



From the Mayor

I hope each of you have a Happy and Blessed New Year! As you reflect on the past year you may want to make some changes in your life and start 2014 with a clean slate.

In our personal lives we are the only ones who determine our success or failure. Here at the City of Milton we have accomplished a lot in 2013 and have many to thank. I appreciate the other City Council Members and all the workers in each department for all they do, the support of our community, our businesses, the Cabell County Commission, the State of West Virginia and the Federal Government. Below are some of our accomplishments:

- Moved the Police Department upstairs and relocated the building, stormwater, cemetery offices and all the maps and shifted a few of our other offices.
- Purchased 4 new cruisers—1 was purchased jointly with grant funds and a donation from the Ohio Valley Bank and 3 through a lease/purchase plan
- Our nomination was accepted listing Morris Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places
- Hired Retired State Trooper Chuck Zerkle as the new Chief
- MPD held 2 Drug Take Backs and installed a permanent drug drop box in the lobby of City Hall
- Adopted a new Junk Ordinance—thanks to all who have done a great job cleaning up their property and I hope you keep it that way because it looks great. Your efforts make Milton a better place to live. Also, we need continued patience from residents near former Meth houses and dilapidated or vacant structures, it is a long and expensive process to get through the system. We are working on these properties but it does take time.
- Patched and blacktopped some streets and the parking lot next to City Hall with grant funds
- Welcomed 3 new businesses, still communicating with a couple of major businesses (and yes one is Taco Bell) and after resolving some problems work has begun on the Huntingtonized Federal Credit Union
- Selected E.L. Robinson Engineering as the engineer for the Morris Memorial Walking Trail Project
- Upgrade project at our water plant with \$300,000 worth of improvements and completed the sewer line project on Lincoln Lane

DID YOU KNOW....

▶ *City offices are closed New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 20 and President's Day, Monday, February 17.*

▶ *City Hall is now closed for lunch from 12:00—1:00 p.m.*

▶ *You can pay your AEP bill for a \$1.00 cash fee and WV American Water bill at City Hall? No credit card payments accepted for these.*

From the Recorder Phyllis Smith

I wish everyone a safe, healthy and Happy New Year and to our local businesses I wish you a very prosperous 2014.

For the City, it is a time to review our 2013-14 Levy Estimate and make any necessary revisions with the State Auditor's Office. Then the process begins again as we prepare our 2014-15 Levy Estimate.

Our audit for fiscal year 2013 will be performed by the State. Once we receive the results we will let you know.



APPROXIMATELY 60% OF YOUR HEATING IS LOST THROUGH THE FLUE

From the Building Inspector Bill Morris

THE CURE FOR THE COMMON COLD ROOM

By now, you've probably gotten your abrupt taste of winter's chill. Fall's weather is unpredictable, but that first really frigid day is a harsh reality check that you're completely unprepared for, the changing of the seasons.

You try to conserve energy by turning down the thermostat and wearing extra clothes to keep warm. Plug up that chimney. Yes, plug up that chimney, when air goes out the flue or chimney air comes in and around the windows, doors and wherever it can (what goes out must come in). In actuality up to 60% of your heating is lost through the flue. Replace that wood fireplace or gas fireplace with an electric fireplace which cost about 8-12 cents an hour to run vs. up to 26 cents an hour for gas or wood.

If you're yearning for warmth and crackle of a fire, an electric fireplace is a great energy efficient investment to retrofit an existing gas or wood burning mantel. Replacements can be bought as a complete built-in solution so you never have to worry about the mess or safety of real flames ever again, or as a log insert you can pop in and out.

Still another option is to invest in a freestanding electric stove that has the log and flame effect which start from just \$99 dollars and can provide both ambiance and supplemental heat to anywhere your home needs a little extra warmth without having to crank the thermostat way up.

An electric fireplace or freestanding stove is a worthwhile investment to keep your family extra toasty and your electric bill down. If you don't have a fireplace, investing in an electric fireplace mantel package is a great way to add an air of elegance and charm to your living room. Your electric fireplace will keep you warm throughout the winter, but this year instead of huddling around the television, let your fireplace be your favorite family spot. In addition to all the family fun you'll be having this winter, you'll also be heating your home in an economically and environmentally friendly way.

Public Works News from Gerald Clagg

We found faulty or dead water meters throughout the City. We will be replacing these as soon as the weather permits.

