

Focus on Niles

Spring 2013 Issue

Village of Niles, Illinois

www.vniles.com

A Message From Mayor Robert M. Callero

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Dear Fellow Citizens of Niles,

This will be the last time that I address you in the Focus. This Spring I plan to retire as the newly elected Mayor takes office.

It has been a pleasure serving you and this great Village as Mayor, Trustee and on the Police and Fire Pension Boards for the last 29 years. However, now is the time to spend more time with my other family - my wife Rita of 50 years, our 5 children and 8 grandchildren. We are very lucky to have them living within a short driving distance of our Niles home.

During my administration as Mayor, we have accomplished so much to move Niles forward. Due to one of the worst economic downturns in our lifetime, my first major challenge as Mayor was to cut expenses and maintain a balanced budget while not diminishing the services to which our community is accustomed. With the help of our Niles employees, we were able to bring new businesses into Niles, increasing sales tax receipts and enabling us to keep our real estate taxes as one of the lowest in the region. During my tenure, a majority of our main roads were repaired and repaved through government grants that also continue to pay for a multi-year streetscape beautification program for the Milwaukee Avenue corridor.

I am also very proud of our accomplishments with the 15-year stormwater plan - a program that took the work and cooperation of many Niles employees. Other accomplishments were the formation of an Ethics Code and Ethics Board, the Niles 2030 Comprehensive Plan, retention of the Niles Free Bus System, and a citizens' committee structure to encourage more citizen input. Also, during my watch, Bloomberg's Businessweek named Niles the Best Place in the U.S. to Raise Kids.

I want to thank my family for allowing me the time to lead such a great community. Thanks also to the Village Board of Trustees, the Village Managers, Department Heads, and all the Niles employees who must share in my accomplishments, because none would have happened without their extraordinary help. But most of all, I want to sincerely thank you, the Niles citizens, who had confidence in my leadership and allowed me to serve as your Mayor.

Thank you and remember to vote on April 9.

Sincerely,

Mayor Bob

Mayor Robert M. Callero



Niles...

#1 Place in the U.S. to Raise Kids

Businessweek.com



Village Clerk's Corner By Village Clerk Marlene Victorine

APRIL 9, 2013
CONSOLIDATED GENERAL ELECTION
Polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On The Ballot - Village Offices

Village President (Mayor) – four-year term
Three (3) Village Trustees – four-year terms

Three (3) Public Questions

Two (2) regarding Terms Limits for Village of Niles Elected Officials and one (1) regarding Municipal Electrical Aggregation

A referendum is a question placed on the ballot for voter consideration. On this ballot, there are two different questions regarding term limits for Village elected officials and one question regarding municipal electrical aggregation. Please read each question carefully and answer each one “yes” or “no”. In general, referenda either pass or don’t pass based on a majority of those voting on the question.

Register to Vote

You may register to vote now through March 12. To register, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old by Election Day, and be a resident of your precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day. Register in

person at the Village of Niles Administration Building and provide two forms of identification, at least one of which lists your current address; or download a voter registration application form online at www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/register tovote.

Early Voting

Monday, March 25 - Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Vote early at the Village of Niles Administration Building or at any of the Early Voting locations in suburban Cook County. Bring a valid, state- or government-issued photo ID. Find other Early Voting sites at www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/earlyvoting.

Vote by Mail

Voting by mail is a convenient way to cast your ballot if you are unable to get to your polling place on Election Day. Any registered suburban Cook County voter may apply for a mail ballot. It is no longer necessary to provide a reason. Applications are available from the Village Clerk’s Office or at www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/mailvoting.

Visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections to verify your voter registration status, find your polling place, and view a sample ballot. For any additional information contact the Village Clerk’s office at (847) 588-8000.

Electrical Aggregation Referendum Question on April 9 Ballot



On December 11, 2012, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution to authorize a referendum regarding municipal electrical aggregation. The referendum is one of three referenda on the April 9, 2013 ballot. Residents will be asked if the Village of Niles should have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program.

