

Focus on Niles Newsletter



Spring 2008 Issue

Niles Residents Taxed Less

We obtained the survey below from the City of Park Ridge indicating that the residents of Niles contribute one of the lowest dollar amounts 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

Village of Niles

1000 Civic Center Drive
Niles, Illinois 60714

Mayor

Nicholas B. Blase
mayor@vniles.com

Trustees

Kim S. Biederman
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Village Manager

George R. Van Geem
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In This Issue

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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
Rolling Meadows	Cook	\$22.00	\$3.00	\$304.68	N/A	\$343.86	\$169.36	\$421.60	\$1264.50
Mt. Prospect	Cook	\$36.00	\$5.00	\$75.00	\$21.00	\$416.13	\$134.83	\$516.48	\$1204.44
Des Plaines	Cook	\$30.00	\$5.00	\$180.60	\$32.16	\$351.14	\$68.87	\$488.80	\$1156.57
Arlington Hghts.	Cook	\$30.00	\$12.00	\$136.62	\$19.80	\$388.16	\$31.04	\$510.80	\$1128.42
Downers Grove	DuPage	N/A	N/A	\$236.08	\$27.24	\$395.08	\$155.20	\$226.76	\$1040.36
Skokie	Cook	\$20.00	\$6.00	N/A	N/A	\$389.54	\$94.09	\$428.00	\$937.63
Park Ridge	Cook	\$40.00	\$10.00	N/A	N/A	\$432.90	\$9.36	\$348.00	\$827.42
Naperville	Will/D	N/A	\$8.00	N/A	\$27.00	\$227.95	\$231.80	\$278.64	\$773.39
Schaumburg	Cook/D	\$20.00	\$4.00	\$178.92	N/A	\$424.86	\$88.27	N/A	\$716.05
Niles	Cook	\$25.00	N/A	N/A	\$12.00	\$373.45	N/A	\$280.80	\$691.25
MEAN		\$27.88	\$6.63	\$185.32	\$23.20	\$374.30	\$109.20	\$388.88	\$974.00

NILES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Come join us this spring!

Spring Programs:

Sunday, March 30, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.,
"Riverview Park" given by Ralph Lopez.

Sunday, April 27, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.,
"Good Old Days: The Blanche & John Bickerson Radio Show" given by Mike Delaney.

Sunday, May 18,
2008 at 2:00 p.m.,
Niles "Antique Road Show" with
Appraiser Mike Delaney.



8970 N. Milwaukee Ave.
847-390-0160

The programs are held on the 2nd floor of the Niles Historical Society. All programs are free.

"Where People Count"

Community Newsletter

The Village of Niles elected officials are dedicated to providing responsive, service oriented, government. Take a moment to meet a few of your elected officials who represent your needs and interests and continually value your input and ideas. Future newsletters will highlight other Board members.



Nicholas B. Blase
Mayor

Mayor Blase moved into the Village of Niles in 1959 and almost immediately became active in local government. He was elected Mayor of Niles in April of 1961.

Mayor Blase is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and holds a degree in law and business administration. He is married to his wife Faye and has four daughters, thirteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the community, his responsibility is to make sure that all departments

function properly. He is delighted with the fact that during his 47 years in office, Niles was honored as an "All American City" in 1965 and as one of 10 "Certified Cities" in the State of Illinois by the Illinois Department of Commerce in 1985.

During his term in office, with the help and assistance of the Niles Village Board, Niles has been able to initiate one of the few "no fare" courtesy bus systems in the country. Niles was one of the first communities to establish senior housing facilities and a Senior Center to provide activities.

Mayor Blase has truly guided the destiny of the Village of Niles over 5 decades. He has demonstrated that Niles is truly a community - **"Where People Count"**.



Kim S. Biederman
Village Trustee

Trustee Kim Sychowski Biederman is a life-long resident of Niles and is committed to making Village of Niles the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Currently, Trustee Biederman serves as Chairman of the Milwaukee Avenue Redevelopment Committee, a group of residents, business leaders and Village officials whose goal is to revitalize Milwaukee Avenue by adding character and spurring redevelopment.

In addition, Biederman serves as a Commissioner on the Community Youth Task Force Council which encompasses the Niles Teen Center. Recently, Trustee Biederman was instrumental in securing the new, successful Golf Mill location for the Center.

Trustee Biederman has been serving on the Village Board since July 2003. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. She is married to her husband, Rob, and has two wonderful children, Jake (6) and Elizabeth (2).

