

FOCUS ON NILES

Community Newsletter

"Where People Count"

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Village Hall Closed

July 4
(Independence Day)

Shop Niles



A Fresh, New Look for the Village of Niles Website

The Village of Niles is proud to unveil our new and improved website. Along with an attractive design and powerful new features, www.vniles.com is a convenient way to get many of your questions answered without ever leaving home. Whether you're looking for information about garbage collection or vehicle stickers, our site can help you out.

You can get the latest Village news and events information from our "Around Town" section. Looking for a phone number or address? Find it in the Village Directory. If you don't have time to drive or call, you can still get your message to the right person using our "Ask" feature.

New features coming soon include a new calendar, a page we call "Niles News", new resident and business information, and a "Frequently Asked Questions" page. These will be the first of many new features that our website will have to offer.



Mayor Nicholas B. Blase

Message from the Mayor
Providing the highest quality services and keeping taxes low are priorities we all share. The Village of Niles is well known for the services it provides to its residents. The Village Board of Trustees and employees are constantly working to maintain this level of services - without adding additional tax burden.

Keeping our Village facilities up to date is vital to the continuation of these top-notch services. They must be able to accommodate the needs of our residents and businesses today, as well as providing a stable foundation for our future. Having the most modern equipment and working environment ensures the effectiveness of our services while contributing to the attractiveness of...

Where People Count

The Village of Niles is a northwest suburb of Chicago providing services and information to our residents and businesses 24 hours a day. Everything we do and stand for is summed up in our Village attitude entitled, "Niles Pride."

Welcome to our new look!

We are redesigning and reorganizing our website to better serve our residents, businesses, and visitors. Please be patient during this renovation, as it will be done in stages beginning with the home page. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact us blase.

Around Town - Thursday, April 21, 2005

- The Fitness Center POOL WILL BE CLOSED for repairs April 21 and 22. The Pool will reopen April 22 at 4:00pm.
- 2005 Leaning Tower Concert Series
- Branch Pickup - West of Milwaukee - April 20th
- One Month Free and Free Enrollment (\$59 Value) at the Niles Family Fitness Center with the Purchase of a New Annual Membership. Call (847-569-6400) for Details.
- Community Relations Meeting - April 24
- Village Board Meeting - April 26
- Join The Niles Police Departments Youth Police Academy
- Check Out Our New Fitness Center Website at www.nilesfitness.com
- Finance Department - Saturday Hours

We are preparing for a future where residents and businesses can access Village of Niles services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We invite you to see for yourself; check out www.vniles.com. We think you will agree that our site is becoming a more useful and informative tool for our residents, businesses, and visitors.

Nicholas B. Blase

Mayor and Trustees Sworn Into Office

Village Clerk Marcia Jendreas conducts swearing in ceremony for Mayor Nicholas B. Blase, Trustee Bob Callero, Trustee Louella Preston, Trustee Kim Biederman, and Trustee Andrew Przybylo. All will serve a four year term, but Trustee Kim Biederman who will serve a two year term.



Village of Niles, Illinois

1000 Civic Center Drive, Illinois 60714 (847) 588-8000 www.vniles.com

**Village Mourns the Passing of Two Employees
In The Line Of Duty**



**Chuck Nickerson
Public Services**

On January 30, 2005 the Public Services Department lost one of its long-term employees while working on a watermain repair. Chuck Nickerson worked for the Public Services Department since October 9, 1989. Chuck Nickerson was 46 years old.

During his 15 years with the Village, Chuck had worked in many facets of the Public Works Division, but spent the majority of his time in the Sewer Section.

"Chuck was a fun loving guy with a great sense of humor and will be missed by his family, friends and co-workers," said Acting Director of Public Services Scott N. Jochim. Chuck is survived by his wife Demetria, who also works for the Public Services Department, and two children.



**Steven Zourkas
Police Department**

On April 08, 2005 Officer Steven Zourkas died in the line of duty when his vehicle crashed while responding to a disturbance call. Officer Zourkas was 33 years old and had been on The Niles Police Department for four years.

