



THE CITY of

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Milford

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DELAWARE

A Note from Mayor Culotta

Happy New Year, 2025 is going to be a great year! I hope you and your family had an enjoyable holiday season! It has been a privilege to work closely with so many of you, I am eager to build on the progress we've already made.

Milford has always been a place I am proud to call home.



Living in the heart of downtown with my family has given me a unique perspective on what makes our community so special. As a business owner myself, I understand the importance of a thriving local economy and a vibrant downtown. That's why I'm committed to growing our business landscape, attracting new businesses, and creating job opportunities that benefit everyone in our city.

I'm particularly excited about the growth opportunities in the Milford Corporate Center. This effort will bring in new companies and create more local jobs. This, in turn, will help ensure that Milford continues to be a great place to live, work, and raise a family for generations to come.

I look forward to continuing our work together to make Milford an even better place for all of us. As always, the City Council members and I welcome your input and ideas, and I'm committed to listening to your concerns and ensuring your voices are heard.

Thank you for your continued support and trust. Together, we will continue to build a bright future for Milford. I can be reached at 302-422-1111 x1309 or via email at mayorculotta@milford-de.gov

Warm Regards,
Todd Culotta
Mayor

City Council Round-up: December

At the December 9th City Council meeting, recognition was given to 2024 Excellence Award winners and 2024 Delaware Supervisory Academy graduates. Council heard department head reports, accepted the FY2023 City of Milford audit, and passed three resolutions. Additionally, several draft ordinances were introduced including one that would permit retail marijuana facilities with restrictions. At the December 11th Workshop, Council heard presentations from staff regarding ADU impact fees, and property maintenance code revisions/habitual offenders along with a brief overview of the Polco survey questions. At the December 20th meeting, Council was provided with a DMI status update and authorized the City of Milford Police Department to proceed with a two-year contract with Flock Safety to utilize awarded grant funding to advance technological resources.

All public meetings can be viewed live or recorded online at the City of Milford website at www.cityofmilford.com/553/Watch-Public-Meetings.

City Office Closures

City offices will be closed Monday, January 20th for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Trash, recycling, and yard waste may differ on these dates. Check the schedule online at www.cityofmilford.com/87/Solid-Waste.

Report Concerns on MyMilford

The MyMilford app is the fastest, easiest way to submit non-emergency requests. Please download the app to your smartphone or submit a request at www.cityofmilford.com/535/MyMilforde.

Winter Home Maintenance Tips: Protect Your Pipes & Maximize Heat Efficiency

As winter weather sets in, it's important to protect your home from the cold to avoid costly repairs and ensure energy efficiency. Here's how you can protect your pipes and optimize heating in your home this January:

Prevent Frozen Pipes

Freezing pipes are one of the most common causes of winter damage. When water inside pipes freezes, it can cause them to burst, leading to expensive water damage and repairs. Here's how to prevent it:

- 1) **Insulate Pipes:** Use foam pipe insulation or heat tape on exposed pipes in unheated areas like basements, attics, and garages.
- 2) **Let Faucets Drip:** Allow a slow drip of water from faucets connected to outside pipes to keep water moving and prevent freezing.
- 3) **Seal Drafts:** Check areas where pipes enter the home, like around windows and doors, and seal any drafts to keep cold air from reaching your pipes.
- 4) **Keep Cabinets Open:** If you have pipes under sinks, open the cabinet doors to let warm air circulate around them.
- 5) **Maintain Heat:** Keep your home's thermostat set to a steady temperature, even if you're away. If you plan to be gone for an extended period, consider turning off the water supply and draining the pipes.

Weatherize for Heat Efficiency

Improving your home's energy efficiency will help reduce heating costs and maintain a comfortable indoor environment. Here's how to get started:

- 1) **Seal Windows & Doors:** Use weather-stripping or caulk to seal gaps around windows and doors. Consider using draft stoppers on doors.
- 2) **Insulate Your Home:** Add insulation in your attic, basement, and walls to prevent heat loss.
- 3) **Use Curtains Wisely:** Open curtains on sunny days to let in natural heat and close them at night to retain warmth.
- 4) **Maintain Your Heating System:** Clean or replace furnace filters regularly and have your heating system serviced to ensure it's running efficiently.
- 5) **Use Space Heaters Wisely:** If you use space heaters, make sure they're energy-efficient models and never leave them unattended.

Strengthening Milford's Infrastructure: A Collaborative Effort to Enhance Cybersecurity

In a recent discussion aimed at improving the city's infrastructure and ensuring the safety of its residents, Public Services Superintendent, Steve Ellingworth, and IT Director, Bill Pettigrew, met with Chris Ramos, the Cybersecurity State Coordinator for Delaware with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). During the meeting, Ramos highlighted various grant opportunities available through the federal government to help bolster the city's cybersecurity efforts. This collaboration marks an important step toward safeguarding the city's digital and physical infrastructure.



Employee Spotlight

Tony Chiploa
Electric Director



1. How long have you worked for the City of Milford? *I've worked for the City for 2.5 years.*
2. Have you always worked in this role? *Yes.*
3. What is your favorite thing about working for the City? *My favorite thing about working for the City is being able to see the direct impact of the work we do in the community.*
4. What do you enjoy doing in your free time? *I enjoy spending time with my family going hiking, kayaking, and skating. I also enjoy playing guitar and making guitar effect pedals.*

The city is fortunate to have Tony on staff. He brings a level of expertise from both the private and public sector, that will position us well for the future. His knowledge of modern electric distribution systems will enable us to make improvements to our system allowing us to address the ever increasing demand for affordable, reliable power. *-Mark Whitfield, City Manager*

Response Management Tool, RAVE

The City of Milford is excited to inform residents that in the coming weeks, you will receive a notification from our Response Management tool, RAVE, that was implemented on a trial basis in October 2024. This notification will request that you sign up or confirm your contact information to ensure we can keep you up to date with important communications, such as emergency alerts and community updates.

We encourage you to use the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/RAVEMILFORDDE> to sign up or manage your account. By doing so, you'll stay informed or connected with all vital information that impacts our community.



Thank you for helping us enhance communication and keep Milford safe and well-informed!

Christmas Tree Collection

Christmas trees will be collected on the following dates:

- Monday, January 13, 2025
- Monday, January 27, 2025

Trees should be left curbside for collection, free of any ornaments or decorations.