

1897 - 2022
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CELEBRATE
MILACA

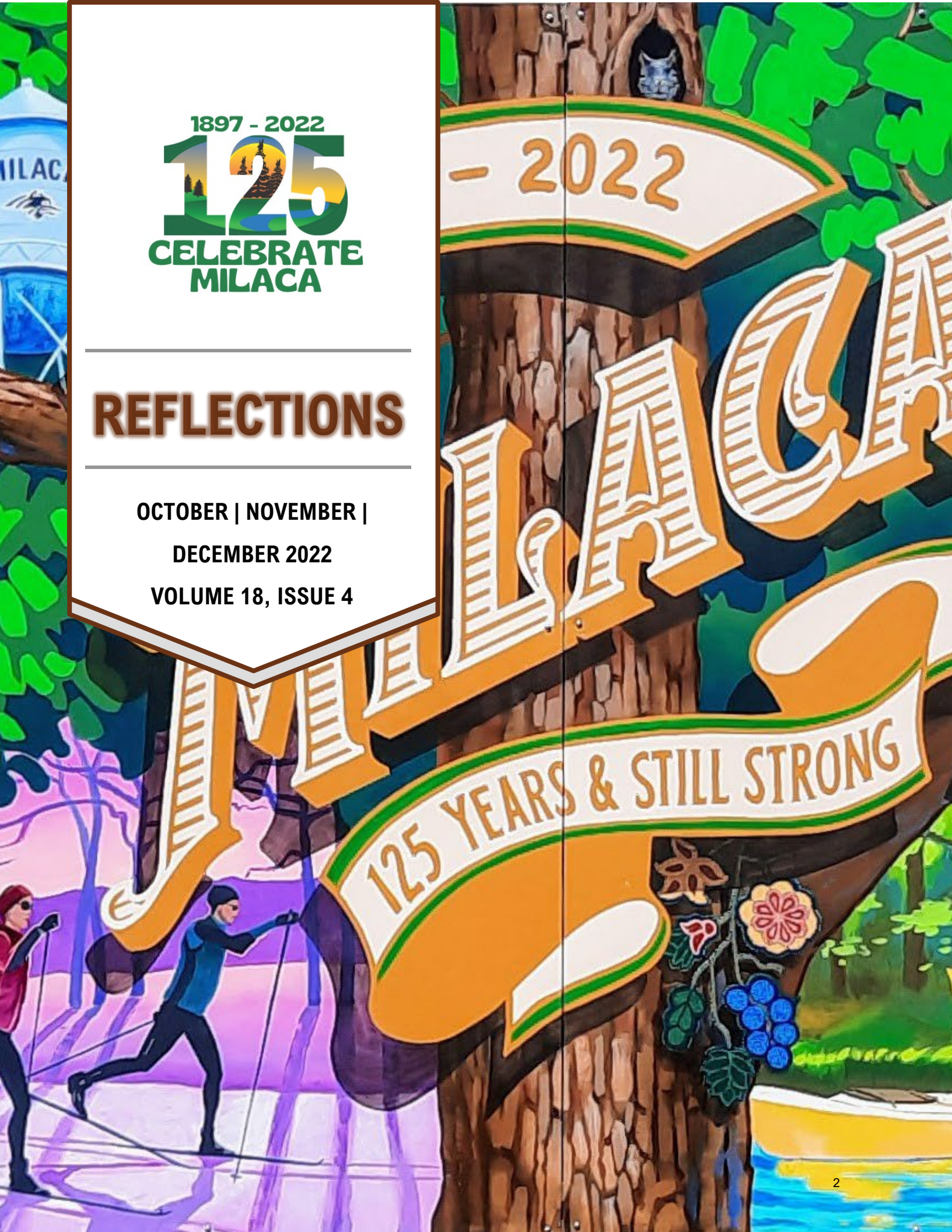
REFLECTIONS

OCTOBER | NOVEMBER |
DECEMBER 2022
VOLUME 18, ISSUE 4

- 2022

MILACA

125 YEARS & STILL STRONG



City Hall Notes

2022 Election Day – November 8



Absentee Voting/Early Voting

Residents can go to the Mille Lacs County Courthouse from now until November 7th to vote absentee. Since the machine isn't set up until a week before the election, voters can leave their ballot at the courthouse, or bring it home and mail it in. Voters can also go online to request a ballot to be mailed to them. On the day of election residents will be required to vote at their precinct polling place.

