

Focus on Niles Newsletter



Spring 2009 Issue

Niles Residents Taxed Less

The survey below was obtained 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 we will continue to do everything we can to keep the cost of running government as reasonable as possible.

Revenues Received From The Average Home In One Year

Community	County	Vehicle License	Dog License	Garbage Charge	Yard Waste Charge	Res. Water Bill	Village Sewer Charge	Total Property Tax	Total Direct Payments
Mt. Prospect	Cook	\$36.00	N/A	\$75.00	\$27.00	\$436.50	\$201.62	\$531.00	\$1307.12
Des Plaines	Cook	\$30.00	\$3.00	\$218.04	In with garbage total	\$418.07	\$90.21	\$488.80	\$1248.12
Arlington Hts.	Cook	\$30.00	\$12.00	\$139.68	\$12.00	\$398.83	\$36.86	\$453.20	\$1082.57
Elk Grove	Cook/D	\$20.00	\$4.00	\$206.64	\$15.00	\$446.20	\$126.10	\$229.40	\$1047.34
Downers Grove	Dupage	0	N/A	\$296.40	\$34.20	\$370.54	None	\$223.60	\$924.74
Park Ridge	Cook	\$40.00	\$10.00	0	0	\$427.78	\$22.68	\$317.20	\$817.66
Schaumburg	Cook/D	\$20.00	\$4.00	\$169.44	0	\$496.85	\$97.97	0	\$788.26
Palatine	Cook	\$25.00	\$6.00	0	0	\$295.39	\$55.29	\$379.68	\$761.36
Niles	Cook	\$25.00	0	0	\$24.00	\$407.40	0	\$251.20	\$707.60
MEAN		\$30.00	\$4.00	\$188.04	\$12.00	\$418.07	\$72.75	\$317.20	\$924.74

Village of Niles
1000 Civic Center
Niles, Illinois 60714

Acting Mayor
Robert M. Callero
mayor@vniles.com

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Consolidated General Election

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Register to Vote by March 10: In-Person (bring a photo ID and proof of residency) or request a Mail-In Application. To vote, 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 the election.

Early Voting-March 16 through April 2: Vote early at designated locations throughout Cook County without having a reason or excuse (bring a valid state-issued photo ID).

Absentee Voting: To vote absentee you must, by law, have a reason why you cannot make it to your polling place on Election Day and request an Absentee Ballot Application.

First day absentee ballot applications are accepted in the Cook County Clerk's office is **February 26**, and the last day voted mail absentee ballots can be postmarked for acceptance by the Clerk's office is **April 2**.

To request forms or for any additional information contact:

- The Village Clerk's office (847) 588-8003 (1000 Civic Center Drive - 2nd Floor)
- All Cook County Clerk's offices (312) 603-0906
Online at www.voterinfolnet.com

YOU can make a difference -



Niles Teen Center
 373 Golf Mill Center
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.

For more information and a list of spring programs visit the Niles Teen Center on the web at www.NilesTeenCenter.org.

Shop Niles First

When you shop at local businesses, you support community services, police, fire, recreation, jobs and growth!

U.S. Census Bureau Job Opportunities

Be a part of the Census Team



- Earn good pay
- Get paid weekly
- Work flexible hours
- Receive paid training
- Be reimbursed for authorized mileage & expenses
- Help your community have a successful 2010 Census

Apply today!

Call to schedule an appointment to take the test and apply for a job. For more information, call (866) 861-2010 or visit the U.S. Census Bureau on the web at: www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Energy Efficiency for your Business



ComEd is offering incentives under the ComEd Smart Ideas for your Business Program to facilitate the implementation of cost-effective energy-efficiency improvements for commercial & industrial customers.

The Niles Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Village of Niles and ComEd is hosting a seminar on this program on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.. The seminar will be held at the Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton Street, and is open to all Niles Businesses.

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

Prescription Discount Card Program



Trustee Louella Preston attended the National League of Cities Conference which announced a new Prescription Discount Card Program. This free prescription discount card program assists residents coping with the high cost of prescription drugs.

The Prescription Discount Card Program offers average savings of 20% off the regular price of prescription medications and can be used at participating retail pharmacies throughout Niles.

