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Teen Center speaker series starts Friday

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The Niles Teen Center is launching a new educational speaker series aimed at getting kids to meet with community leaders.

The first speaker be Illinois State Representative Elaine Nekritz (D-57), who is scheduled to appear Dec. 18.

Other speakers who have been scheduled include Niles Mayor Robert Callero, who will tell the children about his job and duties as mayor, and Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene, who will be making a presentation on Internet safety.

Teen Center Director Mark Williams said it was important to expose children to community leaders.

"I think it's going to be very educational to have them come in here and talk a little bit about their jobs," he said. "It was something we really wanted to try here."

The center has also scheduled a speaker from Niles Family Services to make a presentation about conflict resolution.

"That should be a good one," Williams said. "We really want to teach the kids how to solve their own problems in a constructive way."

The Niles Teen Center, which serves approximately 30 children every day, recently underwent a \$50,000 renovation to add more than 1,000 square-feet of space. It is located inside Golf Mill Shopping Center.