

the CONNECTION

SUMMER 2024



ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO

Lavender planted in downtown by Lavender Lane

Photo credit: Mary Kerkes

SUMMER 2024

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LONG OVERDUE

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ED KOLAR

Remarkable transformations are planned for The Riverbank Center, beginning sometime in 2025.

It was over three decades ago, in 1992, that the City of Milan conducted a groundbreaking event for a \$1.2 million initiative to build a community center. That project concluded in 1993, marked by a dedication ceremony.

Remarkable transformations are planned for The Riverbank Center.

Over the past thirty years, the Center, now known as The Riverbank Center, has been an important fixture in our community, serving as a home for Milan Seniors for Healthy Living (MSHL) and as one of the city's top event venues for weddings, family gatherings, and various community events.

But, after decades of use, The Riverbank Center is in need of significant repairs and renovations.

After decades of use, the facility is in need of significant repairs.

In 2023, the City of Milan worked closely with Congresswoman Debbie Dingell's office to secure \$360,000 in federal funding for essential upgrades to the Riverbank Center, which were awarded to us in 2024. These funds will be used to enhance the functionality and attractiveness of the community center, make needed repairs, and to ultimately solidify it as a valuable asset for the city.

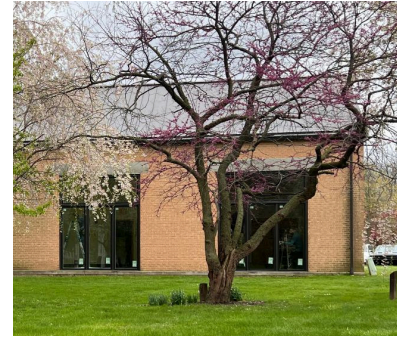


Groundbreaking Ceremony – November, 12, 1992



Dedication Celebration – July 26, 1993

The main concern that needed immediate attention are the deterioration of the original wooden windows. The floor-to-ceiling windows on the northside of the facility have deteriorated considerably, posing a safety hazard.



In 2023, we were able to replace a small portion of the windows at the west end of the building but the majority of the windows in the facility still need to be replaced. A portion of the federal funds secured will allow us to replace those windows in 2025 rather than over the course of the next ten years as originally planned.

Much needed and long overdue

The new windows are water-resistant, offer improved energy efficiency, and feature a sleek design that enhances the view of our beautiful park.

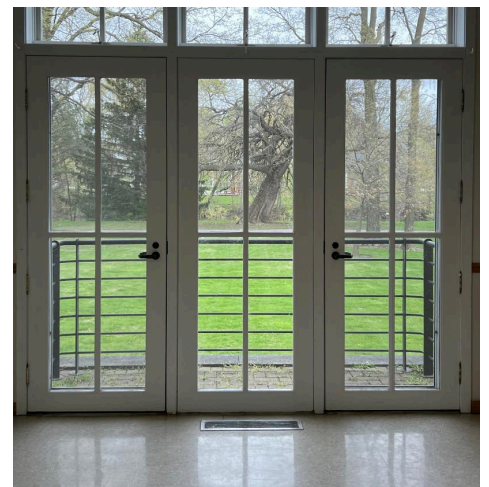
We will also utilize the funding received to enhance the appeal of The Riverbank Center by adding a spacious deck that will offer a stunning park view. The addition of the deck is also anticipated to boost rentals at the center and our senior community will have the opportunity use the space to conduct outdoor activities all year-round.

The remainder of the funding will be used to enhance lighting, upgrade and repair bathrooms and kitchen facilities, and to replace flooring. The extent of the final renovations will depend on how efficiently we can allocate the funds.

These resources will significantly contribute to transforming The Riverbank Center into an exceptional event venue for guests and a secure, pleasant environment for our seniors.

These upgrades are much needed and long overdue.

The City of Milan expresses its deep gratitude to the Office of Debbie Dingell for collaborating with us to acquire the necessary funding to enhance such an important asset in our community.



BEFORE



AFTER

CONNECT WITH WHAT MATTERS

AN UPDATE FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR JAMES LANCASTER

Over the past few years, our elected officials have consistently utilized the competitive bid process to ensure that our residents are receiving the best rates for some of our most essential city services. This practice ensures that our residents are receiving best rates that the industry allows. When our trash collection contract with Stevens Disposal expired on June 30, 2024, city council decided to put the contract up for bid. The bid package was put together by city staff and published at the end of March. Contractors' bids were required to be in by April 30. Once the bids were opened and vetted, a City Council study session was held on May 7th, 2024, where a recommendation was made to move forward with the Stevens Bid proposal as it was lower than the Priority Waste bid. The bid was then subsequently awarded on May 21, 2024, to Stevens Disposal.

The bid was awarded to Stevens Disposal.

As a result of this new contract there will be a few minor changes to the way we collect solid waste within the City of Milan. Currently, we require our citizens to purchase their own trash receptacles for their household waste, while the bi-weekly recycling receptacles are 96-gallon containers that were provided by Stevens Disposal.

