

the  
**CONNECTION**

SPRING 2024



### **ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO**

This image features Bob, Myla, Maribelle, and Molly Kofahl during a recent Milan Cares spring clean-up day.

Photo credit: Mary Kerkes

SPRING 2024

# INSIDE THIS EDITION

<b>Spring Cleaning:</b> A Message from Mayor Kolar.....	3-6
<b>Connect With What Matters:</b> A Message from the City Administrator.....	7-8
<b>The Story of Live from Tolan Square</b> .....	9-10
<b>Walk Your Wheels:</b> Pedestrian Safety in the Downtown.....	11
<b>Trash Talk:</b> Recycling.....	12
<b>Under Construction:</b> Current and Upcoming Projects	
County Street.....	13
MDOT Bridge Construction.....	13
<b>Seasonal Reminders</b>	
Yard Waste.....	14
Chipping.....	14
Bulk Items.....	14
<b>News and Information from the Police Department</b>	
Top Driver Safety Technologies for Teens, Explained.....	15
Teens & Speeding: The Facts.....	16
Parents: Get Involved.....	17
<b>From the Clerk's Office</b>	
Election Results.....	18
Historic District Commission Seeking Applicants.....	18
<b>Community Member Spotlight</b>	
Tom Faro.....	19
Lauren Blackford.....	20
<b>Four Fun Facts</b> .....	21-22
<b>Boards and Commissions</b>	
Downtown Milan / DDA.....	23
Parks and Recreation Commission.....	23
Beautification Commission.....	23
Milan Seniors for Healthy Living.....	24
<b>Events, Happenings &amp; Important Dates</b>	
April.....	25
May.....	27-28
June.....	29-30
<b>Pavilion Rentals</b> .....	26
<b>Contact Us</b>	
Mayor and City Council.....	31
City Hall.....	32
Police & Fire.....	32
<b>Crossword Puzzle</b> .....	33
<b>Connect With Us</b> .....	34

# SPRING CLEANING

## A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ED KOLAR



As spring arrives and the weather gets warmer, many of us seize the opportunity to venture outdoors and tidy up our homes and surroundings after being indoors during the winter months.

During spring, as the snow melts off the roads we travel, it unveils accumulated litter around our city. Most Milan residents likely question this reality, as they generally observe a clean and relatively litter-free community.

That's because Milan's DPW team, along with a dedicated group of volunteers, consistently maintain the cleanliness of the city streets and neighborhoods throughout the year. We are fortunate to have such a pristine city and committed volunteers. I often affectionately describe Milan as "the cleanest little city in the State of Michigan."

## Milan...the cleanest little city in the State of Michigan.

Milan Cares comprises dedicated volunteers from across the 48160 who put in tremendous effort to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of the entrances to the City of Milan. As a city with two major highway access points, Milan experiences a significant flow of traffic entering the area. While this traffic boosts business in our community, it also leads to a substantial amount of litter. To balance the benefits of increased business with environmental care, we have implemented strategies to handle the waste linked to the heightened traffic. Apart from the vicinity around US-23, Milan Cares also focuses on cleaning up trash along other local roads within our community.

Since 2017, Milan Cares has been actively organizing and supervising community clean-up events twice a year, in spring and fall. On these days, around 75 volunteers come together to clean up various parts of the city, including parks, school properties, highway onramps, and main roads like Platt, Carpenter, Redman, Allen, Mooreville, Arkona, and Milan Oakville.

**These efforts underscore the pride we take in caring for our tiny section of the planet.**

Their efforts extend to neighboring townships like Cone Road and Willis Road, underscore the pride we take in maintaining a clean environment for our tiny section of the planet for visitors and residents alike.

I wish I could personally thank each volunteer, but that would be overwhelming. They are aware of their contributions and know they are valued.

Milan Cares receives support from individual volunteers, sports teams, school groups, and community organizations. The organization financially backs youth groups that volunteer for their city, benefiting all parties involved and providing valuable experiences for the youth.

The involvement of business partners is crucial to Milan Cares' success. They contribute resources, offer financial assistance for essentials like bags, gloves, and provide lunches for volunteers after significant work sessions. This gesture is a small token of appreciation to the volunteers and an excellent opportunity to engage with the community. Financial donors enable Milan Cares to motivate youth groups to serve their hometown while earning funds for group activities.



Collaboration is key to success. I would like to personally invite you to follow Milan Cares on Facebook to see the individuals and businesses supporting the organization's mission.

Milan Cares, as a collective, assists residents with various needs in the community. From tire collection runs, to addressing other needs, the focus remains on volunteering. The group brings together individuals who dedicate their weekends to helping others and maintaining a clean environment in the city of Milan.



The good news is that we clear 9-10 full-size commercial dumpsters annually of litter in our hometown and dispose of it in the landfill.

On the flip side, the bad news is that we accumulate 9-10 full-size commercial dumpsters each year with trash that is polluting our hometown.

Approximately 35% of the trash gathered consists of empty alcohol containers. Interestingly, fast food containers constitute the largest portion of the collected trash.

**In an ideal world, individuals wouldn't casually discard trash from their car windows.**

In an ideal world, individuals wouldn't casually discard trash from their car windows while passing through our city and its surroundings. However, since perfection is not a reality, we rely on the Milan community to unite with Milan Cares in preserving a clean city that we can all take pride in calling home.

Without the commitment of volunteers, our community would face neglect, a sad but true reality. The amount of waste going to landfills is a clear indication of this situation. As Milan residents, let's take pride in our town and work towards maintaining its status as the "cleanest town in Michigan." Together, we can make a difference by putting in a little extra effort.

Rest assured; we are dedicated to the challenging task of keeping our community free from excessive trash. Stay tuned for information about the upcoming spring clean-up day on April 7 by following Milan Cares on Facebook for the latest updates on the schedule.

Participation from the wider Milan community in support of Milan Cares is encouraged and appreciated. We welcome additional support with more boots on the ground, which enables us to cover a larger area, reach more streets, and helps us to keep our community clean.

## The most crucial way for everyone to contribute is by understanding the issue.

Financial donations are always appreciated as they help us engage more youth groups in volunteering and supporting their fundraising initiatives, while also giving back to the community.

The most crucial way for everyone to contribute to the cause is by understanding the issue, as the solution is straightforward.

Imagine if every household in our community discussed topics like littering, respecting others' property, and proper waste disposal with their family members.

## This simple action could significantly reduce the amount of trash accumulating in our city.

This simple action could significantly reduce the amount of trash accumulating in our city.