He recently became a member of the North Regional Major Crimes Taskforce as an evidence technician, a position he was very excited about. Officer Zourkas loved being a police

officer and was very well liked by his fellow officers. He was also a certified emergency medical technician and assisted in training department personnel in how to administer CPR. Officer Zourkas is survived by his wife, a 7 year old step son, and a five month old son. His presence and personality will be greatly missed.

Board of Trustees

Mayor

Nicholas B. Blase
Mayor@vniles.com

Trustees

Kim Sychowski Biederman
Tom Bondi
Robert M. Callero
Bart T. Murphy
Louella Preston
Andrew Przybylo

Trustee@vniles.com

Village Clerk

Marcia Jendreas

Village Manager

Mary Kay Morrissey

Village Holidays

July 4, Independence Day

Village Phone Numbers

Emergency.....	911
Information Line.....	588-8411
Mayor's Office.....	588-8003
Village Clerk's Office.....	588-8003
Administrative Offices.....	588-8000
TDD.....	588-8059
Finance Department.....	588-8000
Community Development.....	588-8040
Fire Department.....	588-6800
Police Department.....	588-6500
Consumer Fraud.....	588-6524
Public Services.....	588-7900
Human Services.....	588-8460
TDD.....	588-8440
Senior Center.....	588-8420
TDD.....	588-8487
Family Fitness Center.....	588-8400
TDD.....	588-8433
Free Bus System.....	588-7960

COMMUNITY NEWS



Mayor Blase and Police Chief Strzelecki present Officer Steven Zourkas with Commendation.



VFW - Poppy Days Proclamation



Community Track and Field Day Proclamation



Mayor Blase and Police Chief Strzelecki present Detective Thomas Fragassi with Distinguished Duty Award.

Residents Have a Choice Natural Gas Competition Offered - **BE CAREFUL!**

By now, many of you have been approached via salesman, letter or phone call about changing your gas service from Nicor to another gas company. **Be Careful!** You must thoroughly understand what you are getting into before you sign anything. The marketing and salesman from these companies tend to rush residents into making a decision. **Read the small print!**

Deregulation of the natural gas industry now allows consumers to choose a gas company other than Nicor to supply them with natural gas. If you switch to a competitive gas supplier under the Customer Select Program, you may save money. Be careful, do not be pressured into making this decision. Do your homework!

How does this work? Today, Nicor Gas purchases natural gas and delivers it to your home. Under Customer Select, you purchase natural gas from a different supplier, and Nicor delivers that gas to you. Nicor continues to maintain the distribution system and respond to emergencies.

There are currently ten alternative

natural gas suppliers - Corn Belt Energy, Direct Energy, Dominion, Illinois Natural Gas, Interstate Gas, MXenergy, Peoples Energy Services, Santanna Energy Services, U.S. Energy Savings, and Utility Resource Solutions. Here are some questions to ask:

- * Will the price you charge vary? If so, how?
- * What are the contract terms and length?
- * How will I be billed, by whom, & How often?
- * Do you offer any payment plans?
- * In addition to the cost of gas, what other charges will I see on my bill?
- * If I have questions about my charges for the cost of natural gas, whom do I call?
- * Are there any customer services, special programs or incentives that are part of your package of services?

For more Information:
call 1-800-260-7297 or go to
www.nicorinc.com.

Niles Free Bus

The Free Bus is here for you! Pace Routes 411, 412, & 413 are free and will meet most of your needs as you travel throughout the Village. Take the 411 to the Niles Fitness Center!

Take the Free Bus to shop, visit Village facilities, and even connect with other bus or train routes. Call (847) 588-8000 for information.





Niles Teens!!!!