96-gallon carts for household waste will be provided by Stevens Disposal

The new contract will provide every household with a 96-gallon trash receptacle that will be required to be utilized by the homeowner. Neither contractor offered a bid that did not include moving to these supplied totes as this is the standard operating procedure within the industry. Moving to this method of collection will streamline the collection process for the contractor, as well as keep our streets cleaner.

Everything else with the contract will remain the same regarding recycling, yard waste and bulk item pickup. The only change to our current program will be the addition of the 96-gallon carts for your household waste. These carts will begin arriving at your property in the coming weeks. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this new program, please feel free to reach out to our staff at City Hall and they will be happy to discuss and answer any questions that you may have.

Please get outside, utilize our beautiful parks, and have a wonderful and safe summer.

JAMES LANCASTER
City Administrator

EXOTIC FOREST PESTS

If you've been to Gump Lake Park recently, you may have noticed something unusual.

Scientists from Michigan State University (MSU) are leading an Exotic Forest Pest Survey in collaboration with Entomologists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), invasive pest managers from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), and forest health specialists from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Michigan is at exceptional risk for the introduction of adverse consequences of invasive forest pests.



Michigan is at exceptional risk for the introduction of adverse consequences of invasive forest pests. Early detection of potentially damaging exotic forest pests can facilitate efforts to eradicate, contain, or manage populations of invasive species.



MSU, the USDA, APHIS, MDARD, and the Michigan DNR worked together to identify sites that may be at relatively high risk for the introduction of exotic pests.

One of 50 sites across Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsula

Gump Lake Park was one of approximately 50 sites across Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas selected for inclusion in this year's survey. Twelve to thirteen traps are installed at each of these locations, including Gump Lake. The traps are baited with artificial lures designed to capture these pests.

Some of the variables used in determining site selection for the 2024 survey include forest type, imported commodities, locations of sawmills, campgrounds, railroads, and highways.

Scientists began setting traps in locations in Michigan in May. They check traps at the various sites at four-week intervals for the duration of the survey, which will end in September or October. If any suspect pests of significance are captured, specimens will be forwarded to federal regulatory officials for confirmation.

Recent estimates have shown that exotic forest insects, particularly insects that feed under the bark of trees in forests and landscapes, cost households and municipal governments in the United States at least \$2.5 billion per year.

Scan QR code for more information.



MONTHLY BILLING

After several months of thorough discussion and research, the City of Milan announced a shift from our current quarterly billing cycle for water, sewer, and trash collection to a monthly billing cycle. Changes like these typically raise questions and concerns amongst the residents so we wanted to answer some of the common questions for you.

Why are you making the switch from quarterly billing to monthly billing?

The initial discussion and decision to make a change from quarterly to monthly billing happened because many citizens raised concerns about the difficulty of budgeting for quarterly bills. City staff has been able to utilize advancing technologies in meter reading, identify billing functionalities, and negotiate bulk mailing rates that allow us to switch to monthly billing at no additional cost to the residents.

How will changing to monthly billing affect residents?

Moving to monthly billing allows our residents to budget their water, sewer, and trash collection bill along with other household commodities such as gas, electricity, and cable. Aside from household budgeting, monthly billing allows us more opportunities to identify problems faster. Anyone who has experienced a leaky toilet or malfunctioning sump pump understands how fast the usage rate can add up over a three-month period. Monthly billing cycles allow us to identify and address these issues in a timelier fashion.

Will monthly billing cost me more?

No. The fixed-rate fees, such as billing expense and readiness to serve, will be equally distributed across the monthly bills.

In 2024, residents will see a modest increase in water usage rates; sewer rates will not increase. This is not a result of moving to monthly billing, but the suggested rate study that was conducted to ensure the overall health of our water and sewer systems and to align with cost increases from our outside contractors.

What are the options for paying my bill?

- Automatic ACH
- Credit Card (In person or online)
- Check (By mail, in person at City Hall, at a drop box located at City Hall or the Police Department)

To learn more scan the QR code, visit milanmich.org, or call City Hall at (734) 439.1501



MORE INFO

If you have other questions or would like additional information, contact City Hall at (734) 439-1501.

ELECTION INFORMATION

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

POLLING LOCATION:

The Riverbank Center
45 Neckel Ct.