Trustee Biederman believes residents need accountability from their village leaders. It is important for residents to know that their voices are heard and that the Village Board works for them. She wants the residents to always inform her about concerns and views on the important issues that face our community.



Robert M. Callero
Village Trustee

Trustee Robert M. Callero has been a resident of Niles for 50 years, during which he married his wife Rita and raised five children.

Trustee Callero graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1959 and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). He was a partner in a CPA Firm (Callero & Callero, LLP) since 1960. He retired in 2007.

His hobbies include sports, business, reading and best of all spending time with his grandchildren.

Trustee Callero has been serving on the Village Board for 13 years. He serves on the Village Finance Committee, Environmental Committee, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Committee, and the Fire & Police Pension Board.

He serves the residents of the community by participating in the above committees and as a "fiscal watchdog" of the Niles Budget. He feels by being a trustee he can give back to Niles and also help to make it a great place to live for Niles residents.

40th Anniversary



At the January Village Board Meeting, Bob Ryan, President of the Niles Chamber of Commerce presented the Village Board a Certificate of Membership for 40 years as a member of the Niles Chamber.

Village Employee Retirements



Officer Thomas Sperling is honored for his 30 years of service by Village Trustee Bart Murphy, Police Chief Dean Strzelecki and Village Manager George Van Gem.



Rae Koenig, Receptionist, is honored for her 9 1/2 years of service by Trustee Bart Murphy, Finance Director Scot Neukirch, and Village Manager George Van Gem.

Niles Police Commendations



Pictured: Police Chief Strzelecki, CSO Rigas, Officer Galas, Sergeant Genualdi, Commander Penze, Mayor Blase, Officer Romano (kneeling) with K-9 Max



Pictured: Police Chief Strzelecki, Officer Gaba, Mayor Blase, Officer Zawilla and K-9 Odin

Village Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
Information Line	588-8411
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	375-8949

Everything is Going Digital These Days

There are changes on the horizon that could affect telecommunication devices and televisions in your home.



Television. By law, all American television stations must switch their broadcasting

from analog to digital by February 17, 2009.

Television sets connected to cable or satellite will not be affected and will continue to receive programming after that date. But those analog television sets not connected to cable or satellite, or without a DTV converter box, will not receive any television signal after the date of the switch.

To apply for a \$40.00 coupon to get a DTV converter box, go to www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-DTV-2009.

Cell Phone. On February 18, 2008, cellular phone

companies are no longer required to provide analog cellular service. If you have an older analog handset, it may no longer work after February 18th. If your phone has text messaging, internet browsing or a camera, your phone is digital and will not be affected.



This will also affect OnStar service in cars older than 2003. Contact OnStar to see if your service might be affected.



Comcast Phone Service. In April 2008, Comcast plans to discontinue

the home phone service. You will have the option to switch to their Comcast Digital Voice or purchase local and long distance service from any service provider in the area and keep your current phone number.

Call 1-866-594-1234 if you have questions.

Attention Parents and Grandparents: Keep Children Safe with Toy Recall Guide

In the past year, there has been an extensive list of recalls for children's products. The recalls were issued for a variety of reasons, from small parts that can detach and pose a choking hazard, to toys that are coated in lead-based paint. It is important to ensure that dangerous products are kept away from children.



The Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Office developed the Safe Shopping Guide, which provides a photograph and short description of every child's product recalled in 2007.

The publication is available by visiting www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov, after that click on the "2007 Safe Shopping Guide - Children's Product Recalls" found on the bottom left hand corner. The publication is available in English, Spanish and Polish.

Beware the next time you are out buying a gift for a child, remember to visit the Illinois Attorney General's website for the latest recall information.

News from the Niles Teen Center



The Niles Teen Center welcomes any teens (regardless of location of residence) to join as a member and participate in Teen Center programs.

Some recent events included: video games and table game tournaments, movie nights, youth council, open houses, homework assistance, dinner & movie nights and dances. Future events that are in the planning stages include an intergenerational pool tournament with the Niles Senior Center, Job Shadow Day with the Niles Chamber of Commerce and an overnight lock-in at Golf Mill Shopping Center featuring a DJ and tons of games, movies and socializing.

For more information on the Niles Teen Center visit them on the web at www.NilesTeenCenter.org or stop by the Niles Teen Center at Golf Mill.



Have you Checked the Radon Level in your Home?

