



FOCUS ON NILES

Community Newsletter

"Where People Count"

Niles Residents Taxed Less

We obtained the survey below from the City of Park Ridge indicating that the residents of Niles pay the lowest amount for Village services. We are proud of this record and will continue to do everything we can to keep the cost of running government as reasonable as possible.

Mayor Nicholas B. Blase and Niles Board of Trustees

Revenues Received From The Average Home In One Year

Community	County	Vehicle License	Dog License	Garbage Charge	Yard Waste Charge	Residential Water Bill	Village Sewer Charge	Total Property Tax	Total Direct Payments To Village
Morton Grove	Cook	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$140.52	\$96.00	\$436.80	\$115.00	\$449.20	\$1292.52
Arlington Hghts	Cook	\$30.00	\$12.00	\$267.36	\$19.20	\$388.16	\$31.04	\$470.12	\$1217.88
Wilmette	Cook	\$50.00	\$5.00	\$170.40	\$27.00	\$248.59	\$310.40	\$381.60	\$1192.99
Mt. Prospect	Cook	\$36.00	\$5.00	N/A	\$21.00	\$396.73	\$98.80	\$548.28	\$1105.81
Naperville	C/Dupage	N/A	\$8.00	N/A	\$22.20	\$291.97	\$333.42	\$285.00	\$940.59
Palatine	Cook	\$25.00	\$6.00	\$228.00	\$15.00	\$173.63	\$45.59	\$420.80	\$914.02
Downers Grove	Cook	N/A	N/A	\$236.08	\$27.24	\$383.78	N/A	\$196.00	\$843.10
Skokie	Cook	\$20.00	\$6.00	N/A	N/A	\$381.00	N/A	\$414.00	\$821.00
Park Ridge	Cook	\$40.00	\$10.00	N/A	N/A	\$406.53	\$9.36	\$348.00	\$813.89
Schaumburg	C/Dupage	\$20.00	\$4.00	\$173.76	N/A	\$432.15	\$85.36	N/A	\$715.27
Niles	Cook	\$25.00	N/A	N/A	\$12.00	\$358.90	N/A	\$273.60	\$669.50
MEAN		\$30.67	\$9.00	\$202.69	\$29.96	\$354.39	\$128.63	\$378.66	\$956.96

Shop Niles



Annual Community Guide A Message From the Chamber

The Niles Chamber of Commerce's annual community guide has hit the streets. Every resident and business in the Niles community should receive this valuable resource in the mail the beginning of February. This handy publication provides information on Village services, ordinances and demographics; plus infor-

mation on the park district, library, townships, schools and places of worship.

The publication is produced each year by the Niles Chamber of Commerce & Industry and lists over 450 local businesses who are members of the chamber. Search for companies by category or alphabetically. "The community guide is great for the people of Niles, it allows you to look up businesses in the area and

shop close to home. It also gives information on the Village itself with a history of Niles, frequently called numbers list and a map of the area," states Todd Watkins, the 2007 president of the chamber.

Additional copies are available at the Niles Chamber of Commerce office, 8060 W. Oakton St., the Village Hall, Niles Park District and the Niles Public Library.

Village of Niles, Illinois

1000 Civic Center Drive, Illinois 60714 (847) 588-8000 www.vniles.com



Mayor Blase and Senior Center Director Kelly Mickle received a \$3,000 donation from Super H Mart's Paul Kwon, Chris Do, and Peter Kong to be used for the purchase of new computers at the Senior Center computer lab.



Mayor Blase, Police Chief Strzelecki, and Fire Chief Mueller present awards to Police Officer Carl Kully, Police Officer Deno Panousieres, and Police Officer Alec Laule in recognition for their actions in rescuing a resident in a house fire.



Mayor Nicholas B. Blase and Trustee Kim Biederman recognize Boy Scout Eric Neuhengen, Boy Scout Daniel Wiechec, and Girl Scout Barbara Galassi for their local volunteer efforts that earned each of them the Cook County Sheriff's Youth Service Medal of Honor Award.