HOURS:

Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting begins on Saturday July 27, 2024
Milan City Hall (147 Wabash Street)

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE:

- Saturday, July 27, 2024; 7 AM – 3 PM
- Sunday, July 28, 2024; 7 AM to 3 PM
- Monday, July 29, 2024; 8 AM – 4 PM
- Tuesday, July 30, 2024; 8 AM – 4 PM
- Wednesday, July 31, 2024; 8 AM – 4 PM
- Thursday, August 1, 2024; 8 AM – 4 PM
- Friday, August 2, 2024, 7 AM – 3 PM
- Saturday, August 3, 2024; 7 AM – 3 PM
- Sunday, August 4, 2024; 7 AM – 3 PM

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots are available for pick-up now and were mailed to requestors on June 27, 2024. Please notify the clerk if you have moved or have not received your requested absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots for the 2024 General Election on November 5, 2024 will be available and mailed to requestors on September 26, 2024.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Election mail **WILL NOT** be forwarded by the U.S. Post office. Please set up an alternative mailing address with the City Clerk if you have requested to receive a permanent absentee ballot.



BIKE SAFETY

EVERYBODY'S ROAD. EVERYBODY'S RULES.



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration encourages all road users, including motorists and bicyclists, to respect each other and foster a safer transportation environment. Bicycles on the roadway have the same rights, and responsibilities as motorized vehicles.

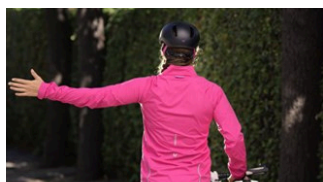
Michigan law requires motorists to give bicyclists at least 3 feet of space when passing.

Bicyclists should:

- Ride with traffic and follow the rules of the road.
- Use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- Obey traffic signals, signs, and markings.
- When dark, a white light on the front and rear red reflector are required.
- Be visible: wear appropriate high visibility safety gear, including a helmet.
- Watch for debris that might make you fall or swerve.
- Watch for turning traffic.
- Ride no more than two abreast.

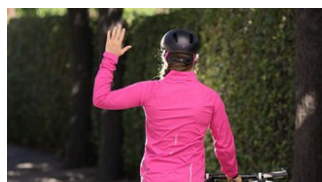
ALWAYS USE HAND SIGNALS

to tell cars and other bicyclists what you intend to do.



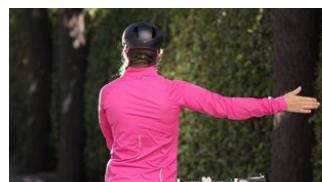
LEFT TURN

Left hand and arm extended straight



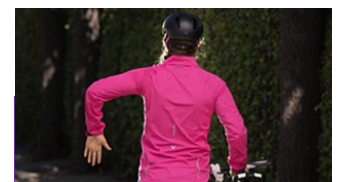
RIGHT TURN

Left hand and arm extended upward



OR RIGHT TURN

Right hand and arm extended straight



STOPPING OR SLOWING DOWN

Left hand and arm extended down



PROTECT YOUR HEAD, WEAR A HELMET

Make sure it fits correctly and meets U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission standards. Look for the certification label inside the helmet.



STAND OUT, BE SEEN

Wear reflective clothing or high-visibility colors that contrast the environment you're riding in.



STAY ALERT, AVOID ROAD HAZARDS

Watch for potholes, cracks, railroad tracks, drainage gates, and obstacles in your path.



CHECK YOUR BIKE

Be sure your brakes work and tires are properly inflated.

BOTH MOTORISTS AND BICYCLISTS HAVE AN EQUAL RIGHT TO THE ROAD.



RIDE NO MORE THAN TWO ABREAST WHEN RIDING ON THE ROAD

Bicyclists riding side-by-side are not impeding traffic.

MICHIGAN LAW



ALWAYS OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNALS, SIGNS, AND LANE MARKINGS

Use hand signals when turning, changing lanes, passing, and stopping.

MICHIGAN LAW



LIGHT IT UP AFTER DARK

If riding after dark, bikes must be equipped with a lamp on the front that emits a white light and a red reflector on the rear.

MICHIGAN LAW



RIDE WITH TRAFFIC

Bicyclists must ride with traffic, on the right hand side of the road, unless passing, turning left, the roadway is unsafe, going straight when traffic is turning right or when on a one-way street.

MICHIGAN LAW

COMMUNITY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

NED

Cat / Adventure seeker / Community Patroller



Ned hangs out downtown

Ned spends his evenings at his official residence on 1st Street with his owner Ben.

Ned spends his days roaming 1st Street where he checks in on his neighbors. His visits are often brief. But sometimes he likes to hangout for a bit.

Ned spends his evenings at home and his days exploring.

During the day you can also find Ned, the feline explorer, wandering around downtown. He seems to have a fondness for Latham's Hardware and had a recent flirtation with Ink & Dye. Rumor has it, he almost got that long-awaited tattoo, but chickened out at the last minute!

Ned is perhaps the most photographed cat in the world (or at least in Milan). A quick search for Ned on Facebook results in a montage of photos and posts dating back to 2015.

Recently, Ben noticed Ned's peculiar habit of fur-licking, but no need to fret - the vet gave him a clean bill of health.

If you spot Ned strutting his stuff in town, he might grace you with a friendly meow or simply breeze past like a cool cat. It depends on his whimsy at the moment - that's Ned for you!