The purpose of this program is to combine (aggregate) electricity service for the residents and small

businesses in Niles in an attempt to save money on utility bills.

If the referendum passes on April 9, the Village may solicit bids on behalf of residents and small businesses for the supply of electricity. As part of the bid process, an option for green energy will be included. The bid rates would then be compared to ComEd’s rates at the time to determine if there will be a savings. If savings can be realized, then the Village may enter into an agreement with a company for the village-wide supply of electricity.

If a change is warranted, all residents and qualifying busi-

nesses would be notified by mail, and may then choose to opt-out of having their electricity supplier changed. The selected company will then supply the electricity to ComEd; electric bills will continue to come from ComEd.

An Informational Meeting open to the public on this topic is scheduled for Monday, March 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Niles Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive.

For additional information, visit www.vniles.com or contact Cathy at (847) 588-8009.



Clean Air Counts
 Improve Air Quality This Spring

In Your Home. When you use air-friendly products in your home, you not only help improve the region's smog problem, you improve indoor air quality, which affects your family's health. Ozone can cause health problems, especially for children and seniors. In warmer weather, ozone can limit our outdoor activities because it makes it harder to breathe. Ozone also damages trees, plants, and animals.

3 Simple Steps to Cleaner Air. Here are just a few ways that you can reduce your household's contribution to the formation of "smog" or ozone:

- Drive less and walk or bike whenever possible
- Purchase no- or low-VOC products
- Mow your lawn and fill your gas tank in the evening or cooler part of the day

Visit www.cleanaircounts.org



Niles Free Bus

"It takes you where you need to go."
Quarterly Courtesy Bus Riders
October 2012 through December 2012

Bus Route	Riders
411 Regular	24,765
411 Reverse	26,777
412 North Special	19,321
413 South Special	4,457
TOTALS	75,320



Dine-In Niles Program
 For Spring Dining Experience

The Dine-In Niles Program is in full swing. Participating card holders are enjoying a 10% discount at 47 diversely delicious Niles restaurants.

The program is designed to encourage residents to dine at our local restaurants. The 10% discount is an incentive to dine at your favorite Niles restaurant more frequently or try a new local restaurant. The unique feature of this program is that the discount is valid for one full year! The current program ends on August 31, 2013.

Residents are encouraged to check the Village's website at www.vniles.com for updates to the participating restaurant listing.

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

<i>168 Chinese Restaurant</i>	<i>Jersey Mike's Subs</i>
<i>Al's Beef</i>	<i>Just Like Home</i>
<i>Amici Restaurant</i>	<i>La Taudla Trattoria</i>
<i>Auntie Anne's Pretzels</i>	<i>Lone Tree Manor</i>
<i>Baja Fresh</i>	<i>Los Comales Mexican Rest.</i>
<i>Baker's Square Restaurant</i>	<i>Mango Restaurant</i>
<i>Barnaby's Pizza</i>	<i>Morrison Roadhouse</i>
<i>Bombay Chat</i>	<i>Mrs. Fields</i>
<i>Celli's Beef</i>	<i>Mykonos Restaurant</i>
<i>Chambers</i>	<i>Nancy's Pizza</i>
<i>Chasers Bar & Grill</i>	<i>Panda Express</i>
<i>Cheogajip Chicken & Pizza</i>	<i>Panera Bread Bakery - Cafe</i>
<i>Chicago Style Hotdogs</i>	<i>Papa John's Pizza</i>
<i>Chinese Inn Chop Suey</i>	<i>Pizza King</i>
<i>Dear Franks</i>	<i>Play Book Sports Bar</i>
<i>Du Re Bak Korean Restaurant</i>	<i>Riggio's Restaurant</i>
<i>Fluky's</i>	<i>Siam's House Restaurant</i>
<i>Gloria Jeans Coffee</i>	<i>Subway Sandwiches</i>
<i>Golf Mill Cafe</i>	<i>Tamarind Court Indian</i>
<i>Goodi's</i>	<i>Taco Burrito King</i>
<i>Gourmet Cajun & Grill</i>	<i>The Great Steak & Potato Co.</i>
<i>Graziano's Brick Oven Pizza</i>	<i>The White Eagle Restaurant</i>
<i>Himalayan Restaurant</i>	<i>Your Eatery Here</i>
<i>Your Eatery Here</i>	<i>Your Eatery Here</i>

Niles Senior Center

(847) 588-8420

Terrace and delivered weekdays by NSC volunteers. For more information please call (847) 588-8420.

