

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

First Teen Talk Welcomes Nekritz

As the Niles Teen Center settles into its newly expanded space, it is expanding programming and will begin offering speakers to talk to kids with the first tomorrow (Thursday).

State Rep. Elaine Nekritz (D-57th) will speak to children at the Teen Center, located in Golf Mill Shopping Center, tomorrow (Thursday) at 5:30 p.m.

Nekritz said she would discuss leadership with the kids while sharing her own experience of how she became an elected public official. The state representative said she was somewhat introverted in school and said elected office was not something she considered in high school, college or even law school.

"You don't have to be in student government to aspire to those leadership goals," Nekritz said she would tell the teens.

Teen Center Director Mark Williams said he expects between 25 and 30 teens to attend.

Other speakers will include Niles Police Officer Robert Tornabene discussing Internet safety on Thursday, Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m., Niles Mayor Robert Callero discussing local government on Thursday, Feb. 18 at 5:30 p.m., and representatives from Niles Family Services discussing conflict resolution on Mar. 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Williams said the speaker series is made possible because of the newly expanded Teen Center. Last summer the Teen Center took over an adjoining 1,001 square foot storefront in Golf Mill where the center is located.

Workers from Home Depot helped knock down walls between the two storefronts to expand and remodel the center earlier this year.

Williams said before the expansion bringing in speakers was impractical, as all other activities would have to stop to accommodate a speaker or program.