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# REFLECTIONS

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OCTOBER | NOVEMBER |  
DECEMBER 2023  
VOLUME 19, ISSUE 4



Welcome

**City  
Hall  
Notes**  
Page 2

**Fire  
Department  
Notes**  
Page 4

**Parks  
Public Works  
Notes**  
Page 7

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# City Hall Notes

Tammy Pfaff, City Manager — (320) 983-3141

## **Emerald Ash Borer Found in Mille Lacs and Benton County**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has confirmed Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Benton and Mille Lacs County. There are now 44 counties in the state with known EAB infestations. The MDA has enacted a quarantine to limit the movement of firewood and ash material into Minnesota and out of infested counties. The MDA issues quarantines for all counties known to have EAB to reduce the risk of further spreading the tree-killing insect.



Because this is the first time EAB has been identified in Benton and Mille Lacs County, the MDA is enacting an emergency quarantine. The quarantine area for Mille Lacs County will be the southern portion of the county south of County Road 11, from Benton to the Isanti County border. All of Benton County will be under the EAB quarantine. Quarantined items include:



- Ash logs
- Ash tree waste
- Ash chips and mulch
- All firewood (non-coniferous)

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## **Dog Tags**



Dog license renewals are due by December 31, 2023. Reminders will be mailed out to dog owners who currently have their pets licensed. Please keep in mind that lack of renewal notice does not exempt you from getting a license for your canine friend.

Proof of up-to-date distemper and rabies vaccinations is needed for a license. License fees are \$15 for first dog, \$15 for second dog, and \$30 for third dog.

Licenses are purchased at the Milaca Police Department, located inside City Hall. Call (320) 983-6166 with any questions.



# Liquor Store Notes

Vicki Jeys, Manager — (320) 983-6255

## Shop Here for Your Holiday Celebrations!

Thank you for all of your Support! Customer appreciation day is Tuesday November 7, 2023. Stop by and see us for a 10% discount, and register for drawings throughout the day. Come see us at Stones Throw Golf Course for the Rum River Community Foundation OktoberFiesta Fundraiser! There will be unlimited samples of beer, cider and specialty liqueurs, and a food truck on site! Gift Certificates are available for all your gift needs including Christmas!! Stop by and ask our staff to help you pick out something new. We're always adding new items, every week! Please do not drive while impaired.



**Eat Drink Paint!**  
**October 13, 2023**  
**6 - 8 PM**

**Milaca Arts Center**  
**170 2nd Ave SW**

Register at <https://milaca-fine-arts-council-inc.square.site>



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# Fire Department Notes

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

## FALL FIRE RISKS

As the leaves turn from green to orange, the weather cools and you start preparing for the cold season ahead. Have you thought about the fire safety risks that arise during the fall? Here are a few important fire safety tips:

**Change smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries and test the alarms.** Adjusting the clock to Standard Time is a good reminder to replace the batteries in and to test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Don't forget to check that all fire extinguishers are operational.

**Fully check and service your heating devices before cranking up the heat.**

- Have your HVAC system inspected and cleaned by a certified HVAC contractor. Replace furnace filters with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters.
- Ensure there's at least three feet of space around space heaters. Don't place fabrics on space heaters to dry, and turn heaters off when going to bed.
- If you've got a fireplace, hire a professional chimney sweep to inspect and clean your chimney. Keep flammable objects at least three feet away from the fireplace and install a mesh metal screen around it.

**Halloween safety.** Can't wait to decorate your home and mastermind scary costumes for Halloween? Remember that Halloween safety comes first. Keep decorations away from open flames and other heat sources, and use battery-operated lights instead of candles in jack-o-lanterns.

**Outdoor fire risks.** As leaves and other flammable debris build up around your home, make it a habit to remove them periodically. Prune trees and rake up leaves and twigs. Don't store fuel in your home or garage. Keep your roof, gutters, and downspouts clear of debris and remove fuel from lawn mowers before storing them for winter.

**Create a fire escape plan and practice it regularly.** Say a fire breaks out at 2 AM and your smoke alarms wake you and your family up – what do you do? This is when the fire escape plan comes into play. Designate an escape route for each area of your home and establish a meeting place outside. Practice escaping your home while staying low to avoid breathing in smoke. Also practice escaping through windows using emergency ladders. Follow these tips, and don't let a fire ruin your fall.

