

Memories

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*A place is memories and dreams,
neighbors carving a better life for future generations.*

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A place is more than location, name, geology, systems or inhabitants. One that makes room for memories and dreams, people and nature, independence and cooperation, similarities and differences is a very special place indeed.

Welcome to Milford, Ohio.

An easy 16 miles east of downtown Cincinnati, yet worlds away across the Little Miami Scenic River in Clermont County, Milford has drawn families and businesses for over two centuries. At the edge of suburbia and its amenities, Milford is Clermont's only city with a thriving, yet balanced, population of almost 6,500. Milford's rolling hills, dense woods and historical character are the gateway to a less frenetic lifestyle. That appeal also lures new and high-tech business. It's the little town (*well*, a city) that thinks big, catering to residents, businesses and community organizations with a constantly expanding infrastructure, astute development and keen preservation.

Milford is a place where past, present and future are alive.



MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Even the earliest settlers in 1788 were captivated by the area's beauty, strategic location and inhabitability. They aptly named it for the first "ford" (safe crossing) on the Little Miami, north of the Ohio. Today as then, there's really no way around Milford without being touched by the Little Miami, the city's natural focal point.

Commerce followed settlement and the first mill came to life in 1803. By 1836, the village was incorporated and the railroad steamed into town soon after. In the next century, government responded to growth and citizens, in 1971, established a charter form of government with a city manager to control development. In 1981, Milford reached city status, exceeding 5,000 residents.

Today, residents, workers and visitors have access to history, a friendly downtown hub, convenient shopping centers, large retailers, casual and fine dining, award-winning schools, responsive government and services, walkable neighborhoods, a diversity of churches, and a network of business owners, city officials and organizations dedicated to keeping the dream of a vital community alive.

The best testament to Milford's vision stands at one of downtown's major intersections. When the historic barbershop building at Main and Garfield burned, local developers immediately purchased the lot and built a state-of-the-art replica. Planners and preservationists from other cities have envied that kind of cooperation and private commitment.



MILFORD



PEOPLE AND NATURE

A place makes room for both people and nature, which plays a big role in Milford's appeal and instills a sense of conservation. Sited along the Little Miami River adjacent to the 76-mile Little Miami Scenic Trail, it's an outdoor enthusiast's dream. The city is pivotally located at the intersection of America's Long Distance Trails, spoking in eight paths for 22,000 miles.

Milford's Urban Trail winds walkers through the main, arterial streets and past an eclectic mix of architecture, interesting shops, restaurants and along natural paths. It's a great way to explore the many facets of Milford. Accessible to all, the well-marked system connects most of the city's parks: Carriage Way, Clertoma, Garfield, Memorial, SEM Villa, Terrell and the entrance to the Milford Bike Trail.

A host of annual events taps the surroundings, anchored in the core downtown: Memorial Day Parade; first-weekend-in-June Frontier Days; September's Junction Trail Festival; October's Buskerfest; various antique and collectibles' exhibits and sales; and Hometown Holidays. Milford annually schedules two permit-free, city-wide yard sales, one in conjunction with the Great U.S. 50 Yard Sale.

INDEPENDENCE AND COOPERATION

Vision, ingenuity and perseverance have shaped Milford and those guiding principles are evident in the harmonious blend of business, residential, natural and public areas.

With a solid downtown core, growing retail areas and a variety of shopping centers, the city is OPEN FOR BUSINESS. Major thoroughfares – Interstate 275, US Route 50, State Routes 28 and 131 – traverse Milford, only a half hour from the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky International Airport and even closer to Lunken, Clermont County and Blue Ash airports. Regular bus service, with a park and ride at Milford Kroger's, connects commuters.

Reasonably priced land in an established, stable area makes Milford attractive for development and re-development with nearby acreage for outgrowth.

The Milford Commerce Park offers a unique blend of light industrial and retail, linked via the Milford Parkway to the River's Edge retail-and-entertainment district.

The city is served by a wide variety of financial and medical professionals, including a 24-hour emergency clinic in close proximity, and three hospitals within a 15-minute drive.

Local commitment to business is big. In addition to the encouragement of the city, business is aided by the Milford-Miami Township Chamber of Commerce, Milford Historical Association (of businesses), Clermont County Chamber of Commerce and its small-business development center, and the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.