While we must continue to maintain the on and off ramps that serve Milan, cultivating better habits within our community will greatly contribute to keeping our city clean.

Without these dedicated volunteers, our community would be in a significantly unkempt state, and it's disheartening to acknowledge this reality. The evidence lies in the amount of waste Milan Cares volunteers collect and dispose of every year.

Remember to follow Milan Cares on Facebook and stay tuned for details on a new spring clean-up day on April 7 .

We are excited to see increased involvement from the wider Milan community.

**-Mayor Ed Kolar**



photo credit: Mary Kerkes

# CONNECT WITH WHAT MATTERS

by JAMES LANCASTER  
City Administrator



Since the beginning of my tenure with the City of Milan, one of the core values that has been emphasized by your elected officials is transparency and communication. They have stressed the importance of being upfront and developing ways to disseminate information to their constituents. That desire was one of the driving factors for the quarterly publication that you are currently reading.

To engage the public more effectively, we are planning to make a large part of my content in this publication directly derived from questions and comments that you submit to us. While we will not be able to address all the questions we anticipate receiving, we will attempt to identify the most-asked questions and answer them in the next edition of The Connection.

**To engage more effectively,  
we want to answer questions  
that you submit to us.**

There are many ways to submit your questions to me / the City. The easiest is to scan the QR code below. Another way is to email your question to [askthecity@revize.com](mailto:askthecity@revize.com).

Instead of waiting until the next edition of The Connection, I thought I would kick things off now by addressing a couple of frequently asked questions.

1. What are those little flags that show up in my yard while I am at work?
2. How do I sign up for emergency alerts?

You can find the answers to both of these questions on the next page.

I hope you will find it easy to submit a question to me using the [askthecity@revize.com](mailto:askthecity@revize.com) email or the QR code. I look forward to hearing from community members like you.

*Have a question?*

**ASK THE ADMINISTRATOR**

Is there something you are curious about? Do you have question for the City about something you have wondered about? Ask me! Simply scan the QR code to the right and submit your question. It will go directly to my email inbox.



## *What are the little flags that show up in my yard while I am at work?*

Whenever an individual or contractor plans to do underground excavating they are required by law to call MISS DIG (Michigan Underground Utility Locating Service).

The intent of this service is to allow utility companies to mark their lines so the contractor/homeowner can dig safely and avoid the costs of repairs for hitting underground utilities.

You can contact Miss Dig by calling 811 or going to the Michigan Utility Notification Center - MISS DIG System ([missdig811.org](http://missdig811.org)).

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## *How do I sign up for emergency alerts?*

The City of Milan has contracted with the RAVE Alert system to give our residents immediate notifications of any emergencies that may be going on around them.

There are three easy ways to register. See right. From there, you will be directed on how to set up your account.

This service is a fantastic way to get real-time emergency updates on weather or other emergency situations in Milan.

Please sign up and stay connected to what matters in the community.

### **TEXT**

Text MILAN  
to 67283

### **WEBSITE**

Navigate to the Police Department page on [milanmich.org](http://milanmich.org) and click on the Smart911/Rave link on the left-hand side of the page.

### **QR CODE**

Scan QR code to register.



# THE STORY of LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE

by JILL TEWSLEY  
Community Engagement Director

Three years ago, on St. Patrick's Day 2021, we came together in Tolan Square to celebrate and listen to live music. It was a beautiful day. Sunny with a high around sixty degrees. It was also a beautiful day because it was one of the first times we were able to gather together for a public event in over a year.

Tony Thompson, owner of Fender's arranged for Unkle Lay Lee's Moonshine All-Stars to perform. As the legend goes, the band played for free that day. It was their way of giving back to a community that needed to reconnect with one another and to businesses that had been shut down for so long.

Live music has the power to create magic.



If you were there, you know. It was truly a magical experience. Live music has the power to create magic under normal circumstances. These were extraordinary circumstances and the magic that happened when Unkle Lay's Lee's Moonshine All-Stars started playing was indeed extraordinary.

Let's do this  
every week!

Pat Shannon, owner of Hungry Howie's, was in the Square that day. Inspired by what was happening, he said, "Let's do this every week!" Milan Main Street agreed, and thanks to the inspiration from Tony Thompson and Unkle Lay Lee's Moonshine All-Stars, a major sponsorship from Hungry Howie's, and some quick planning from Milan Main Street, Live from Tolan Square was born.

Since that performance on St. Patrick's Day in 2021, nearly sixty live music events have occurred in Tolan Square on Friday nights or during 3rd Thursdays. That number will jump to 80 following the conclusion of this year's Live from Tolan Square summer concert series.

Live from Tolan Square was initiated with support from Tony Thompson, Unkle Lay Lee's Moonshine All-Stars, Hungry Howie's, and Milan Main Street. In 2022, the City of Milan took over the series from Milan Main Street and is dedicated to preserving this tradition.



Live from Tolan Square started in the heart of our downtown in 2021 and thrives today. The summer-long music festival is made possible because of the generous financial support of Hungry Howie's and numerous other sponsors. Moving Milan Forward also helps by diligently preparing the stage every week for the bands. But the magic happens because of the incredibly talented musicians who perform each week.

## Put on your dancing shoes and bring the entire family.

We hope to see you in Tolan Square on Friday nights, enjoying the sounds of summer in Milan. Bring your lawn chairs. Grab a MOSA beverage. Order takeout. Put on your dancing shoes (if you like) and bring the entire family.

### LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE 2024 SPONSORS

**SIGNATURE SPONSOR:** Hungry Howie's

**PRESENTING SPONSORS:** Jodie Franklin Realty and Destination Ann Arbor

**BAND SPONSORS:** Jones Insurance, Miller Canfield, Digital Brewery, Real Estate One-The Grostick Team, Josh Kofflin, and The Owl

**IN-KIND SPONSOR:** Moving Milan Forward

## Live from TOLAN SQUARE

### JUNE

- 7 Unkle Lay Lee's Moonshine All-Stars
- 14 Detroit Social Club
- 20 Andy Patalan
- 21 Lauren Blackford  
featuring opener Lucas Barron
- 28 Y-Town Hoolies

### JULY

- 5 Fourth of July weekend - no Live
- 12 Eastside Jazz Collective
- 18 Detroit Social Club
- 19 Unkle Lay Lee's Moonshine All-Stars
- 26 The Extrusions

### AUGUST

- 2 Andy Patalan
- 9 Mike and Maggie
- 15 Unkle Lay Lee's Moonshine All-Stars
- 16 DC and the Headliners
- 23 To be announced
- 30 Labor Day weekend - no Live

### SEPTEMBER

- 6 Unkle Lay Lee's Moonshine All-Stars
- 13 Maggie Rhodes Band
- 19 Y-Town Hoolies
- 20 Homecoming - no Live
- 27 Otter River



# WALK YOUR WHEELS

With warmer weather comes increased bike and foot traffic. Families are out walking; shoppers, diners, and bar patrons can be seen strolling and cycling; and events like the Wine Walk and 3rd Thursdays attract hundreds of people to Milan’s downtown.