To register, check your registration, find your polling place, or request an absentee ballot, go to mnvotes.org.

Milaca City Hall will be open for voting from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 8.

Lost and Found

Have you lost an item – wallet, keys, phone, bike, etc.? Many items found within the City are turned into the Milaca Police Department. If you are missing an item, please check with us at (320)983-6166 or stop in. If we don't have it we'll make a note of it in case it gets turned in later on.

Also, if you have found an item such as wallet, keys, phone, bike, etc., please turn it into the Milaca Police Department. The owners will be happy you did!



Building, Planning, & Zoning Notes

Shorter days and cooler weather make it tempting to curl up under a blanket and hibernate until spring. It's a good plan, but before the snow flies, cross these six home improvement projects off your list.

1. Clean the gutters

The first snowfall of the season is not the time to learn your gutters are filled with debris or too loose to handle the weight of the snow. Clean your gutters, or better yet hire a pro to tackle the job. While you're at it, look for areas where gutters are loose and may have torn away from the house. Reattach them using gutter spikes, brackets or hangers. Clean, well-secured gutters are essential to protect the foundation of your home and reduce the risk of basement flooding.

2. Check smoke detectors

When you change the clocks to standard time, change the batteries in your smoke detector. Remember, if your alarm chirps—a sign the battery is low—replace it, no matter the time of year. Once you've replaced the batteries, test the smoke detector: It's as simple as pushing the button to make sure the alarm goes off. Don't ignore hardwired smoke detectors; many have battery backups and those batteries need to be replaced, too. You should also replace any smoke detectors that are over 10 years old.

3. Hire a chimney sweep

A chimney sweep isn't just a character from *Mary Poppins*. These fireplace pros remove soot and creosote that build up in the chimney and pose a fire risk. A professional chimney sweep, certified through the Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA), will clean the chimney and inspect the entire fuel venting system for warped metal on the damper, cracked or collapsed flue tiles, cracks in the exterior masonry, and other signs of fire damage.

4. Perform furnace maintenance

Call in the pros before turning on the heat. Regular maintenance ensures that your furnace runs at peak efficiency. Without semiannual maintenance (in the spring before running the air conditioner and in the fall before turning on the heat), airborne allergens may get trapped in the filters, resulting in poor indoor air quality. Furnaces that are not cleaned at least once a year can wear out more quickly and can stop working altogether. And soaring energy costs make it more important than ever to ensure the furnace is running efficiently.



5. Winterize water pipes

Data from the Insurance Information Institute shows that almost 30 percent of homeowners' insurance claims were related to water damage and freezing, so make sure to drain outdoor water spigots and winterize water pipes to reduce the risk. You can winterize water pipes by locating your hose bib shut-off valve, which may be in a basement or crawl space, and turning it off at the source. For extra protection, purchase a Styrofoam cover that attaches over the outdoor spigots to keep them from freezing. These quick fixes can provide protection against the elements as temperatures drop. You may also want to shut off water to exterior faucets and drain sprinkler systems for extra protection against freezing pipes and water lines.

6. Assess windows and doors

Heat lost through windows and doors can account for up to 30 percent of home energy use, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. To keep heat in the house, look for cracks or gaps in the exterior caulking, check seals around exterior door and add caulking or weather stripping as needed. While these DIY fixes can reduce heat loss, a professional energy assessment can provide additional insights into areas where you may be losing heat and recommend fixes. Call your utility company to ask about their services or get a recommendation for a pro.

Spending a few extra hours tackling these home improvement projects this fall will keep you warm and safe all winter long.

DISPOSAL OF LEAVES

Falling leaves are often the first signs of the seasonal shift — and of more yardwork. As the piles of raked leaves build up, you're faced with a new problem: how to dispose of them.

Burning leaves is against city ordinance; safe alternatives to burning leaves include:

- **Recycling.** Tree limbs, grass clippings, leaves and brush can be composted, mulched or chipped into landscaping material.
- **Leaf & Brush Dumpster.** Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal has a dumpster in which to dump leaves. Please note that they must be removed from bags or boxes.
- **Yard Waste Service.** They will take the debris to the dump or recycling center.