Board of Trustees

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Village Clerk

Marlene Victorine, *mv@vniles.com*

Village Manager

George Van Geem, *gvg@vniles.com*

Village Phone Numbers

Emergency.....	911
Information Line.....	588-8411
Mayor's Office.....	588-8003
Village Clerk's Office.....	588-8003
Administrative Offices.....	588-8000
TDD.....	588-8059
Finance Department.....	588-8000
Community Development.....	588-8040
Fire Department.....	588-6800
Police Department.....	588-6500
Consumer Fraud.....	588-6524
Public Services.....	588-7900
Human Services.....	588-8460
TDD.....	588-8440
Senior Center.....	588-8420
TDD.....	588-8487
Family Fitness Center.....	588-8400
TDD.....	588-8433
Free Bus System.....	588-7960
Niles Teen Center.....	663-9185



West Nile Virus Still Out There *Minimize Your Threat This Season*

West Nile Virus has now reached all forty eight states on our continent. The most important way people become infected is through the bite of an infected mosquito. You can reduce your chance of getting infected by avoiding mosquito bites.

Adults are at higher risk. People over age 50 have a higher risk of becoming seriously ill when they get infected with West Nile Virus.

What happens if I get infected? Symptoms of severe illness include headache, high fever, stiff neck, mental confusion, muscle weakness, tremors (shaking), convulsions, coma, and paralysis. See your doctor if you develop these symptoms. There is no specific treatment for the West Nile Virus infection.

Ways to Reduce Your West Nile Virus Risk

Avoid Mosquito Bites!



Cover Up! Wearing long sleeve shirts, long pants and socks sprayed with repellent while outdoors can further help prevent mosquito bites. Avoid Mosquitoes! Many mosquitoes bite between dusk and dawn. Limit time outdoors during these hours, or be especially sure to use repellents and protective clothing.

Spray! Spray insect repellent containing DEET (Look for N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) on exposed skin when you go outdoors. Spray clothing with repellents containing DEET or permethrin. Products with a higher percentage of DEET (up to 50%) give longer protection. Don't spray repellent on skin under clothing. Don't use permethrin on skin.

Use Repellent Carefully! Repellents containing DEET are very safe for adults and children when used according to directions. Don't put repellent on kid's hands because it may get in their mouth/eyes.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home!



Screens: Keep mosquitoes outside by fixing or installing window and door screens. **Drain Standing Water:** Don't give mosquitoes a place to breed. A small amount of standing water can be enough for a mosquito to lay her eggs. Look around every week for possible mosquito breeding places.

Empty water from buckets, cans, pool covers, flower pots and other items. Throw away or cover up stored tires and other items that aren't being used. Clean pet water bowls weekly. Check if rain gutters are clogged. If you store water outside or have a well, make sure it's covered up. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.

If you have further questions, contact Health Officer Dwight E. Roepenack at (847) 588-8045 or visit www.vniles.com.



--Milwaukee Ave-- *Streetscape Planning Moves Forward*

The Milwaukee Avenue Streetscape Committee met on January 10th for the Project "Kick-Off" meeting. This was the first of several committee and community-wide meetings that will be held over the next six to eight months.

The Committee is composed of two Village Trustees (Kim Biederman as Chairperson and Louella Preston), Village staff, Smith Engineering, and six at large resident and business community members.

The objective of the Streetscape Committee is to develop a streetscape design recommendation for Milwaukee Avenue from Harts Road to Monroe Street and present it to the Village Board by late summer or early fall.

Our goal for the "Kick-Off" meeting was simply to review the Conceptual Plan adopted by the Village last year, assess existing right-of-way conditions within project limits, and to discuss challenges that lay ahead.

The Committee also planned a site visit of several streetscape projects within the northwest suburbs in an effort to become familiar with successful streetscape methods and materials.

Please go to www.vniles.com to get the latest information on the Milwaukee Avenue Corridor Project or contact Assistant Village Manager Steven Vinezeano at 847-588-8007 or scv@vniles.com. We want to hear from you!!

Water Sprinkling Restriction



The Federal Water Administration and the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Water Resources requires municipalities to enact outdoor water sprinkling restrictions.



