donations and for volunteering to either attend or hold a bowl painting party. Guests are asked to keep a bowl as a reminder of all the "empty bowls" in the world. The funds raised will be used to stock the Community Sharing pantry to feed our neighbors in need. Statistics show that 1 out of 8 Americans struggle with food insecurity every day. Your help is needed now more than ever. Community Sharing is working hard to end hunger and food insecurity in our community.

Community Sharing is located at 2029 N. Milford Road, Highland (Apollo Center) and we can be reached at (248) 889-0347 The agency is open for assistance every Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., every 2nd and 4th Tuesday: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., every 2nd Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Donation drop-off hours: Monday and Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. during hours open for assistance.

Winter Reminders in the Village

No Parking on Village Streets - To aid in snow removal, parking on Village streets is prohibited from December 1 to March 1 between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Violators will be ticketed.

Snow Removal - Property owners are responsible for clearing the snow and ice on sidewalks which adjoin their property. Snow must be removed within 48 hours of snowfall. The Village will arrange snow removal if not done within 48 hours and bill the property owner.

Snowbirds! - If you are heading to warmer weather this winter don't forget to call the Water Department to have your water turned off and /or give us your winter address for billing.



Contact Sandy at (248) 684-1515 or email sandys@villageofmilford.org.

Milford Police Department Residential Vacation Check

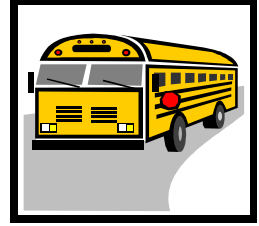
With the holidays around the corner and winter fast approaching, many residents will be making their travel plans. The Milford Police Department offers a service of a vacation check to your residence while you are out of town. The officers will add your residence as part of their patrol during their shift and will check on the residence when available during their calls. The vacation check form assists the department in contacting you in case of an emergency. Your information is retained on file during your absence and will be destroyed once you have returned and notified the department. To participate, you will need to complete the Residential Vacation Check form. The form can be obtained at the department or it is available on our website, www.milfordpolice.com. You can submit the completed form to the department in person or by fax at (248) 685-0543.

Bus Stop Safety

The most significant risk to our student bus riders is not riding on the bus itself, it is approaching or leaving the bus stop area. Milford Police encourage all to follow these simple rules.

Drivers

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be thinking of getting to school on time but may not be thinking of getting there safely.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood.
- Slow down. Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- Learn and obey school bus laws in your state. Learn the “Flashing Signal Light System” that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions:



YELLOW flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.

RED flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped and that children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

Children

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- When the bus approaches stand at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the curb and line up away from the street.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens and the driver says that it is okay before stepping onto the bus.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least five giant steps (10 feet) ahead of the bus before you cross. Be sure that the bus driver can see you and you can see the bus driver.
- Use the handrails to avoid falls. When exiting the bus be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps don't get caught in the handrails or doors.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- If you drop something near the bus tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.

Parents

- Teach children to follow these common sense practices to make school bus transportation safer.

REDUCE ~ REUSE ~ RECYCLE ~ REWARDS!



The Village of Milford and Milford Township are proud participant's of RizzoRewards! Every time you put your recycling container to the curb, you can log in to your activated account at RizzoRewards.com, click the "I Recycled Today" button and get great savings from local and national businesses. Activate your account today! It's free and it's easy! Go to www.RizzoRewards.com and follow the instructions for a quick and easy set-up.

Going Green can Save You Green with RizzoRewards!

Friendly Finds New & Used Bookstore

Need to find a good book to cozy up to during colder winter days? Come to Friendly Finds New and Used Bookstore located in the Milford Public Library. A wide selection of gently used and new books by local authors is available. Specialty books include coffee table, craft and seasonal. There are DVDs, CDs, large print books, books on tape, free donated magazines and much more.



Other offerings include crocheted necklaces and children's hats, note cards, bookmarks, tooth fairy pillows, play oven mitt and apron, Milford ceramic coasters and more. All made by local crafters.

Donations of gently used books, DVDs, and CDs are welcome. Children's books are always needed. However we cannot accept textbooks or encyclopedias. Donations are tax deductible.

Staffed by dedicated volunteers, store hours are similar to library hours. Monies from the store fund library programming that would not otherwise be available. Also consider becoming a Friend. Applications can be found in the store or online at www.milfordlibrary.info.

Milford Community Garden

'Growing Greens' began as a seed of an idea in the spring of 2011, and has grown into a community garden to be proud of. The garden is divided into 40 15'x15' plots for individual use, plus a large area dedicated to growing food to donate to local food banks. In 2014 we donated more than 2,700 lbs of produce to Community Sharing! Some of our members rent an individual plot to grow their own vegetables, and some of our members work only in the sharing garden. All garden members are expected to contribute some time every season towards communal tasks.