Practice escaping your home while staying low to avoid breathing in smoke. Also practice escaping through windows using emergency ladders. Follow these tips, and don't let a fire ruin your fall.



## Milaca Fire & Rescue Annual Open House

Saturday, October 14, 2023

11 AM - 2 PM

1005 Central Ave N, Milaca



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.

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# Deputy Registrar Notes



Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services

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

The Deputy Registrar is open to the public Monday through Friday 8-4 pm. If you have a transaction that is going to take longer, please try to be here no later than 3:45 pm. Initial or change of address for Real or Enhanced Driver's licenses will not be processed after 3:30pm. The knowledge test is offered here on a computer in the office. It can get a bit noisy in here, so if you need to bring ear plugs, they are allowed. The test is by appointment only and the fee is \$10. Knowledge test appointments can be made on our website [cityofmilaca.org/registrar](http://cityofmilaca.org/registrar). We try very hard to help everyone, so please be patient with us!

*Written tests will no longer be required for new to state driver's licenses for over age of 21 as of July 1st, 2023.*

*Fee increases are finally happening for us this year! We have made very little processing driver's licenses that take up so much of our time! So try to be nice to your local offices with the prices increasing, as we have waited a long time and gone through a lot to get here. Every office truly deserves it with everything we do for the state and our customers on a daily basis.*

The state offers road test appointments on Thursdays. Appointments can only be made online at <http://www.drive.mn.gov> or if you need assistance you can call State at [\(651\) 284-1234](tel:6512841234). Be aware that appointments are limited, so it may say no availability. Any questions about the road tests need to be answered by state, as we have nothing to do with them.

If you need a question answered right away, please email us at [depreg@milacacity.com](mailto:depreg@milacacity.com) and we can answer your questions. If you need anything looked up that is not public information, you do have to come in to the office due to data privacy. We also welcome everyone to utilize the 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 appreciate all of our customers, so thank you for trusting us to serve you! Have a wonderful Fall!

— **Amy, Audra, Julie, and Myla**

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*Need to let your out-of-town friends & family know what's going on in Milaca?*



*DiscoverMilaca.com has all the info on local events, dining, drinking, and shopping!*

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# Parks & Public Works Notes

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Water Meters

The water meter change out nearing completion. Thank you for your cooperation with this project. If you haven't yet made an appointment, please call (320) 268-9220 to schedule your meter installation.

### City Of Milaca Annual Hydrant Flushing October 16 – 27, 2023



The City of Milaca's annual flushing of fire hydrants removes minerals and sediment that build up over time and ensures that all fire hydrants are in good working order. Please be advised that you may experience a temporary drop in water pressure as well as some discoloration of water during flushing. This can be cleared up by running cold water for several minutes. Water is safe to use during this time, but residents should refrain from doing laundry when water is discolored.

### City Ordinances – Fall & Winter

As the end of the year approaches, it's time for your annual reminder of street and sidewalk safety. No overnight parking begins November 1<sup>st</sup>, raking/blowing of leaves into the street is prohibited, and snow removal from the sidewalks on your property is required.

#### § 71.36 PARKING RESTRICTIONS.

- (A) In order to facilitate snow removal from the public streets of the city from November 1 through April 1 of each year, no vehicle shall be parked upon any public street in the city between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

#### § 94.18 PUBLIC NUISANCES AFFECTING PEACE AND SAFETY.

The following are declared to be nuisances affecting public peace and safety:

- (A) All snow and ice not removed from public sidewalks 24 hours after the snow or other precipitation causing the condition has ceased to fall;
- (R) Obstruction to the free flow of water in a natural waterway or a public street drain, gutter, or ditch with trash or other materials;



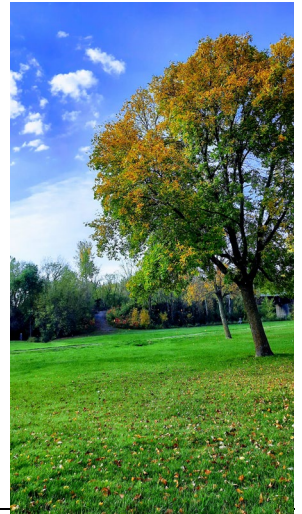
## PARKS

### Milaca Trails

Take some time to check out the beautiful fall colors with a hike or bike ride on the Milaca Trails! If cold weather is more of your jam, make sure to follow the Milaca Trails Initiative on Facebook. They do a great job of keeping us all up-to-date on trail conditions so you can plan your cross-country ski jaunt!

