

# Focus on Niles Newsletter



Winter 2008/2009 Issue

**Village of Niles**  
1000 Civic Center  
Niles, Illinois 60714

**Acting Mayor**  
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## *Holiday Message from Acting Mayor Robert M. Callero*



As we approach this holiday season, we tend to look around and only see our problems – unrest in the world, unstable financial markets, and an economy that is less than stellar.

However, as we get together with our families, loved ones and friends, we should realize that with these people we have more than all of the riches of the world. The warmth of family and friends is what makes the holidays precious to us.

As we prepare to spend these quality times, let us not forget our neighbors in need who are less fortunate than us. Niles Family Services tries to assist as many families as possible during the holidays. These families may be your neighbors or even someone in your family. Food, toys and clothing are the things that people need most during the holidays. Let's try to make the holiday season a happy one for all of Niles families. If you are interested in donating anything,

please contact Niles Family Services or the Niles Senior Center at (847) 588-8000.

Also, we should all try to make an effort to shop at our neighborhood stores, especially during the holidays. This local support of business helps to keep Village services at levels we all truly appreciate.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Village of Niles staff, I would like to wish each and every one of you a joyous holiday season and a very happy and healthy new year!

Very truly yours,

Acting Mayor Robert M. Callero

Trustee Bart T. Murphy  
Trustee Louella B. Preston  
Trustee Andrew Przybylo  
Trustee Kim S. Biederman  
Trustee Joe LoVerde  
Village Manager George R. Van Geem

### Shop Locally this Holiday Season



- **Keep Dollars in the Local Economy:**

Dollars spent locally help create jobs, fund more city services through sales tax, invest in neighborhood improvement & promote economic development.

- **Creates Jobs & Wages:**  
Locally owned

businesses create more jobs & provide good wages & benefits to their employees.

- **Ensure Community Well-Being:**

Locally owned businesses build strong neighborhoods by sustaining communities and by contributing to local causes.

- **Less Driving:** With going green, consumers can shop at stores only a few minutes away to protect

the environment.

Niles has a wealth of businesses to fit every consumer's needs & desires.

- **Support the Business Community:** No one wants to see their favorite local business close its doors. By shopping in town, you have the power to ensure local stores efforts and successes.

Take a moment to meet a few of your elected officials who represent your needs and interests and continually value your input and ideas.



**Bart Murphy**  
*Village Trustee*

Trustee Bart Murphy has been a resident of Niles for 52 years and a Village Trustee for 30 years. Trustee Murphy has been married for 22 years to his wife Carolyn.

He has 5 children: Bart, Maureen, Colleen, Kathy and Brian.

Being a Village Trustee has been a rewarding and challenging experience throughout his 30 years. During his years of service, Trustee Murphy was the President of Bankers Life and Casualty Company and is currently serving on a Foundation Board.

Before becoming a Village Trustee, he represented Niles in the formation of the North Suburban Mass Transit District. This helped to see the need to cooperate with other municipalities to improve services for the people of Niles.

As a Trustee, he has been the Niles representative on the Board of the Regional Emergency Dispatch (RED) Center for Fire Services which includes 13 suburban communities. In addition, he serves on the Finance Committee for the Niles Village Board and the Fire & Police Pension Boards.

As a growing community, Trustee Murphy feels that we need a constant vigilance on providing high quality services with a low tax rate. This helps to keep Niles a great place to live and takes an ongoing effort, especially in these economic times. We are fortunate to be able to continually work to meet the residents' needs. Trustee Murphy personally thanks the residents for the opportunity to allow him to serve them as Trustee.



**Louella Blaine Preston**  
*Village Trustee*

Trustee Louella Blaine Preston and her husband John have been residents of Niles for 33 years and she has been a Village Trustee for 23 years. Before serving on the Village Board, she began her public service as a Commissioner of the Niles Park District in 1978 and was a Director

of the Maine/Niles Association for Special Recreation. She was appointed as the first woman Commissioner of the Niles Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, where she served for 6 years.