'Growing Greens' is located behind Pet Supplies Plus on General Motors Road. If you would like to rent a plot, or volunteer in our sharing garden, or simply find out more about us, please visit our website www.growinggreensmilford.org.

Township Parks & Rec. Openings

There are two commissioner positions available on the Township Parks & Rec. Commission. There is also a vacancy for a Junior Commissioner for students in grades 8-12.

For more information contact Township Clerk Holly Brandt, (248) 685-8731 or email clerk@milfordtownship.com.

Yard Waste Collection

The last day for **VILLAGE** yard waste is Tuesday, November 25, **TOWNSHIP** is Wednesday, November 26.



Also, a reminder residents are not permitted to rake or blow leaves into Village streets. The Village will be sweeping the streets to keep storm drains cleared so there are no blockages.

Highland/Milford Transportation Program

Office Service Hours: 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, call (248) 887-4979 (after hours 248-887-0004).

Van Service Hours: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Rides are available for those 55 and over and all adult handicapped. Please call the office for an application and further information. Rides require minimum 24-hour notice Monday – Friday and scheduling for next-day rides must be made between 8:00 am - 11:45 am. Rides may be scheduled up to 2 months in advance.

Travel Service Locations:

LOCAL: Includes Highland Twp., Village of Milford, Milford Township, Hartland for Medical only and Huron Valley Hospital. COST: \$4.00 Each Way or \$8.00 roundtrip (roundtrip includes up to 2 stops). **Appointments should be scheduled between 9:30 am and 2:00 pm.**

LOCAL PLUS: Medical appointments or work schedules **only** outside Highland/Milford but not exceeding a 16-mile radius from the center-point of Milford, areas include: Walled Lake, White Lake, South Lyon, Commerce Medical & Lakes Medical, Wixom, Providence Medical and most of Novi. COST: \$8.00 Each Way or \$16.00 roundtrip (roundtrip includes up to 2 stops). **Appointments should be scheduled between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm.**

For specific shopping information (including Holiday shopping) please call the office.

We take cash or checks made payable to: “Village of Milford”

Dog Licenses

2015 Dog licenses will be available for purchase at the Township offices starting December 1st.

Current prices are \$15.00 for an unaltered animal or \$7.50 if the pet has been spayed or neutered.

Seniors 65 years of age or older are discounted to \$6.75 for a spayed or neutered pet or \$13.50 for an unaltered pet. These prices are good through June 1, 2015 – after that date all licenses are considered delinquent and the cost is \$30.00. You **MUST** bring in a valid veterinarian rabies certificate. Milford Township also sells the three (3) year license with proof of a three year rabies certificate. Cost is three times the current rate.

Pets with adoption papers dated past the June 1st deadline or puppies too young to have received a rabies vaccination before June 1st will be licensed using the current prices. Proof of the adoption or change of ownership is required.



Township Tax Information

Check your mailbox for your Milford Township winter tax bill during the first week of December. If you do not receive your bill by the end of that week, please contact the Milford Township offices at (248) 685-8731.

The last day to pay your Milford Township winter tax bill without interest or penalty is Saturday, February 14, 2015. With the due date falling on the weekend payments will be accepted without interest or penalty through Tuesday, February 17, 2015.

Milford Township is no longer mailing tax receipts. If you need a paid receipt for your summer or winter taxes, other than your cancelled check, please include a self addressed stamped envelope or your email address. If you require a paid receipt please mail the entire bill intact so we can stamp the receipt and send back in your return envelope. Thank you.

Planning & Building Update for Fall 2014

Most recently the Planning Commission has been working on language to update the electronic changeable sign ordinance. The new language limits the light intensity, the number of changes per hour, distances from residential area where such a sign may be installed among other language changes. Council just adopted the new language and it will soon be available to the public in ordinance form. The Planning Commission also sent language to Council for approval which addresses shooting ranges and where they may be allowed in the Village. To date Council has not approved the language.

A site plan was recently approved by the Planning Commission for the construction of an apartment above the Milford Bakery. The design is unique in that the plan calls for the installation of an elevator at the rear of the apartment.

Construction has been somewhat booming in the Village the past year. The only problem the Village has now is that we need more land. Since none can be created the next stage will be the redevelopment of existing properties. That is the case for the former Baker School site as it was recently razed and has been sold to a developer that hopes to construct 18-24 homes. Another developer is going before the Planning Commission in November to talk about remodeling the Old Stone Church on E. Commerce and the associated parking lot for residential use. Administration has also met with a developer that is interested in creating a mixed use and multi-family units in an area that would require removing existing buildings.



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, December 4, 5:45 to 9

Get in the spirit. Enjoy the hospitality of **DOWNTOWN MILFORD!** Strolling entertainment... Special promotions... Refreshments

Santa arrives at 6:00 pm

Candle, Can & Carol

Bring a canned or dry food item for a neighbor in need. Exchange it at Center Street Park for a candle and join in the festive holiday caroling!

5:45 – 6:15 pm

Enjoy a nostalgic horse-drawn carriage ride through town...



