



# Milford

River Town • Art Town • Home Town

DELAWARE

## Happy New Year!

The City of Milford wishes you and yours a Happy New Year! A friendly reminder you can always access your utility bill online and sign up to receive these newsletters on the first of each month directly to your inbox. Visit [www.cityofmilford.com](http://www.cityofmilford.com) for more information.

## Jan. Community Happenings

- Every Tuesday, 7:30pm: Adult Basketball Open Gym
- Monday, Jan. 10, 7pm: City Council Meeting
- Monday, Jan. 17: City Offices Closed due to Holiday
- Monday, Jan. 24, 7pm: City Council Meeting
- Friday, Jan. 28, 6pm: Bingo Night

## Women's Community Club

This club is for women who want to meet new people, socialize, and have some fun! The club is for ages 21+ and the cost is \$20 for all four weeks (every Friday, 6-7:30pm in February).

Registration and schedule online. Link available on the City of Milford Parks & Recreation Dept. web page or call the office at 302-422-1104.

## Snow Removal & Routes

Property owners are responsible for ensuring the sidewalk adjacent to their property is maintained in safe condition and free of hazards to either pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Please ensure that your sidewalks are cleared of snow as soon after snowfall stops - as possible. Snow Routes in Milford are as follows: NE and NW Front Streets (SR 14), SE Front St. (SR 36), Lakeview Ave. (SR 36) and N. and S. Walnut Streets. No parking is permitted after one hour of snowfall on these roads and the MPD will tow vehicles if necessary.

## Christmas Tree Collection

Christmas trees will be collected on the following dates:

- Monday, January 3, 2022
  - Monday, January 10, 2022
  - Monday, January 24, 2022
- Trees should be left on the curb for collection.

## Power Cost Adjustment

The City will be implementing a \$0.00396 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) Power Cost Adjustment beginning in February. The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is a required pass-through of DEMEC's wholesale power cost increase billed to all member cities effective Jan. 1 through the end of 2022. DEMEC's power cost increase is primarily due to the global increase in natural gas prices. The \$0.00396 increase will result in a 3.1 percent increase in electric bills for the average households and small business accounts in Milford.

Read the full release online <http://cityofmilford.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=937>

| Date     | Fixed Fee | Usage Rate (\$/kWh) | PCA          | Residential Bill (950kWh Avg) | Cumulative Decrease (\$) | Cumulative Decrease (%) |
|----------|-----------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7/1/2017 | \$ 8.00   | \$ 0.1325           | \$ -         | \$ 133.88                     | \$ -                     |                         |
| 7/1/2018 | \$ 12.00  | \$ 0.1283           | \$ -         | \$ 133.84                     | \$ 0.05                  | 0.0%                    |
| 8/1/2018 | \$ 12.00  | \$ 0.1283           | \$ (0.00130) | \$ 132.60                     | \$ 1.28                  | -1.0%                   |
| 4/1/2019 | \$ 12.00  | \$ 0.1283           | \$ (0.00340) | \$ 130.61                     | \$ 3.28                  | -2.4%                   |
| 7/1/2019 | \$ 16.00  | \$ 0.1259           | \$ (0.00340) | \$ 132.35                     | \$ 1.54                  | -1.1%                   |
| 3/1/2020 | \$ 16.00  | \$ 0.1259           | \$ (0.00403) | \$ 131.75                     | \$ 2.14                  | -1.6%                   |
| 6/1/2020 | \$ 19.00  | \$ 0.1056           | \$ -         | \$ 119.32                     | \$ 14.56                 | -10.9%                  |
| 7/1/2020 | \$ 19.00  | \$ 0.1056           | \$ -         | \$ 119.32                     | \$ 14.56                 | -10.9%                  |
| 7/1/2021 | \$ 20.00  | \$ 0.1046           | \$ -         | \$ 119.33                     | \$ 14.55                 | -10.9%                  |
| 2/1/2022 | \$ 20.00  | \$ 0.1046           | \$ 0.00396   | \$ 123.09                     | \$ 10.79                 | -8.1%                   |
| 7/1/2022 | \$ 21.00  | \$ 0.1035           | \$ 0.00396   | \$ 123.12                     | \$ 10.77                 | -8.0%                   |

## National Citizen Survey

The City of Milford is excited to announce the launch of Polco ([www.polco.us](http://www.polco.us)), an innovative online engagement platform that lets residents provide direct input to the local government decision-making process. By using Polco, the city is making public participation easier for residents. Officials will post questions directly to residents on Polco's website, where residents answer and comment on the questions.

