



FOCUS ON NILES

Community Newsletter

"Where People Count"

Summer 2006 Issue

Village Property Tax
Amnesty Program
Historical Society
Niles Teen Center
Leaning Tower Concert
Water Quality Report
4th of July Festivities
Human Services
Public Safety
Public Services
Fitness Center Promotion

Village Hall Closed

July 4
(Independence Day)

Village Holds the Line on Property Taxes

Last Fall, many of us were in shock over increased property taxes. The Village Property Tax Help Line fielded more than 300 calls, mostly to explain the increased Homeowner's Exemption. This exemption continues in 2006, reducing the tax bill on owner occupied homes by about \$1,000.

Generally, property taxes increase when the Districts on your bill ask for more money. This year, as last, the Village of Niles will not increase its request for property tax dollars.

Your tax bill may also increase due to a shift in "your share" of the total tax pie. Your share is determined by your property's Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) as compared to the remaining EAV throughout your community.

Even the amount you pay to the Village will increase if your EAV is rising more than the community average. The Village total is unchanged, but your share of that total is higher.

For a full discussion of property tax assessments and exemptions, please visit the Cook County Assessor website at www.cookcountyassessor.com.

Ticket Amnesty Program

Recently, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Niles enacted a ticket amnesty program beginning on May 15, 2006. For sixty (60) days thereafter, the Village of Niles will suspend all penalties attached to outstanding tickets and require the ticket holder to pay only the original fine.

For instance, the average \$50.00 ticket fine with penalties and court costs is \$110.00 per ticket. During the ticket amnesty program only the original fine needs to be paid in order for the ticket to be taken off of your record.

Once the amnesty program is discontinued the Village will use all legal means to collect the fine, penalty and court costs on your tickets. If violators have ten or more outstanding

tickets a Vehicle Restraining Device (Denver Boot) shall be attached to a violator's vehicle until all penalties are paid.

If you know the ticket number, payment may be made by check only and mailed to:

Niles Police Department
Attn: Records Department
7000 W. Touhy Avenue
Niles, IL 60714

Please write the ticket number on your check. If you do not know your ticket number, payment can be made in person at the address above.

If you cannot pay the entire amount, the Village can set up a payment plan for you. Please contact Nick Gargano at (847) 588-6521, if you have any questions.

Shop Niles



Village of Niles, Illinois

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



The Village of Niles was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. Pictured left to right: Trustee Robert Callero, Mayor Nicholas B. Blase, Village Manager George Van Geem, and Trustee Bart Murphy.

Bob Templin retires from the Public Services Department after 28 years with the Village. Bob was a dedicated bus mechanic who helped keep our fleet in tip-top shape and running safely. Congratulations on your retirement. Pictured left to right: Mayor Nicholas B. Blase, Bob Templin, Public Services Director Scott Jochim, and Trustee Louella Preston.



Board of Trustees

Mayor

Nicholas B. Blase
Mayor@vniles.com

Trustees

Kim S. Biederman
Ksb@vniles.com
 Tom Bondi
Tlb@vniles.com
 Robert M. Callero
Rmc@vniles.com
 Bart T. Murphy
Btm@vniles.com
 Louella Preston
Lbp@vniles.com
 Andrew Przybylo
Apz@vniles.com

Village Clerk

Marcia Jendreas, *maj@vniles.com*

Village Manager

George Van Geem, *gvg@vniles.com*

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
Niles Teen Center.....	663-9185

Niles Historical Society

**8970 N. Milwaukee Ave.
 Niles, IL 60714**

Come join us this summer! The building we are in was formally the Cook County Sheriff's quarters from 1923 until they closed their doors permanently in 1984. The building is one of the oldest municipal structures in Niles - a local landmark.



The Niles Historical Society started in 1971 but moved into the Cook County Building in 1985. Now the museum has three floors for exhibiting artifacts. We have a replica of an early 1900's kitchen furnished with an original coal burning

stove, a sink with a hand pump, ice box, wood pegged floor, kitchen utensils, and other artifacts of that period.

Entering the carriage room doors you will be astonished to see a horse drawn Bakery Wagon, an 1886 Covered Wagon, and a 1913 Model T Ford next to an early 1900's Tonsorial Barber Shop. You have so much more to see! We are open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 - 3:00. Please call 847/390-0160 for an appointment.

The Niles Historical Society and Museum offers an open invitation to all residents to join this worthy Non-Profit Organization.



Niles Teen Center

The Niles Teen Center is located at 7680 Caldwell and is open to all youth in grades 6 through 12 that live in Niles or attend schools in Niles. The Teen Center offers a safe place for teens to participate in programs and community service, do their homework, meet new people and relax.