It all depends on his whimsy at the moment.

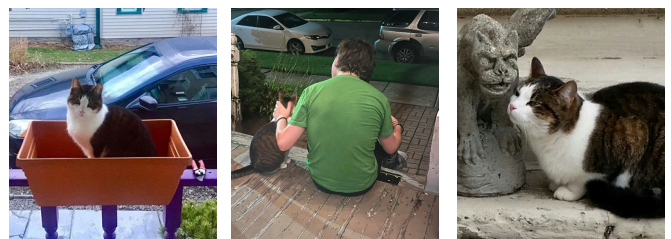


Ned at Ink & Dye



Ned on a visit to Latham's

Ned and Ben have been together for ten years. It's a bromance of epic proportions. Ned is well-cared for and well-loved by Ben. Ned loves Ben in exchange for a place to stay and food to eat.



Ned visiting neighbors on 1st Street

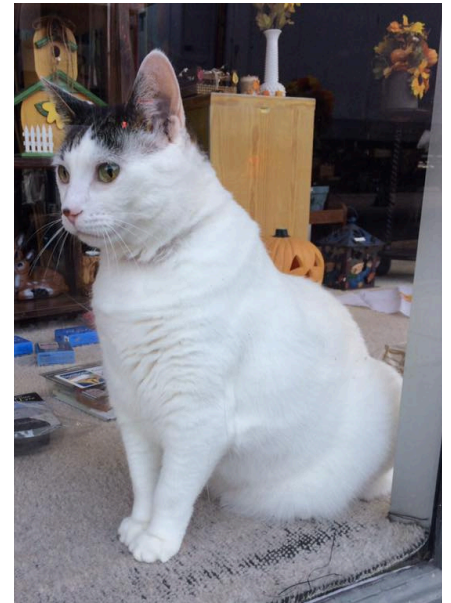
COMMUNITY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

LOUIS

Cat / Shopkeeper / Window napper

Louis is a cat superstar. A true cat-lebrity. You will often find members of the paparazzi (residents) and the pup-arazzi (dogs) stopping by to say hello to Louis through the large storefront window at the Collins Center. Louis seems to enjoy the attention from humans but isn't always as fond of onlooking dogs.

Louis, who turned 16 on April 21, 2024, has lived at the Collins Center about eleven years. He isn't the first cat to take up residence at the downtown retailer. Before him, there was another cat by the name Tiger.



Louis in the window at the Collins Center

Before Louis, there was another cat by the name Tiger.

Before moving to the Collins Center, Louis belonged to the granddaughter of Collins Center owner, Sandy Collins. When Sandy's granddaughter went away to college the plan was to give Louis to the Humane Society. But when the Humane Society said that they would likely need to put Louis to sleep because he wasn't adoptable, Sandy decided to give him a home at the Collins Center.

**The Humane Society said
they would have to put
Louis to sleep.**

It was decided that Louis would stay with Sandy until her granddaughter finished college. After graduation, her granddaughter accepted a nursing position at Mayo Clinic.

Louis wasn't up for the trip to Minnesota. He stayed in Milan, making the Collins Center his forever home.

On the wall inside the Collins Center there is a picture of Tiger, the cat who came before Louis. Sandy says people loved Tiger like they love Louis. Tiger belonged to Sandy's oldest granddaughter, but a severe allergy to cats aggravated her asthma. So, Tiger moved into the Collins Center where he lived for 12 years.

Louis helps Sandy tend shop and keeps an eye on all the happenings in the downtown through a huge sun-drenched storefront window. When he isn't watching out the window, you might find him napping there instead.

MILAN ALUM MAKING WAVES



TRAVIS YORK AN IVY LEAGUE GRADUATE

Travis York graduated from Milan High School in 2019. He went on to study at Princeton University, graduating from the Ivy League with a B.A. in History in 2023. In 2024 he earned a master's degree in Women and Gender Studies from the University of Toronto.

York has published scholarly articles that have appeared in academic publications including *Berkely Undergraduate History Journal* and *Princeton University Mudd Manuscript Library Blog*.

In 2023, York was awarded the Princeton Bisexual, Transgender, Gay and Lesbian Alumni (BTGALA) Recognition Award which recognizes a Princeton graduate who has shown commitment to the LGBTQIA+ community and who aims to continue this support as an alumnus.

ALICIA SITZ WINS AN EMMY

In November 2023, Alicia Sitz, a 2002 MHS graduate, won an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement for Politics/Government News for "Suburban Shift: DuPage County's Changing Politics."



Sitz is a Producer for a weekly Chicago news program called "On the Block powered by Block Club Chicago."

She credits Milan High School teacher Tom Falstrom for sparking her passion for visual storytelling.

Her career has taken her to many news markets across the country. She began her career in Detroit at Fox 2 News. She has also worked in Boston, Toledo and now Chicago.