**Annual Rummage Sale - Saturday, April 20
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**



RUMMAGE Bring your family, friends, and neighbors. Over 40 vendors! Raffles! \$2.00 hot dog lunch, while supplies last. OPEN TO EVERYONE!

Second Sense: Beyond Vision Loss. Various topics will be presented to help persons with low vision maintain their lifestyle. Registration is a MUST.

Where Did I Put It?
Friday, April 5 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Dining with Confidence
Friday, April 5 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Magnifier Madness
Friday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sew Easy
Friday, April 12, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Maintaining Your Lifestyle
Friday, April 26 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Slicing & Dicing
Friday, April 26, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

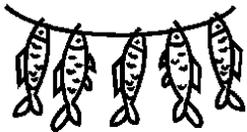
A Spring of Programs and Activity By Senior Center Director Kelly Mickle



Men's & Women's Golf Kick-Off.

The NSC Golf Leagues are having their meetings to kick-off the season. Refreshments served, raffles, and more! New participants are welcome! After the

meeting you can register for outings. Questions? Call Jaymi at (847) 588-8420.
Men's - Wednesday, April 3, 10:30 a.m.
Women's - Friday, May 3, 10:30 a.m.



Hooked on Fishing. All outings meet at 8:00 a.m. at the designated location. \$15M/\$20NM. Cost includes morning snack & juice, bait, and lunch. You must register at

least one week prior to the outing. You can register for any or all outings and get maps/directions at the NSC Front Desk. Friday mornings, once a month.



Meals-on-Wheels. The NSC coordinates a short-term Meals-on-Wheels program for Niles residents, age 60 and over, who are home bound and, due to illness or injury, are unable to prepare their own meals. This program requires a diet order

from your physician. Meals are prepared at Bethany

The Niles Teen Center

A Great Place to Meet, Learn, Play, and Participate



The Niles Teen Center, located inside of Golf Mill Mall, provides a welcoming, structured and safe environment for teens to spend time with friends, receive homework assistance, play games, and develop social skills. Also, the Niles Teen Center promotes community service opportunities, special activities and trips, and educational programs.

Spring programs include the monthly speaker series featuring award-winning author Josh Elder, trips to Laser Quest, Putting Edge and Rink Side Sports, our new teen book club with the Niles Library, our continuing girls social work group, monthly movie nights, arts and crafts projects, and the "Night in the Mall" Lock-In.

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 Mall.



Game tournaments at 3:00am during the "Night-in-the-Mall" Lock-In

Police Department

(847) 588-6500

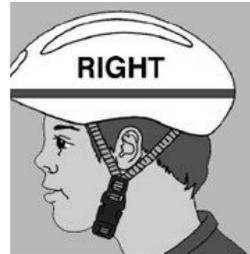
Bicycle Safety

By Sergeant Bob Tornabene

With Spring just around the corner, the Police Department wants to remind all residents about safety when using bikes and other things on wheels.

- If you ride bikes or other things on wheels, a helmet should be on your head with the chin straps fastened.
- Helmets protect your brain, the part of your body that lets you make good decisions and grow strong and healthy.

- Wear bright colors during daylight and reflective material after dark.
- Use Velcro, metal or rubber bands to keep loose pant legs out of the chain.
- One to a bike is the only safe way to ride. Take turns if you need to.
- When it's dark, it's time to go inside. Drivers can't see you when it's dark.
- Put your bike away in a safe place and ride again tomorrow.