Radon is an odorless, tasteless, invisible gas that is found in soil. You cannot see it or smell it. Radon can come into homes through cracks in the foundation. The Surgeon General reports that radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

All homes should be tested every two years. Free test kits for Radon are available compliments of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency - Radon Program. To receive a coupon for a free radon test kit call 312-628-0217 or download the coupon at www.lungchicago.com.

Are You A Supermom or Superdad?



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.

Here are some things to keep in mind when you find the specter of the superparent lurking on your shoulder:

Review your values. Your ability to provide love, constructive discipline and guidance to your child is what is significant.

Plan Ahead. 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.

Services for People with Hearing Loss



Just a reminder that there is a State of Illinois program for free amplified phones plus a new service called Captel which is a regular phone that displays every word the caller says throughout the conversation. The Niles Senior Center has applications for this program. If you have any questions call Trudi Davis at 847-588-8441.

The Niles Senior Center also has a monthly group at the Senior Center for people with hearing loss to address their concerns. In addition to resources on assisted devices, the group discusses a variety of issues affecting people with hearing loss, such as:

- * encouraging people to communicate more effectively;
- * handling the frustration of not being able to be in a group like before;
- * what is needed to obtain a good hearing evaluation;
- * helping a spouse to stop talking from another room.

Aside from the issues just mentioned, we offer a place to share the frustrations of having a hearing loss, knowing that others in the group often experience the same thing.

This group meets the last Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions please contact Trudi Davis at 847-588-5441.



Paint-A-Thon It's our 21st Year!

Once again, volunteers will participate in a multi-community project designed to paint the exterior of homes that are owned and occupied by persons with limited financial resources, who are either 60 years of age or older or persons who have a permanent disability.

Income requirements are \$36,000 or less annually. When determining eligibility for the program, excessive expenses such as prescription and/or medical bills will be taken into consideration.

If you wish to apply for this free assistance, or volunteer to help paint, please call the Senior Center at 847-588-8420.

Over 90 Birthday Celebration



The Niles Senior Center is planning a very special birthday celebration for Niles seniors ages 90 and over. The event will take place on Thursday, May 15th. Invitations will be forwarded in late March.

If you, or someone you know, is 90 years of age or older please contact the Senior Center at 847-588-8420.



Kitchen Scald Injury Hazards

From the American Burn Association

Scald injuries frequently occur in the kitchen when hot liquids are spilled from either cooking pots or serving utensils. Those at the highest risk for these injuries are young children, older adults and persons with disabilities.

Tips

* If you have young children in your house while you are cooking meals, offer them an activity away from the

cooking area.

* Cook on back burners whenever possible.

* Keep all pot handles turned back, away from stove edge. All appliance cords need to be kept coiled and away from counter edges.

* When cooking with grease, such as deep fat fryers, use extreme caution. Temperatures can exceed 400 degrees F and can cause serious burns in less than one second.

* Place a rubber mat in front of your stove to prevent slipping and falling.

* Use potholders, not towels, to carry hot cooking utensils.

* When removing lids from hot foods, remember that steam may have

accumulated. Lift the cover or lid away from your face and arm.

* If you are in a wheelchair: when moving hot liquids, place a large, sturdy tray with a solid lip in your lap to decrease the risk of lap burns.

* Use a serving cart to transfer food from stove to table top instead of carrying it.

* Consider placing alternative cooking equipment (slow cookers, toaster ovens or microwaves) on lower counters or tables if the stove or oven is too high to reach safely. Be aware: this may create a burn hazard if young children are present.



Jury Duty Scam

The FBI has confirmed the recent Jury Duty Scam.

Typically, most of us take a summons for jury duty seriously. But some people do in fact avoid their civic duty and responsibility. This is how the scam begins.

A caller claims to be a jury coordinator who alleges you did not appear at court as required by law. If you explain that you never received a summons for jury duty, he/she asks you for your **Social Security number** and **date of birth** so he/she can verify the information and cancel any administrative action/warrant issued for your so-called failure to appear.

Therefore, for this scam to be prevented **do not** give out any of the above indicated personal information and any other private information to anybody on the telephone.

The FBI and the Federal Court System have issued nationwide alerts on their website warning the general public of this scam. If you receive any type of a telephone call similar to what has been described above, please call 911 and report this incident immediately to the Police Department.

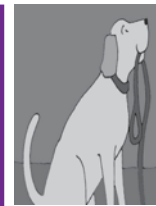
BEWARE - It's Solicitation Season

Spring, summer and fall are the peak seasons for solicitation of donations for charitable organizations; specifically, these are prime seasons for door-to-door solicitations.