The prescription discount card may be used by all Niles residents and has no restrictions based on age, income level or existing health coverage. There are no enrollment fees and there are no limits on how many times the card is used.

Trustee Preston is encouraging Niles residents without health insurance, a traditional pharmacy benefit plan or have prescriptions not covered by insurance to apply for this Prescription Discount Card Program. Residents of Niles can participate in the Cook County program. To obtain a Prescription Discount Card, contact the Niles Family Services at (847) 588-8460.

Take Advantage of Tuition-Free Job Training at Oakton Community College



Tuition for up to 12 credit hours is waived for eligible participants. Earn a certificate in one of these designated programs:

- A+ Computer Diagnostic Specialist
- Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Operation and Programming Preparation
- Green Marketing Preparation
- Microsoft Project Management Preparation
- Pharmaceutical Preparation

Offered only to residents of Oakton Community College District 535 who have become **unemployed from a full-time job** since January 1, 2008. For additional information contact Career Services at (847) 635-1735.

Zoning Seminar for Niles Municipal Officials

On January 5, 2009, the Village of Niles sponsored a “Zoning Seminar for Niles Municipal Officials” in the Council Chambers located at Village Hall. The seminar was intended for the Village Board, the Commissioners of the Niles Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), the Village Attorney and selected staff. Acting Mayor Robert M. Callero, Trustee Louella Blaine Preston and Trustee Andrew Przybylo were present from the Village Board. Acting Chairman Alan Weel, and Commissioners George Alpogianis, Karen Dimond, Thomas Kanelos and Tom Surace were present from the Niles Plan Commission and ZBA.

Ronald S. Cope, renowned zoning attorney, and author of Zoning Handbook for Municipal Officials with Suggested Forms, 2008 Edition presented the three hour seminar. Mr. Cope reviewed the highlights of the Village of Niles Zoning Code and made suggestions for improvement in light of the new Illinois zoning law that became effective January 1, 2009. The new law states that any zoning hearing must be given due process and satisfy due process requirements.

Mr. Cope reminded everyone that neither the Mayor nor Trustees could ask questions during a zoning hearing. Their turn for questions comes at the Village of Niles Board Meeting. The ZBA is responsible for findings of fact that become part of the official record. It was suggested that in complicated cases, a court reporter be employed as a tape recording is not always audible.

Acting Mayor Callero has indicated he will be appointing a committee to begin a Comprehensive Plan in the near future. For further information and questions, please contact Charles Ostman, Director of Community Development, at (847) 588-8040 or email cfo@vniles.com.



Pictured (left to right): Commissioner Alpogianis, Trustee Przybylo, Attorney Cope, Chairman Weel, Acting Mayor Callero and Trustee Preston.

**Niles Senior Center
Activities**

7th Annual Rummage Sale

Everyone is invited to the 7th Annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Don't miss this great opportunity to get your gift giving and shopping done. Browse many vendors, check out great raffle prizes or just stop in for the Famous Senior Center Hot Dog Lunch. The rummage sale is a great place for the whole family, there will be games for the kids and fun for all.

If you are interested in reserving a table please call Jaymi at (847) 588-8420. A \$5.00 donation is required when reserving a table. All proceeds go to the Niles Food Pantry.



Niles Family Services is Here to Help!

For 40 years, Niles Family Services has been reaching out to families who are in crisis. Whether it's a worrisome phone call from a school, an unexpected job loss, an aging parent who's becoming increasingly confused ~ Niles Family Services is here to lend a helping hand.



We're proud to be able to report our success - over 90% of our clientele report that they are able to deal more effectively with their problems. Our focus on our community enables us to respond to local needs and to shape positive visions for the future.

If you or a family member are experiencing any distress please contact Niles Family Services at (847)588-8460. Our staff is eager to help in anyway we can.

Grief Workshop to Offer Support
Three Session Series to Begin in April

Beginning Wednesday, April 8, the Niles Senior Center will hold a three session grief workshop for Niles residents touched by the loss of a loved one. The workshops will meet on Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will focus on the following areas:

Workshop #1, April 8

“What has happened to me?” Trying to make sense of the many feelings you experience after the loss of a spouse or loved one is a difficult process.

Workshop #2, April 15

“Dealing with expectations of ourselves and others.” Dealing with other people's feelings and concerns can raise anxiety, especially if we feel that people want us to “move on” or “be happy again.”