If your water freezes during extreme cold do not remove the meter lid, 90% of the time the frozen pipe is under your house. Only remove the lid if a broken water line is leaking inside your home. To avoid freezing pipes in extreme cold allow your spigot to drip slowly, it may save you money in the long run.

As weather permits, we will continue to smoke testing to remove infiltration from our sewer system.

Speaking of weather.... Let me remind you of our snow removal schedule. On snowy mornings our street department arrives early to clear the roads. First, they salt the hills and intersections. Then they work on the other streets, sidewalks, etc. They will repeat the process as necessary. Please be patient on those snowy mornings, they work as quickly and safely as they can to clear the roads so we can get out and about.



LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW!

New Year's Day Equipment Auction

Ron Morrison will hold his Annual Equipment Auction on January 1, at 9 am, at the WV Pumpkin Festival Grounds. The City of Milton will have several vehicles (old cruisers) and various other items for sale in this auction. Watch for a more detailed list in the newspaper.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Milton Baptist Church will sponsor a blood drive in their Gym, on Monday, January 27, beginning at noon.

Recycling Bins to be Relocated

Our recycling bins at Perry Morris Square have been very successful; so successful in fact that the bins are always overflowing.

We realize over-flowing recycling bins is a good thing but it can also be an unpleasant sight. Due to that fact and the possible new construction of a much desired new business we are relocating the recycling dumpsters. The bins will still be located in the Perry Morris Square area. They will be moved behind the Milton Volunteer Fire Department. Thank you for caring about the earth and recycling. Expect to see the bins moved soon.



FLOODED HOME— PHOTO COMPLEMENTS OF SALVATION ARMY

Stormwater/Floodplain News from Randy Rutledge

Floodplain—If you live in a floodplain it is highly recommended that you purchase flood insurance. A basic homeowner's insurance policy does not cover flood damage. The City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which means federally subsidized flood insurance is available to everyone in the City. Remember there is a 30-day waiting period before a policy becomes effective. Some purchase flood insurance because it was required when they obtained a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies cover just the minimum the lender requires, that is the building's structure, not the contents. There is usually more damage to furniture and contents than to the building so policies that include content coverage are strongly encouraged.

Another good reason to purchase flood insurance is in past years FEMA has award disaster relief funds to property owners without flood insurance who suffered a loss. As of October 1, 2013 they may still award funds but they will be reduced by the amount of flood insurance *you should have had*. This could easily run into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Stormwater—Winter's Back! Here are some suggestions on coping with slick sidewalks and streets. Shovel as much snow as you can before salting. De-icers work best if only a thin layer of snow or ice must be melted. Reduce the amount of de-icing products by spreading evenly. Piles will end up being washed into our streams. The recommended application rate for salt is a handful per square yard. Salt is highly corrosive, ecologically damaging and can harm pets and plants. More does not work better; it only means more polluted runoff. Save money by using only what is needed!

Traction agents help prevent slipping on ice but don't melt it. Please use them sparingly. Kitty litter works but can clog sewers. I tried using cracked corn last year which worked well until the pigeons found it. If you live in a pigeon free area it will work but if you have pigeons around don't bother unless you want to feed them. Another method I have tried is using fertilizer, it has a slight melting ability but I use it more for traction. It works very well and you don't have to use much. Use very sparingly as too much can burn up the grass by the sidewalk.

Upward Soccer

Milton Baptist Church Upward Soccer evaluations begin the week of February 10. For more information call the church office at 304-743-3461.

Spaghetti Dinner

Milton Rotary Spaghetti Dinner will be Saturday, March 8, 4—7 p.m., at Milton Baptist Church. Cost is adults \$6 and children \$3. Our community service projects include: ECCHO, Milton Youth Sports, 3rd Grade Dictionary Distribution, Cabell County Fair Animal Purchase, Tri-State Area Boy Scouts, Huntington City Mission, Barboursville Veterans Home, Hospitality House, Ronald McDonald House, and College Scholarships to 3 high schools. For more information contact Phyllis Smith at 304-743-3689.

City Meetings

Milton Municipal Utilities Commission and Milton City Council meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. The Utilities at 5:30 and Council at 7:00 p.m.

Municipal Court

City of Milton Municipal Court is held the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 5:30 p.m.



OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY FOR OFFICER RUSS BLANK

Police News from Chief Chuck Zerkle

With the holiday season behind us I hope all of you had a great Christmas and I wish you a Happy New Year. As we look back on 2013 there has been a lot of changes at the Milton Police Department as you all know due to unexpected health issues Chief Gary Lilly had to retire and he continues to recuperate.

