

Focus on Niles

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Niles

Spring 2000

~ FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR NICHOLAS B. BLASE ~

Niles Village government is always conscious of the amount of money which we have to spend to economically operate our services. A recent survey done by the City of Park Ridge establishes the fact that, other than the Village of Schaumburg, which has a huge retail tax base, the Village of Niles receives less money from its residents for taxes and other fees than all of the other communities surveyed.

We are proud of this fact and will continue to do everything we can to keep the cost of running government as reasonable as possible.

ANNUAL REVENUES RECEIVED FROM THE AVERAGE HOME

	Licenses* Vehic./ dog	Garbage Cost**	Recycle/ Yard Waste	Water Bill	Utility Tax	City Sewer Charge	Total Property Tax*** EAV	Total Direct Payments	1999 Position
<i>Assumptions for Sample Family</i>		<i>104 bags yearly</i>	<i>12 bags annually (YW)</i>	<i>97,000 gallons</i>	<i>\$3,260 yearly</i>	<i>97,000 gallons</i>	<i>\$40,000 EAV</i>		
Oak Park	\$45 / \$7	\$107.04	\$21.16 / \$19.80	\$240.56	\$163.00	\$117.37	\$924.40	\$1,647.33	1
Naperville	0 / 4		0 / 16.20	291.95	177.60	237.45	354.04	1,081.24	2
Mt. Prospect	36 / 5		0 / 21	313.31	107.58	32.98	512.52	1,028.39	3
Des Plaines	25 / 3	105.00	32.88 / 15	257.54	40.20	49.28	425.60	953.50	4
Park Ridge	30 / 8		0 / 0	258.58	175.93		452.00	924.51	5
Downers Grove	0 / 0	156.00	1 / 18	298.26	61.87	136.16	205.60	875.90	6
Northbrook	30 / 10	157.80	0 / 18	291.00		53.35	285.20	845.35	7
Wilmette	40 / 8		0 / 24	114.12	67.00	226.94	341.60	818.66	8
Skokie	10 / 5		1 / 12	175.07	11.40		542.00	755.47	9
Niles	15 / 0		0 / 12	276.45	97.80		157.60	558.85	10
Schaumburg	17 / 2	124.20	0 / 0	298.49	5.70	45.59		492.98	11
Mean	27.56 / 4.92	130.01	27.02 / 17.33	255.94	90.81	112.39	420.06	907.47	

* The following municipalities offer a senior discount for vehicle licenses: Oak Park, Mount Prospect, Wilmette, Des Plaines, Northbrook, Schaumburg, and Niles.

** Assumes once per week pickup where alternative levels of garbage service are available.

*** It is possible that homes are assessed differently by county. However, in this report it is assumed that all were assessed equally after application of the state equalization factor. Reassessments are not made in the same year for all participants which can create some degree of inaccuracy for the property tax comparison.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

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NILES MAKES CHANGES TO IMPROVE 411 FREE BUS ROUTE

Effective Sunday, March 12, the Village of Niles will implement some minor changes on the 411-Regular/Reverse free bus route. These changes have been made to provide better service to customers by making the routes more direct and by providing easier access to points of interest.

The changes include:

- ◆ *Direct service will return to the Niles Public Library. The passenger stop will now be at the main entrance.*
- ◆ *The stop at the Trident Center will be eliminated. Buses will now continue on Monroe Street via Field Drive and Greendale Avenue instead of making the detour to the Trident Center.*
- ◆ *Routing through Civic Center Plaza will be adjusted so buses enter/exit on Oakton Street and exit/enter on Waukegan Road after making stops at establishments within the plaza.*
- ◆ *Buses will no longer enter the Howard Leisure Center parking lot. Passengers should board or exit on Howard Street.*

To accommodate the routing adjustments, minor changes have been made in the timetable. New timetables can be obtained on any free bus, or at the Niles Administration Building or Public Services Department. For additional information or should you have any questions, please call Niles Transportation Supervisor Tom Surace at (847) 588-6600.



NILES NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS SOUGHT AS CENSUS WORKERS

Would you like to earn extra money in a temporary job right in your own neighborhood? If so, the U.S. Census Bureau may have a job for you this spring – and applications are being accepted now!



Census 2000 has thousands of openings across the country for census takers or enumerators who will locate addresses and interview household members. In addition to a competitive wage, these temporary jobs offer flexible working hours, during times when most residents are at home, primarily in the evenings and on weekends. Beyond the earnings, which are paid weekly, workers can take satisfaction in knowing they are helping their community receive its share of government funding for such vital facilities as schools, roads, and hospitals, which is allocated based on census data.