Before being elected a Village Trustee, she was active in the Chicagoland area as a member of the Chicago Teachers' Union. Since 1978 she has been an active parishioner of Saint Isaac Jogues Parish and is currently representing the Deanery Council to Cardinal George's Archdiocesan Pastoral Council.

As a Trustee, she co-chaired the Niles Centennial Committee from 1997-1999 with Trustee Bart Murphy. She currently serves as a member of the Milwaukee Avenue Redevelopment Committee, Environmental Committee, Sister Cities Committee and chairs the newly formed Landscape Beautification Committee that has as it's objective the improvement of the visual image of all the Village of Niles property sites and right of ways.

In addition, Trustee Preston has been the Niles Representative to the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) for 23 years and a founding Director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) since 1988. She currently serves as a member of the SWANCC Executive Committee. She protects and promotes the interests of the Village of Niles to the 47 suburban members of NWMC and to the 22 suburban members of SWANCC.

After graduating from the University of Illinois Chicago, Trustee Preston pursued an educational career in the Chicago Public Schools for 35 years, including a position as Principal. She furthered her education and earned a Masters, Doctorate and Law Degree. She was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1989.

In 2001, Trustee Preston was awarded the Illinois Woman of Achievement Award for positively impacting the Village of Niles community through her personal and professional achievements. Trustee Preston earned the National League of Cities Leadership Training Institute Bronze Certificate as a Leadership Fellow in March 2008 which is recognition for her leadership qualities.

Trustee Preston considers it a privilege to serve the residents and business community of Niles. Trustee Preston welcomes your opinions so that she can improve her ability to help lead Niles to an even brighter 21st century.



**The Environmental Committee**  
*Busy at work to help "green" the Village*

The Village of Niles Environmental Committee is busy at work researching the best environmental practices for our homes and businesses. Since the Committee's creation, it has actively pursued free programs made possible through inter-agency cooperatives and environmental grants.

Some of the ongoing programs available today through cooperation with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) are:

- **Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Recycling Program.** This program ensures that residents who use the energy efficient bulbs may dispose of them in a safe manner at the Senior Center at 999 Civic Center Drive or the Public Services building at 6849 Touhy Avenue;
- **Prescription Drug/Sharps Disposal Program.**

This program helps to protect against a real threat to our rivers and lakes by encouraging residents not to flush or throw away drugs and sharps. Bring them to the Niles Senior Center at 999 Civic Center Drive;

- **Athletic Shoe Recycling Project.** Nike's program takes athletic shoes and recycles them to make sports surfaces for basketball courts, tennis courts, running tracks and playgrounds. Bring your old athletic shoes to the Niles Family Fitness building; and
- **In the works: Latex Paint Recycling Program.** This will take place the first Wednesday of each month at the Public Services building from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

To learn more about the Environmental Committee and to find information on how you may improve the environment at home and at your work, visit the Village's "Go Green" website at [www.vniles.com](http://www.vniles.com).

**niles  
free bus**



Support Public  
Transportation

**Village Phone Numbers**

Emergency	911
Information Line	847-588-8411
Administrative Offices	847-588-8000
TDD	847-588-8059
Finance Department	847-588-8000
Community Development	847-588-8040
Fire Department	847-588-6800
Police Department	847-588-6500
Consumer Fraud	847-588-6524
Public Services	847-588-7900
Human Services	847-588-8460
TDD	847-588-8440
Senior Center	847-588-8420
TDD	847-588-8487
Family Fitness Center	847-588-8400
TDD	847-588-8433
Free Bus System	847-588-7960
Niles Teen Center	847-375-8949

**Niles Teen Center**  
*373 Golf Mill Center*  
[www.NilesTeenCenter.org](http://www.NilesTeenCenter.org)



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.

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 the Teen Center programs.

We are located at Golf Mill Mall, 373 Golf Mill Center, just inside entrance 6. The annual membership fee is \$5 if you live in Niles or attend a Niles school and \$20 for all others. Our hours are Tuesday through Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Winter programs at the Teen Center include making gingerbread houses, participation in the Toys for Tots program, a beading workshop with Paint-N-Party, a holiday crafting workshop, a post-holiday gift exchange, a day of swimming and dodgeball at the Niles Family Fitness Center, a trivia challenge with Score! Educational Center, a Valentine's Day Dance, and a make-up workshop with the Niles School of Cosmetology.

