

Focus on Niles Newsletter



2008 Issue

Village of Niles
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Village of Niles and Coca-Cola Install First Phase of Community Rain Garden *Future plans include more development and education*

Through a public/private partnership, the Village of Niles and Coca-Cola installed the Village's first municipal rain garden, which may be the largest of its kind in Cook County, according to the President of *The Conservation Foundation*, Brook McDonald.

Over 100 Coca-Cola personnel with the assistance of the Niles Public Services Department helped to turn what was once an under utilized vacant lot at 7104 Touhy Avenue into a specialized garden designed to soak up and filter rain water runoff from surrounding buildings and parking lots.

"This is only the initial phase of the project," stated Assistant Village Manager Steven Vinezeano. "The site takes on a lot of stormwater from surrounding properties and to capture all of this water, we still need to install three smaller rain gardens and a large area of prairie grass." In addition to the planting, the plan calls for a permeable walking path, recycled content benches, educational signage, and some miscellaneous site work.

We welcome any clubs, schools, businesses or individuals that may want to tackle future phases of the rain garden plan as a sustainable community project or to simply make a monetary donation. Just contact Steven Vinezeano at 847-588-8007 or scv@vniles.com to inquire about this opportunity.

Beyond development of the 3/4 + acre site, there remains the educational facet of the project. We know why a rain garden is useful, but how can residents, businesses and schools benefit from it? We will be working with the Conservation Foundation, Openlands, and the Notre Dame High School Environmental Adventure Club to develop an educational plan. The goal is to help others understand why a rain garden is sustainable and how it can benefit them at their homes and businesses.

To learn more about the Niles Community Rain Garden, visit the "Going Green" link on the Village's website: www.vniles.com.



Rain Garden sponsors: Coca-Cola, Home Depot, Hampshire Farms, Lurvey Landscaping & Garden Center, Groot Industries, Notre Dame High School Environmental Adventure Club, Smith Engineering, Ranieri's Landscaping, Public Services, the Niles Environmental Committee, and Niles Lions Club



Acting Mayor Robert M. Callero accepts a donation of \$1,000 from Niles Lions Club President Norbert Johnson to be used for the Niles Community Rain Garden.

Special thanks to the Niles Lions Club.

Village of Niles

"Where People Count"

1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, Illinois 60714 Telephone (847) 588-8000

TO NILES RESIDENTS

I will be retiring as Mayor of Niles on August 25th, 2008, one day before our board meeting on August 26th, 2008, in order for the Board to appoint a temporary Mayor for the remainder of my term ending in April of 2009.

I had no intention of running again because at 80 years of age and 47 years of Mayoring, I am tired. I am retiring early so a Mayor candidate can start campaigning now without the question "is Mayor Blase going to run again." This will give the candidate a running start. I will be endorsing a candidate shortly.

My only problem is having something to do after 47 years of being Mayor. Other than being a retired lawyer and now a retired Mayor, I don't want to just lay around.

I am going to stay in Niles – get involved in the next Mayor campaign and be available for anything the next Mayor and Board may want me to do. I have every confidence that our Niles Village Board will continue to provide service that is consistent with the past.

It's been my honor to serve you and our employees. My resignation will be dated August 25th, 2008, 5:00 p.m.

Nicholas B. Blase



Callero Named Acting Mayor



The Niles Village Board elected Trustee Robert M. Callero to the post of Acting Mayor at the August 26, 2008 Board Meeting. Callero will serve in the position until April 2009 when the municipal election is held.

Mr. Callero fills the office left vacant by the retirement of long-time Mayor Nicholas B. Blase. Blase served the Village for 47 years prior to stepping down on Monday, August 25, 2008.

Mr. Callero was appointed as Village Trustee on April 25, 1995, and has been a Niles resident since 1958. He is a representative to the Niles Police and Fire Pension Board since January of 1975 and a member of the Village's Cable Committee, Finance Committee, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Committee and Environmental Practices Committee. Mr. Callero is a certified public accountant and has worked in Niles since 1960 when he and his brother formed Callero & Callero LLP, CPA's and Consultants. With his knowledge of business and finance, he wants to keep Niles government fiscally responsible for its citizens.

International Taste of Niles for the Benefit of Sister Cities

At the
White Eagle Banquets
6839 Milwaukee Ave., Niles

Date: Sunday, November 23, 2008
Time: 1:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m.

The Niles Sister Cities Association invites you to a Food and Cultural Festival. A tasting of food will be provided by our finest local restaurants.