For more information on how to apply for a Census 2000 job, call toll free 1-888-325-7733. A basic written skills test is required. The Bureau of the Census is an equal opportunity employer.

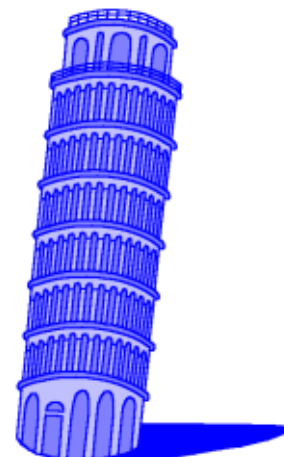
NILES GETS A NOISE MONITOR!

The Village of Niles has installed a temporary noise monitor to record the level of aircraft noise within the Village. The noise monitor will be connected with O'Hare's Airport Noise Monitoring System to indicate compliance to the "Fly Quiet Program." The temporary noise monitor will be in Niles for a 3-month deployment.



2000 LEANING TOWER CONCERT SERIES

The 2000 Leaning Tower Concert Series will feature nine (9) concert events on Thursday evenings in July and August. Most of the performers are returning after a very successful concert series in 1999. This year, the Fabulous Murray Brothers have been added on July 20. The Concert Series again covers many different types of music – German, Italian, Polka, Yiddish, and much more! If you have not previously attended the concert series, come out this year! The concerts are free and open to the public and run from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. every Thursday. Bring your neighbors and friends to enjoy the great music and wonderful Leaning Tower Plaza. *Cut out the schedule and save it so you won't miss a single concert in 2000!*



JULY 6, 2000 ENZO INCANDELA

Enzo is back for another exciting performance of brilliant Italian music. The audience can't resist singing, laughing, and clapping to the brilliant Italian music performed by Enzo and his assistant.

JULY 13, 2000 WATERLOO GERMAN BAND

The crowd was dazzled at the 1999 concert, and the captivating Germans are back. Enjoy German waltzes, polkas, and more. Contests and games for the entire family.

JULY 20, 2000 FABULOUS MURRAY BROTHERS

Four talented singer-musicians play over 25 instruments combining comedy, impersonations, and audience participation. Their contagious enthusiasm is enhanced by costumes, lighting, computers, special effects and more! Don't miss the "ultimate variety band" in concert.

JULY 27, 2000 MEISNER MAGIC

Join the father and son team for another year of fun, laughs, and good polka music ~ *Meisner Magic!*



AUGUST 3, 2000 ANDY HEAD AND AC ROCK

- ♫ Andy's outrageously funny display of juggling, musical comedy, unicycle, stilts act performance art and audience participation is sure to have everyone rocking and rolling in their seats.
- ♫ AC Rock is a 4 piece group that performs music of the 60's, 70's, and 80's a cappella style.

AUGUST 10, 2000 MR. MYERS

Mr. Myers blends the tropical sounds of Calypso, the rhythms of Reggae and a little Rock n' Roll with some favorite classic tunes to create his own special style of Caribbean rock.

AUGUST 17, 2000 THE CONNEXION

The Connexion is a seven-piece band with two lead female vocalists, guitar, bass, drums, keyboards/trumpet and keyboards/sax. Do the electric slide, the macarena, and dance all night.

AUGUST 24, 2000 MAXWELL STREET KLEZMER BAND

"Soul Music" of America's Russian-Jewish immigrants. Back by popular demand — nine (9) instrumentalist-vocalists will dazzle you once again this year.

AUGUST 31, 2000 TO BE DECIDED

Watch the local newspapers for the final performance of 2000!

Every Thursday, July 6 through August 31, 2000

7:00 – 9:00 P.M. at the Leaning Tower Plaza

Bring your own lawn chair ~ Enjoy food, fun and wonderful music!

Call the Village of Niles for more information: (847) 588 – 8000

HEALTHY PARENTS/ HEALTHY KIDS

The Niles Family Fitness Center and Niles Family Services are coming together to offer an educational program for parents of children ages 6-12. This 6-week program will cover topics pertaining to early school years. Such topics include:

- ♦ *talking so your child will hear you*
- ♦ *creating an effective relationship with your child*
- ♦ *developing your potential as a parent*
- ♦ *and learning effective and proven ways to discipline*

School related issues such as homework time, extra-curricular activities and parent-teacher-child relationships will be addressed.

The parent education program will run each Thursday from 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 p.m. During that time, children will have usage of the Family Fitness Center gymnasium. The swimming pool will be available for families from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. after the conclusion of the class. Children are welcome to

utilize the pool during the parent's class time only if accompanied by another adult. State law requires that any child 10 years of age or younger using a

pool must be accompanied by an adult.