Winter trips include: skiing at Alpine Valley, an all-night ski trip to Galena, a snowboarding trip to Raging Buffalo in Algonquin and a trip to Top Golf in Wood Dale.

### Beat Holiday Stress!



The holidays are upon us. For some people, even those who may appear to be happy, the holidays may be a time of anxiety, stress, depression and/or loneliness. As a result, they become less productive as they take on second jobs to pay holiday bills. This season can be especially difficult for people who have lost a loved one or close friend, especially if the loss occurred during a previous holiday season. Sometimes, an individual thinks they are under stress when they are struggling with another type of disorder, such as, depression, anxiety, or even substance abuse. To see if you are at risk for holiday blues, answer the following.

Are you anxious about or dreading the upcoming holidays?

Do you seem to usually run out of time to do things every holiday season?

Are the holidays unusually painful for you every year due to the loss of a loved one or memories of difficult past holidays?

Do family holiday parties seem chaotic? Do family members get along?

Do your needs tend to be pushed aside? Do your needs always have to come first?

Are your holidays a lonely or painful experience?

Are your perceptions and expectations of the holidays realistic?

Are finances a problem every year?

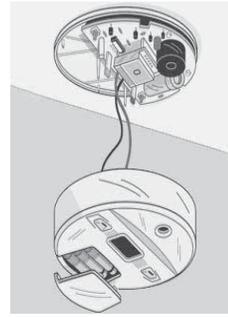
If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be at risk during the holiday season. Would you like help? Call Family Services at 847-588-8460 for confidential assistance.



The Niles Senior Center is having a blast with the Wii video game system. Join us for bowling tournaments, golf, tennis classes and more with the Wii! Get in shape, stay in balance and make new friends.

*Pictured: Helen Kasluga and Instructor Lori McMeen*

### Carbon Monoxide Program



Carbon monoxide poisoning occurs after the inhalation of carbon monoxide gas. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and non-irritating, making it difficult for people to detect.

The Village of Niles Community Development Department and Senior Center work together to offer free residential inspections for carbon monoxide and natural gas leaks. Appointments may be scheduled by calling 847-588-8480.



### Free Tax Assistance at the Senior Center

Beginning Tuesday, February 3rd, Niles Senior Center AARP Tax-Aide Counselors will provide FREE personal income tax assistance to qualified seniors in accordance with the guidelines established between the IRS and the AARP Foundation. All Tax-Aide Counselors are certified by the IRS. Qualified seniors may schedule a tax appointment beginning Monday, January 26th by calling the Tax Appointment desk, 847 588-8440 Monday thru Thursday, between the hours of 9:30am and 3:00pm. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact MaryAnn Borucki at 847 588-8420.



Former Mayor Nicholas Blase was honored at a retirement dinner in October. The 50 inch television he received as a gift was donated to the Niles Senior Center



## Winter Fire Safety Tips

The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

### Furnace Heating

- It is important that you have your furnace inspected to insure that it is in good working condition.
- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
- Change furnace filters on a regular basis.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

### Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

- Be sure the stove or fireplace is installed properly.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces.
- Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out.
- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package.
- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home.

### Electric Heaters

- If you are using an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit.
- Extension cords are for TEMPORARY USE ONLY. When not in use UNPLUG it.
- Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Be sure to allow at least 36" between the space heater and combustible materials.
- Make sure you turn the space heater off before you go to bed.

Contact the Niles Fire Department at 588-6800 if you have any questions on home fire safety.

## Be Safe and Feel Safe



With the approach of winter, the holiday and of course the shopping season, the Niles Police Department would like to assure you that you can feel secure while commuting, driving, residing, visiting and shopping in the Village of Niles. Here are crime prevention suggestions for your safety:

- Be extremely careful of strangers.
- Be in complete control of your wallet, purse, bags, etc.
- Lock your vehicle and place valuables in the trunk.
- Park in illuminated areas whenever possible.
- Pay special attention to your children, the elderly and their whereabouts when shopping.
- Drive carefully in poor weather and fasten your seat belt.
- Call the Police if you need assistance and/or service.

