

Focus on Niles Newsletter



*Shop Locally
This Holiday Season*

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE ~ 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 in 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 Service 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 Service 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 businesses 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,

Mayor Bob

Trustee Louella B. Preston

Trustee Andrew Przybylo

Trustee Kim S. Biederman

Trustee Joe Lo Verde

Trustee Alan Weel

Trustee Jim Hynes

Village Clerk Marlene J. Victorine

Village Manager George R. Van Geem

Mayor
Robert M. Callero
mayor@vniles.com

Trustees

Kim S. Biederman
ksb@vniles.com

James T. Hynes
jth@vniles.com

Joe LoVerde
jvl@vniles.com

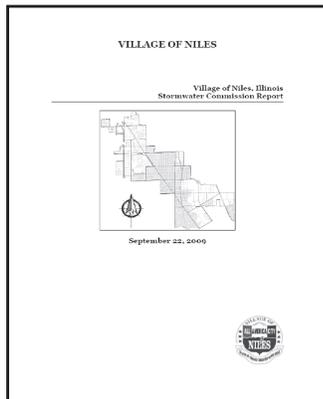
Louella B. Preston
lbp@vniles.com

Andrew Przybylo
atp@vniles.com

Alan Weel
adweel@vniles.com

Village Manager
George Van Geem
gvg@vniles.com

Village Clerk
Marlene J. Victorine
mv@vniles.com



Stormwater Commission Report

The 111-page Stormwater Commission Report presented to the Village Board on September 22, 2009 is the result of eight months of work by the special Commission appointed by Mayor Callero. The Commission accomplished this initial task through a homeowner survey, a community workshop, hundreds of site visits, and countless one-on-one discussions with homeowners.

The report goes well beyond the impact of the September 2008 flood and provides a comprehensive look at more "persistent" stormwater conditions experienced by homeowners that occur during less intense storm events. The report provides recommendations for flood mitigation and also addresses a number of successful efforts by the Commission to address identified regional stormwater issues.

Homeowners are encouraged to view the Stormwater Commission Report at www.vniles.com and monitor updates provided under the Hot Link "Stormwater Commission."

Village Welcomes New Trustee

Village Trustee Jim Hynes Joins the Team



Trustee James T. Hynes was appointed to the Village Board on September 22, 2009. Trustee Hynes and his wife Mary Ann raised their family in Niles and have been residents since 1977. As Trustee, he is a member of the Finance Committee, the Building and Zoning Committee, and is the Village’s representative on the Board of the Regional Emergency Dispatch (RED) Center for Fire services. Most recently, Mr. Hynes served as the Chairman to the Niles Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals and as Commissioner of the Niles Park District since 1997.

Mr. Hynes has been an attorney for over 34 years and is currently an Adjunct Professor of Law at both Loyola University Law School and the John Marshall Law School. Previously, Mr. Hynes had his own private law practice, and was also a partner at the firm of Hynes & Baird, served as Director of Government Affairs and Deputy General Counsel at Waste Management, Inc., and served as Chief of the Civil Division of the United States Attorney’s Office in Chicago. Mr. Hynes looks forward to the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees stating that “It means a lot to be able to do something for the community you enjoy, to make it better, to encourage other people to move here, to stay here and enjoy what our community has to offer.”

**International Taste of Niles
for the Benefit of
Sister Cities**

At the
White Eagle Banquets
6839 Milwaukee Ave., Niles

Date: Sunday, November 22, 2009
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, and don’t forget - food a plenty!



Admission (includes tasting of food):
Purchased before November 15th
\$13 per person; \$5 children (3 to 12 years)
Purchased at the Door
\$15 per person; \$5 children (3 to 12 years)

For more information, call the International Taste of Niles Information Line at 847-588-8449 or visit the Village of Niles website at www.vniles.com.
All proceeds will fund our programs for Sister Cities fostering peace & harmony among people!

Teen Center in Golf Mill Shopping Center

A Successful Grand-Reopening



The Niles Teen Center provides a welcoming, structured and safe environment for local teens to spend time with friends, receive homework assistance, and develop social skills. Also, the Teen Center

promotes community service, special activities, trips and educational programs. The Niles Teen Center welcomes all teens to join as a member and participate in Teen Center programs.

Winter programs include a Valentine's Day dance, 3 ski/snowboard trips, a Tai Chi workshop, a gingerbread house craft project, monthly educational speakers like Illinois State Representative Elaine Nekritz and Mayor Robert Callero and monthly movie nights.

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 Shopping Center, Entrance 6, off of Greenwood.