After taking office I feel really good about how we are finishing the year. The Mayor and Counsel purchased several new police cruisers and we just finished relocating and remodeling the police department. Our officers are doing a good job solving crime and fighting the never ending battle with drug activity. We also had some personnel changes this year, part-time Officer Albert Collins filled a full time vacancy and most recently we hired Russ Blank to fill another vacancy created when Officer Chuck Holloran left to take a position with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources.

In closing I just want to say that it has been a privilege to become your Chief of Police and I want to remind you that we are here to serve you the citizens of Milton. Please do not hesitate to call me or the other officers to express your concerns or needs. I hope that 2014 is a good year for all of us in Milton.

Milton Cemetery News by Bonnie Hancock

Thanks to everyone who helped make our first Candle Lighting Ceremony a success. The cemetery looked beautiful!

Because of our dedication to the people of Milton, we have lowered our prices in the Milton Cemetery. Prices are now \$500.00 a space and \$750.00 for opening and closing. For more information on the Milton Cemetery or any concerns you may have call 304-634-2363.

Milton Fire Department from Timmy Chastain

First, we hope everyone had a wonderful and blessed Christmas season and we hope you have a very Happy New Year!! The following is a reflection of our old year and our goals for the new year.

In 2013 we had a very busy year:

- 600 emergency calls with around 15 of those being structure fires.
- Became fully staffed with 54 active men and women. Some new members and returning old ones are: Kim Graybeal, Kyle O'Dell, Tom Dawson, Seth Spears, Drew Hatfield, Jason Clagg, Tyler Brunty, Cory Holbert, Cody Goodpaster, Emily Goodpaster and Reed Cook.
- Received the following grant awards: WV Community Participation—\$170,000.00 for a new fire truck, Chaney Family Foundation—\$6,150.00 for new gear, Legislative Surplus—\$2,750.00 for new gear and Future Generations (10 computers, desk, chairs, TV) for public use and training.
- Purchased the following new equipment: approximately 40 sets of gear which was purchased due to current gear not meeting NFPA and WV State Standards, 20 Motorola Minitor V pagers, 10 Kenwood portable radios, and a Pierce Custom Pumper fire truck.
- Congratulate the following for their 2013 awards: Chief Brent Taylor—Chief Officer of the Year, Captain Jason Chastain—Line Officer of the Year, FF Harold Goodall—Firefighter of the Year and FF Danielle Arthur—Fire Chief's Award of the Year.
- Provided approximately 30 smoke detectors to residents who didn't have any.
- Passed out candy, held an auto extrication demonstration and utilized BVFD's smoke trailer to educate children on the proper way to escape a smoky situation and use 911. at the town's July 4th Celebration and passed out candy and provided a safe environment for Trick or Treat.
- Provided fire prevention education at several locations including classes at Milton Elementary School.

Our goals for 2014:

- Purchase the following new equipment: 10 set of gear, 10 pagers, 10 radios, 40 SCBA bottles. Equipment is a necessity in providing our community the best, safest services available. We rely on citizen donations and continue to ask for your support.
- Provide more community service and fire safety education.

We want to THANK to our City Officials for all their help in keeping our department going strong! They have helped us accomplish a lot of our goals and they continue to assist us in many ways.

We hope that 2014 will be a great year for our department and our community! Our community is continuing to grow and it is still the BEST place to be!

If there is anything we can do for you please don't hesitate to give us a call. Stay safe and God bless!



FROM ALL OF US AT THE CITY OF MILTON

From the Mayor (Continued)

- Sponsored 4th of July Celebration, Halloween Party, Christmas in the Park, Retirement Party for Gary Lilly, 2 Movie Nights, Business Appreciation Luncheon, Senior Citizens Thanksgiving and Christmas Luncheons, Spring and Fall Cleanups, Holiday Candle Lighting in the Cemetery, and the City's 137th Anniversary

Several of the above projects were made possible through federal and state grants. We will continue to apply for assistance, however, as you are aware both have made cutbacks.



I look forward to the many challenges and opportunities the new year holds in store for the City of Milton. I will accept these challenges and work hard for you, the citizens of Milton, with the goal of making our City a better place to own or open a business, a better place to work, a better place to live and raise your families. I hope that 2014 will be a very prosperous and safe year for each of you. Thank you for allowing me to be your Mayor.

WELCOME TO THE CITY OF MILTON.....WHERE LIVING IS A PLEASURE!

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