Every solicitor going door-to-door should have a permit issued by the Village. Please ask to see the permit. If the solicitor does not have one or claims he or she forgot it, do not conduct any further business with them.

If the solicitor does not willingly leave the premises, residents are advised to call Niles Police at 847-588-6500. Solicitation is prohibited prior to 9:00 a.m. and after 9:00 p.m.

"No Solicitation" signs are available at the Niles Village Hall for you to place on your front door or window. THE SIGNS ARE FREE OF CHARGE. If you have the sign, no one is permitted to come to your door to solicit. If you have any questions please contact the Village of Niles at 847-588-8000.



Dog Owner Etiquette

It is not the most glamorous part of owning a dog, nor is it always the most fun to do, but there are two important duties that a dog owner must do: Removal of excrement (feces or dog poop) and walking your dog on a leash.

The Village Ordinance requires the removal of dog feces. Removing of dog feces is something that should be done out of respect for your neighbors and neighborhood. Next time you are walking your dog, please try to keep your neighborhood clean of dog feces and remember it is a violation against Village Ordinance to not "pick up" after your dog.

Walking your dog without a leash is a violation of our Village Ordinance. As a dog owner you are fully responsible for any harm or injury that your dog may inflict on someone else or another pet. Please remember that your dog must be on a leash for the safety of the community.

For a copy of our Animal Ordinance please visit the Village of Niles website at www.vniles.com or contact Animal Control at 847-588-6508 for more information.



Athletic Shoe Recycling Project

Recycle Your Old Athletic Shoes

The Village of Niles is sponsoring an athletic shoe recycling program in cooperation with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Nike. You may bring your worn out athletic shoes to:

Niles Family Fitness Center - 987 Civic Center Drive

Monday thru Friday 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Niles Public Library - 6960 W. Oakton Street

Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Friday thru Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

What type of shoes? Any brand of athletic shoe, but only "court-type" shoes will be accepted, such as basketball, tennis, cross-training, running or aerobic shoes.

When may I bring in my shoes? March 1st through May 1st.

For more information contact SWANCC at 847-724-9205 or visit them on the web: www.swancc.org.

Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Recycling

Recycle Your CFLs with the Village



The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and the Village of Niles is sponsoring a CFL recycling program. You may bring your household CFL bulbs to the following two locations:

Niles Senior Center

999 Civic Center Drive
Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Niles Public Services

6849 Touhy Avenue
Monday thru Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Why recycle your CFL household light bulbs?

Each CFL contains a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass and, although CFLs are very safe to use in your home, it is environmentally prudent to dispose of them properly.

It is recommended for bulbs to be placed in a sealed plastic storage bag during transport. For more information contact SWANCC at 847-724-9205 or visit them on the web: www.swancc.org.

A Message from the Niles Environmental Committee

By Resident Bob Ryan



Many of you probably have heard about the "Green Movement". "Green" means saving our environment, making our Village, Country, and Planet safe for future generations. There are many elements in the "Green" movement, the most important of these is Recycling and Source Reduction.

Recycling is familiar to all of us here in Niles. It can be very simple, recycling can include, but is not limited to: collecting cans, bottles and paper to be used as ingredients to make new products; refilling ink cartridges; and/or recycling computer equipment to be used in schools that cannot afford it.

Source Reduction is also an easy way to help save the environment. Some examples include using two sides of a piece of paper instead of one and using dry erase boards in schools to reduce the tons of accumulated scratch paper.

One of the best and simplest ways to get involved in the Niles "Green" movement is to think about what you are disposing. You need to consider an alternative way to dispose of things instead of just including them in the regular waste pick up. If you have any questions, contact the Village of Niles.

Niles has always taken a pro-active approach on issues that help make our Village one of the most desirable places to live and/or work.

The Village of Niles Environmental Committee has been formed to educate, plan and implement recycling and source reduction programs for our residents and their future. However, the committee can not succeed in this endeavor without the help and assistance of our residents.

If you have any ideas or would like to participate in the Environmental Committee, please contact the Village of Niles at 847-588-8000.

**Reduce-Recycle-Reuse
You'll be glad you did!!**

Recycling



NO ENROLLMENT FEE IN 2008!

**ONE
MONTH
FREE**



MARCH MADNESS

**W/PURCHASE
OF
A
NEW ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP**

terms & conditions apply

CALL US FOR DETAILS 847-588-8400

OFFER VALID: MARCH 1-31, 2008

www.nilesfitness.com

Village of Niles
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