For ALL Emergency Calls: **DIAL 911**

For ALL Non-Emergency Calls: Dial 847-588-6500, 847-588-6510 or 847-588-6512. The Niles Police Department wishes you a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year.

### Domestic Cats

#### Feral or Stray



There are three different types of cats roaming the streets:

- 1) **Feral cat** are born on the street and do not like to interact with humans at all, they are afraid;
- 2) **Semi-feral cats** are either born on the street or once were house pets and they do tolerate some human contact because they have grown accustomed to certain people always being around them; and
- 3) **Stray cats** are typically cats that are house pets that are now on the streets.

There are approximately 60 million cats living on the streets and they are able

to sometimes produce two litters a year. A litter can range from 2-8 kittens with the average being 4-6. Within 4 years you can have over 2,000 cats living in the area!

If you are a person that regularly feeds cats or just a person that is concerned about the health of the animals and their growing numbers, just know that the Animal Control Department is trying to help out as many people as possible.

If you have questions about what to do, please contact Animal Control Officer Peter Babikan at 847/588-6508.

## Snow and Ice Control

### How you can assist with Snow Removal Efforts

Not long after the last snowflake fell this year, 3,550 tons of salt for the 2006/2007 winter season were ordered, plows were repaired, cleaned and repainted, and salt spreaders were serviced. Additionally, raised sewers that might damage plow equipment were lowered to preferred levels. Being prepared has helped the department be able to respond to snow emergencies at a moments notice with equipment ready to go. As soon as the snow falls, the Village stands ready with its snow fighting fleet and the best deicing products available. However, residents can still help us in our snow removal efforts by remembering these items:

**After a 1 Inch Snowfall** - Parking is prohibited on either side of a primary roadway or a designated "Snow Route" until snow removal is complete. A "Snow Route" is any primary roadway that receives immediate attention, such as Milwaukee Ave. or Dempster St. Residents living on snow routes are advised to utilize their garages as much as possible during the winter to

allow for easier access of snow removal equipment.