The cost is only \$5.00 to join, however, some events and trips do cost an additional fee. You may register at the Teen Center or the Howard Leisure Center. Check us out on the web at: www.nilesyc.org.

Our summer hours are: Tuesday through Friday 1:00-7:00 p.m.

The Niles Youth Council is hosting its second annual Job Shadow Day on Friday June 16th. For more information, please contact Clare Whitman at 847-663-9185.

Local Boy Scout Moves Forward with Eagle Project

Local Boy Scout Eric Neuhengen from Boy Scout Troop 175 in Niles will be working to earn the highest rank in scouting, Eagle Scout, with a little help from his friends and Village Hall.

In order for Life Scout Eric to achieve this rank, he is required to plan and lead a service project that will benefit the community. For his project, he will paint a minimum of 468 fire hydrant safety zones (curbs adjacent to fire hydrants) throughout the Village of Niles.

We hope the best for Eric and his Boy Scout Troop as he embarks on this project. If you see Eric or members of his Troop, say hello and even thank him for their service.



Pictured from left to right: Tony Gonzalez, Eric Neuhengen, Drew Beierwaltes, Kevin Neuhengen, and Alex Gonzalez



Community Paint-A-Thon

September 9, 2006

Community Paint-A-Thon is a unique community partnership designed to paint the exteriors of

homes owned and occupied by persons with limited financial resources who are either 60 years of age or older or have a permanent disability and are unable to do the work themselves.

The paint project utilizes the support of many community organizations and volunteers and is completed in one day. Paint day is scheduled for September 9, 2006. For more information, or to obtain an application, contact the Senior Center at 847-588-8420

Buy Your Vehicle Stickers By June 30th

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.

Community News



The Village of Niles once again welcomes Howard Street Inn to the 2006 Leaning Tower Concert Series. Howard Street Inn is located at 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 13 through August 31, 2006
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

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



Enjoy food
fun, and
music

JULY

July 13 Enzo Incandela/Al Anile

Enzo and Al Anile return to kickoff the 2006 Leaning Tower Concert Series with brilliant Italian music. The audience can't resist singing, laughing, and clapping to the performance.

July 20 Diamondback

Chicago's best country band is back. Diamondback specializes in classic country but are just as convincing playing oldies, country rock, southern rock, and lowdown dirty blues.

July 27 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 25, 2004. This honor makes Steve one of polka music's youngest Hall of Fame inductees.

AUGUST

August 3 White Saddle Band

Introducing the White Saddle Band, a little country, a little rock & roll, and a lot of fun.

August 10 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 17 Kevin Purcell & NightBurners

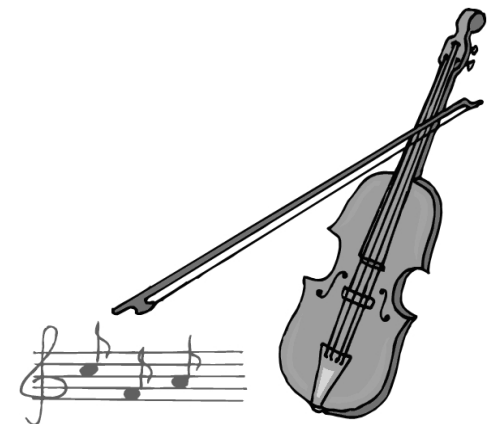
Introducing Kevin Purcell & The Nighburners. They have been on the Chicago music scene for over 10 years. They play throughout the Chicago area, cranking out their own unique brand of high energy rockin' blues.

August 24 Jimmy Damon

Introducing Jimmy Damon, the only singer authorized by Frank Sinatra to perform his music during his lifetime. Jimmy Damon has been gigging around Chicago since 1971, when dim candles and long playing records still stood for something.

August 31 Stuck in the Fifties

A new act this season, a doo-wop from the 1950s. They do all the favorite artists, from Elvis, Roy, Buddy, Bobby and Chuck, and more favorite artists from the 50s.



Human Services

Grief Workshop to Offer Support Three-Session Fall 2006 Series to Begin in September

Beginning Wednesday, September 13, 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 - 3:00 p.m. and will focus on the following areas:

Workshop #1, September 13

"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, September 20

"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, September 27 - "Adjusting to a new lifestyle."

At this workshop we will explore the stress of living alone and ways to adapt to new social roles and responsibilities.

Please call Bev Wessels or Melanie Amin at (847) 588-8420 for more information. This program is offered at no cost, but enrollment is necessary.



Join the Niles Senior Center Caregiver Group For Our Three-Part "Educated Caregiver" Video Series:



Caregiving, Coping and Compassion Fatigue

On Wednesday, September 6, at 1 p.m., the Niles Senior Center Caregiver Group will premiere the first part of our three-session "Educated Caregiver" Video Series.