Pedestrian safety is a top priority for the City of Milan. To help keep everyone in the downtown safe, we are asking that our walkways be used for exactly that—walking.

## Pedestrian safety is a top priority for the City of Milan.

Be a good citizen and “Walk Your Wheels.” It is the smart and safe thing to do, and it is against the law\* to ride bicycles, skateboards, scooters, in-line skates or roller skates on the sidewalks within the downtown district.

When on the sidewalks in the downtown, you must “Walk Your Wheels” within the boundaries of the following streets:

- The north side of Main Street between Church Street to Gay Street
- The south side of Main Street between Church Street to Park Lane
- Wabash Street from Main Street to Neckel Court
- Tolan Street / Tolan Square from Main Street to 1st Street

There are signs posted throughout the downtown district and the sidewalks are painted with “Walk Your Wheels” messaging.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping to make our downtown a pedestrian-friendly place for all to enjoy.



*\*Riding bicycles, skateboards, scooters and in-line skates on downtown sidewalks is prohibited under 21-118 B. Violators can be fined. If a juvenile is ticketed, parent(s) are responsible for the fine.*

# TRASH TALK RECYCLING

## WASHTENAW COUNTY

### COUNTY CLEAN-UP DAYS

Washtenaw County residents can recycle and dispose of many household items including electronics, household hazardous waste, bulky waste, appliances, and scrap tire on County Clean-up Days.

The events are free but you must pre-register at [washtenaw.org/2414/County-Clean-Up-Days](https://washtenaw.org/2414/County-Clean-Up-Days)

Note: Registration opens in May.

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

Washtenaw County residents can schedule a time to drop off hazardous materials.

- Schedule a Saturday drop-off at the Home Toxics Center on Zeeb Road starting in April 2024. Pre-Registration is required.
- Weekday drop-offs are accepted at the HHW Center (10843 W. Five Mile Rd. in Northville) by appointment only.

For more information or to schedule an appointment:

[washtenaw.org/287/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Disposal](https://washtenaw.org/287/Household-Hazardous-Waste-Disposal)

## MONROE COUNTY

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

2024 HHW and Document Shredding events for Monroe County residents

Monroe Charter Township Hall  
4925 E Dunbar Rd, Monroe

- Tuesday, May 7, 4-7 PM: HHW and Shredding
- Saturday, August 10, 9 AM to Noon: HHW only

Bedford - Indian Creek Park  
8486 Douglas Road, Lambertville

- Sat., June 15, 9 AM - Noon: HHW & Shredding
- Tuesday, September 17, 4-7 PM: HHW only

Four Household Hazardous Waste Collection events are scheduled annually. These events are free of charge and open to Monroe County residents only.





# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

County Street is being reconstructed from US 23 to Dexter Street, including some water main and sewer work.

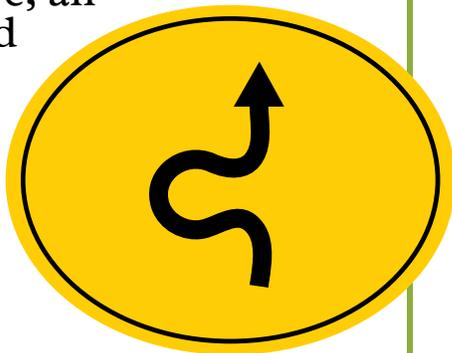
### COUNTY STREET

- A projected start date of March 4th
- At this time the road will be closed to through traffic
- The estimated timeline for this project is 60 days
- Detour Info:

Coming into town from the east, take Sanford Road to Plank. Coming from the west, take Dexter to Plank to Sanford

Please be aware, all dates indicated are subject to change.

Construction timelines and weather could alter project schedules.



## MDOT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

As part of the State of Michigan's US 23 project, every bridge overpass in Milan is slated for some form of rehabilitation throughout the summer.

### CARPENTER ROAD

- Closed mid-March for 30 days
- Detour Info:

Coming from the north into town, take Stony Creek to Platt to East Main. Coming from the southeast, take Main to Platt to Stony Creek

### COUNTY STREET

- Once the Carpenter Road overpass is complete, County Street will close for approximately 30 days
- Follow same detour outlined above for the City's County Road project
- These two projects may slightly overlap

### PLANK ROAD

- Closes around the 4th of July for approximately 90 days
- Detour Info:

Coming from the east into town, take Sanford to County Street. Coming from the west out of town, take Dexter to County Street to Sanford

# SEASONAL REMINDERS



## YARD WASTE

Starting Tuesday, April 2nd, Steven's will begin yard waste collection.

- Remember to place yard waste in brown paper yard waste bags or 32-gallon cans that are clearly labeled "YARD WASTE."
- Yard Waste stickers are available at City Hall for free.



## CHIPPING

DPW will start providing chipping services on Wednesday, April 3rd.

- Branches and limbs should not exceed 4 inches in diameter
- Ensure that the brush is neatly placed behind the curb with the cut ends facing the street
- Avoid stacking brush in the street or on the sidewalk
- Please refrain from including roots, stumps, or vine material

Once the chipper has been down a street, it will not return until the next regularly scheduled chipping date.



## BULK ITEMS

- One bulk item is free the first service day of each month
- All other bulk items require a bulk item sticker
- Bulk items stickers can be obtained at the City Hall for \$10.00/tag

# TOP DRIVER SAFETY TECHNOLOGIES FOR TEENS, EXPLAINED



## **ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL**

Standard on all new vehicles since 2012, this feature automatically stabilizes the vehicle if it begins to veer off the intended path. It helps prevent rollovers, oversteering and understeering, which reduces fatal crash risk.



## **LANE DEPARTURE WARNING (LDW) AND LANE KEEPING ASSISTANCE (LKA):**

LDW alerts the driver with a warning sound, vibration, or visual cue if they drift out of their lane. LKA then automatically steers the driver back into their lane. (Warning: These features may not work if lane lines are faint or covered by snow or debris.)