Liquor Store Notes

Vicki Jeys, Manager — (320) 983-6255

Rum River Community Foundation, Stone's Throw Golf Course and Milaca Off Sale Liquor Present



Brewfest

Brews and Bourbon



Thursday, October 20th 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Stone's Throw Golf Course

Craft Beers, Bourbons, Seltzers, Ciders & Pre-Mix

Tickets \$25.00

Bourbon and Dry Rub Wings Served by Stone's Throw Golf Course – included in ticket price

Live Auction @ 7:45 pm – Auctioning off Select Bourbons and Beers

TICKETS available at the door night of event or from Milaca Off Sale Liquor

NEW THIS YEAR - Champagne Cork Shooting Contest - PRIZES

Net proceeds go to the Rum River Community Foundation -A Partner Fund of the Initiative Foundation



Holiday Hours

Thursday, November 24, 2022 — Thanksgiving — Closed

Saturday, December 24, 2022 — Christmas Eve — 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

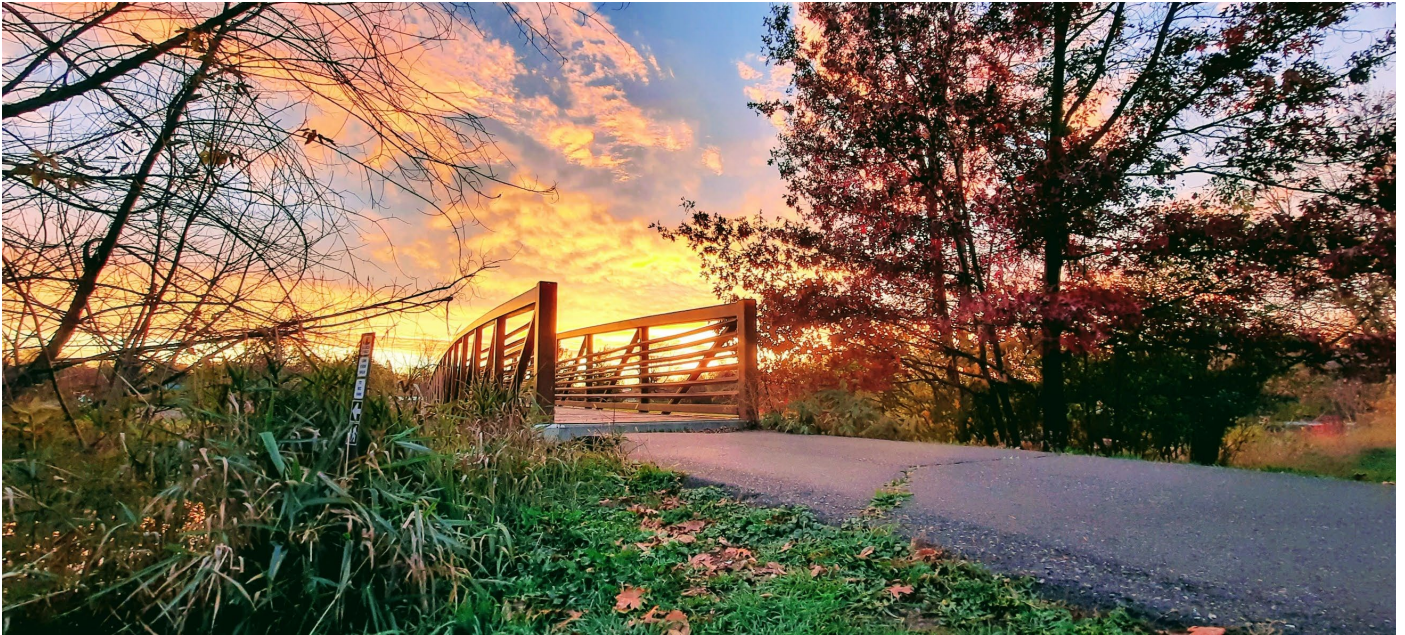
Sunday, December 25, 2022 — Christmas Day — Closed

Saturday, December 31, 2022 — New Year's Eve — 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2023 — New Year's Day — Closed

Parks & Public Works Notes

PARKS



Trails

The Milaca Trails were featured in the Sauk Rapids Herald! The article really highlights the importance of the Milaca Trails Initiative with the maintenance of popularity of this great feature of Rec Park! The link to the article can be found on our website at <https://www.cityofmilaca.org/trails>. A walk, hike, or bike through the trail system is a great way to take in the fall colors! Always plan your route and stay within your abilities. Ensure you download a map to your phone or use the Avenza Maps app to track your precise location if you're unfamiliar with the trails.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, they should connect with the Milaca Trails Initiative on Facebook or the City trails webpage at [cityofmilaca.org/trailsvolunteer](https://www.cityofmilaca.org/trailsvolunteer)