Milwaukee Avenue Update

June 2010 Completion Date Set

The Streetscape Beautification Plan and initial capital improvements unanimously approved by the Village Board in March of 2008 for the Milwaukee Avenue Corridor is currently under construction. This beautification work, paid for through an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grant, is tied to the Milwaukee Avenue road and watermain reconstruction project

also underway. (www.vniles.com for updates).

The Village was informed by the State of Illinois that the project should be completed by June 2010. In the meantime, **all lanes on Milwaukee Avenue will be open during the winter months.**

The following beautification work is planned for completion in June 2010:

- Improve crosswalk and intersection lights at Harts Rd and

Milwaukee Ave;

- Enhance the Veterans Memorial Waterfall Plaza;
- Improve crosswalk and intersection at Milwaukee/Touhy & Milwaukee/Waukegan;
- Install pedestrian lights and safety enhancements at the corners of Milwaukee/Touhy and Milwaukee/Waukegan
- Install new sidewalk from Albion Ave to Neva Ave; and
- Redesign bus shelters from Albion to Neva Avenue.

Census 2010

We Are Counting On You!

United States
Census 2010



Coming March 2010

The purpose of the census is to count every person living in the United States including people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and non-citizens. The U.S. Constitution mandates this head count every ten years. The population totals determine each state's Congressional representation, and affects funding in our community.

Look for a new short form questionnaire in your mailbox on April 1, 2010. Also, check out the website www.2010censusjobs.gov

to preview the Census Form and for 2010 Census job opportunities.

Key Dates

- March 2010 - Census forms are mailed to households.
- April 1, 2010 - National Census Day to send back your completed form.
- April to July 2010 - Census takers visit households that did not return a form.
- December 2010 - Census is delivered to the President.

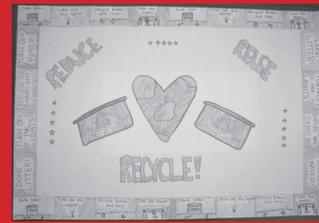
Environmental Committee

Poster Contest Winners

About 100 students from around the community participated in the Village Environmental Committee Poster Contest, and we are happy to share our first place winners!

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of the poster contest were awarded U.S. Savings Bonds at the November Village Board Meeting. The posters to the right are the Division One (K-2nd), Two (3rd-5th), and Three (6th-8th) 1st place winners.

Students were asked to create a poster depicting how they reduce, reuse, and recycle in their home.



Division Three Winner
Mimi Spert
St. John Brebeuf



Division Two Winner
Reem Habeeb
Washington



Division One Winner
Kareem Habeeb
Washington

Cleaner Refuse and Recycling Collection

Village Hauler Embraces Cleaner Burning Fuel

The community should soon breathe easier knowing that the Village of Niles continues to work towards cleaner air and a better environment.

This winter, the Village's refuse hauler Groot Industries will begin collecting resident and business refuse and recycling with cleaner vehicles fueled by compressed natural gas or CNG. These CNG vehicles are not only 80% cleaner than the average diesel truck, but they weigh 1,000 lbs. less causing less wear and tear on roadways, and they are 50% quieter.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), compared to vehicles fueled by conventional diesel and gasoline, natural gas vehicles can produce significantly lower amounts of harmful emissions such as nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and toxic and carcinogenic pollutants as well as the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

In April of this year, six diesel trucks in the Village's Public Services fleet were retrofitted with diesel oxidation catalysts (DOC) through a grant from Clean Air Counts. One DOC retrofit has reduced particulate matter (soot) emissions of an older diesel truck by 25 to 35%, and carbon dioxide emissions by 40 to 90%. Mayor Bob Callero stated, "We are very pleased that Groot Industries has decided to make this environmental leap. I anticipate the benefits will very much compliment the Village's many other green projects."



Refuse & Recycling Carts

Only \$27 A Year for Each

Do you find that a 35-gallon refuse can or 18-gallon red recycling bin is just not big enough for your garbage and recycling needs?

Through an agreement with Groot Industries, residents may rent one or more "heavy-duty" 65-gallon refuse and/or recycling carts for only \$2.25 per month for each or \$27 per year. The refuse and recycling carts are specially designed for the hydraulic lifts found on Groot Trucks.



Holiday Tree Collection

Put It To The Curb for Groot

Holiday trees are collected from the curb by Groot on the normal weekly refuse days. All stands, nails, ornaments and tinsel must be removed from the tree before placing it out for collection.

The Village Public Services Department does not collect or recycle holiday trees.

Tax Preparation for Qualifying Seniors

Offered the Beginning of February

As in past years, Niles Senior Center volunteers will provide qualifying seniors with assistance with their tax preparation. This free service will be offered from the beginning of February through mid April. Beginning on Wednesday, January 20th, seniors can call the Tax Appointment line (847-588-8440) between the hours of 9:00AM and 12:00Noon to schedule their appointment. Our first appointment day will be Wednesday, February 3rd.