## **FORWARD COLLISION WARNING (FCW) AND AUTOMATIC EMERGENCY BRAKING (AEB):**

FCW warns the driver of a possible collision with warning lights and sounds. AEB automatically applies the brakes if the driver fails to respond to the warning. (Warning: May encourage teen drivers to tailgate.)



## **BLIND SPOT WARNING:**

Helps prevent side collisions and increases awareness of surrounding traffic by warning the driver with a symbol, sound or vibration if a vehicle is in their blind spot.



## **BACKUP CAMERA:**

Shows a wide view behind the vehicle while in reverse. May also provide visual or sound warning if an obstacle is detected. This can increase the driver's awareness of surroundings and improve parking ability. (Warning: May not detect pedestrians.)

Newer vehicles that include these technologies are safer for teens and other drivers. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of these technologies to help coach and guide their teens through their first years of driving. Parents should remind teens that a safe driver is the most important and effective safety feature of any vehicle.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

To learn more about safety technologies and choosing a vehicle for your teen driver, visit "[Navigate to safety: roadmaps for parents of teen drivers.](#)"

The website [MyCarDoesWhat.org](#) offers information on all the latest vehicle safety features available in today's automobiles.

# TEENS & SPEEDING: THE FACTS

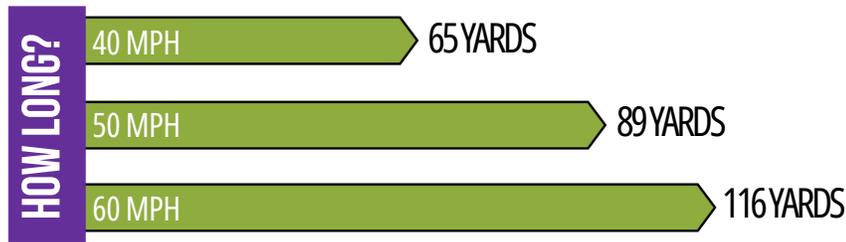


## SPEEDING IS THE MOST COMMON MISTAKE

made by teen drivers involved in fatal crashes.

**PARENTS: PUT YOUR FOOT DOWN ABOUT SPEEDING.**

## WHEN DRIVERS SPEED... ...IT TAKES LONGER TO STOP.



...THEIR FIELD OF VISION NARROWS, so they can't see what's going on around the vehicle.

...THEY USE MORE FUEL and have to spend more at the gas station.

...VEHICLE SAFETY EQUIPMENT BECOMES LESS EFFECTIVE.

...VEHICLE DAMAGE AND OCCUPANT INJURIES are more severe in a crash.

TEENS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SPEED than older drivers.

## The presence of any MALE TEENAGE PASSENGER

increases the likelihood of speeding

### SPEED LIMITS

ARE BASED ON IDEAL DRIVING CONDITIONS

Drivers should go even slower when:

- WEATHER IS POOR (rain, snow, fog, etc.)
- IT'S DARK
- THEY'RE IN A WORK ZONE

Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit in a work zone is 45 mph.



## TO PREVENT SPEEDING CRASHES TEEN DRIVERS CAN:

LEAVE EARLY, so they won't feel the need to drive faster.

**KNOW THE SPEED LIMIT,** rather than relying on the flow of traffic.

**MAINTAIN A 3-4 SECOND CUSHION** between their car and the car ahead of them.

# PARENTS: GET INVOLVED

## TEEN DRIVERS WITH ACTIVELY INVOLVED PARENTS ARE:



**HALF AS LIKELY**

to be involved in a crash



**71% LESS LIKELY**

to drive while intoxicated

...WHEN  
COMPARED  
TO TEENS  
WITH  
UNINVOLVED  
PARENTS\*



**30% LESS LIKELY**

to use a cell phone while driving



**50% MORE LIKELY**

to buckle up and recognize the importance of doing so

### BE THE DRIVER YOU WANT YOUR TEEN TO BE

#### Kids learn driving behaviors by watching you. Set a good example:

- Don't speed, and make it clear that speeding is not acceptable.
- Always wear your seat belt.
- Never use your cell phone, eat, put on makeup, or do any other distracting activities while driving. When you drive, just drive.



### GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING (GDL)

The GDL program is designed to guide novice drivers through all types of driving conditions and circumstances. The program begins with the Level 1 Learner's License, in which all driving must be supervised by a licensed parent or guardian or other designated adult, 21 or older.

Make the most of your driving practice by signing a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement with your teen that outlines both their responsibilities and yours. The Ford Driving Skills for Life program offers a **DOWNLOADABLE AGREEMENT**.



### KEEP HITCHING A RIDE

It takes 3-5 years for a novice driver to be exposed to the many driving situations they'll encounter. So even after a teen completes Level 1 training, parents should control the keys, monitor their driving activity, and ride along as often as possible.

### FACTORS THAT INCREASE TEENS' CRASH RISK

- Speeding
- Inexperience
- Immaturity
- Fatigue
- Alcohol / drug impairment
- Passengers and other distractions

\*Source: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

# **ELECTION RESULTS & HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

## **2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY RESULTS**

The Michigan Presidential Primary Election took place on February 27, 2024. A total of 1141 votes were cast in the City of Milan, including 543 absentee votes. You can find the official results by visiting [www.washtenaw.org](http://www.washtenaw.org) or [www.monroe.co.mi.us](http://www.monroe.co.mi.us).

Early Voting took place for the first time in our precinct on February 17, running through February 25, 2024. In total, 73 individuals participated.

Milan recorded about a 23% voter turnout, for this year's Presidential Primary, slightly lower than the approximately 35% turnout seen in the 2020 Presidential Primary.

## **SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

The City of Milan is currently seeking three individuals with a passion for historic preservation who are interested in volunteering their time as a member of the City's Historic District Commission (HDC). Members are appointed by the mayor with the consent of city council for three-year terms. Meeting dates and times are to be determined.

The function and duty of the Historic District Commission is to review applications for changes to buildings, and to advise on proper development for sites, properties and historic resources located in the City's established historic district in Milan. The HDC is also authorized to recommend for the amendments to the City Code, relating to the control and development of lands within historic district and the expansion of historic districts. The duties and powers of the HDC can be found in the City of Milan's Code of Ordinance Section 28-5.

Licensed architects and professional historians, architectural historians, and archaeologists are encouraged to apply, as are individuals with an interest in historic preservation or a background in architecture, history, architectural history, archaeology, planning, construction, real estate, cultural geography, or another related field.

If you are interested in providing volunteer services to the Historic District Commission of Milan, please contact the Milan City Clerk at [lavonnaw@milanmich.org](mailto:lavonnaw@milanmich.org).