PUBLIC WORKS

Winter Parking Restrictions



November 1, 2022 at 1 a.m. marks the beginning of winter parking restrictions. Until April 1, 2023 there's no parking on city streets from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. The City's Organization Policies and Procedures for Snow and Ice Control can be found on our website:

[cityofmilaca.org/publicworks](https://www.cityofmilaca.org/publicworks)

Deputy Registrar Notes

Amy Cain, Deputy Registrar — (320) 983-3143

The Deputy Registrar is open to the public Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you have a lengthy transaction, please try to be here no later than 3:45 p.m.

The knowledge test is offered here on a computer in the office. The test is by appointment only, which can be made on our website cityofmilaca.org/registrar. The cost is \$10.00 to take it with us. If you have taken the written test and failed it three times or more, you do have to take it at an exam station, not with us.

The state is offering road tests at this location on Thursdays. You have to make an appointment for the road tests online at drive.mn.gov, not with the Deputy Registrar, as DVS examiners do the tests. Any questions about the road tests need to be answered by state.

Please be advised that if you are coming from out of state, you are required to do a written test. Make a new to MN appointment for this option on the website.

We appreciate all of our customers and we want to make sure everyone gets what they need in a timely manner. We have a drop box for tab renewals, DNR transactions, and even title transfers if completed! We check the box every day and do the work in between customers. Please fill out the provided form to go with the paperwork dropped off. We are limiting the number of parties in the building to 4, so please be aware of that limit so we can keep the doors unlocked and everyone safe.

If you have any questions for us, call us at **(320)983-3143** to leave a detailed message or email depreg@milacacity.com, and we will get back to you as soon as we can!

Thank you for trusting us to serve you! Stay healthy and happy throughout upcoming holidays and we hope to see you soon!

P.S. If you need a driver's license, please make an appointment or stop in as soon as you can! There are no extensions after midnight on your expiration date.





Fire Department Notes

Jesse Gerads, Fire Chief — (320) 983-3465

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Our Annual Open house is on October 8th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the fire hall in Milaca! We will be serving hot dogs and burgers. There will be games for the kids and free pumpkins (both while supplies last). Stop by and check out the trucks, meet your local firefighters, and have some lunch! we hope to see you there!

HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS AND FIRE SAFETY

Dried flowers, crepe paper, cornstalks, and decorative scarecrows may make your home look festive for fall, but they can also pose a scary fire risk. The National Fire Protection Association says flammable decorations are the first things to ignite in 900 reported home fires each year; two of every five of these incidents start by a candle.

Decorate safely and keep these tips in mind:

- Don't put decorations near open flames and other heat sources, such as light bulbs and heaters.
- Check that any decorative lights have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory. Examine each set of lights for broken sockets, frayed wires or loose connections, and discard any damaged sets. Be careful not to overload sockets when plugging in lights and other electronic decorations.
- Consider glow sticks or battery-operated candles instead of real candles when lighting your jack-o'-lanterns or other luminaries. If you do use real candles, light them with long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Keep lit decorations off of doorsteps, yards, and sidewalks where excited trick-or-treaters may knock them over.
- Check that no decorations are blocking your home's exits or pathways, so you have a clear escape route in case of an emergency.

To make sure children enjoy their evening of trick-or-treating, follow these tips:

- Avoid costumes with loose, trailing fabrics or other hanging parts, which can catch fire on open flames. Check the labels on costumes, wigs and props to be sure they are made with flame resistant or retardant materials.
- Double-check that the eyeholes in masks are large enough that children can see and avoid any trips or falls. If visibility is an issue, use makeup or face paint instead of masks.
- Provide flashlights or glow sticks to carry for lighting, and use glow-in-the-dark reflective tape on costumes for extra visibility near roads.
- Talk with children about fire safety before heading out, reminding them to stay away from open flames.
- Practice the "stop, drop, and roll" technique.



Chamber of Commerce Notes

Shannon Milender, Executive Director — (320) 983-3140

SUPPORTING MILACA, PEASE, BOCK, AND FORESTON

Daytime Trick or Treat! The Milaca Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Milaca's annual daytime trick-or-treat this year! Local businesses will open their doors to area kids for treats (no tricks!) from 1 – 4 p.m. on Friday, October 28. Registration information for businesses can be found on the Chamber website at <https://www.milacachamber.com>.