When it's not all work and you desire play, Milford is just minutes away from the Bengals, Reds, Cincinnati Art Museum, Taft Museum of Art, Aronoff Center for the Arts, National Underground Freedom Center, the Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati Museum Center, Riverbend Music Center, Kings Island, the Beach Waterpark, Great Wolf Lodge, Terrace Park Country Club and the Newport Aquarium.



"Milford's rich history begins with the first Methodist Class in the Northwest Territory in 1797 and is visible today in the home of John Kugler and the stone buildings he constructed in the 1800s. [Personally] I experienced, welcoming, friendly people when I opened my business in 1949. We need to pass on our historical heritage, be good caretakers and take pride in our community."

– Virginia Critchell

Longtime Milford resident and former business owner

GOVERNMENT

The cooperation of government, business, schools and civic organizations makes Milford a lively, balanced city. Elected and employed officials are accessible and welcome contact with residents and the business community.

The effective council-manager form of government supplies necessary services in a professional, economical and user-friendly manner. Residents and businesses rely on the consistent police, fire, and paramedic protection, water and wastewater treatment, and curbside collection of trash, recyclables, brush, leaves and Christmas trees.

The building and zoning departments with a full-time city planner – who guides the citizen-staffed planning commission and board of zoning appeals – administer, implement and safeguard the city's comprehensive development plan.

The approachable, citizen-friendly police department is nationally accredited with a focus on community-oriented policing and educational programs for residents and school children.

The visible, local fire department furnishes levy-supported fire and emergency medical services with an ISO Class 3 fire-insurance rating, lowering property owner's premiums. Santa annually climbs aboard a fire truck to deliver treats to children as a department effort to connect with residents.

EDUCATION

Consistently rated excellent by the state, Milford Exempted Village School District serves more than 6,500 students in nine neighborhood buildings. Over half of the staff, many of whom are Milford graduates, hold advanced degrees. While district wide math and English programs have earned local and state recognition, enrichment and advanced-placement programs challenge students, and special-education services nurture others. Three-fourths of all graduates pursue higher education.

Other schooling options within the Milford area are: St. Andrew's Middle School, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (preschool and elementary), Milford Christian Academy (first through 12th grade), St. Mark's Lutheran School (preschool-sixth grade) and Live Oaks Vocational School (high school).

Post-secondary learning opportunities are plentiful in Clermont County at the University of Cincinnati Clermont County in Batavia and Wilmington College, Eastgate Branch, with other, major universities and colleges an easy commute away.

WORSHIP

Milford claims prominence as the site of the first Methodist Church in the Northwest Territory – founded in 1797 by the Rev. Francis McCormick. Still a staple, Milford United Methodist is joined by most other protestant denominations and the Catholic Church. Thirteen area churches form Milford Miami Ministries, which provides funds, volunteers and supplies to area residents in need.



SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Any viable community recognizes its similarities and differences and utilizes them in finding common ground, cooperating, caring for those in need and respecting each other.

HOUSING

As such, Milford is not a cookie-cutter suburb. Housing ranges from well-preserved historic structures in established eastern and southern neighborhoods to new, upscale possibilities in Tree Ridge, Stone Ridge, Meadows of Milford, Doublegate Carriage Homes and condominiums in Miami Woods, a private, wooded community.

Following in the local tradition of responding to needs as well as preservation and re-use, the Southeastern Ecumenical Ministry (SEM) organized a community for seniors facing various stages of life on former Jesuit seminary grounds (adjacent to the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford). Dwellings at SEM Laurels, Terrace, Villa, Manor and Haven in South Milford range from individual and assisted living to rehabilitation/ physical therapy, and full-time nursing.



ORGANIZATIONS

At the eastern edge of town, the elegant Victorian Promont House, former home of Ohio Governor John Pattison, perches above the city. It houses a fascinating museum filled with antiques, historic photos, memorabilia, documents and art and is headquarters for the Milford Area Historical Society. The best panoramic view of the city can be seen atop Promont's four-story tower that's open with museum admission.

Other organizations that make Milford a better place include: the American Legion, Masons, Jaycees, Milford Area Neighbor to Neighbor, Kiwanis, Rotary, local garden clubs, Boy and Girl Scout troops.



INCORPORATED 1836

Milford

MEMORIES AND DREAMS...

A place where past, present and future are alive.



CITY OF MILFORD

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