# COMMUNITY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## TOM FARO

*Executive Director Michigan State Youth Soccer Association*

My family, including my wife, Kelly, and our two children, Maya (17) and Landon (15), has resided in Milan since early 2017. We moved from Ypsilanti Township to Milan because we fell in love with the small-town atmosphere, sense of community, and excellent schools.

In 2019, I took on the role of HOA President for the Uptown Village subdivision. I am currently in my 5th year in this position. I've learned a lot serving in this role and I feel fortunate for the many friendships I have formed with both long-standing and new residents in our community.

In 2020, I ran for a position on the Milan Area Schools Board of Education, beginning a six-year term in January 2021. I currently serve as Treasurer. I am honored to serve, and I very much value and appreciate the trust the community has placed in me.

**We fell in love with the small-town atmosphere, sense of community, and excellent schools.**

In my professional life, I hold the position of Executive Director at the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) based in Plymouth. As the governing body for youth soccer in Michigan, MSYSA oversees the registration of approximately 90,000 players and 10,000 team officials annually. Managing a team of 10 employees, I oversee an annual budget exceeding 2.6M.

This is my 25th year as a State Soccer Association Executive Director. I consider our sport, the game for all kids!

**Soccer, the game for all kids!**

When it comes to leisure, my favorite food is my mother-in-law's homemade chili. It's the best! (Yes, I know she'll read this).

Also, my most favorite place to travel to is Traverse City. We typically vacation there once or twice a year. While I enjoy all kinds of music, I've been politely instructed by my wife, Kelly, and by my friends at work, that I am not the best of singers.



# COMMUNITY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## LAUREN BLACKFORD

*Singer / Songwriter*

Lauren Blackford, a 21-year-old singer-songwriter, graduated from Milan High School in 2020. That was the year the world shut down, but Lauren didn't let that stop her from pursuing her dreams. She graduated from Washtenaw Community College in 2023, earning certificates in Fine & Performing Arts and Arts Management. Her debut EP "One Too Many Times" is set to release on April 12 ...but, more on that later.



photo credit: Kate English Photography  
kateenglishphotography.com

## She's been on a musical journey from a very young age.

Lauren's been on a musical journey from a very young age. At just 17, she performed her first gig at The Owl in downtown Milan. Since then, she has graced various venues in Milan, Ann Arbor, and Ypsilanti, including the Main Stage at the Ann Arbor Art Fair last summer. This year, Blackford will be back in Tolan Square on June 21. She also has shows scheduled in Toledo and Grand Haven.

No stranger to the stage, Lauren has sung in choirs and performed in many stage productions. You may recall seeing her in Milan High School's 2020 production of *The Addams Family*. She played the lead role of Morticia Addams.



photo credit: Kate English Photography  
kateenglishphotography.com

A multi-instrumentalist, Lauren began piano lessons early on. After graduating from high school, she taught herself to play guitar. Somewhere between piano and guitar, she started writing songs and composing music, drawing inspiration from artists like Taylor Swift, Sara Bareilles, and Pink.

## All self-written and produced

Let's revisit the EP we discussed earlier. "One Too Many Times" is set to be released on April 12. It's noteworthy that The Owl, where Lauren performed her first show, will host a Release Party starting at 8:30 PM. The album comprises six self-written and self-produced tracks, available for streaming on all platforms.

Lauren will showcase songs from "One Too Many Times" during upcoming live shows, in addition to debuting new material not featured on the album. Stay informed about Lauren's latest music releases and performances by visiting her website at [laurenblackford.us](http://laurenblackford.us).

# FOUR FUN FACTS

## 1 2023 FILM SET & FILMED IN MILAN

Ann Arbor Filmmaker and director Christina Morales Hemenway, presented her 2023 film "Tommy Hollywood & Katie Encino Move to the Midwest to Get Real," which was both set in and filmed on location in Milan. Hemenway, the daughter of Elmo Morales, the owner of Elmo's T-Shirts, premiered "Get Real" at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor on January 5, 2023. The movie follows a celebrity-obsessed LA couple relocating to Milan in a final attempt to mend their relationship.

## 2 MILAN ONCE KNOWN AS TOLANVILLE

John Marvin was the first known settler to the area, arriving in the spring of 1831. Originally named Tolanville after Marvin's brother-in-law Henry Tolan, the town saw changes when the first post office opened in 1833. At that time it was referred to as Woodard's Mills and Farmersville. The current name of Milan was designated in 1836.

## 3 1961 MILAN GRAD IS A THREE-TIME GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINEE

Denise Nicholas received three consecutive Golden Globe nominations for Best Actress for her portrayal of Liz McIntyre in the TV series *Room 222*. Graduating from Milan High School in 1961, she also starred as Harriet DeLong in the Emmy Award-winning series *In the Heat of the Night*. Apart from her recurring roles in these two shows, Nicholas has appeared in various television shows including *A Different World*, *Living Single*, *The Cosby Show*, *One Day at a Time*, *The Love Boat*, *Rhoda*, *Different Strokes*, *The Paper Chase*, and *Benson*. She has been honored with two Image Awards for Outstanding Actress, one in 1976 for *Let's Do It Again* and the other in 1989 for the film *Mother's Day*.