Select residents can expect to receive a mailed postcard with the survey link by late January.

## Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a federally-funded program that provides funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills. Applications will be available in January at <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsp/lihwap.html>

# Public Utility Education



We will highlight a different public utility each month. The goal is to educate our customers on preventative measures to lower their utility bill, as well as create a more flawless system for all users. This month we're featuring our water system. Some tips for you, the water user:

- Water costs money... Don't waste it! A dripping faucet or fixture can waste 3 gallons a day, a total of 1,095 gallons a year.

| Waste per quarter at 60 psi water pressure  |           |            |              |
|---|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Diameter of stream  | Gallons   | Cubic Feet | Cubic Meters |
|  1/4"  | 1,181,500 | 158,000    | 4,475        |
|  3/16" | 666,000   | 89,031     | 2,521        |
|  1/8"  | 296,000   | 39,400     | 1,115        |
|  1/16" | 74,000    | 9,850      | 280          |

 A continuous leak from a hole this size would, over a three month period, waste water in the amounts shown above.

- Make sure your home has a main water shut-off valve. Older homes typically do not have one, so if you're getting any plumbing work done, have one installed. This may be the most important plumbing feature in your entire house. In case of a plumbing emergency, you'll want to know where it's located so you can turn off the water right away and avoid a big, expensive mess.
- An easy way to detect if your toilet is leaking is to add food coloring to the tank. If the water in your bowl turns that color, you know you have a leak!
- During warmer months, make sure to turn your hose off at the bib to avoid hose leaks. During colder months, disconnect your hose all together to avoid freezing temperatures.
- Utilize the City of Milford's Customer Utility Portal (<https://milf-de-web.amppartners.org/>) to access usage data in graphical and tabular formats, manage multiple accounts from a single sign-on, access utility billing history, set up budget notifications, and track usage via scheduled reports. Have your account number and meter number ready when logging in. After clicking register, look for a confirmation email. Please note it may take up to 48 hours for usage to appear. Contact Customer Service at (302) 422-6616 for support.

# Employee Spotlight

**Ralph (RJ) Skinner, Jr.**  
Park Superintendent



1. How long have you worked for the City of Milford? 10 years
2. Have you always worked in this role? I originally started as a temporary employee through the Best Temp Agency in the Sanitation Department in 2011. Shortly afterward, I was reassigned and given the opportunity to join the Parks and Recreation Department. From there, I worked diligently, and in 2014 I became a full time Park Coordinator and shortly afterward I was promoted to Park Superintendent.
3. What is your favorite thing about working for the City? While, much of what we do is behind the scenes, my position awards me with the satisfaction of families, children, and those visiting Milford, enjoying the work my dedicated team and I put in on a daily basis to keep Milford clean, safe, and attractive year around.
4. What do you enjoy doing in your free time? When I am not working, you can find me court side at one of my kid's basketball games, or any of their sporting events, playing corn hole with my corn hole family, or relaxing at home with my wife and kids.

“RJ is a dedicated positive employee who always has a smile on his face and takes pride in making Milford look 'good.'”  
- Brad Dennehy, Director, Parks and Recreation

# Council Spotlight

**Brian Baer**  
Ward 3 Councilmember



1. How long have you been a member of the City Council? First elected in June 2020, defeating a 38-year incumbent.
2. What previous city roles have you held? None officially. I just wanted to get more involved with our new home town. We moved here from MD in 2017.
3. What is your favorite thing about being a Councilmember? Improving the walk-ability, bike-ability, quality of available housing, and beauty of our city.
4. What is your full time job? Dog care for our two dogs, occasional taxi service provider/coordinator for our son, fix-it dude, while exploring job opportunities.
5. What do you enjoy doing in your free time? Playing guitar, watching a good movie/series, reading, outdoor exercise and travel.