Morning and afternoon appointments are available. Seniors can also make appointments for assistance with the Senior Freeze and Illinois Circuit Breaker applications. For more information about qualifications, please contact the Niles Senior Center (847-588-8420).



Caring for the Caregiver

Support Group Offers Hope

The number of Americans caregiving for ill family members indicates that it continues to be a major issue for many families. One survey by the National Family Caregivers Association revealed that more than one-quarter of the population is caring for a family member or friend.

Maybe you've met a neighbor, or friend, who is working to balance the emotional and physical demands of caring for a loved one affected by chronic

illness, poor health or cognitive changes. The caregiver might wonder if they're making the right decisions – while also worrying about how they can continue to take care of the person they love 24 hours a day.

The Niles Senior Center Caregiver Support Group is a source of practical and emotional help for caregivers. The group is facilitated by Senior Center social workers who can share coping tools, help relieve caregiver stress, and offer a safe place for caregivers to receive the support of other community members dealing with similar challenges.

Holiday Stress Is Back

We Are Here to Help



The holidays are upon us and for some people, even those who may appear to be happy, the holidays may be

a time of anxiety, stress, depression and loneliness. As a result some individuals become less productive, while others take on second jobs just to pay the extra holiday bills. This season can be especially difficult for people who have lost a loved one or close friend. Sometimes, an individual thinks they are under stress when they are actually struggling with another type of disorder.

To see if you are at risk for holiday stress or holiday blues, answer the following questions:

- Are you anxious about the upcoming holidays?
- Do you seem to run out of time?
- Are the holidays unusually painful due to the loss of a loved one?
- 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 lonely?
- Are your perceptions and expectations of the holidays realistic?
- Are finances a problem?

This year with the issues of finances and the fear of all that comes with a tight economy, it is especially important for all of us to look at the spiritual side of the holidays; i.e. family, good will, and most of all, concern for others. So enjoy the holidays for what they are, not so much for the gifts etc.

Remember, whatever issues a parent is either fearing or concerned about, your children will pick up on that feeling and act out the stress at home.

If you or anyone in your family is unable to cope during the holidays due to any of the above, please contact; Niles Family Service at 847-588-8460, we are here to help.

Fire Department Warning About Frostbite

This is Something Not to Mess Around With

There are two degrees of frostbite:

- Superficial frostbite that looks like grey or yellowish patches on the skin, especially, fingers, toes, face, ears but can occur on any exposed skin. The first symptoms are usually numbness or itching and prickly pain. The skin remains soft but becomes red and flaky after it thaws.
- Deep or Severe Frostbite looks like waxy and pale skin and feels cold, hard and solid to the touch. The areas turn blue or purple when thawing and large blisters may appear when the area warms up.

What to do if you suspect frostbite:

- Get out of the cold and to a warm place.
- Seek medical attention immediately.
- Warm affected area with a warm body part.
- Remove any tight clothing to increase circulation.
- If affected area is part thawed, put in warm water.
- Have the victim drink warm fluids to increase circulation and warm the body - no caffeine or alcohol.
- NEVER rub or massage the affected area and never put snow or ice on the frostbite. The area can be protected with a bandage and aloe vera cream.

If you have any questions about frostbite or any other fire or ems issues, call the Niles Fire Department at 847-588-6800.

Police Department Joins Nixle Service

A Way to Keep In Touch with the Community



The Niles Police Department is now using Nixle, a web based communications service that

will allow the Department to publish public-safety alerts, information, advisories, reminders, and last minute cancellations to residents who register. Nixle currently delivers information to consumers over their cell phones (SMS text messaging), emails (computers and smart phone devices), and simple web access at www.nixle.com.

How do you register for Nixle to receive messages from the Niles Police Department? It is very simple, go to this link:

<http://local.nixle.com/register/>

Fall Clean-Up for Clunkers

Have a Junk Car Towed Away



Do you want to avoid receiving tickets for unsightly vehicles? Do you need to have a junk car towed away?

The Village of Niles will provide free towing for Niles residents as part of our Village Fall Clean-Up.