*All outside watering between the hours of noon and 6:00 p.m. is prohibited on every day of the week from **May 15th** through **September 15th***

Generally, watering during this time of day is ineffective due to the fast evaporation rates, therefore delaying watering to the best possible times helps conserve water. Should we not properly enforce the restrictions, the Federal Government has threatened to cut Niles water allocation. Therefore, all Niles citizens are urged to follow the sprinkling restrictions. This will help maintain adequate water pressure for fire fighting as a protection for your home or business.

Reduce Your Energy Use and Save Money *Energy-saving Tips and Strategies*



The following energy-saving tips won't cost you a penny—but they can save you bucks on your energy bills.

- * Turn off the lights when you leave the room.
- * Keep your home at 78 degrees in the summer.
- * When leaving home for more than 4 hours, raise the thermostat 10 degrees in summer and lower it 10 degrees in winter. Do the same at night before bed.
- * Close curtains during the day to keep out solar heat during the summer.
- * Clean the coils at the back of your refrigerator.
- * Only heat and cool rooms you use; close vents and doors to rooms that are not being used. Be careful with rooms that have water pipes.
- * Keep windows closed and shades down when air conditioning is on.
- * Check and clean air conditioning filters monthly and replace as needed.
- * Unplug electric chargers, televisions and audio/video equipment when not in use. These devices use electricity even when they are not in use.
- * Turn off your computer or put it in "sleep" mode when it is not being used.
- * Run energy-intensive appliances such as the dishwasher and clothes washer at night.
- * Wait till you have a full load to run the dishwasher and clothes washer and use cold water when possible.
- * Keep lamps and televisions away from the thermostat. The heat they generate will cause your air conditioner to work harder.
- * If you're running an old refrigerator in your basement that isn't being used, unplug it. Old refrigerators can use three times the electricity of modern ones.



Economic Development *Website for Niles Business & Industry*

Check out the new Village of Niles Economic Development Website at www.vniles.com, hotlink "Economic Development Site". Visit this site for valuable tools and resources that can help your business succeed in Niles.

With nearly two-million square feet of retail space, the Village of Niles continues to be a major hub of retail activity, ranking 14th in the State of Illinois for sales tax revenue. The Village of Niles is home to national retailers such as Super H Mart, Best Buy, Kohl's, Sears, JC Penney, Costco, Dick's Sporting Goods, Sports Authority, Toys R Us, (2) Home Depot Home Centers, (2) Target stores, (2) Wal-Mart stores, (4) Jewel stores, plus numerous smaller commercial establishments.

Much of the successful development and redevelopment projects in Niles the past several years can be attributed to our proactive approach to maintaining and improving a quality commercial base. During the coming years, the Village of Niles will build upon these successes by continuing efforts to strengthen the city's economic base.

Niles Teen Center *Come Join The Experience*

The Niles Teen Center is located at 7680 N Caldwell and is open to all youth in grades 6-12 that live in Niles or attend schools in Niles. The Teen Center is supported both by the Village of Niles and the Niles Park District. The Teen Center offers a safe place for teens to participate in programs and community service, do their homework, meet new people and relax.

The cost is only \$5.00 to join but some events do cost

an additional fee. We are open Tuesday through Thursday from 3-7pm.

The Niles Youth Council is a group of teens who show a positive effect in the community and help create opportunities for teens to be involved in programs and activities. We meet Thursdays at 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Stop by to check us out!



Human Services

Niles Senior Center Activities

by Kelly Mickle, Director of Senior Services

Computer Lab Gets New Computers



Join us for our ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, April 5th at 11:00am as we officially introduce our updated computer lab. Learn about the increased capabilities of the new operating system and pick up a schedule of our expanded classes. Refreshments will be served.

Golden Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, June 17, 2007 at the Niles Senior



Center. Were you married in 1957, 1952, 1947, 1942, or earlier? Are you celebrating 50, 55, 60, 65 years or more of marriage?

Then you and your spouse are invited to celebrate with us at the Niles Senior Center. The afternoon features a professional photo, catered lunch, and entertainment. Just stop in or call the Niles Senior Center at 847-588-8420 to make a reservation.

I Am A Cancer Survivor Month



June is cancer survivor month. Whether you are currently in treatment or a survivor for many years, join us for Cancer Survivor Day on Thursday, June 21st

at 12:00 noon. A light lunch will be served. Please call the Senior Center to register, 847-588-8420.