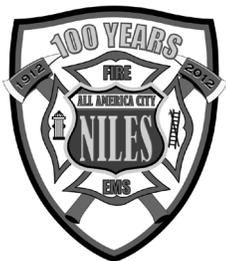


Fire Department

(847) 588-8098

Frequently Asked Questions

By Chief Steve Borkowski



Why does a fire engine or truck respond when an ambulance is called?

It is the Niles Fire Department's, and most other departments, policy to send an engine or truck on all possible life

threatening incidents. The firefighters are there to assist the ambulance paramedics with their equipment, patient care, and patient transportation. Most of these assist personnel are, or were, certified paramedics.

When I call for the fire department, why do other town's firefighters and paramedics respond?

There are times when all the Niles fire and EMS units are busy on other incidents. All of the suburban towns around Niles have mutual aid agreements in place to plan for this situation. There are times when Niles units are responding to other towns because their units are busy. These mutual aid agreements assist us in being more efficient in both our responses and our costs.

Why do I see the fire vehicles responding with lights and sirens, suddenly turn their lights off? Is this a way to avoid traffic?

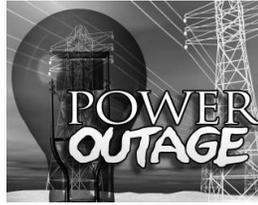
Emergency lights and sirens can only be used when responding to an emergency. Occasionally, another fire unit will arrive on the scene first and determine no additional units are necessary; this is then communicated by radio. At this time, the other responding units turn off their lights and sirens and continue with their daily scheduled duties.

What should I do when I am driving and an emergency vehicle, with its emergency lights activated, approaches?

State law dictates that drivers yield to emergency vehicles that have their emergency lights and siren activated. The fire department drivers are trained to pass on the left, if possible, when responding to an incident. Therefore, a driver should slow down, pull to the right, and stop. If pulling to the right isn't possible, then a driver should slow down and stop until the emergency vehicle passes. If stopping blocks the emergency vehicle, then proceed cautiously until you clear the emergency vehicle's route. Always proceed cautiously and use turn signals so the emergency vehicle drivers are aware of your intentions.

Have a safe and fire-free Spring.

ComEd Power Outage Your Calls to 1-800-Edison-I Matter



If you have an outage, it is very important for you to contact ComEd to report it immediately. The information you provide allows ComEd to better evaluate the power system for chronic issues and helps track outages in your area.

Here are ways that you can report outages:

Mobile Device: Text “OUT” Subscribers to Outage Alerts can quickly report an outage by texting “OUT” to 26633. You will also receive notifications when an outage has been reported at your address, and get ongoing updates as the status changes.

Mobile Device: Report in App. Use the free ComEd Mobile App to quickly report an outage from a smart phone device. The app will also provide notifications as the outage status is updated.

Online Account: Log In. Log in to your account to report your outage online. Your online account provides system status, the availability to report an outage, and ongoing status updates.

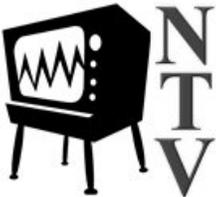
Visit www.comed.com

Building A New Home? Building Code Changes Approved

The Village Board of Trustees approved the 2012 International Building Code. Under this code, the one significant change to take note of is that all new residential dwellings will be required to have an automatic sprinkler system installed. This will not apply to additions and remodeling of existing single family dwellings.

For other significant changes to the 2012 codes please visit the Village of Niles website at vniles.com under the Community Development / Building Department.

NTV -Your Cable and Internet Channel



Looking for the last Village Board meeting or for information about Village services? You only have to go as far as your TV or your computer. NTV is the Village’s government channel found on Comcast Channel 6 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. NTV can also be accessed from

the Village’s web page at www.vniles.com/ NTV.

Messages about Village events, programs, community information, and announcements are shown throughout the day, every day. Village Board meetings are broadcast live on cable and on the Internet. These meetings are also replayed on Comcast Channel 6 and U-Verse Channel 99 twice daily at various times. You can access replays of meetings at any time on the Village’s NTV web page.