Community Tree Lighting! The day after Thanksgiving the Chamber will hold their annual Community Tree Lighting at Alfred Olson Park from 5 – 7 p.m. Join your community as they kick off Small Business Saturday with the following activities:

- Enjoy music, sleigh rides, s'mores, cider, and hot chocolate around the fire.
- Hotdish competition
- Visit the Milaca Arts Council's holiday boutique and other shops open for the evening!
- Ensure you visit businesses participating in Small Business Saturday by checking out their specials online.



A poster for the Annual Tree Lighting and Hotdish Competition. The poster features a dark blue background with white stars and three green Christmas trees. The text on the poster reads: "ANNUAL", "TREE LIGHTING", "AND HOTDISH COMPETITION", "Alfred Olson Memorial Park", "November 25th, 5-7:00pm", "Brought to you by:". At the bottom, there are three logos: "Jim's MILLE LACS DISPOSAL, INC.", "MILACA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE", and "1st FIRST NATIONAL BANK of Milaca".



CITY CALENDAR*

**Please remember this schedule is subject to change or cancellation.*

October 19, 2022

City Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.*

October 20, 2022

Rum River Community Foundation BrewFest 6 – 9 p.m.

October 28, 2022

Daytime Trick or Treat 1 – 4 p.m.

November 11, 2022

City Offices Closed — Veterans Day

November 17, 2022

City Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.*

November 23, 2022

City Offices Close Early 1:30 p.m. — Thanksgiving

November 24-25, 2022

City Offices Closed — Thanksgiving

November 25, 2022

Community Tree Lighting 5 – 7 p.m.

December 15, 2022

City Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.*

December 26, 2022

City Offices Closed — Christmas

**All Open City Council Meetings are live streamed on our Facebook page*

Did You Know?

- ❖ All of those colors in a leaf have always been there, it's just that they don't come out until conditions are right. Leaf colors depend on the sun. Leaves are full of chlorophyll, a natural chemical that makes them green. But when the leaves get less sunshine, chlorophyll isn't produced as much, making the green color fade, and allowing the natural color of the leaves to come out. So, really, leaves are naturally red, yellow, orange, and purple—the green is just dominant most of the year.
- ❖ That the color the leaves turn is based on how much sugar is in the leaves. That's why maple leaves are such a brilliant red color.

ADMINISTRATION ☐ (320)983-3141

City Manager Tammy Pfaff tpfaff@milacacity.com
City Treasurer Jessica Hall jhall@milacacity.com
Assistant City Clerk / Accounts Payable
Deloris Katke dkatke@milacacity.com
Administrative Communications Specialist
Mary Mickelson mmickelson@milacacity.com
Utility Billing / Front Desk Clerk
Mary Beth Niedzielski mniedzielski@milacacity.com

DEPUTY REGISTRAR ☐ (320)983-3143

Motor Vehicle Supervisor Amy Cain depreg@milacacity.com
Audra Wiener
Julie David

MILACA OFF SALE ☐ (320)983-6255

Manager Vicki Jeys liquor@frontiernet.net

POLICE DEPARTMENT ☐ (320)983-6166

Chief Quinn Rasmussen qrasmussen@milacacity.com
Officer Jeff Shaw jshaw@milacacity.com
Officer Jake Isaacson jisaacson@milacacity.com
Officer Craig Elgin celgin@milacacity.com
Officer Henry Harris hharris@milacacity.com
Officer Andrew Sammis asammis@milacacity.com
Office Administration Becky Porter rporter@milacacity.com

PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS ☐ (320)983-6547

Public Works Supervisor Gary Kirkeby
gkirkeby@milacacity.com

John Oldenburg
Mark Wubben
Warne Johnson
Troy Roelofs
Zach Pelarski

CITY COUNCIL DIRECTORY

Acting Mayor Dave Dillan	(320)983-3204
Councilmember Norris Johnson	(320)983-6837
Councilmember Lindsee Larsen	(320)982-1088
Councilmember Ken Muller	(320)630-5064



Reflections is produced every three months.

If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact city hall via phone or email and we will send a pdf copy to you of **Reflections**.

You may also go to our website to view the newsletter:

[www.cityofmilaca.org/
newsletter](http://www.cityofmilaca.org/newsletter)

Next issue will be available in January 2023.

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