

# Milan Village Voice

April, 2007 Volume 1, Edition 2



The ground will soon be broke. Now the real work will begin on Milan's new municipal building on Highway 67. Find all the details inside.



**Egging them on:** The annual Milan Parks Department and Milan Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 31, at Camden Park.

Kids ages 1 to 9 years old are encouraged to participate. There will be four hunts for different age brackets.

The rain-out date is April 7.

#### Spring Clean Up:

"Company is Coming - Spring Clean-Up Week" will be from April 16 to 21. Residents are encouraged to show their community pride by sprucing up their own yard or by organizing a neighborhood effort.

People with special-needs pick up, including appliances, tires and/or batteries, need to call Rock Island County Waste at (800) 917-1969. A list of what material is acceptable can be viewed at [www.scientificrecycling.com](http://www.scientificrecycling.com) or stop by Village Hall for more information.

The effort is coinciding with the opening of the new bridge and the increased traffic and visibility Milan will have afterward.

**Money to burn:** The Blackhawk Township Volunteer Fire Department has entered a contest sponsored by Firedog, an electronics company affiliated with Circuit City.

Fire departments were asked to submit an essay describing how the local firehouse has demonstrated service to the community. Blackhawk's essay describes how it randomly delivers Happy Joe's pizzas in a fire truck. If the patron has a working smoke detector, the pizza is free. If the smoke detector is absent or non-functional, the patron would have to pay for the pizza but he/she would receive a free smoke detector.

If Blackhawk is chosen as one of the 10 finalists, it will receive a \$20,000 donation as well as \$10,000 worth of equipment from Firedog. The grand prize is \$100,000.

The finalists will be chosen sometime in April. The grand-prize winner will be notified near mid-May.

**Sonic boom:** Negotiations to bring a Sonic restaurant onto the Hy-Vee property have fizzled, but the village still is holding the door open.

"We still welcome Sonic in Milan," said Annette Ernst, Milan's director of economic development. "We welcome them to take a look at other sites in Milan."

# The new face of Milan

## Space, safety spark need for new hall

With the only conference room at the Milan Village Hall occupied, Village administrator Steve Seiver sat in his modest-sized office discussing a housing project with a half dozen people. He laid out different blueprints on his desk and the group huddled around ... for nearly two hours.

It was an uncomfortable experience for Seiver, whose office is designed to sit three people.

It's examples like this and the need to expand the police department that Milan has embarked on constructing a new municipal building, which could open as early as May 2008 on the former Burger King site on Highway 67.

"There's really only one place to go in the building (for a meeting like that)," said Seiver. "And (the council chamber) is heavily used. We have things stuck in every nook and cranny in this building. The building is not con-



**On the cover:** An artist's rendering of the three-story design of the new Village of Milan municipal building.

**Above:** The two-story design.

ducive or productive for meetings like that."

Space is so tight in the current building that the director of economic development and building inspector have to share an office. That might not seem too cramped but add the three part-time inspectors who also use that room and it makes office space a

precious commodity.

While administrators are dealing with the cramped quarters, the police department has the bigger issues. There is little space so when issues do arise, victims and suspects are often not far away.

### More Hall on back

## She's called Milan home for 48 years

### MEET MILAN'S ...

**Name:** Pam Skelton

**Age:** 54

**Favorite food:** Grilled steak

**Favorite movie:**

"Somewhere in Time"

**Favorite kind of music:**

Easy listening

**Hobbies:** Traveling with my husband (of 30 years), Larry. Playing with my grandchildren. Walking.

**Favorite vacation spot:** Disney World

**Person I admire most:**

There are three. My parents who through some medical problems and nearly 60 years of marriage always have a positive attitude. Also, my sister-in-law Becky for always being happy and upbeat while going through a four-year battle with cancer. She makes it seem that her only worry is her third-grade class.

**Favorite Milan memory:** I have lived in Milan for 48 of my 54 years. All of my childhood was spent here. I was in the first kindergarten class at W.L. Eddy and the last PTA



*Pam Skelton and her husband, Larry, enjoy a picnic lunch at Camden Park. Pam is the director of the Milan Community Center and the assistant director of the Milan Parks Department.*

president there, so to pick out just one memory – I don't think I can.

## CALENDAR

**March 31:** Easter Egg hunt, Camden Park, 11 a.m.

**April 1:** Annual pancake breakfast, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Blackhawk Township fire station

**April 2:** Planning Commission meeting, 6 p.m. Village Hall

**April 2:** Milan council meeting, 7 p.m., Village Hall

**April 4:** Milan Chamber of Commerce meeting, 6 p.m. Milan police chief Mark Beckwith will speak about Homeland Security.

**April 5:** Milan Rotary Club meeting, noon to 1 p.m., Milan Community Center.

**April 6:** Milan Village offices closed in observance of Good

Friday

**April 7:** Easter Egg hunt, (RAIN MAKEUP DATE), Camden Park, 11 a.m.

**April 12:** Milan Rotary Club meeting, noon to 1 p.m., Milan Community Center.

**April 16:** Milan council meeting, 7 p.m., Village Hall

**April 18:** Milan Chamber meeting, 7 a.m. at McDonald's on Highway 67.

**April 19:** Milan Rotary Club meeting, noon to 1 p.m., Milan Community Center.

**April 26:** Milan Rotary Club meeting, noon to 1 p.m., Milan Community Center.

**April 26:** Administrative Professional Day.

### About the Voice

Milan Village Voice is released during the first week of each month and is available at area businesses and city hall. It is edited by Tim Seward and is funded by the Village of Milan. Offset printing is done by Beardsley Printery Inc. Community residents, businesses and organizations are encouraged to submit information for publication. E-mail submissions to: [villagevoice@milan.il.us](mailto:villagevoice@milan.il.us). Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month prior to publication. All submissions are subject to verification and editing for both clarity and space considerations.

### Hall from inside

"It's an issue of liability and public safety with the layout," said Seiver. "When there is a situation, we need to have adequate space for the suspects, witnesses and the victims. We don't want them in the same room where the people can compare facts or have a suspect who is belligerent who is going to intimidate or threaten someone."

Seiver pointed out that during a homicide investigation last year, Milan didn't have the resources or space to adequately accommodate additional personnel helping the Village. The new facility, he said, would provide ample space and equipment to assist in a crisis situation.

The new facility would have an expanded police department but it also will provide Village administrators more office space and storage. A third floor, which may be included in the final construction, would initially be used for storage but eventually would accommodate anticipated growth in upcoming years.

"We're planning for the future," said Mayor Duane Dawson. "We don't want Milan to have to do this again in 15 or 20 years from now. We want this to be done right.

"It's going to be a focal point of

Milan. It's going to be a nice place for the people of Milan to do business and something to be proud of."

The two-story base design will include 34,000 square feet with a preliminary estimate of \$5.6 million. The additional story adds roughly \$600,000 to the price tag and between 5,000 and 6,000 square feet. These estimates do not include additional fees that accompany a project of this magnitude.

Mayor Dawson was proud to point out that no new, unapproved taxes will be used to construct the building. The funds will come from TIF districts, revenues on hand and the voter-approved half-percent tax increase from last November's referendum.

Some details still need to be ironed out. As of mid-March, 75 percent of the design work was completed according to project manager Mark Sheets of Ryan Company. Bidding was still underway for the building for both a two-story and three-story design. The Village hopes to have those things ironed out for a groundbreaking later this month.

"I think we have done a good job in getting a building design that is both functional and cost-effective and with a nice appearance," said Seiver. "This will serve the community for many years to come."