ANDY DOBRZANSKI COMPETES IN OLYMPIC TRIALS

Milan graduate (2022) Andy Dobrzanski, currently a sophomore at Arizona State University, recently competed in Indianapolis to secure a spot on the U.S. Olympic team.



Dobrzanski swam in two events: 100m breaststroke and 200m breaststroke. He did not make the finals in either breaststroke event but was 20th in the 100 with a time of 1:01.12 and 28th in the 200 at 2:14.47. Both events had close to 100 competitors.

TWO LONG-TIME MILAN CLERGY MEMBERS RETIRE ON SAME DAY

FATHER VINCENT

Fr. Vincent VanDoan served as the priest at Immaculate Conception Church in Milan for 17 years before giving his final mass at the parish on Sunday, June 30, 2024.

Vincent came to Michigan as a refugee from Vietnam, fleeing that country during the war.

It was while he was student at Michigan State University that he felt a calling to the priesthood.

He will be remembered for loving his parishioners and the Milan community.



PASTOR STRADER

Pastor Doug Strader gave his final sermon at Milan Baptist Church on Sunday, June 30, 2024. Strader has been in the ministry for 45 years, 16 of which have been at Milan Baptist Church.

During his time in Milan, he served on many boards and committees including Milan Main Street / DDA and Milan Seniors for Healthy Living.

The congregation honored Pastor Strader and his wife Lisa with a retirement celebration earlier in the month.



BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

DOWNTOWN MILAN / DDA CHA-CHA-CHA- CHANGES!

by Jessica Meingasner
DDA Director

We are singing the old David Bowie song with joy in our Downtown loving hearts! We are excited to announce our office has moved. You can now find us at The Old Fire Barn, at 153 E. Main Street.

The old Milan Fire Barn was built in 1897 and served as the fire station until 1979. The building housed the fire department and throughout the years it also served as the police department, a jail (the single cell is still intact in the building) , and at one point the city library was upstairs! We are excited to be a part of the history of this building and cannot wait for opportunities to showcase this amazing building that is on the National Park Register of Historical Places.

More exciting changes Downtown come in the form of a business rebrand and expansion. Fudge Beauty, located in the Collins Center is now Shadowlight Studio.

Owner, Dierdre Fudge describes Shadowlight Studio as a safe, affirming place to show love to ourselves (and our shadows) while we expand our capacity for the light.

Dierdre is a licensed esthetician who is working toward 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training (YTT). Make sure to look for updates on her social media accounts.

We cannot wait to do Yoga Downtown!

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION LOOKING BEAUTIFUL

by Jessica Stafford
Chair, Beautification Commission

The Beautification Commission depends on the generosity of volunteers, residents, and local businesses to undertake community-beautification projects.

These contributions enable us to maintain the attractiveness of our downtown planters and city entrances with floral displays and decorations all year round. Additionally, they aid various projects like the planting of three Crooked Trees in 2023.

Thank You

TO OUR MOST RECENT DONORS AND SPONSORS

Clark Perforating
Digital Brewery
The Wayne Family
Melissa Brown
Jones Insurance
Dr. Mayday
Hungry Howie's
Collins Center
Knights of Columbus
Real Estate One - The Grostick Team
Edward Jones
Moving Milan Forward

Beautification Awards begin in June and continue through September. We encourage community members to nominate beautiful yards on their street or in their neighborhood. To make a nomination, send us a message on our Facebook page.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING KEEP MILAN BEAUTIFUL!

MILAN SENIORS FOR HEALTHY LIVING

AGING IN MILAN

by MARYANN OPAL
Executive Director

Milan Senior for Healthy Living (MSHL), established in 2010, is a non-profit organization committed to providing activities, programs, services, and referrals designed to enhance quality of life and encourage aging with independence and dignity in the Milan, Michigan area.

Community is an important part of aging. MSHL is thankful to have strong relationships with local businesses and organizations. These relationships allow us to have programming and services such as Talk of the Town with Mayor Kolar, acupuncture with Dear Healer, and Women's Tea with The Owl.

Come see what MSHL is all about!

MSHL is located at The Center, 45 Neckel Court. We are open Monday through Thursday from 8 AM - 3 PM. Stop by and say hi, join one of our upcoming events, or give us a follow on Facebook.

UPCOMING EVENTS

open to the public

Euchre Tournament

Tuesday, July 9 at 6:30 PM

Craft Sale @ 3rd Thursdays

Thursday, July 18; 5 - 8 PM
at Marble Memorial UMC

Bingo Night

Tuesday, September 10; doors open at 5:30 PM, games begin at 6:30 PM

Health Fair

Wednesday, September 25; 10 AM - 1 PM



Women's Tea with The Owl



Beer and Hymns at the American Legion



Talk of the Town with Mayor Kolar



Milan History Day

LOOKING BACK

MEMORIES OF THE PAST

Years back, Barbara Boyce led a class at the Milan Senior Center where she tasked her students with writing brief essays about memories that were still vivid in their minds. A booklet containing these writings has been archived at City Hall, courtesy of local historian and community volunteer, Sallie Bancroft.

