
Clubs & Organizations

Rally Chance For Teens To Learn More About Community

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The Niles Teen Center will be one of 7,500 communities participating in the "Lights On Afterschool Open House & Rally" on Thursday, Oct. 20. The event will be held at the teen center just inside entrance No. 6 at Golf Mill Shopping Center.

The rally is slated for 5:30 p.m. Families are encouraged to attend. At this point, the rally will include Mayor

Robert Callero, Police Chief Dean Strzelecki, Pam Surber of the local Total Learning Community (TLC) program and Monika Kalici, marketing director for Golf Mill. Teen Center Director Mark Williams will read a letter from U.S. Senator Mark Kirk.

"This is our first year for this event. I wanted to do it for years but was unable to because of the Haunted House," explained Williams. "The information fair was my idea and it will take up more of the focus. It's for Kindergarten

through high school."

According to Williams, local businesses and organizations were invited to participate as they all serve an afterschool programming purpose. They include the Boy Scouts, TLC program, a library, bookstore, sports card business, church youth groups, sports teams, martial arts and dance studios and park districts.

"I brainstormed, trying to bring them all together," said Williams. "Some kids might not know where the scouts

meet and the fair will give exposure to all of participating businesses and organizations."

As for the open house, doors to the center will be open and staff will run video games and table tournaments. Participants are invited to create individual artwork focusing on what they like to do afterschool. Drawings will be mailed to a company, which will transfer the images onto ceramic tile. Williams hopes to see it installed in the mall by February.