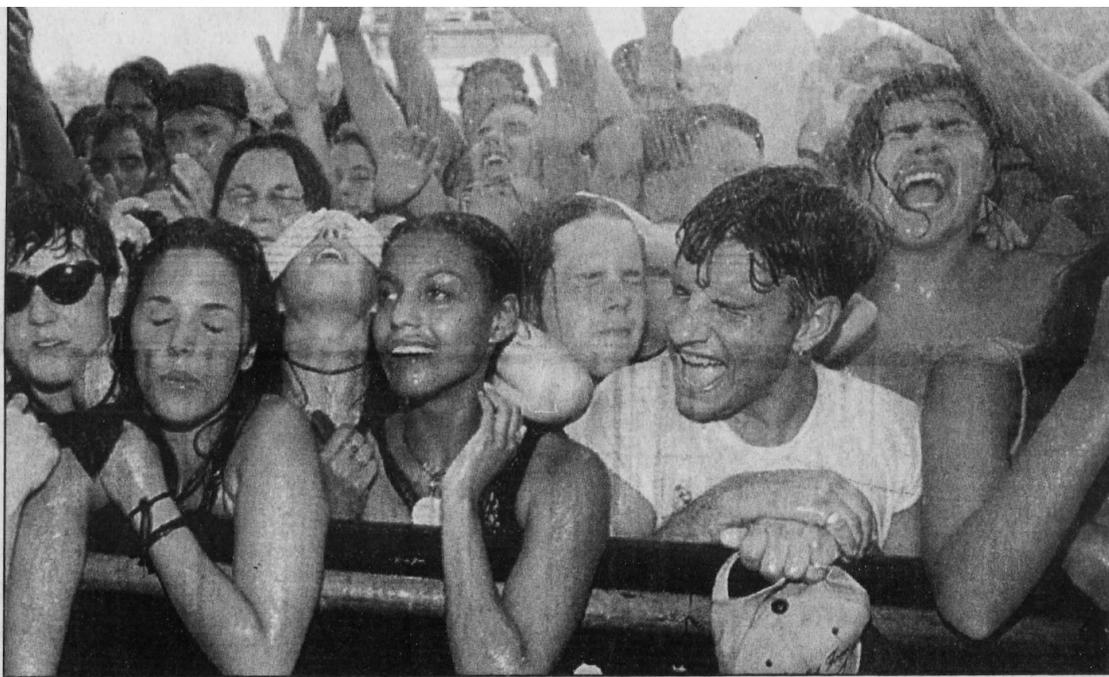
## 4 LOLLAPALOOZA AT DRAGWAY IN '93

Lollapalooza, one of the premier music festivals of all-time, took place at the Milan Dragway on July 9, 1993. Despite temperatures in the nineties and a severe thunderstorm that temporarily brought things to a halt, more than 30,000 people attended. The music extravaganza featured nearly 20 including, Alice in Chains, Arrested Development, Babes in Toyland, Dinosaur Jr., Front 242, Primus, Rage Against the Machine, and Tool.

## ? DO YOU KNOW A FUN MILAN FACT?

If you have an interesting or fun fact about Milan that you think we should share in our next publication, email the details to Jill Tewsley at [jillt@milamich.org](mailto:jillt@milamich.org).

We look forward to learning things about our community that you think are interesting.



**Top Left**  
Movie poster for  
Tommy Hollywood and  
Katie Encino

**Top Right**  
Milan circa 1915

**Middle**  
Denise Nicholas (center)  
with cast of Room 222

**Bottom Left**  
Lollapalooza 1993

# BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

## DOWNTOWN MILAN / DDA

### PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE HARD AT WORK

by Jessica Meingasner  
DDA Director

Spring has officially arrived, and with it comes the promise of warmer weather and outdoor activities. The DDA promotions committee is hard at work creating fun events to get the community to come out and enjoy Downtown Milan. From a Swiftie Saturday on April 20, the Wine Walk on April 27, to a traveling goose, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

These events not only provide entertainment for Milan residents and visitors, but they also help support local businesses and boost community morale. So come out and join in on the fun as we welcome spring and celebrate all that Downtown Milan has to offer.

**Come out and join in the fun  
as we welcome spring**

Our DDA promotions committee is made up of downtown business owners, who love our community and are dedicated to bringing new ideas downtown. We are so incredibly grateful for the dedication and creativity our business owners bring to Milan.

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

### SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO COMMISSION

In January, seven new members were appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission by Mayor Ed Kolar. Joining the commission are

- Kristi Higgins
- John Leacher
- Mike Mallach
- Julz Meray
- Kelsea Nie
- Matthew Stafford
- Matthew Tomecek

The new appointees join returning board members Carrie Gutierrez and Rod Hill on the commission.

## BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

### I CAN BUY MYSELF FLOWERS

Sing along if you recognize the melody. If you're not familiar with the song, we assure you it's a catchy tune. It's a melody that the Beautification Commission is probably humming, having recently purchased (well, ordered) flowers for Milan! Before long, these flowers will embellish the planters in the downtown area and at the city's entrances. This annual act is a testament to the dedication of this group of volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain the beauty of our city.

# MILAN SENIORS FOR HEALTHY LIVING EVENTS FOR EVERYONE

by MARYANN OPAL  
Executive Director

Milan Seniors for Healthy Living is a vibrant, active group of folks ages 50+ who love to have fun.



In addition to the varied services and programming we offer to the senior community in Milan, we also participate in community events and offer events that are open to people of all ages.

## We host many events that are open to people of all ages

You don't have to be a member or over the age of 50 to attend our community events. We hope you will join us for one of our upcoming events listed to the right. All events, unless otherwise noted, are held at The Center (45 Neckel Court).



Milan Seniors for Healthy Living operates at The Center, located at 45 Neckel Court, Monday through Thursday from 8 AM – 3 PM. To learn more about MSHL please visit us at [www.milanseniors.org](http://www.milanseniors.org). Or better yet, stop by, take a tour and let us tell you about our awesome programs and services.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Euchre Tournament**

Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30 PM

### **Wine Walk Stop**

Saturday, April 27 at 3-7 PM

### **Beer and Hymns**

Wednesday, May 8 at 6:30 PM  
at American Legion

### **Euchre Tournament**

Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 PM

### **LGBTQ Awareness Seminar**

Every Wednesday in June at 10:30 AM

### **Mini Car Show**

Thursday, June 13 at 11 AM

### **Rock-a-Thon at 3rd Thursdays**

Thursday, June 20 at 5-8 PM



# APRIL

## EVENTS, HAPPENINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

### 1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY

No kidding!

### 2 EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

6:30 PM at The Center (45 Neckel Court) presented by Milan Seniors for Healthy Living

### 2 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 PM at City Hall / 147 Wabash Street

### 7 MILAN CARES CLEAN-UP DAY

11 AM - 1 PM: Meet at Workhorse Realty

### 12 RELEASE PARTY: ONE TOO MANY TIMES

8:30 PM at The Owl. Celebrate Milan's very own singer-songwriter Lauren Blackford at a release party for her first EP, "One Too Many Times."

### 16 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 PM at City Hall / 147 Wabash Street

### 27 DOWNTOWN MILAN'S WINE WALK

3-7 PM: Milan's 9th annual Wine Walk. Stroll through historic Downtown Milan and enjoy the only event of its kind in southeast Michigan. Ticketed event.

# ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HOST A REUNION, BIRTHDAY PARTY OR GET TOGETHER?

## RENT A PAVILION AT WILSON OR NATURE PARK

The covered pavilions at Wilson and Nature Park can be booked for recreational and leisure group events like birthday parties, family gatherings, reunions, picnics, company outings, graduation celebrations, and other recreational activities that align with the parks' aim to encourage family-friendly activities and recreational opportunities.