### Park Shelter Reservations

Park shelter reservations, including the Gorecki Center, can be made online at <https://www.cityofmilaca.org/reserve>. Any questions, please call Mary Mickelson at (320) 982-1099.



## EVENTS CALENDAR

*Please remember this schedule is subject to change or cancellation. \*All Open City Council Meetings are live streamed on our Facebook page*

### October 2023

#### City Council Meeting\*

Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 6:30 PM

#### Daytime Trick or Treat

Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 1:00 – 4:00 PM

### November 2023

#### City Offices Close Early - Veterans Day

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 1:30 PM

#### City Offices Closed - Veterans Day (Observed)

Friday, November 10, 2023

#### City Council Meeting\*

Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6:30 PM

#### City Offices Close Early - Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 1:30 PM

#### City Offices Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday, November 23, 2023

#### City Offices Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, November 24, 2023

#### Community Tree Lighting

Friday, November 24, 2023 at 5:00 PM

#### MAC the Halls

Friday, November 24, 2023 at 5:00 PM

### December 2023

#### City Council Meeting\*

Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 6:30 PM

#### City Offices Closed - Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023

**OCTOBER 31, 2023 1-4PM**

Milaca  
**Daytime**  
BUSINESS



**Trick or Treat**



**Milaca Area Chamber of Commerce**  
Helping the Milaca Area Grow and Prosper all Seasons



**ADMINISTRATION ☐ (320) 983-3141**

City Manager Tammy Pfaff [tpfaff@milacacity.com](mailto:tpfaff@milacacity.com)  
Elizabeth Nealley, City Treasurer [treasurer@milacacity.com](mailto:treasurer@milacacity.com)  
Assistant City Clerk / Accounts Payable  
Deloris Katke [dkatke@milacacity.com](mailto:dkatke@milacacity.com)  
Administrative Communications Specialist  
Mary Mickelson (320)982-1099 [mmickelson@milacacity.com](mailto:mmickelson@milacacity.com)  
Utility Billing / Front Desk Clerk  
Mary Beth Niedzielski [mniedzielski@milacacity.com](mailto:mniedzielski@milacacity.com)

**DEPUTY REGISTRAR ☐ (320) 983-3143**

Motor Vehicle Supervisor Amy Cain [depreg@milacacity.com](mailto:depreg@milacacity.com)  
Audra Wiener  
Julie David

**MILACA OFF SALE ☐ (320) 983-6255**

Manager Vicki Jeys [liquor@frontiernet.net](mailto:liquor@frontiernet.net)

**POLICE DEPARTMENT ☐ (320) 983-6166**

Chief Quinn Rasmussen [qrasmussen@milacacity.com](mailto:qrasmussen@milacacity.com)  
Officer Jeff Shaw [jshaw@milacacity.com](mailto:jshaw@milacacity.com)  
Officer Jake Isaacson [jisaacson@milacacity.com](mailto:jisaacson@milacacity.com)  
Officer Mike Barros [mbarros@milacacity.com](mailto:mbarros@milacacity.com)  
Officer Craig Elgin [celgin@milacacity.com](mailto:celgin@milacacity.com)  
Officer Henry Harris [hharris@milacacity.com](mailto:hharris@milacacity.com)  
Officer Andrew Sammis [asammis@milacacity.com](mailto:asammis@milacacity.com)  
Office Administration Becky Porter [rporter@milacacity.com](mailto:rporter@milacacity.com)

**PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS ☐ (320) 983-6547**

Public Works Supervisor  
Gary Kirkeby [gkirkeby@milacacity.com](mailto:gkirkeby@milacacity.com)  
John Oldenburg  
Mark Wubben  
Warne Johnson  
Troy Roelofs  
Zach Pelarski

**CITY COUNCIL DIRECTORY**

Mayor Dave Dillan	(320) 983-3204
Councilmember Norris Johnson	(320) 983-6837
Councilmember Lindsee Larsen	(320) 982-1088
Councilmember Ken Muller	(320) 630-5064
Councilmember Laurie Gahm	(320) 982-2347



*Reflections* is produced every three months.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list for a pdf version of *Reflections*, email [mmickelson@milacacity.com](mailto:mmickelson@milacacity.com) with your request.

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

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

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