To register or request further information, please contact Jan Syslo, Ph.D. at Niles Family Services at 588 – 8460. Join us for this realistic and practical approach to parenting school aged children.



ARE YOU A SUPERMOM/SUPERDAD?

Have you ever met *SUPERPARENT*? This mythical person holds down a demanding job, cooks elaborate meals, maintains a spotless home and never loses their temper. Chances are you have never seen these people, even when you look in the mirror. That is because Super parents exist only in your imagination.



Is the mythical “superparent” your secret role model? If so, you are probably placing unrealistic demands on yourself and your family. Here are some things to keep in mind when you find the specter of the superparent lurking over your shoulder.

- ♦ *Review your values.* The most important aspect of parenting is nurturing your child. Your ability to provide love, constrictive discipline and guidance to your child is what is significant.
- ♦ *Plan Ahead.* Learn to apply the same long-range planning skills from work to the home environment. Hold weekly family meetings to discuss chores, expectations, and to “clear the air.” Use a master calendar to post weekly menus, schedule appointments and special occasions.
- ♦ *Keep Housework in Perspective.* You do not have to be a perfect housekeeper to be a loving parent
- ♦ *Make Time for Yourself and Your Partner.* In order to be a confident parent, you must first tend to your own personal needs. Always find a way to keep part of yourself for yourself. Make time for exercise and quiet relaxation. Your relationship with your partner is part of the glue that keeps your family together.
- ♦ *Forget imperfections.* Remind yourself that children can thrive with less than perfect parents. If you think you are expecting too much of yourself, ask yourself whose standards you are trying to meet. You need to learn to relax and enjoy the scenery. You will be a more effective parent and a happier person. For further assistance, please call Niles Family Services, 588-8460.



2000 GARBAGE HOLIDAYS

As a reminder, garbage service is delayed by one day for the following holidays:

- May 29 - Memorial Day
- July 4 - Independence Day
- Sept. 4 - Labor Day
- Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
- Jan. 1, 2001 - New Year's Day

If your garbage pickup is usually on Thursday, pickup will be on Friday. Residents with Friday pickup receive garbage and recycling collection service on Saturday. Should you have additional questions, you may contact Groot Recycling and Waste Services at (800) 244-1977.



BRANCH PICKUP SERVICE



The 2000 branch pickup service will begin ***the first week in April***. The program will work as follows:

- 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.
- The branch pickup service will run from April through September, 2000.
- The Village will be divided east and west along Milwaukee Avenue for branch pickup. Residents **living east of Milwaukee Avenue** must place their branches at **the curb on the first Monday of the month**. Residents **living west of Milwaukee Avenue** must place their branches at **the curb on the last Monday of the month**.
- Branches must be put out at the front curb on the listed Monday morning and ***will be picked up during the week - Monday pick up is not guaranteed (no alley pickup)***.

On the appropriate Monday, simply place the branches at the curb in front of your home (no alley pickup). **Any branches in excess of 10 inches in diameter will not be accepted by Village crews.** Larger logs and branches should be bundled and disposed of by a tree service company or landscaper hired by the homeowner. If you have any questions, contact the Public Services Department, at (847) 588-7900

Detach the following schedule and post in a common area in your home:



2000 BRANCH PICKUP SCHEDULE

EAST of Milwaukee Avenue (First Monday of the month)

Monday, April 3
Monday, May 1
Monday, June 5
Tuesday, July 3
Monday, August 7
Tuesday, September 5 (Monday Holiday)

WEST of Milwaukee Avenue (Last Monday of the month)

Monday, April 24
Tuesday, May 30 (Monday Holiday)
Monday, June 26
Monday, July 31
Monday, August 28
Monday, September 25



RECYCLING CORNER

Household Hazardous Waste Collection



On Saturday, May 20, 2000, the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) will conduct a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection at SWANCC's Wheeling Township Transfer Station on River Road in Glenview. This event is open to all residents of SWANCC member communities. Materials that can be recycled are listed below. For more information, check out the SWANCC website at www.swancc.org.