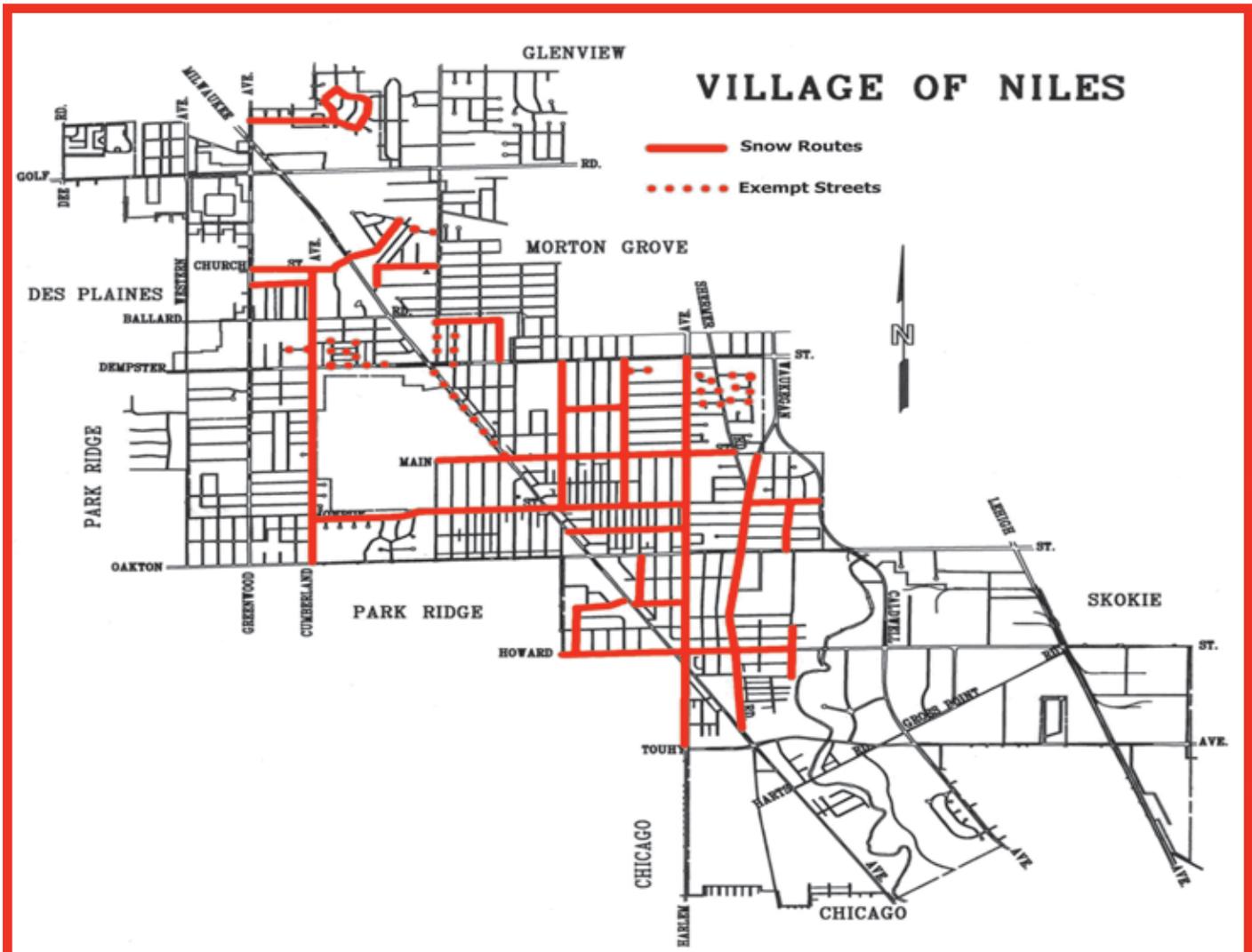
**After a 3 Inch Snowfall** - Parking is prohibited on the odd numbered side of all Village streets (excluding snow routes and exempt streets) for 24 hours after the snow stops, or until the street is plowed. The same applies for the even side of the street during the next 24 hours.

**Exemptions** - Some streets are exempt from snow parking bans because driveway parking is not available.

**Removing Driveway Snow** - Don't shovel snow from your driveway onto the street. This can lead to accidents and will only require additional trips from the snow plow. Plus, it's against the law.

**Driving During Plowing Operations** - Keep your distance from plow trucks. These vehicles are fully loaded and driving under adverse conditions. Stopping distances due to the load of salt and slippery conditions are increased, so increase your distance from the snow removal equipment as well. Also, salt is distributed from the rear of the vehicle, another reason to keep your distance.

Snow routes and exempt streets are shown below.





# Village of Niles Resident Storm Water Survey



Please complete this survey and drop it off at any Village facility, fax to 847-588-8051, email it to [scv@vniles.com](mailto:scv@vniles.com) or mail it to "Survey", 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, IL 60714. Survey available online at [www.vniles.com](http://www.vniles.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you lived at this address? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Has storm water ever flooded your property?  Yes  No

3. If Yes what were the limits of the flooding? In Yard  Yes  No  
(Check all that apply) In Street  Yes  No  
In House  Yes  No

4. In the last ten years, how many times has your home flooded?  
 1 time  2 times  3 times  4 times  5 or more times

5. Can you recall the month and year of any stormwater flooding events?

Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

6. When did the worst stormwater flooding event occur? Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

7. After the storm, how long did water stand in:  
Your home:  4 hours  12 hours  1 day  2 days or more  
Streets:  4 hours  12 hours  1 day  2 days or more  
Yard:  4 hours  12 hours  1 day  2 days or more