Volunteer Opportunities



The Niles Senior Center is currently seeking volunteers to deliver meals to homebound older adults. Meals are

delivered weekdays between 11:00am and 12:00pm. If you are interested in the program and can volunteer on a weekly, bi-weekly, or substitute basis, please contact Kelly Mickle at (847) 588-8420. Training will be provided.

Are You A Supermom or Superdad?

by Marty Friedman, Director of Family Services



Have you ever met SUPERPARENT? This mythical person holds down a demanding job, cooks elaborate meals, maintains a spotless home and never loses their temper. Chances are you've never seen these people, even when you look in the mirror. That's because Superparents exist only in your

imagination.

Is the mythical superparent your secret role model? If so, your probably placing unrealistic demands on yourself and your family. Here are some things to keep in mind when you find the specter of the superparent lurking on your shoulder:

Review your values. The most important aspect of parenting is nurturing your child. Your ability to provide love, constructive discipline and guidance to your child is what is significant.

Plan Ahead. Learn to apply to the home front some of the long-range planning skills you use at work. Hold weekly family meetings to discuss chores and expectations and to clear the air. Use a master calendar to post weekly menus and schedule appointments and special occasions.

Keep housework in perspective. You don't have to be a perfect housekeeper to be a loving parent.

Make time for yourself and your partner. In order to be a confident parent, you must first tend to your own personal needs. Always find a way to keep part of yourself for yourself. Make time for exercise and quiet relaxation. Your relationship with your partner is part of the glue that keeps your family together.

Forget Imperfections. Remind yourself that children can thrive with less than perfect parents. If you think you're expecting too much of yourself, ask yourself whose standards you're trying to meet. You can learn to relax and enjoy the scenery. You'll be a more effective parent and a happier person. For further information, please call 847-588-8460.

Environmentally Friendly Gas Cans & Mowers



Environmentally friendly gas cans and lawn mowers can do a lot for the environment and the air we breathe. Gas cans, like those used to fuel lawn mowers, emit a substantial amount of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) into the air that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone. Unlike conventional gas cans, which can leak VOCs, the new environmentally friendly cans are designed with shutoff

valves and closures.

Gas powered lawn mowers are also big polluters. Most people are not aware that mowing their lawn causes air pollution, but the emissions from lawn mowers, snow blowers, chain saws, leaf blowers and other gas-powered equipment are a significant source of air pollution. Gas powered engines emit high levels of carbon monoxide and contribute to ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone impairs lung function, inhibits plant growth, and is a key ingredient in smog. See www.cleanaircounts.gov for more information.

Niles Police Department Welcomes K9 "Kevin"



Kevin's first day on duty was January 22, 2007. Kevin, a full service police K9, is a three year old Belgian Malinois born in the Netherlands.

As a full service dog, Kevin is trained in the tracking of offenders, narcotics detection, article searches, area searches, building searches and criminal apprehension. Kevin's handler is Officer Marijo Zawilla. They are presently assigned to the 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM shift.



Be Safe and Feel Safe

With the advent of Spring Season soon upon us, the Niles Police Department would like to submit some simple reminders concerning Crime Prevention for your edification

and review:

- * Please do not let strangers into your home without proper identification and authorization.
- * When outside working on your lawn, perhaps during a spring clean-up, try and keep the doors to the house closed, preferably locked.
- * Do not leave valuable personal items out on your property for an extended period of time.
- * Always lock your personal motor vehicle whenever the vehicle is unattended, no matter where it is parked. Especially, when you're out shopping, visiting another neighborhood or maybe even visiting the cemetery.
- * Always emphasize to your loved ones, the elders, senior citizens and/or your children to be "Stranger Danger Aware!!"
- * The entire staff of the Niles Police Department sincerely hopes these public safety tips will help keep your family safe!
- * PLEASE call the Niles Police Department if you observe anything suspicious or out of the ordinary.