### WILSON PARK



**Pavilion A**

*Large pavilion  
near Splash Pad*



**Pavilion B**

*Small pavilion  
near basketball courts*

**Entire pavilion**  
40'x100' / 16 picnic tables

Weekdays (M-Th)  
\$150 - residents  
\$200 - non-residents

Weekends (Fri-Sun)  
\$75 - residents  
\$100 - non

**Half pavilion**  
40'x50' / 8 picnic table

Weekdays (M-Th)  
\$150 - residents  
\$200 - non-residents

Weekend (Fri-Sun)  
\$75 - residents  
\$100 - non

20' x 40'  
6 picnic tables  
One electrical outlet

Weekdays (M-Th)  
\$50 - residents  
\$75 - non

Weekends (Fri-Sun)  
\$100 - residents  
\$150 - non-residents

### NATURE PARK



**Pavilion C**

*By playscape at back of park*

20'x30'  
6 picnic tables  
No electricity

Weekdays (M-Th)  
\$50 - residents  
\$75 - non-residents

Weekends (Fri-Sun)  
\$100 - residents  
\$150 - non-residents

Scan QR code  
for more  
information  
or to submit a  
pavilion rental  
request





## EVENTS, HAPPENINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

### 4 MILAN YOUTH LEAGUE PARADE

It's opening day. All the youth league teams will march down Main and Wabash on their way to the ball diamonds to kick off the new season.

### 7 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 PM at City Hall / 147 Wabash Street

### 8 BEER & HYMNS

6:30 PM at American Legion presented by Milan Seniors for Healthy Living

### 11 FLOWER SALE

10 AM - 2 PM: Downtown Milan. Presented by Milan Beautification Commission.

### 14 EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

6:30 PM at The Center (45 Neckel Court) presented by Milan Seniors for Healthy Living

### 16 BACKSTREET CRUIZERS

5 - 8 PM in Wilson Park. Come see hot rods, show card, and vintage vehicles during the weekly car cruise.

## **21** CITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 PM at City Hall / 147 Wabash Street

## **23** BACKSTREET CRUIZERS

5 - 8 PM in Wilson Park. Come see hot rods, show card, and vintage vehicles during the weekly car cruise.

## **24** SPLASH PAD OPENS

The Splash Pad in Wilson Park reopens for the season from 10 AM - 8 PM daily.

## **27** MEMORIAL DAY

City Hall closed in observance of the holiday.

## **27** MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

9 AM: Parade begins at Marble Cemetery and ends at the Veterans Wall

## **30** MILAN FAIR PARADE / FAIR OPENS

6 PM: Parade route details to be announced. The Milan Fair, celebrating its 75th year, officially opens following the parade.

## **31** MILAN FAIR and FIREWORKS

Fair rides, games, and food at Wilson Park. Fireworks starting at dusk. They are the best fireworks around these parts.



# JUNE

## EVENTS, HAPPENINGS & IMPORTANT DATES

### 1 MILAN FAIR

Wilson Park -- last day of 2024 fair.

### 4 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

7 PM at City Hall / 147 Wabash Street

### 5 LGBTQ AWARENESS SEMINAR

10:30 AM at The Center (45 Neckel Court). Presented by Milan Seniors for Healthy Living. Public welcome.

### 6 BACKSTREET CRUIZERS

5 - 8 PM in Wilson Park. Come see hot rods, show card, and vintage vehicles during the weekly car cruise.

### 7 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE

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

### 12 LGBTQ AWARENESS SEMINAR

10:30 AM at The Center (45 Neckel Court). Presented by Milan Seniors for Healthy Living. Public welcome.

### 13 BACKSTREET CRUIZERS

5 - 8 PM in Wilson Park. Come see hot rods, show card, and vintage vehicles during the weekly car cruise.

## **14 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE**

5:30 - 8 PM: Detroit Social Club

## **18 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

7 PM at City Hall / 147 Wabash Street

## **19 LGBTQ AWARENESS SEMINAR**

10:30 AM at The Center (45 Neckel Court). Presented by Milan Seniors for Healthy Living. Public welcome.

## **20 3RD THURSDAYS**

5 - 8 PM: Featuring vendors, food trucks, a kids market and live music with Andy Patalan.

## **20 ROCK-A-THON**

5 - 8 PM: Join Milan Seniors for Healthy Living during 3rd Thursdays for a one-of-a-kind FUNdraiser that will have people rocking non-stop.

## **20 BACKSTREET CRUIZERS**

5 - 8 PM in Wilson Park. Come see hot rods, show card, and vintage vehicles during the weekly car cruise.

## **21 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE**

5:30 - 8 PM: Lauren Blackford with opener Lucas Barron

## **26 LGBTQ AWARENESS SEMINAR**

10:30 AM at The Center (45 Neckel Court). Presented by Milan Seniors for Healthy Living. Public welcome.

## **27 BACKSTREET CRUIZERS**

5 - 8 PM in Wilson Park. Come see hot rods, show card, and vintage vehicles during the weekly car cruise.