8. Are storm drains or ditches located on your property?  Yes  No

9. Have you ever observed storm drains overflowing by your home?  Yes  No

10. Do you have a sump pump?  Yes  No

11. Where does the sump pump discharge?  Yard  Sewer

Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

12. Do you have a combination sanitary and storm water sewer?  Yes  No  Don't know

13. Have you experienced sanitary sewer backups (through drain, toilet, etc)?  Yes  No

14. Do you employ any of the following combination sewer backup methods?  
 Floor Drain Plug  Standpipe  Overhead Sewer  Flood Control System

15. During this last flood on September 12 – 14, 2008, what area of your home flooded?  
 No Flooding  Crawl Space  Basement  First Floor  Garage

16. How did the flood water enter your home?  
 Sewer Drain  Door  Window  Cracks in Walls  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. How deep was the water in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

**\* USE THE BACK OF THIS SHEET TO DESCRIBE YOUR DRAINAGE PROBLEMS \***

tear along perf

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# FAMILY FITNESS SPECIAL



Fit  
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Promo  
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**ALL** CHILDREN'S ONE MONTH MEMBERSHIPS ARE **FREE**  
WITH THE PURCHASE OF  
ANY **NEW** ADULT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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987 Civic Center Dr.  
Niles, Illinois 60714  
[www.nilesfitness.com](http://www.nilesfitness.com)



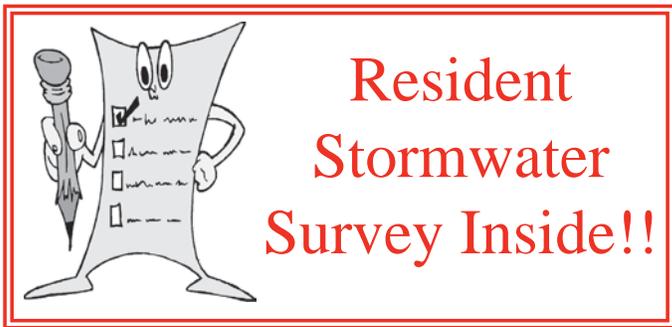
Terms & Conditions Apply

Offer Valid December 1-31, 2008

Winter 2008/2009

[www.vniles.com](http://www.vniles.com)

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**Complete the Enclosed Stormwater Survey**

The Village of Niles requests your input through the enclosed Resident Stormwater Survey. The survey may be faxed to 847-588-8051, emailed to scv@vniles.com, mailed to "Survey", 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, IL 60714, or dropped off at any Village facility. The survey may also be downloaded from www.vniles.com.

**Post-Flood Outreach to Vulnerable Residents  
Reach Out to Your Neighbors**

Vulnerable residents (elderly, handicapped and/or special need) need to discover any problems with furnaces and or heaters that may have been damaged during the recent flood before the cold weather arrives. We ask that residents reach out to their vulnerable neighbors to see if their furnaces or heaters are working properly. In addition, it would be wise to check if they have registered with FEMA for disaster assistance before the December 2nd deadline.



Village of Niles  
1000 Civic Center Drive  
Niles, Illinois 60714



**Deadline To Register for Flood Relief**  
*December 2, 2008*

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reminds homeowners, renters, businesses and non-profit organizations that the deadline to submit for disaster relief is December 2, 2008.

Residents who have registered with FEMA have been very pleased with the responsiveness of this agency and how quickly disaster assistance checks were issued. Register with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-3362 (1-800-462-7585 TTY) or visiting them online at www.fema.gov.

Those who require additional assistance may also visit the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) located at 1486 Miner Street in Des Plaines. Services include:

- Guidance regarding disaster recovery;
- Clarification of any written correspondence received;
- Housing assistance and rental resource information;
- Answers to questions and referrals to agencies that may provide further assistance;
- Status of applications being processed by FEMA;
- U.S. Small Business Administration program information;
- Disaster loan applications;
- Staff to explain the application process as well as help individuals and business owners complete their application; and
- Information from representatives of other agencies.

Residents who visit the DRC should bring identification, social security number, insurance information, proof of address and contact phone numbers in order to help speed up the assistance process.

Failure to contact FEMA by phone, internet or in person at the DRC could preclude you from receiving any federal assistance.

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