The Niles Youth Council and Niles Teen Center have many activities planned to keep Niles teens busy over the summer. The Teen Center will continue with the regular hours of 3:00pm-7:00pm, Tuesday through Friday. Many activities and trips are planned, such as, Cubs and White Sox games, paintball, horseback riding, and Friday night flag football games. The Teen Center is open to any teens that live in Niles or attend school in Niles in ages 11-17.

The Teen Center offers a safe place for teens to participate in programs and community service, do their homework, meet new people and relax. This is a place just for teens so stop by to take a look. Keep your eye out for the teen center brochures or check out the website at www.nilesyc.org.



The Niles Youth Council has created an on-going community service project. The community service committee has volunteered to sew baby blankets

for the premature babies at Lutheran General's NICU unit. These blankets are needed on a continual basis because the hospital experiences shortages regularly. Every Tuesday from 4-6 the committee works on the blankets and discusses fund raising ideas to assist in the costs of materials. Anyone who is interested in joining the committee is welcome to stop by on Tuesdays. Any resident or business member interested in making monetary donation or donating materials please contact Christine Eischen at 663-9185.

Family Service - We Are Here For You

By Family Service Director Marty Friedman



A worrisome phone call from a school, an unexpected job loss, an aging parent who's becoming increasingly confused, these are the stories we hear every day from the families we welcome at Niles Family Service.

Sometimes the stories shared are hard ones- stories of depression, economic hardship, and violence. For these families, we're partners in the toughest of circumstances-helping find solutions to the problems they face.

For over 30 years, we've been reaching families who are in crisis and lending a helping hand. We're proud to be able to report our success with systematic evaluations of our services with each family - 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 need and to shape positive visions for the future.

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

Buy Your Vehicle Stickers By June 30th

Village of Niles		VEHICLE WINDOW STICKER APPLICATION				CAR	
1980 Civic Center Drive Niles, Illinois 60134 847-588-8000		Make	Color	License Plate #	Exhaust	Class & License #	Year
Name & Address (Please Print)		Telephone #		Payment Enclosed			
SEE INSTRUCTIONS							

All vehicles principally garaged or parked within the Village must display

a current village vehicle sticker. This includes automobiles, trucks, motorcycles and all leased vehicles. New residents have 30 days to obtain a sticker once they move into the Village. Reduced rates are available to senior citizens, at least age 62 by June 30th, and to disabled veterans. Stickers are valid from July 1 through June 30.

Residents who purchase a new vehicle have 30 days from the date of purchase to obtain a vehicle sticker. Transfer stickers are available at a nominal charge when a newly purchased vehicle is replacing a vehicle with a current Village sticker. Village vehicle stickers are also available at local currency exchanges. For more information, please call the Administration Building at (847) 588-8000.

Residents in Condos or Apartments must include the Unit # or Apartment # on the forms or the Post Office will not deliver the mail properly.



Milwaukee Ave. Corridor Plan First Public Workshop

Date: Tuesday, June 14
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Place: Niles Senior Center

The Village, in partnership with the Regional Transportation Authority, is studying potential improvements to Milwaukee Avenue for its entire length through the village. Our consultant team, headed by Camiros, is exploring existing conditions in the corridor and invites input from residents, property owners, and business owners at the first of a series of public meetings to be held during the planning process. This first meeting will be in the form of a workshop, which the Village of Niles will host at the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, on Tuesday June 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

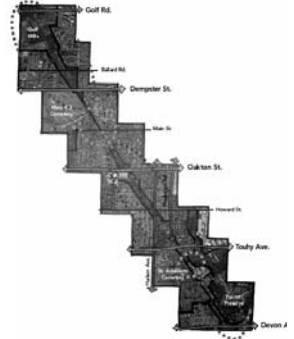
Following a presentation of initial findings from our urban planners, traffic and transit planners, and market analysts, workshop participants will be engaged in interactive discussions and exercises that seek to discover what each person's

vision for the future of Milwaukee Avenue is, what issues need to be addressed to realize that vision, and what specific improvements are desired.