## **28 LIVE FROM TOLAN SQUARE**

5:30 - 8 PM: Y-Town Hoolies

# MAYOR & COUNCIL



**ED KOLAR**  
*Mayor*  
edkolare@milanmich.org



**DR. SHANNON DARE WAYNE**  
*Mayor Pro Tem*  
shannonw@milanmich.org



**MARY KERKES**  
*Council Member*  
maryk@milanmich.org



**JOSH KOFFLIN**  
*Council Member*  
joshk@milanmich.org



**DAVID SNYDER**  
*Council Member*  
daves@milanmich.org



**MATTHEW STAFFORD**  
*Council Member*  
matthews@milanmich.org



**CHRISTIAN THOMPSON**  
*Council Member*  
christians@milanmich.org

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### APRIL

- Tuesday, April 2 at 7 PM
- Tuesday, April 16 at 7 PM

### MAY

- Tuesday, May 7 at 7 PM
- Tuesday, May 21 at 7 PM

### JUNE

- Tuesday, June 4 at 7 PM
- Tuesday, June 18 at 7 PM

### JULY

- Tuesday, April 2 at 7 PM
- Tuesday, April 16 at 7 PM

### AUGUST

- Tuesday, May 6 at 7 PM
- Tuesday, May 20 at 7 PM

### SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday, June 3 at 7 PM
- Tuesday, June 17 at 7 PM

### OCTOBER

- Tuesday, April 1 at 7 PM
- Tuesday, April 15 at 7 PM

### NOVEMBER

- Tuesday, May 5 at 7 PM
- Tuesday, May 19 at 7 PM

### DECEMBER

- Tuesday, June 3 at 7 PM
- Tuesday, June 17 at 7 PM

# CITY HALL

## PHONE NUMBERS

**GENERAL LINE**  
(734) 439-1501

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**  
734.439.7089

## HOURS

**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

# POLICE

## PHONE NUMBER

(734) 439-1551

# FIRE

## PHONE NUMBER

(734) 439-2843

**JAMES LANCASTER**  
*City Administrator / DPW Director*  
jamesl@milanmich.org

**SARAH FINCH**  
*Treasurer & Finance Director*  
sarahf@milanmich.org

**JILL TEWSLEY**  
*Community Engagement Director*  
jillt@milanmich.org

**HANNA MASSOUH**  
*Director of IT Services*  
hannam@milanmich.org

**LAVONNA WENZEL**  
*Clerk*  
lavonnaw@milanmich.org

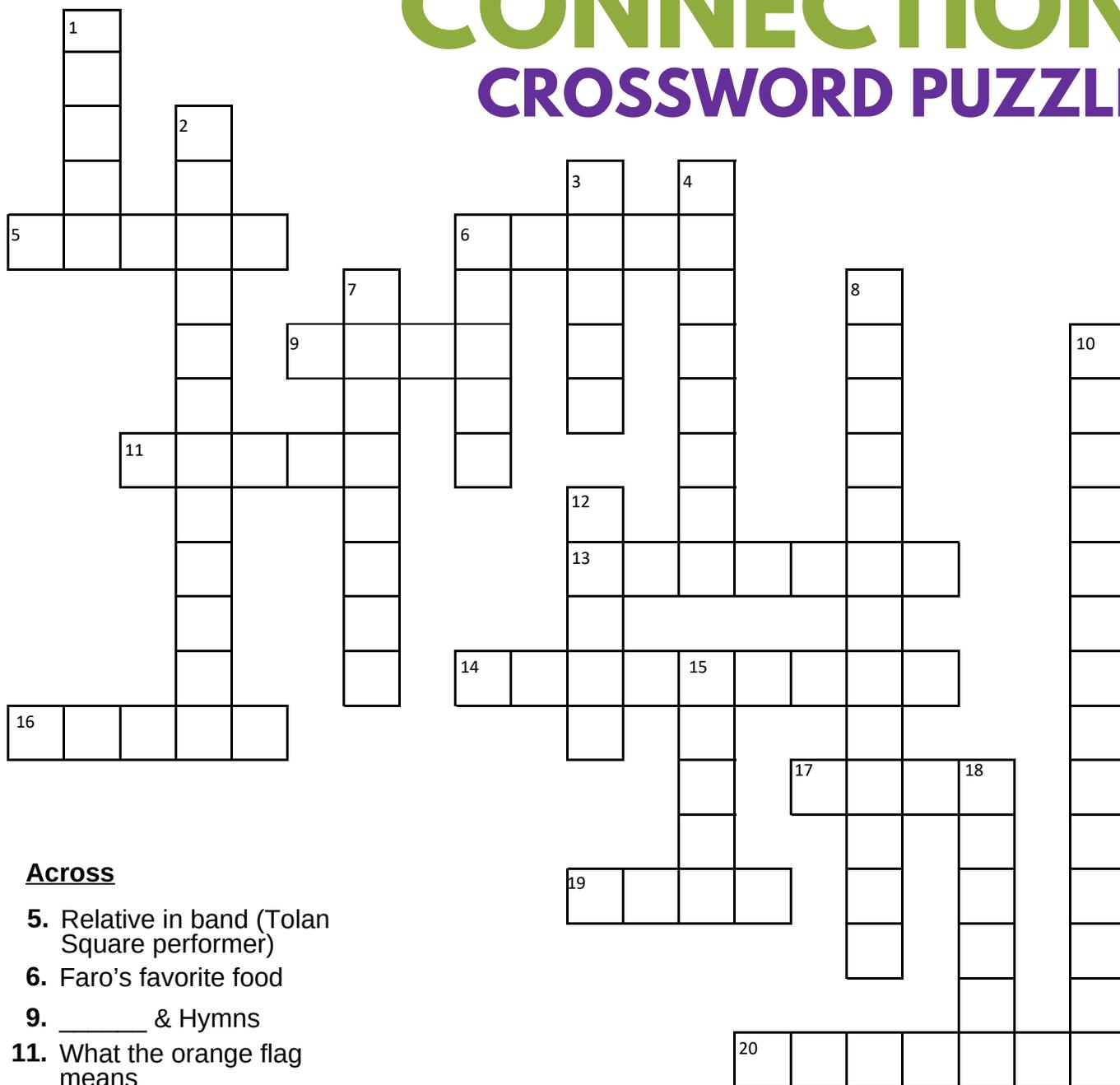
**DAN CURRIE**  
*Assessor*  
danc@milanmich.org

**DONALD TILLERY**  
*Chief of Police*  
donalddt@milanmich.org

**ROBERT STEVENS**  
*Fire Chief*  
rgstevens@milanareafire.com

# CONNECTION

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Across

5. Relative in band (Tolan Square performer)
6. Faro's favorite food
9. \_\_\_\_\_ & Hymns
11. What the orange flag means
13. Michigan Underground Utility Locating Service
14. These stickers are free at City Hall
16. The cleanest little city in the State of Michigan
17. Pedestrian safety campaign, \_\_\_\_\_ Your Wheels
19. Drivers use more of this when they speed
20. June 20 performer

### Down

1. Marvin's brother-in-law
2. '93 festival at Dragway
3. One Too Many \_\_\_\_\_, Blackford EP
4. Three-time Golden Globe nominee
6. Milan \_\_\_\_\_, clean-up group
7. Ann Arbor filmmaker
8. If you have a question, "Who you gonna" ask? The \_\_\_\_\_
10. Flower-buying commission
12. \_\_\_\_\_ 911, alert system
15. Mayor Pro Tem
18. Cover family

**ANSWER KEY**



# CONNECT WITH US

## ON FACEBOOK

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

## WEBSITES

<b>City of Milan</b>	milanmich.org
<b>Milan Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	milanmich.org/departments/parks_and_recreation
<b>Milan Main Street / DDA</b>	milanmainstreet.info
<b>Milan Police Department</b>	milanmich.org/departments/police_department
<b>Milan Area Fire Department</b>	milanareafire.com
<b>Milan Public Library</b>	milanlibrary.org
<b>Milan Seniors for Healthy Living</b>	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](https://milanmich.org/departments/police_department/index.php)

the  
**CONNECTION**

SPRING 2024

[milanmich.org](http://milanmich.org)

# CONNECTION

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

answer key (spring 2024)