Acceptable Wastes at One-Day Collections

Oil-based paints
Household Batteries
Latex paints
Used motor oil
Paint thinners
Drain cleaners
Herbicides

Lawn chemicals
Insecticides
Solvents
Pesticides
Antifreeze
Old gasoline
Hobby chemicals

Pool chemicals
Aerosol paints
Aerosol pesticides
Cleaning products
Fluorescent lamp bulbs

Unacceptable Wastes

Agricultural wastes
Propane Tanks
Business/commercial sector wastes
Smoke detectors
Explosives

Farm machinery oil
Fireworks
Fire extinguishers
Lead acid batteries
Institutional wastes

Computer and Electronics Recycling

Do you have an outdated computer or other electronic equipment? Don't know what to do with it? SWANCC, Motorola, and System Service International, Inc. (SSI) are cosponsoring a computer and electronics recycling event on Saturday, April 29, 2000 from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Residents are invited to bring unwanted computers and electronic equipment to Motorola's Arlington Heights Campus where they will be collected for recycling. SSI recycles over 95% of the material brought to these events. Only items listed on the flyer are accepted. Call SWANCC at (847) 296-9205 for a copy of the flyer, which includes a map. Information is also available at SWANCC's website, www.swancc.org. *Software, disks, tapes, CDs, air conditioners or large home appliances will not be accepted. This is not a household hazardous waste collection.*



BE PREPARED FOR TORNADO SEASON!

The Chicagoland area is more prone to tornadoes during the late spring and summer months. Residents should know what to do and take protective measures if a tornado approaches.

Basic Rules for Tornado Safety

- ♦ *Keep alert to changing weather conditions.*
- ♦ *Take shelter immediately when you hear a tornado warning or see a funnel cloud.*
- ♦ *Know where a shelter is before you need it.*

Tornado Watch – It means that weather conditions are right for the development of tornadoes. If a tornado watch is broadcast over radio and television stations, stay tuned for further announcements and be prepared to take cover until an “all-clear” message has been released.



Tornado Warning – It means that a tornado has actually been sighted. A warning includes the location of the sighting and the direction and speed of the tornado.



Protective Action

When a tornado is threatening:

- ♦ *If inside, stay away from windows, doors and outside walls.*
- ♦ *Go to the basement or to an interior part of the building on the lowest level possible. Get under something sturdy. Stay out from under heavy objects like pianos or refrigerators located on the floor above.*
- ♦ *For added protection, cover yourself with a blanket or sleeping bag if possible. Protect your head with anything available, even your hands.*
- ♦ *In schools, move to pre-designated shelter areas. Interior hallways on lowest floor are best*
- ♦ *Listen to the TV or radio for further information and to find out when the “all-clear” has been announced.*
- ♦ *If outdoors with no shelter available, lie flat in a nearby ditch or low spot in the ground and shield your head with your arms.*

Tornado Facts

Tornadoes occur most frequently when the warm, moist air from the Gulf Coast meets the cool, dry air of the north. A tornado usually develops from a severe thunderstorm. Tornado winds turn counter-clockwise at speeds that vary from under 100 miles per hour (MPH) to 300 MPH and move forward at an average speed of 35 MPH in a northeasterly direction. A tornado's destructive force works through the combined action of strong rotary winds, which cause a vacuum and flying debris.

The distinctive funnel-shaped cloud is easy to recognize. As it touches the earth, it writhes and twists, throwing debris in all directions. Hail, violent thunderstorms and strong wind usually accompany the tornado.

The width of a tornado cloud can vary from a few feet to more than a mile, but the average width is one-quarter mile. Tornadoes stay on the ground from a few seconds to a couple of hours, covering distances of a few yards to more than 200 miles.

CENSUS 2000 – WHERE EVERYONE COUNTS!

The year 2000 decennial census is here. The Village of Niles, in partnership with the US Census Bureau and other government agencies, is reminding area residents that they are important to completing an accurate census count. The Village of Niles needs a “*Complete Count!*” A complete count will ensure proper allocations of state and federal government funds and representative districts. Be assured that any information submitted to the US Census Bureau cannot be shared with any other government office. *It is against the law for the Census Bureau to share information concerning individual’s census responses.*

The Village of Niles encourages everyone to complete their Census information completely and fully. Make a positive difference in the community. Let’s go for a complete count!

The Village of Niles – where every single person counts!

Please remember that:

- ◆ *Census data is used for Representative district reapportionment.*
- ◆ *Census data is not shared with any government agency – including the INS, IRS, or any state or local government agency.*
- ◆ *A complete count is important in securing funds from the US and State governments.*
- ◆ *In 1990, the Village of Niles was significantly undercounted. If this had gone unnoticed, Niles would have lost out on many State and Federal government dollars.*
- ◆ *A “Complete Count” will benefit the entire community*

For more information on the US Census, contact the Village of Niles 588-8000 or the United States Census Bureau at 294-0540.

VILLAGE OF NILES
 "Where People Count"
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