Initial goals of the study are to: Plan for improved transit facilities and service along Milwaukee Avenue, Improve traffic movement and access to business, Foster an environment that welcomes pedestrians, upgrade the architectural and streetscape character along the avenue, and Identify potential redevelopment areas and projects.

The Village of Niles welcomes village residents and others with a direct stake in the future of Milwaukee Avenue to share their ideas, hopes and dreams for the corridor at this first public workshop.

There is limited space for this workshop, so please arrive at 6:30 p.m. If you have questions regarding the workshop, please contact Assistant Village Manager Steven Vinezeano at 847-588-8007 or scv@vniles.com.



What to Do When Your Pet Is Lost?

By Animal Control Officer Peter Babikan

I get this question asked of me quite often-"what do I do if I lost my pet?" I am here to help you out and provide you, the pet owner, with some helpful tips in trying to find your lost pet. They are as follows:

" Contact local animal control agencies (police departments), animal hospitals and animal shelters. You want to call your surrounding towns (and even 2 or more towns away) and file a lost pet report. Give as accurate a description as possible including distinguishing marks/features and if your pet has a microchip. Leave several working phone numbers or contact persons as well. A recent photograph helps also. Try and let these places know when and if you found your pet.

" Search the neighborhood. Walk and drive through your neighborhood as many times as you can calling out the pet's name. Sometimes they are disoriented or scared and when they hear their name they may come running out to you. Ask neighbors, mail carriers, garbage men, etc. if they

may have seen your pet running around. Many times a neighbor may pick up an animal, not know whom it belongs to or who to call and decide to keep the animal. Other times a cat may wander into someone's open garage and get trapped in there without the person realizing it.

" Post notices. Put up notices at grocery stores, animal hospitals, pet stores, traffic intersections, etc. When posting outside enclose the flyer in a Ziploc bag so the weather does not ruin it. Give an accurate description but leave out one piece of information that only you would know so you don't fall victim to a scam.

" Don't give up hope. It does happen from time to time where an animal that has been lost for months finally gets reunited with their owners.

Lastly, the most important thing you can do is make sure your pet is wearing current identification tags (incl. Name, address, phone # and pet's name) on a collar. Permanent forms of identification, such as microchips, are available at your veterinarian's office. Your pet has a better chance of being returned if it has some form of current identification on it. If you need to report a lost/found pet please call our non-emergency phone number (847)588-6500. If you have any further questions feel free to call Animal Control Officer Peter Babikan-(847)588-6508.

Village & Pace Work to Improve Bus Routes



Everyday thousands of Village residents get on and off our bus system on their way to work, school or shopping. Each year the Niles sponsored "Free Bus" carries over 300,000 riders to and from destinations around the Village. Year 2004 was a record year with

over 330,000 riders using our own Free Bus system. Many of these riders are seniors or residents with few alternatives for travel. Niles is served by not only the Village operated Free Bus, but also by nine Pace routes.

"We realize the critical importance of our transit system and will do everything possible to sustain the excellent Niles and Pace services we have," said Mayor Blase.

In this spirit, Village officials met with Pace in early 2004 to ensure that the regional operator, Pace, understood Village concerns and intents. "They are very supportive and appreciative of our Village's commitment to public transportation," said Steve Vinezeano, Assistant Village Manager. "This commitment actually resulted in route and service improvements for our residents."

As part of Paces North Shore Restructuring Initiative, there were specific service improvements to Pace routes as shown below. There will be no changes to any of the Niles Free Bus services.

Pace service improvements follow:

- " **Route 208**-Golf Road-improved and extended to Woodfield.
- " **Route 225**-Niles industrial area-no change.
- " **Route 226**-Oakton-Improved-Now serves downtown Des Plaines-no change to other portions of the route.
- " **Route 220**-Eliminated and now served by route 250.
- " **Route 228**-Becomes new route 423-(Number change only). Routes now extend to the Glen (Glenview) and also Wilmette CTA.
- " **Route 250**-Dempster-Improved, now serves O'Hare Airport-no change to previous routing.
- " **Route 270**-Milwaukee Avenue-no change.
- " **Route 272**-Milwaukee Avenue north-no change.
- " **Route 290**-Touhy Avenue-No change.