Some of the memories featured in the collection, "Looking Back: Memories of the Past," are presented here, as they originally appeared, for your reading enjoyment.

SCHOOL

I remember one of my first days at Rentchler's Country School, District Number 7, on the corner of Bethel Church Road and Alber Road. My parents lived on Weber Road, which was named after my great grandfather. It was 1.5 miles from the school, and I had to walk alone, for there weren't any children of school age around us. So my mother took me with the horse and buggy, met the teacher, who, if I remember, was Margaret Bilhmeyer, then left me there. I went and stayed at my grandpa's during the week, so I could walk to and from school with my uncle.

I was very shy and at that time could not talk much English, so it was very hard, but I always enjoyed school.

We used to carry our lunch in a lunch pail, and sometimes we would trade cookies, sandwiches or fruit. Then, after lunch we would go out and play ball, anti-I-over-the-schoolhouse.

-EMMA GOODRIDGE

About Emma

Emma Goodridge was born on March 11, 1906. She died on October 16, 1998, at the age of 92. She was a member of Marble Memorial United Methodist Church, the Milan Women of the Moose, and the Milan Study Club. Emma issued driver's license to Milan area residents until the early 1960s and worked at Milan High School until 1994. She is buried at Rice Cemetery in Milan Township.

FLU

I was sick most of my young life. Mother couldn't get any milk to agree with me. The doctors tried everything. At last they got some powdered milk that agreed. I had all kinds of ear aches and high fevers most of the time. Mother gathered sage leaves and dried them to make tea. As soon as I had a little temperature I got a cup of sage tea. To this day, I still don't like sage. Also, when I had a cold, I was greased with skunk oil and then covered with a flannel cloth. Yech. Terrible.

When I was six years old, I got the old-fashioned flu. I had a terrible temperature for a week or more. I slept in the baby bed and my mother watched me day and night. When my fever broke and I could get up, I had to learn to walk all over again. It was weeks before I went back to school.

This was the great flu epidemic of 1918. People were dying left and right.

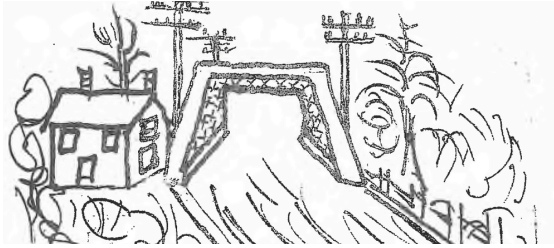
-ALICE ZIMMERMAN

About Alice

Alice Zimmerman died on February 19, 1999, at the age of 87. She was a psychiatric nurse at Ypsilanti State Hospital for 23 years. Alice was also a member of State Employees Retirement Association, the Tri-County Sportsman Club, the Michigan Theatre Foundation, Milan Transit Committee, and the Milan Senior Citizens. She is buried at Marble Park Cemetery in Milan.

THE OLD MILAN BRIDGE

The old trestle bridge over the Saline River had many different pictures taken of it, always with a view to the north.



The bridge was torn down in 1936, in conjunction with the old Ford Complex project. The site of the bridge can be properly located by envisioning the north shore of Ford Lake, as the north shore of the Saline River. The river crossed Wabash at that location.

THE PRESENT MILAN BRIDGE

I remember standing in line to be hired at the Milan bridge. So one morning I was standing in line, in March 1937. The boss pulled me to the side and hired me. He asked me if I had rubber boots and I said, "yes." So I went to work and we started digging footings in blue clay with a jack hammer. After we got the footings in, then we started putting the forms up for the abutment structure. The boss' name was Oscar. He kept firing men and some quit. But anyway, we got the forms up for the abutments. Then we started to pour cement. The gravel and sand had to be wheeled and weighed, as did the cement and dumped into the mixer. If you had too much, or not enough, it either had to be taken off or more put on. Because there were two State men standing there, watching you. The cement was then dumped into buggys, as they called them.

Then one day, when we were pouring cement, one of the men dumped a buggy load of cement on one of the men in the forms. So Oscar fired this man right away. Next, we were ready for beams, which called for 24" I beams, which came in by flat car down at the depot. These beams had to be jacked over onto a truck and then hauled down to the bridge. Then they were picked up by a crane and lifted. They had to be rode up by two men, one on each end

and balanced and then set on the rail. Then after the beams were set, the plates were fastened to the beams. You had to walk out on the beams to carry the reinforcement rods. The reinforcement rods were 1/2 inch.

These had to be spaced and tied with thin wire and blocked up from the beams. Then came the cement posts, which had to have rods in them, and then they were poured. Then it came time to put the side barrier on.

I don't know how many men Oscar fired.

