

Niles seeks grant to open library branch at Golf Mill

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The village of Niles and the Niles Public Library are teaming up in an effort to bring a library extension branch to the local teen center at Golf Mill Mall.

Assistant Village Manager Steve Vinezeano said officials from the library were assisting him in writing an application to the

International City/County Management Association (ICMA), requesting a \$60,000 grant for the Niles Library Teen Center Branch Project.

"Anyone who touches the library improves their lives and that's what we're trying to do here," he said.

If the villages receive the grant money, Vinezeano said the new library center will be outfitted with books, computer

equipment, and video conferencing technology. Whether the library center will be fit into the existing teen center or if an additional room will be created has not yet been decided.

Teen center director Mark Williams said he was crossing his fingers for the grant money.

"I think it's an awesome idea," he said. "The ability to be able to offer

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library services through the teen center is incredibly innovative. We want to have books, movies, and a video conferencing system to conference with the library and with other educational agencies throughout the world."

Acting Mayor Robert Callero also supports the effort.

"We are totally behind this project," he said in a statement issued to the

press. "It is another innovation in our teen center that will increase the institutional aspects while also drawing in new members."

Librarian Barb Kruser reported the project is important because it can introduce children to library services who may not be likely to visit the library's actual building at 6960 W. Oakton St.

"Through this project, the village of Niles and the

Niles Public Library could provide services to a greater number of teens including those living further away from the main library," she said. "This grant could also allow us to introduce library services to a new population of teens who have not made the public library a part of their lives — those more apt to visit a shopping center over a library building."