The requirements are:

1. You must have title or bill of sale for vehicle
2. The vehicle cannot be filled with trash

To arrange for towing, call Officer Terranova at 847-588-6539

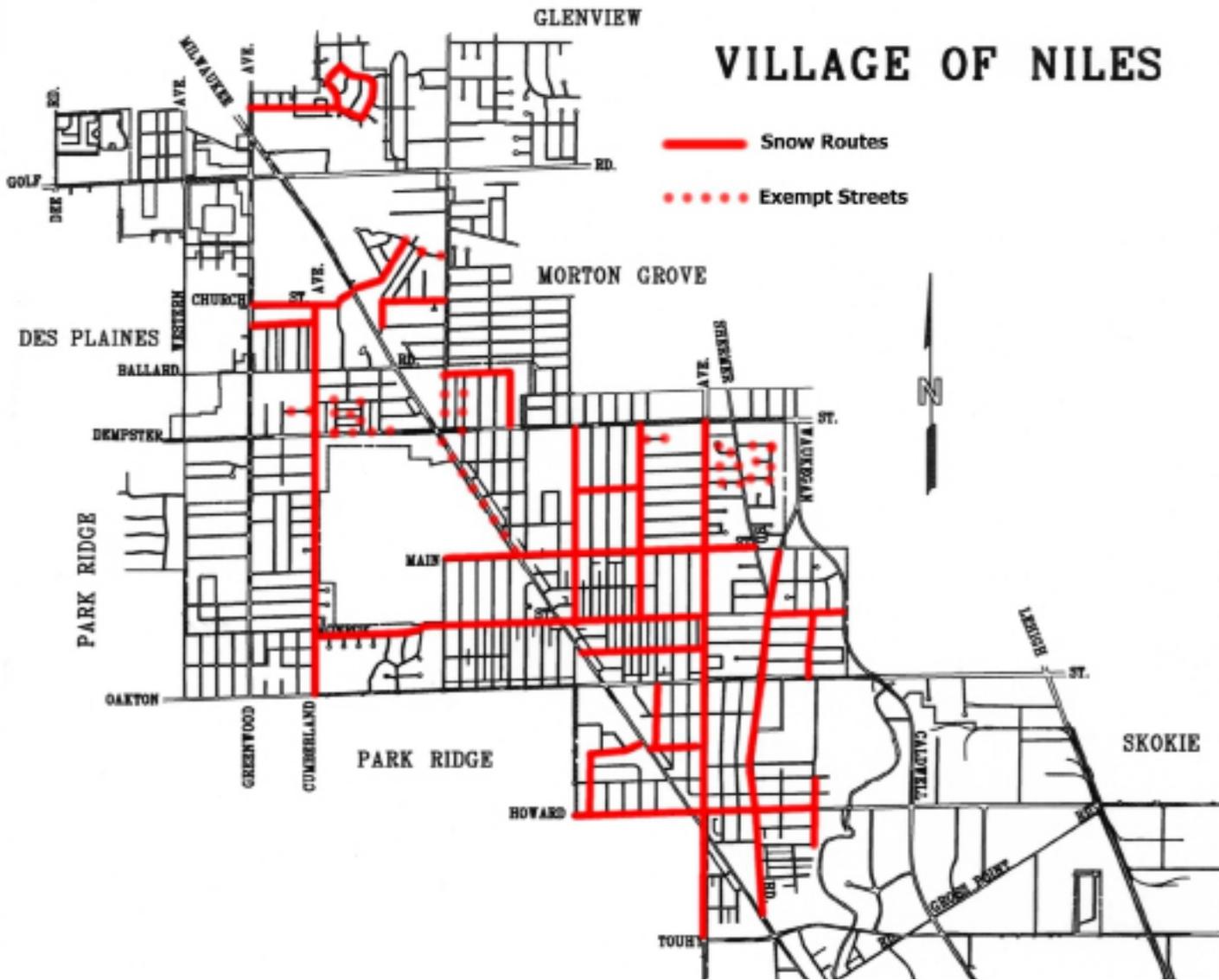
Ticket Amnesty Program Ended October 31, 2009

Individuals who have outstanding tickets face getting the boot or towed



If an individual has 6 or more unpaid municipal ordinance tickets on their vehicle, they are eligible to be towed or have their vehicle immobilized with a Vehicle Immobilization Device or "boot."

Before an individual can retrieve their vehicle or have it freed from the boot, the vehicle owner must pay for towing or immobilization device removal and pay all related fines and unpaid tickets. A payment plan may be set up between the Village of Niles and the offender for the fines only. If an offender fails to make a payment, the vehicle will be placed back on the immobilization list. For more information, please contact the Niles Police Department at 847-588-6500.



Winter Parking Restrictions

Know How to Assist with Snow Removal Efforts

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 use their garages during the winter to allow for access by snow plows.

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, its 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 above.

Village of Niles
1000 Civic Center Drive
Niles, Illinois 60714

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Chicago, Illinois 606

**ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

THIS HOLIDAY KEEP HEALTHY AND FIT



**FREE
ENROLLMENT**

**\$20 OFF
TOTAL
PURCHASE**

ON ALL NEW ADULT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS



www.nilesfitness.com

987 Civic Center Dr. Niles, Illinois 60714

847-588-8400

Terms and Conditions Apply

Offer Expires: December 31, 2009