Other activities include: live ethnic music, children's games, a silent auction to start your holiday shopping, a cash bar, watch the Bears game and don't forget - food a plenty!

Admission (includes tasting of foods):
\$15 per adult; \$13 seniors; \$5 children (3 to 12 years)



For more information contact Denise Joseph at (847) 588-8005 or drj@vniles.com.
All proceeds will fund our programs for Sister Cities
fostering peace & harmony among people!

Presidential General Election

November 4, 2008



Visit the Cook County Clerk's Voterinfonet website (www.voterinfonet.com) for all the latest election and voting information. View a virtual ballot, look up your registration and polling place, and get more information on the candidates.

Register to Vote by October 7, 2008

Register in person at Niles Village Hall (bring a photo ID and proof of residency), one of six Cook County Clerk's locations, Township Offices and the Niles Public Library.

Mail-in voter registration applications are available from the Cook County Clerk's Office (312) 603-0906 and online at www.voterinfonet.com in English, Spanish and Chinese.

To register, you must be a U.S. Citizen, at least 18 years old by Election Day, and a resident of your precinct at least 30 days prior to an election.

Early Voting-October 13-30

You don't need a reason to vote early, you can do it at any of 44 sites in suburban Cook County. State law requires early voters to show a photo ID (valid forms of ID include a current driver's license, state-issued ID card or another government-issued ID with a photo).

Absentee Voting

You do need a reason to vote absentee by mail in Illinois. Reasons include being out of town on Election Day, physically incapacitated or hospitalized, temporarily away at college, on a jury or serving as an election judge, in the military, in jail, or observing a religious holiday. Absentee Ballot applications are available at Village Hall or online at www.voterinfonet.com. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by November 3rd to be counted.

For more election information, contact the Village Clerk Marlene Victorine at (847) 588-8003 or mv@vniles.com.

Niles Teen Center

373 Golf Mill Center



The Niles Teen Center is a Village of Niles program that provides a welcoming, structured and safe environment for local teens to play games, spend time with friends, receive homework assistance and socialize.

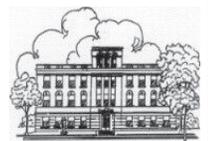
Also, the Niles Teen Center promotes community service opportunities, special activities, trips and educational programs. The center welcomes any teens (regardless of location of residence) to join as a member and participate in Teen Center programs.

Fall programs at the Teen Center include a Back to School Dance, the 7th Annual Haunted Garage at Tam Golf Course, an online curriculum workshop with SCORE! Educational Center, the Spinning for Scholars fundraiser for the Niles Chamber of Commerce Chapter of Dollars for Scholars, a hair-styling workshop with the Niles School of Cosmetology, a ceramic sculpture painting workshop with Paint-N-Party, extended hours during Thanksgiving Break and a trip to Six Flags Great America's Fright Fest.

For more information on the Niles Teen Center visit us on the web at www.NilesTeenCenter.org or stop by the Niles Teen Center at Golf Mill to see all that we have to offer local teenagers.

Niles Historical Society

8970 N. Milwaukee Avenue



The Niles Historical Society is currently closed for remodeling and will reopen sometime in the Fall. For more information, please call (847) 390-0160.

The Historical Society is looking for volunteers who take a keen interest in the Village's history first and the Chicagoland area in general. They are also looking to create a young people's historical "network" for those in Junior High through High School who are looking for an ongoing, creative outlet and somewhere to fulfill their special projects.

If anyone is interested in helping the Historical Museum grow, please contact them at (847)390-0160 or via email at nhs@vniles.com.

Niles Senior Center Variety Show



The Niles Senior Center presents an evening filled with magic, fun, and merriment! Music, dancing, songs and comedy await you as you watch some of Niles' most talented seniors gather to present a wonderful evening of magic, laughter, and much more!!! All are welcome.

When: Thursday, September 25th

Time: 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Cost: \$3.00 in advance, \$5.00 at the door, if space is available.
Call (847) 588-8420 or stop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Dr. to sign up or for more information!



2008 Pet Parade

The 7th Annual Niles Senior Center Pet Parade is scheduled on Monday, October 13th at 1:00pm. Whether large or small, four footed (or three), costumed pets and their adoring humans will take center stage to thrill animal lovers of all ages. Pet registration required; please call the Senior Center for more information

National Senior Center Week

September 8-13, 2008



The week of September 8- 13, 2008, is designated as National Senior Center Week. In recognition of the special designation, the Niles Senior Center is ready to celebrate with fun activities and raffles all week long!