Workshop #3, April 22

“Adjusting to a different lifestyle.” At this workshop we will explore the stress of living alone and ways to adjust to new social roles and

responsibilities.

Please call Bev Wessels, LCSW, ACSW, or Melanie Amin, LCSW, at (847) 588-8420 for more information. Enrollment is necessary for this workshop, which is offered at no cost.



Paint-A-Thon
22nd year

Once again volunteers will participate in a multi-community project designed to paint the exterior of homes that are owned and occupied by person 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.



Are you or someone you know celebrating your 90th birthday or older this year?

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 14th at 11:30 a.m.

If you or someone you know, is 90 years of age or older please contact the Niles Senior Center.



Electrical Safety in the Home

There were 12 structure fires in the village last year. The vast majority of these fires occurred in residences. We feel that the most effective tool available to combat these fires is prevention.

Safety Tips

- Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- In homes with small children, unused wall sockets and extension-cord receptacles should have plastic safety covers.
- Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a qualified electrician so you do not have to use extension cords.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for plugging an appliance into a receptacle outlet.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them checked by an electrician.
- When possible avoid the use of "cube taps" and other devices that allow the connection of multiple appliances into a single receptacle.
- Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn and use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.

Source: NFPA's "Home Structure Fires Involving Electrical Distribution or Lighting Equipment," by John R. Hall, Jr., March 2008.

If you have any questions about this issue or any other fire safety issues, please contact the Niles Fire Department at (847) 588-6800.

Beware - It's Solicitation Season

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

Animal Proofing Your Home for Spring

The warm weather is approaching which means that opossums, raccoons, skunks and most other wildlife will be awakening from their winter slumber. There are a few simple steps to take to animal proof your house:



- Attic Exhaust Fan Opening: Cover bottom of fan from inside attic with hardware cloth. Also, staple hardware cloth over the top of the cover on the roof.
- Chimney Stack: Install a commercial chimney cap yourself or contact a chimney sweep to install it for you.
- Weak or rotted areas in roof, soffit or fascia: Make necessary repairs as soon as possible; 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" 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 1-2" above bottom of deck.

Checking these popular entry points that animals use and then making any necessary repairs should greatly reduce the chance of an animal invading your home. If you have any questions, please contact Animal Control Officer Babikan at (847) 588-6508.

Milwaukee Avenue Construction



The Village of Niles will be embarking on two grant projects this summer that will result in a noticeable improvement to Milwaukee Avenue. While they are two separate projects, the construction schedule was coordinated to reduce inconvenience to motorists using Milwaukee Avenue, as well as to reduce overall costs.

The first project will resurface and widen portions of Milwaukee Avenue from Neva Avenue to the southern Village limits at Albion Avenue. In addition to the resurfacing, new curbs and gutters, sidewalks and watermain will be installed as part of this project. While lane closures will occur during construction times, access to businesses and residences along this stretch of Milwaukee

Avenue will be provided at all times.

The second project will provide streetscape enhancements to Milwaukee Avenue, making it more pedestrian friendly and eye appealing. Residents will see noticeable improvements at the Milwaukee Avenue intersections of Harts Road, Touhy Avenue and Waukegan Road. Major improvements include crosswalk enhancements, pedestrian lighting, pedestrian plazas and landscape improvements to name a few.

Work should begin in mid-April (weather permitting) and last through November. As we are aware these improvements may impact your daily commute, the Village of Niles will work to minimize short term effects, so residents can enjoy long term benefits of an enhanced roadway. Further information and project updates can be obtained at the Village's website www.vniles.com.



VILLAGE OF NILES
PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT
2009 Calendar of Events and Information

Find information on leaf and branch pickup, snow removal, garbage and recycling collection, services performed, and much, much more!

Check for Changes

Recently, the 2009 calendar of events from the Niles Public Services was mailed to each resident. As dates for the Concert Series at the Leaning Tower of the YMCA are subject to change, residents are encouraged to check the Village's website or call (847) 588-8000 to confirm an event's status.