The Village’s NTV web page offers a library of current and previous Village Board meetings and hearings and programs like the 2012 Senior Center Variety Show. The NTV

library also offers a wide range of pre-recorded programs of past Village events, including 4th of July parades, an introduction to the Teen Center, Rain Garden videos, and more.

NTV is Niles news, information, and local government 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Look for NTV on cable or on the Internet. For more information about NTV, contact Village Hall at (847) 588-8000.

NTV Rebroadcast Schedule

Day	Time	Broadcast Type	Meeting Type
Monday	12:00PM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
	7:00PM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
Tuesday	10:00AM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
	7:00PM	Live or most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
Wednesday	9:00AM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
	7:00PM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
Thursday	12:00PM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
	9:00PM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
Friday	10:00AM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
Saturday	12:00AM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
	1:00PM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
Sunday	12:00AM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration
	1:00PM	Most recent recording	Board Meeting or Informal Consideration

Public Services

(847)588-7900

2013 Free Branch Pickup Service

Place your branches at the curb in the morning of the dates indicated below for pickup during that week.

For residents living EAST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE, branch pickup begins:

- Monday, April 1
- Monday, May 6
- Monday, June 3
- Monday, July 1
- Monday, August 5
- Tuesday, September 3 (Monday holiday)

For residents living WEST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE, branch pickup begins:

- Monday, March 25
- Monday, April 29
- Tuesday, May 28 (Monday holiday)
- Monday, June 24
- Monday, July 29
- Monday, August 26
- Monday, September 30

Remember: Branches will be picked up sometime during the designated week, not necessarily on the first day.

Please keep in mind:

- Yard waste bags or stickers are not required.
- Branches must be less than 10 inches in diameter.
- Branches must be tied in bundles no more than 18 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length (one person must be able to lift the bundle).
- No stumps, roots or attached dirt will be accepted.
- Larger logs and branches should be disposed of by a tree service or landscaper hired by the homeowner.

Free wood chips are available to residents. Call Public Services Department at (847) 588-7900 if you have any questions regarding this service.



Residents who do not bundle branches may be cited until they properly bundle the branches or remove them from the right-of-way.

Understanding Information on your Property Tax Bill

Village Of Niles	\$44,516,955	\$40,781,117	\$161,354,391	\$80,920,266	49.84%
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On the most recent property tax bills, Cook County included additional financial information on the various taxing bodies. Although this information is useful to know, it must be taken in the correct context as it relates to your tax bill. Regarding the \$44.5 million listed for Total Debts and Liabilities on the Village of Niles taxing district line, the majority of this is paid for by revenues other than property tax. The Village's gross operating budget (General Fund) is reported as \$40.8 million as of FY 2013 on the tax bill. Only 7.5% of this amount, \$3.1 million, is supported by property tax. The entire \$3.1 million goes to fund the Police and Fire Pensions. The final 3 columns provide additional information regarding the Village's 3 pension plans. The pension liability has grown in large part from influences outside the Village's control such as benefit enhancements and poor investment returns due to the downturn in the investment market. The current Village Board and staff agree on the need to address the pension funding problem in a way that minimizes the burden on residents.

Your Property Tax Dollar



In conclusion, your property tax bill is impacted by the items listed on the recent tax bill. But it is very important to understand that your tax bill does not solely fund the total liabilities and debt, Village operations or pension obligations listed on the bill. The Village of Niles is doing everything it can to keep property taxes low while also meeting all of its required obligations and providing all of its important services. Of your total tax bill only about 5% goes to the Village of Niles.

For more information go to www.vniles.com.

Village of Niles
1000 Civic Center Drive
Niles, Illinois 60714

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 111
Morton Grove, IL

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

FREE
ONE MONTH ADDED
to your
NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

ALL NEW ADULT
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Expires March 31, 2013
terms and conditions apply

FIT FOR EVERY
“BODY”



NILES FAMILY FITNESS CENTER

987 Civic Center Dr. Niles Illinois
847-588-8400 www.nilesfitness.com