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THE JOURNAL & TOPICS NEWSPAPERS | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008

Teen Center Doing Well Under Village

According to Youth Coordinator Mark Williams, the Niles Teen Center has shown "much progress and numerous successes" since the Village of Niles took over the program last summer.

Williams said the center's membership is currently at 45 teens since the Golf Mill grand opening in September 2007. The daily attendance is between 5-15.

"Not a day goes by without the Teen Center being in use and we welcome any teen, regardless of location of residence, to come by to participate in our programs," said Williams.

The Teen Center has worked to develop in-house events including game and table game tournaments, movie nights, youth council, open houses, homework assistance, dinner and movie nights and dances.

Events in January and February include: teen movie nights, a Sunday open house, a Valentine's Day dance, a trip to Rink Side Sports, an all-night ski trip to Galena, Ill., a ski/snowboard trip to Wilmot Mountain and a dinner and movie night.

Future events that are in the planning stages include an inter-generational pool tournament, the Job Shadow Day, and an overnight lock-in at Golf Mill Shopping Center featuring a disc jockey and numerous games, movies and socializing.

"This is a safe place for kids to hang out and it is a better choice for some of the kids they might otherwise run around with," said Williams.

The Niles Teen Center program started in 2001 when it was sponsored by the park district, according to Williams. This past September, the Village took over the Teen Center and opened up a new facility.

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