Seniors, their families, friends, and members of the community are invited to come out to the Niles Senior Center and learn more about the wonderful programs and services we are offering to the older friends of the community!

- Monday, September 8: Fun day! Start off your Monday with a yummy Pancake Brunch and Bingo, followed by an educational Rules of the Road course.
- Tuesday, September 9: Presentation on the health benefits of drinking tea, samples will be served.
- Wednesday, September 10: A fun slide show presentation on Architecture in America by Donna Horwitz!
- Thursday, September 11: "Mind Alert" program by CJE and in the afternoon a performance at the Center by the Banjo Buddies for Patriots Day.
- Friday, September 12: Free art insights presentation from the Art Institute of Chicago.
- Saturday, September 13: Annual Rummage Sale. The Rummage Sale is open to all! There will be games, prizes, food, fun, and treasures to be held at the sale. Come see what the Niles Senior Center can offer you!!!

For more information contact the Niles Senior Center at (847) 588-8420.

Human Services

So, Your Child is Returning to School



As the school year begins, there are just a few things for parents to be aware of regarding their children returning to school:

1. Your child has just spent an entire summer not thinking about school; give them some time to readjust to school.
2. From the first day of school, start having daily non-critical discussions about what their day was like.
3. When asking your child about school, be specific i.e., how was the bus? How was your math class?
4. Starting with the beginning of school, get used to contacting your child's teachers every other week. Teachers have lots
5. of children to concern themselves with. You have one! It is easier for you to call and the teacher will appreciate it.
6. Learn to appreciate how difficult it is sometimes for your child to go to school. The peer pressure is enormous!
7. Try to encourage learning vs. production. Your child does not have to worry if you will be angry over grades, they will be able to focus on learning and the grades will follow.
8. Lastly, remember, the school year lasts until late spring. This is a long race not a sprint. Children have all year to improve. Encourage vs. anger.

If you should need any assistance with your child, please contact Niles Family Service at (847) 588-8460.

Animal Proofing Your Home



As many of you have encountered before, animals will be looking to find shelter during the cold weather. Animals will try to find a vent opening or hole in the roof to crawl into for warmth.

Animals such as birds, opossums, raccoons, skunks and squirrels will be your most common culprits. The following is a list of potential problem areas and solutions to properly blocking them off so wildlife cannot get in:

- *Fireplace/furnace chimney:* Install a commercial chimney cap.
- *Attic exhaust fan opening:* Cover bottom of fan from inside attic with hardware cloth. Any other vent openings, cover outside with hardware cloth.
- *Window wells:* Cover top with commercial grate.
- *Weak or rotted areas in roof, soffit or fascia:* Inspect and maintain on a regular basis.
- *Cement stoops/slabs:* Dig a trench 8 inches wide and at least 2 feet deep around cement area; secure hardware cloth to side of stoop or slab at least 2 inches above the bottom of slab and place cloth against the hole to the bottom of the trench; fill trench.
- *Decks:* Follow the same instructions for cement stoops. Nail hardware cloth at least 1 to 2 inches above bottom of deck.

If you have any questions, contact Animal Control Officer Peter Babikan at (847) 588-6508.

Teen Drivers Do Not Drink & Drive



With the arrival of the new school year the Niles Police Department would like teen drivers to focus on the traffic and safety laws that target underage drinking and the impact on their driving privileges when these laws are violated.

Under Illinois Zero Tolerance Law, drivers who are not 21 years of age are absolutely prohibited from consuming any alcohol and/or other intoxicating substances. This law indicates that any trace of alcohol/drugs in a teenager's system while driving will be cause for them to lose their driving privileges. This traffic statute is very strict and to the letter of the law.

Also, possession/consumption of alcohol by persons under the age of 21 who are convicted or receive supervision for illegally purchasing, accepting, possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages will have their driving privileges suspended.

Therefore, the Niles Police Department requests that drivers under the age of 21 make every effort to familiarize themselves with all the traffic and various laws dealing with underage drinking. It is in the best interest of teen drivers, their respective families and the general public to understand the law.

If you have any questions or concerns contact the Niles Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit at (847) 588-6568.



Fire Prevention Week October 5-11, 2008

How many times have you left the house in the morning and wondered, "Did I turn off the stove?" The Niles Fire Department wants you to make sure that the stove burner is turned off or the damaged electrical cord you've been meaning to fix is your top priority during Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11.