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), however, has proposed service changes to its system if funding is not provided by the legislature. These changes, pending funding, would take place July 17, 2005. They include routes that serve a small area of the Village.

- " **Route 56A**-Devon Avenue to the Imlay Milwaukee Avenue turnaround-Would be eliminated.
- " **Route 85A**-Central/Caldwell/Lehigh to Jefferson Park-Would be eliminated.
- " **Route 90N**-Harlem Avenue CTA to Touhy Avenue-west to Overhill. Would be eliminated.

For questions or more information, please contact the Niles Assistant Village Manager at (847) 588-8000.



GROOT WEBSITE www.groot.com

The Village Waste Hauler, Groot, has an improved website that provides many new services online.

Just go to the website and enter in your zip code for Village information and you can pay for special collections and order roll-off dumpsters online too.



ComEd Storm Preparation

ComEd has several suggestions to help you prepare for storms and the potential for power outages. A cell phone, flashlights, blankets, batteries and portable radios should be stored in an easily accessible location in the home. If you have a basement that may flood, unplug all appliances while the basement is still dry.

ComEd urges anyone who experiences problems to call immediately at 1-800-Edison-1.



2005 Leaning Tower Concerts

6300 W. Touhy Avenue, Niles



The Village of Niles welcomes Howard Street Inn to the 2005 Leaning Tower Concert Series. Howard Street Inn is located on 6700 W. Howard

Street, in Niles on the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course. Open to the public, they serve everything from salads and sandwiches to steaks, burgers and pizza.

Howard Street Inn, a member of the Niles Chamber of Commerce opened up in March of 2003. It's open 7 days a week all year around. The Village of Niles looks forward to having Howard Street Inn at the Leaning Tower Concert Series this summer!

Bring your own lawn chair

*Free Concerts Every Thursday
July 7 through August 25, 2005
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm*

Sponsored by the Village of Niles, (847) 588-8000

Enjoy food fun, and music

JULY

July 7 Enzo Incandela/Al Anile

Enzo and Al Anile return to kickoff the 2005 Leaning Tower Concert Series with brilliant Italian music. The audience can't resist singing, laughing, and clapping to the performance.

July 14 Undercover

New act this season, rock and roll with Undercover. The band plays a fun-loving mix of classic rock and oldies. You are guaranteed to be grooving to recognizable songs from the 50s to the 90s. There's something for everyone: Unforgettable dance tunes to favorite sing along.

July 21 Meisner Magic

We welcome back one of our series regulars, Steve Meisner from Whitewater, Wisconsin. Steve was inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame on June 25th, 2004. This honor makes Steve one of polka music's youngest Hall of Fame inductee's.

July 28 Chauffers

Introducing the Chauffers. Their "Old Rock 'N Roll" show features authentic sounds of the 50s, 60s, and 70s with some modern country music of the 90s.

AUGUST

August 4 The Katie Sullivan Band

Introducing the Katie Sullivan Band, an Irish Stew of talent, humor, and lively renditions of favorite Irish, Blues, and American Folk-Rock tunes.

August 11 The Blooze Brothers

A favorite act from last season, Blooze Brothers is a high-powered choreographed twelve-piece band covering a wide range of music. The nation's #1 Blues Brothers tribute band!

August 18 Larry Bemben Orchestra

We welcome back the Big Band sound of Larry Bemben and his Orchestra, featuring vocalist Carol Bennet. The band is very versatile and plays a wide range of music.

August 25 Half Day Bluegrass Band

From Chicago, a city sculpted by the power of the blues, another musical tradition that blends bluesy raw emotion with driving rhythm is at work. The band features mandolin, banjo, dobro, guitar and stand-up bass, tight vocal harmonies, and snappy attire.



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fit for every body

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