I don't know how many men Oscar fired, but it was quite a few. But, anyway. I stayed all through the building of the bridge, which was finished in 1938. The contractor's name who built it, was John W. Hertel, from Rogers City, Michigan. As far as I know, I am the only living one who worked on the Milan Bridge.

-EVERETT EGGERT

About Everett

Everett Eggert was born on September 4, 1915. He died on August 20, 2007, at the age of 91. Everett retired from U of M as a purchasing clerk in 1977. He was a life member of Tri-County Sportsman League, the Milan Moose and the Milan Senior Citizens where he served on the board. Everett was very active with many bands including the Milan "Fun Band" and the "Song Busters."

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

MILAN FARM AND FLEA MARKET



There is an exciting new event in town that our community has been eagerly anticipating: The Milan Farm and Flea Market.

Organizers Lisa Friese, Wendy Gauntlett and Olivia VanBuren first approached the city in March with the idea of planning and presenting a farmer's market that also included a flea market. It was an idea they had been tossing around for a while but decided it was time to make their dream a reality.

It was an idea they had been tossing around for a while.

A few months later, on Sunday, June 30, they hosted more than 50 vendors and food trucks in Wilson Park for the first of four markets planned for 2024. Additional markets for this season are scheduled for July 28, August 25, and September 29, from 9 AM - 3 PM in Wilson Park.

Delightful weather added to the experience.

Looking ahead to 2025, their goal is to expand the market to bi-monthly occurrences across more months. VanBuren says doing so makes it possible to include produce from crops that are short-lived, such as strawberries.



*Olivia VanBuren and Lisa Friese
at Milan Farm & Flea Market*

The inaugural Farm and Flea Market was widely regarded as a triumph. The delightful weather added to the experience as visitors enjoyed discovering fantastic items to buy, meeting friends and neighbors, enjoying live music, and indulging in coffee and tasty treats.

THE BUZZ ABOUT

OLIVIA FREE VAN BUREN

Beekeeper and co-founder of Milan Farm & Flea Market

Olivia Free Van Buren is a beekeeper, business owner, college student, property investor, and co-founder of the Milan Farm & Flea Market. She is just 22 (almost 23 years old).

Olivia was born near Milan but moved to Huntsville, Alabama at the age of three, residing there until her mother Tracy passed away. That's when, at the age of 12, she and her dad Bill moved back to Milan.

Olivia graduated from MHS in 2019 but was still in high school when her boyfriend's father introduced her to beekeeping. As a child she loved bugs and nature. Beekeeping sparked her interest.



What began as a hobby turned into a business: Little Free's Bees. Olivia now maintains 14 hives, harvesting and producing honey products. Olivia also helps prevent the extermination of bees by offering bee removal services for free.

Olivia says that honeybees are extremely docile and very intelligent, and do not take a lot of space to keep. She keeps five of her hives in the small backyard at her house, which also has a pond, garden, greenhouse, fire pit, and hot tub.

Honeybees are extremely docile and very intelligent.

Olivia and Little Free's Bees are a regular vendor at 3rd Thursdays. It's one of Olivia's favorite events to attend. She says it what partially inspired her to bring a farm and flea market to Milan. She wanted to create a place for quality locally sourced and homemade products to be sold.



Beekeeping isn't Olivia's primary occupation. By day, she works as a property investor, purchasing foreclosed homes to renovate and either sell or rent. Olivia says she wants to broaden her business acumen learn more about the everyday world beyond Milan, so she is also in college, pursuing degrees in business management and business administration.

In addition to the bees, Olivia has six cats, two dogs, two sulcata tortoises weighing 120lbs and 20lbs respectively, several fish, and a frog.



EVENTS, HAPPENINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

2 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 PM at City Hall / 147 Wabash Street

11 BACKSTREET CRUIZERS

6 PM in Wilson Park

12 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE

5:30 - 8 PM featuring Eastside Jazz Collective

13-14 LAVENDER FESTIVAL

8 AM - 4 PM on Saturday } 12040 Plank Road, Milan
12 PM - 4 PM on Sunday }

16 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 PM at City Hall / 147 Wabash Street

18 3RD THURSDAYS

5 - 8 PM in downtown Milan featuring Live Music from Detroit Social Club
5 - 7 PM Touch a Truck in Wilson Park
6 PM; Tolan Square Dedication
6 PM: Backstreet Cruizers in Wilson Park

19 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE

5:30 - 8 PM featuring Unkle Lay Lee's Moonshine All-Stars

26 **LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE**

5:30 - 8 PM featuring The Extrusions

25 **BACKSTREET CRUIZERS**

6 PM in Wilson Park

28 **MILAN FARM AND FLEA MARKET**

9 AM - 3 PM in Wilson Park

For a more complete list of events in the Milan area visit:

milanevents.org



AUGUST

EVENTS, HAPPENINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

1 BACKSTREET CRUIZERS

6 PM in Wilson Park

2 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE

5:30 - 8 PM featuring Andy Patalan

3 MILAN CAR SHOW

9 AM in Wilson Park

6 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 PM at City Hall / 147 Wabash Street