Non-Emergency: 847/588-6500

Emergency: 911



Frequently Asked Questions by Deputy Fire Chief Steve Borkowski

1. Why does a fire engine/truck respond when an ambulance is called?

It is our, and most other departments, procedure to send an engine or truck on all possible life threatening incidents. The firefighters are there to assist the ambulance paramedics with their equipment, patient care, and patient transportation. Most of these assist personnel are, or were, certified paramedics.

2. When I call for the fire department, why do other town's firefighters and paramedics respond?

There are times when all the Niles fire and EMS units are busy on other incidents. All of the suburban towns around Niles have mutual aid agreements in place to plan for this situation. There are times when Niles units are responding to other towns because their units are busy. These mutual aid agreements assist us in being more efficient in both our responses and our costs.

3. Why do I see the fire vehicles responding with lights and sirens, suddenly turn their lights off? Is this a way to avoid traffic?

Emergency lights and sirens can only be used when responding to an emergency. Occasionally, another fire unit will arrive on the scene first and determine no additional units are necessary; this is then communicated by radio. At this time, the other responding units turn off their lights and sirens and continue with their daily scheduled duties.

4. What should I do when I am driving and an emergency vehicle, with their emergency lights activated, approaches?

State law dictates that drivers yield to emergency vehicles that have their emergency lights and siren activated. The fire department drivers are trained to pass on the left, if possible, when responding to an incident. Therefore, a driver should slow down, pull to the right, and stop. If pulling to the right isn't possible, then a driver should slow down and stop until the emergency vehicle passes. If stopping blocks the emergency vehicle, then proceed cautiously until you clear the emergency vehicle's route. Always proceed cautiously and use turn signals so the emergency vehicle drivers are aware of your intentions.

Public Services

Ten Ways To Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution



Stormwater pollution occurs when rain water runoff transports oil, grease, fertilizer, pesticide, and trash to our stormwater sewers. Keeping stormwater clean helps to protect our environment.

- * Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads.
- * Never dump anything down storm drains.
- * Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
- * Compost your yard waste.
- * Avoid pesticides.

- * Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
- * Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway. Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil.
- * Pick up after your pet.
- * Sweep and pick up debris rather than rinse it into storm drains.

Visit the Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/nps.



VILLAGE WASTE SERVICES

(Single Family Homes)

Garbage, recycling and yardwaste are collected once a week and should be placed on the houseside of the curb or in the alley no earlier than 5:00 p.m. the night before. Hours of collection are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Garbage or Refuse items taken on a regular weekly service basis include:

- * Household/Kitchen Garbage
- * Appliances-Furnaces, Refrigerators (Remove Door), Washers, Dryers, Kitchen Sinks, Water Tanks, Small Ceramic Sinks, Microwaves.
- * Mattresses
- * Carpet cut and tied into 4 foot lengths
- * Boxes broken down and flattened

***All bulk items which are too large to be handled by the driver/truck shall be picked-up within 24 hours following the regular collection day.

Items which may require "Special Service" Include:

- * Construction Materials or Doors
- * Large Quantities of Lumber
- * Tile
- * Large/Long Pieces of Metal or Metal Pipe
- * Heavy, Unusual Items
- * Large Quantities Due to Cleanup

***Items falling in the "Special Service" category would require an actual on-site inspection of items to be disposed of and a cost estimate given to the resident. Please call Groot at (800) 244-1977 to arrange for a special pickup.

FREE Branch Collection

Free branch collection begins in April and runs through September. Collection is provided to residents once a month according to the following schedule:

" For residents living **EAST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE**, free branch collection begins the week of April 2nd, May 7th, June 4th, July 2nd, August 6th and September 4th.

" For residents living **WEST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE**, free branch collection begins the week of April 30th, May 29th, June 25th, July 30th, August 27th, and September 24th.



PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

" Place branches at the curb on the appropriate date for pickup during the week.

" Branches must be less than 10 inches in diameter.

" Branches should be tied in bundles no more than 18 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length (one person must be able to lift bundle).

" No stumps, roots or dirt.

" Yard waste bags or stickers are not required for this service.

" Larger sized logs and branches should be disposed of by a tree service or landscaper hired by the homeowner.

Remember, branches placed at the curb on the appropriate Monday morning will be picked up during that week, not necessarily that Monday.



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