Christmas Parade

Saturday, November 29, 10:00 a.m.

Downtown Milford

Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce

(248) 685-7129

Gobbler Gallop

Don't miss the 4th annual Gobbler Gallop on Saturday, November 29, 2014. There will be a 1-mile fun run at 8:00 a.m. and a 4-mile walk/run at 8:30 a.m. Come for the race and stay for the parade!



For more information on the Gobbler Gallop visit www.gobblergallop.com.

All proceeds go to the Huron Valley Schools Athletics Programs.

The Big Reveal!

Thursday, November 20

DOWNTOWN UNVEILS HOLIDAY STOREFRONTS. Come Downtown on Thursday, November 20, 6:30 pm and watch the town remove the window-wraps to show off new storefront displays for the holidays. Bring the kids and Let 'Er Rip!



HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED AT YOUR BACK SIDE??

Every year we get several calls about dog licensing, office hours, principle residence filing, property transfers and many more. Did you know that if you **TURN OVER YOUR TAX BILL TO THE BACK SIDE**, that there is a wealth of information at your fingertips!! For example: Holiday closings, due dates for the current tax season, alternative places to pay your bills, and answers to the most frequently asked questions. There is also the address to the Township website which you may find very interesting. There are directions on what to do when property changes ownership. There is even a 24 hour tax hotline so you can access your tax records 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Next time you are in doubt please refer to the **BACK SIDE** of your tax bill.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Many of our residents have requested the ability to pay their taxes with a credit card at the treasurer's office. The Milford Township treasurer's office is in the process of installing the required apparatus to be able to take credit cards at the counter. Presently, you can make tax payments and building permit fee payments online only. We hope to have this in place for the December tax season. This will give us the ability to offer credit card payments at our counter for taxes, building permits, dog licenses, ordinance violations etc. There will be a fee for this service and you will be informed of the charges before it is applied to your credit card.

VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION

Governor Snyder signed into law P.A. 161 of 2013 last fall. What this means is the Real property used and owned as a homestead by a disabled veteran who was discharged from the armed forces of the USA under honorable conditions may be exempt from property taxes. A veteran must meet one of the following:



- Veteran must have been determined by the United States Department of veteran's affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veteran's benefits at the rate of 100%.
- Veteran has a certificate from the United States veteran's administration, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.
- The Veteran has been rated by the United States department of veteran's affairs as individually unemployable.

Also included in this exemption is the "unremarried" surviving spouse of an honorably discharged veteran who is deceased.

You must provide to the treasurer's office a copy of your DD214, the letter from the VA describing your benefit, and fill out the application form. You must file every year no later than December 31 for the exemption. Please contact Cynthia Dagenhardt, Milford Township Treasurer if you feel you may qualify (248) 685-8731.

Village of Milford
Charter Township of Milford
1100 Atlantic Street
Milford, MI 48381

PST STD (a)
US
POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #36
MILFORD, MI



VILLAGE OF MILFORD

Phone: 248-684-1515 Fax: 684-5502
Email: milfordvillage@villageofmilford.org

Websites:

Village: villageofmilford.org
Police: MilfordPolice.com
DDA: MeetMeinMilford.com

Council President President Pro-tem

Jerry Aubry Michael Glagola

Council Members:

Jennifer Frankford Elizabeth Heer
James Kovach Dave Pehrson
Kevin Ziegler

Administration:

Manager – Christian Wuerth
Clerk – Deborah Frazer
Treasurer/Finance – Penny Ray
DPW Superintendent – Robert Calley
Police Chief – Thomas Lindberg
Bldg. Director – Randy Sapelak
DDA Director – Ann Barnette

POSTAL PATRON



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MILFORD:

Phone: 248-685-8731
Fax: 248-685-9236
Website: milfordtownship.com

Supervisor: Don Green
Clerk: Holly Brandt
Treasurer: Cynthia Dagenhardt

Fire Chief: Larry Waligora

Bldg Official:
Timothy Brandt

Board Members:
Randall Busick
William Mazarra
Brien Worrell
Dale Wiltse

Dates to Remember

- Nov 20-The Big Reveal, downtown Milford 6:30 p.m.
- Nov 25 & 26- Last day for yard waste collection.
- Nov 29 -Christmas Parade, downtown Milford 10:00 a.m.
- Dec 4-Christmas Open House, downtown Milford 5:45 p.m.

Village/Township Offices Closed:

- November 27
- November 28
- December 24
- December 25
- December 31
- January 1

See You Downtown for the Holidays!

DINNER'S ON US!

Dozens of surprised diners will have their tab picked up, courtesy of your local merchants and downtown property owners. Last year, more than 350 people had their coffee, lunches and dinners paid for by Milford's own "Santa Claus", strolling through downtown. Eat downtown,

facebook

Meet Me in Milford



Milford Downtown Development Authority, 1100 Atlantic, 684.9719