8 BACKSTREET CRUIZERS

6 PM in Wilson Park

9 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE

5:30 - 8 PM featuring Mike and Maggie

15 3RD THURSDAYS

5 - 8 PM in downtown Milan featuring Live Music from Unkle Lay Lee's Moonshine All-Stars

5 - 8 PM Instrument Petting Zoo with the A2SO in Wilson Park

6 PM: Backstreet Cruizers in Wilson Park

16 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE

5:30 - 8 PM featuring DC and the Headliners

17 RELAY FOR LIFE

Wilson Park

20 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 PM at City Hall / 147 Wabash Street

22 BACKSTREET CRUIZERS

6 PM in Wilson Park

23 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE

5:30 - 8 PM featuring the ABC Sisters with the Big Band Theory

25 MILAN FARM AND FLEA MARKET

9 AM - 3 PM in Wilson Park

29 BACKSTREET CRUIZERS

6 PM in Wilson Park

For a more complete list of events in the Milan area visit:

milanevents.org



EVENTS, HAPPENINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

2 LABOR DAY - CITY HALL CLOSED

6 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE

5:30 - 8 PM featuring Unkle Lay Lee's Moonshine All-Stars

**7 HOT ROD'S MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS
AND SUICIDE PREVENTION EVENT**

Wilson Park

13 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE

5:30 - 8 PM featuring Maggie Rhodes Band

17 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 PM at City Hall / 147 Wabash Street

19 3RD THURSDAYS

5 - 8 PM in downtown Milan featuring Live Music from Y-Town Hoolies
Show your homecoming spirit. Come dressed in red and black in support of the Milan Big Reds.

20 HOMECOMING PARADE

5:15 PM from Downtown Milan to the football field

27 **LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE**

5:30 - 8 PM featuring Otter River

27 **DOWNTOWN BEER WALK**

5 - 9 PM in downtown Milan. Ticketed event.

29 **MILAN FARM AND FLEA MARKET**

9 AM - 3 PM in Wilson Park

For a more complete list of events in the Milan area visit:

milanevents.org

MAYOR & COUNCIL



**EDWARD
KOLAR**
Mayor



**DR. SHANNON
DARE WAYNE**
Mayor Pro Tem



**MARY
KERKES**
Council Member



**JOSH
KOFFLIN**
Council Member



**DAVID
SNYDER**
Council Member



**MATTHEW
STAFFORD**
Council Member



**CHRISTIAN
THOMPSON**
Council Member

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

occur the first and third Tuesday of each month
at 7 PM at City Hall (147 Wabash Street).

POLICE DEPARTMENT

(734) 439-1551

DONALD TILLERY

Chief of Police

donalddt@milanmich.org

FIRE DEPARTMENT

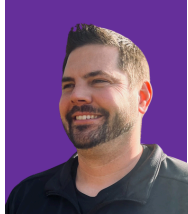
(734) 439-2843

ROBERT STEVENS

Fire Chief

rgstevens@milanareafire.com

CITY HALL



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GENERAL LINE

(734) 439-1501

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

(734) 439-7089

MONDAY 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

TUESDAY 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

THURSDAY 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

FRIDAY CLOSED

milanmich.org

CONNECTIONS

WORD GROUP GAME

Group words that share a common thread.
Create four groups of four.

LOUIS	FISH	TORTISE	BROWN
MSU	CAT	CLARK	NED
MAYDAY	SANDY	MDARD	DOG
USDA	BEN	JONES	APHIS

SCAN
for answer key



CONNECT WITH US

ON FACEBOOK

City of Milan	@CityofMilanMI
Milan Parks & Recreation	@MilanParksAndRec
Milan Main Street / DDA	@MilanMainSt
Milan Police Department	@MilanPolice
Milan Area Fire Department	@MilanAreaFire
Milan Public Library	@MilanPublicLibrary
Milan Beautification Commission	@MilanBeautificationCommission
Milan Seniors for Healthy Living	@MilanSeniors

WEBSITES

City of Milan	milanmich.org
Milan Parks & Recreation	milanmich.org/departments/parks_and_recreation
Milan Main Street / DDA	milanmainstreet.info
Milan Police Department	milanmich.org/departments/police_department
Milan Area Fire Department	milanareafire.com
Milan Public Library	milanlibrary.org
Milan Seniors for Healthy Living	milanseniors.org

GET ALERTS

Get connected and be alerted of things that may affect you in our community. Sign up for **Smart 911** to receive alerts through text, email, and phone calls with customization options available for your convenience.



To sign up, scan QR code or go to:
milanmich.org/departments/police_department/index.php

the
CONNECTION

SUMMER 2024

milanmich.org