The theme of this year's campaign, "Prevent Home Fires", focuses on preventing the leading causes of home fires - cooking, heating/electrical equipment, and smoking materials.

According to the latest statistics from the nonprofit National Fire

Protection Association (NFPA), home fires caused 80% of civilian deaths and 76% of injuries.

The Fire Department is encouraging residents and their families to put their safety first by performing a home hazards inspection during Fire Prevention Week. You can pick up a checklist at Niles Fire Station 2, 8360 Dempster St., or you can download one at www.firepreventionweek.org.

There are also a number of simple steps that you can put into action to keep your home safe from fire:

- **Cooking:** Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the

kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

- **Heating:** Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- **Electrical:** Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords; use extension cords for temporary wiring only. Consider having additional circuits or receptacles added by a qualified electrician.
- **Smoking:** If you smoke, smoke outside; wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays.

We hope that you use the checklist and home fire prevention tips to put your safety first during Fire Prevention Week, and year-round.

Illicit Discharge Elimination Program

Did you know that anything dumped into a storm drain goes straight to a stream, river or lake? Niles' Storm Water Management Plan includes a program to eliminate illicit discharges, but we need your help.

Storm drains lead straight to rivers, lakes and streams. When contaminants enter storm drains, they pollute our water resources. Storm water runoff is a major source of surface water pollution. Runoff can pick up contaminants on the ground, including sediment, oil, gas, fertilizer, pet waste, grass clippings, car wash water, etc. By making some simple changes, you can help prevent polluted runoff:

- Fix auto leaks promptly.
- Properly dispose of used motor oil.
- Don't fertilize before it rains.
- Don't top off when you fill up.
- Put trash in its place.
- Never dump anything down a storm drain!

Acceptable Discharges

The rule of thumb is: "If you don't drink it, don't dump it," but there are a few exceptions to what you can safely and legally discharge into a storm drain other than storm water:

- Lawn and Landscape Irrigation Runoff.
- Water from Non-Commercial Car Washing.
- Water Main Flushing.
- Pumped Groundwater.
- Air Conditioning Condensate.
- Residential, De-Chlorinated Pool Discharges.
- Flows from Emergency Fire Fighting Activities.

For additional information on Niles' efforts to protect our lakes and streams and/or to get involved in local protection efforts call the Niles Public Services Department (847) 588-7900.

Free Leaf Collection October through November

The Village of Niles will again offer free leaf pickup service this year to residents. The leaf pickup program runs from mid-October through late November, and is provided to residents every other week according to the following schedule.

For residents living EAST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE, pickup begins on the following Mondays and continues through that week. Residents should place their leaves in the curb on the appropriate Monday for pickup during the week. Leaf pickup begins on the following dates: October 6th, October 20th, November 3rd, and November 17th.

For resident living WEST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE, pickup begins on the following Monday and continues through that week. Residents should place their leaves in the curb on the appropriate Monday for pickup during the week. Leaf pickup begins on the following dates: October 13th, October 27th, November 10th, November 24th.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

- Loose leaves should be raked into the curb by Monday of the pickup week and be free of foreign materials such

as grass, branches, plants and rocks.

- Leaves will not be collected if they are placed in plastic bags or boxes—all leaves must be loose.
- Leaves placed for pickup on the appropriate Monday morning will be picked up during that week, not necessarily that Monday.
- To provide the leaf collection equipment better access to the streets, residents are encouraged to park vehicles in garages or driveways.
- Residents choosing to bag their leaves may purchase yard waste stickers (\$2.00 each), and place the sticker on the paper yard waste bag or a 35 gallon garbage can used for disposal and place for collection on their regular garbage pickup day.

Remember, leaves placed for pickup on the appropriate Monday morning will be picked up during that week, not necessarily that Monday. Please contact the Public Services Department at (847) 588-7900 should you have any questions regarding this service.



Remember!

Residents are reminded that the largest garbage container they should use for their household refuse is 32 gallons with the exception of a Groot refuse can. Containers larger than this may be too large or heavy for a worker to handle. Please keep this in mind when purchasing



COME CELEBRATE

Saturday
September 20, 2008
12-5 pm

FITNESS FUN
FOR
EVERYONE

Please Bring Non-Perishable Food Item
Benefiting the Niles Food Pantry

10 "FIT" YEARS

Niles Family Fitness Center
987 Civic Center Dr.
Niles, Illinois 60714
847-588-8400
www.nilesfitness.com

Village of Niles
1000 Civic Center Drive
Niles, Illinois 60714

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