

Things are starting to look a little newer at City Hall this month. There's a few new faces around; we've upgraded our internal email system; an updated city web site is weeks away; and we have a much needed new roof – the last shingle went up just before the big rain storms started. Council has been busy at work on the 2016 budget, as well as setting new policies for long-term capital improvement and equipment replacement. The roof is a perfect example of why you don't want to wait to make a plan. The constant need to replace things such as roofs and police cars will be less stressful with long-range planning. This is not a completely new concept – the City of Milton has always been mindful of the future and has had rainy day funds. Come by Council and give us your two-cents worth – we sure could use it.

There's certainly no shortage of holiday cheer around here! Some of the decorations have already gone up with lots more to come. I keep being asked the question, “What are we going to do for a Christmas tree this year?” Unfortunately, our old Christmas tree had to come down. That was hard – we all felt pretty sentimental about the old tree. So, what *are* we going to do for the Christmas Tree Lighting this year? Well, I guess if you want to find out, you're going to have to come to our Tree Lighting event! Stop by the City on December 5th and see the solution – I have no doubt that Santa's got it all worked out. Santa will take the long route through town on his way to City Hall, so be sure to look out your windows, and then quickly get down to City Hall. Several of our local churches and community groups will be helping kids make crafts from 3:00-5:00 while waiting for Santa to arrive and Light the Tree, which will be about 5-5:30. Then, we will all be entertained by a great variety of music as the line for Santa winds down. If you don't have little ones in your house, don't let that stop you – this is a great opportunity to connect with neighbors and to slip that last wish into Santa's ear.

I have my wish list already – I wish that we finish up the last of the projects for 2015, and that all of our citizens and businesses in Milton have a safe and happy holiday season. I wish the same for our employees. If, by chance, we end up with snow, I wish nothing but warmth and safety for our Public Works crews and our Police officers, as they work so hard to keep the rest of us safe and our lights on.

Merry Christmas, Everyone!