Branch Pickup Service

The Village of Niles free branch pickup program runs through September and is provided to residents once a month according to the following schedule:

- For residents living **East of Milwaukee Avenue**, branch pickup is: April 6th, May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, August 3rd and September 8th (Monday Holiday).
- For residents living **West of Milwaukee Avenue**, branch pickup is: March 30th, April 27th, May 26th (Monday Holiday), June 29th, July 27th, August 31st and September 28th.

Please keep in mind:

- Place branches at the curb on the first Monday of each month 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 attached dirt will be accepted.
- Yard waste bags/stickers are not needed for this.
- Larger sized logs and branches are not allowed.

Remember, branches placed at the curb 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.



Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels

On a rainy day, water gushes out of gutters and runs off paved areas in sheets. If this stormwater flows over the ground, it can pick up pollutants like oil or fertilizer, and erode soil or cause flooding. There are two simple things you can do to conserve water, while reducing stormwater runoff and the problems it causes: buy a rain barrel or buy a rain garden.

Rain barrels may be purchased from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). Rain barrels are low-cost water conservation devices that can be used to reduce runoff volume and for smaller storm events, delay and reduce the peak runoff rates. By storing and diverting runoff from impervious areas such as roofs and driveways, these devices reduce the undesirable impacts of runoff that would otherwise flow swiftly into receiving waters and contribute to flooding, pollution and erosion problems. The fifty-five gallon barrels from MWRD fit in an average vehicle trunk. Contact MWRD for more information at: (312) 751-5600.



Green Solutions for Stormwater

Rain gardens are specially designed shallow depressions in the ground with native plants. The middle part of the garden holds several inches rainwater for about six hours after a storm, giving the soil and plants time to slowly soak it up. This retention and filtration basin is a creative way to beautify an area while managing stormwater runoff from roofs, slopes or paved areas. The Niles Community Rain Garden built in cooperation with Coca-Cola is located just west of the police station at the corner of Touhy and Milwaukee Avenues.



Learn more about rain barrels and rain gardens at www.vniles.com.

Helpful Household Tips from the Environmental Committee

- If your dishwasher or washer and dryer have a delayed start or timer, set them to go on after midnight when electric rates are lower. When demand is high, the rates are high. When demand is low, the rates are low. The demand is lowest late at night and early morning.
- Use reusable plastic or glass containers to store food in the refrigerator. Be careful, however, do not microwave your leftovers in containers that are not clearly marked for microwave use.
- Buy in bulk whenever you can. Save the original dispenser bottles to be refilled. For example, you can purchase a large container of glass cleaner, liquid hand soap, or detergent and refill the small dispensers.

The Quickest Way to Go Green and Save Money

It is a simple concept: wasting less energy saves money

Here are four easy ways to be more efficient and save money:

- Plug leaks. Seal and caulk your windows and door, and insulate your pipes and ducts.
- Switch to compact fluorescent. They pay for themselves in energy savings in a few months.
- Install a programmable thermostat. Stop wasting electricity when you're not home.
- Buy Energy Star. The label lets you know that the product uses less juice.



For one day only on Saturday, May 2nd from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Niles residents are encouraged to drop off their used electronics, furniture and clothing for the **First Annual Spring Cleaning Reuse & Recycling Event** sponsored by the Village of Niles Environmental Practices Committee and Nextend.

The Village of Niles Environmental Committee, Habitat for Humanity Restores and WINGS will be on site in the Golf Mill Shopping Center parking lot to collect the following items: Electronics such as computers, monitors, cell phones, PDA's. Clothing and gently used furniture, household products such as kitchen and bathroom fixtures, doors, windows, and light fixtures.

Please contact the Golf Mill Management Office at (847) 699-1070 for a list of items that are acceptable.

YOUR
FAMILY VISIT
IS
ON US!



RESIDENT APPRECIATION SPECIAL

FAMILY DAY PASS

MAKE WAVES IN OUR POOL
SLIP DOWN OUR SLIDE
SHOOT HOOPS IN OUR GYM
RUN LAPS ON OUR TRACK
GET FIT, TONE UP AND WORKOUT

TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

(LIMIT 4 PERSONS)

OFFER EXPIRES: MARCH 31, 2009

Niles Family Fitness Center
987 Civic Center Dr.
Niles, Illinois 60714
www.nilesfitness.com



Village of Niles
1000 Civic Center Drive
Niles, Illinois 60714

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