Our first session will help community members learn how to cope more effectively with the demands of caregiving for spouses or other family members. Some of the caregiving issues we will focus on include:

- * Examining the challenges of caregiving. How can caregivers avoid becoming overwhelmed by the many responsibilities in their lives?
- * Looking at the daily routine of caregiving. Disruption of your personal schedule can take a toll on the sense of balance and order in your life. How can you stay organized and flexible when faced with change?
- * Identifying normal feelings. Some of the many common feelings experienced by caregivers include anger, anxiety and guilt.
- * Looking at support groups. Finding ways to share your feelings with a support system can be an important way to relieve caregiving stress.
- * Watching for signs of compassion fatigue. Learn to identify signs that you have been giving too much of yourself emotionally and physically.

This program is offered at no cost, but enrollment is necessary. If you can't join us in September, we will screen other videos in the series on Wednesday, October 4, and Wednesday, November 1. Please contact Bev Wessels or Melanie Amin at (847) 588-8420 for more information.

Niles Healthy Community Partnership Parents, Teenagers & the Law {Part IV}

Vandalism, Graffiti & Fireworks

*No person shall knowingly or recklessly damage any property of another person. Parents may be held responsible for any act of vandalism or criminal damage committed by their minor child.

- As a parent, you may be required to make a court appearance and may be required to make restitution.

*It is unlawful for any person to possess or discharge fireworks in the Village of Niles and the State of Illinois.

-Some examples of fireworks are: devices in which explosives are used, roman candles, sparklers and other similar devices.

Look for part V in the next Focus on Niles. To access the entire brochure, visit the Village website or contact the Niles Family Service at 847-588-8460.

Disaster Planning for Small Business

Great emphasis has been placed on disaster preparedness since the terrible hurricanes of the recent past and of course the 911 tragedy.

Overlooked in this effort for disaster preparedness are local small business. In the past, buying various type of insurances was sufficient and that covered the above risk, but in today's world there has to be more emphasis for the protection of said business. Several recommendations are made on how to get back into operation:

- *Arranging the storage of important data for the business in an off-site location.
- *The purchase of an Interruption type Insurance for this particular incident.
- *Consider temporary quarters for their respective employees.
- *A communication system for contacting the employees after a disaster.
- *Consider in their planning as how they'd operate the business if the incident/disaster was long-term.

This is a daunting task, therefore, perhaps one employee should be assigned to the development of a disaster plan. The Small Business Administration (S.B.A.) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (F.E.M.A.) can be accessed on the internet for additional information on this specific subject.



Move to the Right for Lights and Sirens



Every day the Fire and Police Departments are responding to emergency situations in order to provide their assistance. Some of you may have needed our services in the past and have appreciated our quick response time. This has been made possible because many people remember to move their cars to the right when they see or hear our emergency lights and sirens. Every year in the U.S there are about 16,000 collisions involving emergency vehicles while responding to or returning from incidents.

We would like to remind everyone:

- *Don't panic when you see an emergency vehicle in response.
- *Pull to the right, or as close to the right as possible
- *If you are unable to pull to the right, gradually slow down until you can come to a complete stop.
- *Drivers should stay a minimum of 500 ft away from all emergency vehicles.
- *Do not drive through a red light or stop sign in order to pull to the right.
- *Always look for additional emergency vehicles before returning to the road.
- *If an emergency vehicle approaches you from behind while you are stopped at an intersection, remain stopped unless you can move to the right.
- *Drive slowly when maneuvering around or passing a traffic accident.



Do Not Fall Victim To Lottery Scams

The Niles Police Department has recently received many inquiries from Niles residents regarding letters they received in the mail or through their email addresses. In these emails and letters, residents are being notified that they have won a specific "lottery". They are then asked to contact a claims agent to collect their winnings. The unsuspecting resident contacts the claims agent who sends, or in many cases is directly attached to the lottery letter, a claim form to verify their identity.

The form asks for personal information such as, your name, social security number, your date of birth and in some cases, your driver's license. The claims agent will now possess all the pertinent information to steal your identity. You will then receive a follow-up letter or email with options on how to collect your winnings,

including wiring the money to your bank account. The letter or email will also advise you that you will have to pay substantial upfront fees for taxes, insurance or even legal fees. Unsuspecting victims will then be asked to transfer these funds via Western Union. Once that happens your hard earned dollars or savings are now gone, with not much chance for recovery! Currently there have been over 350 fraudulent scams identified as being in operation today.

What to do? The Niles Police Department strongly advises against any communications with the con artists who run these scams. Do not respond to their emails or letters at all! If you already have been in communication with any lottery groups, please cease all communication immediately! If they only have your email address, residence address or phone number, then you are not at risk. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Investigations Division at (847) 588-6580.

Public Services

10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution



- * Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and streets
- * Never dump anything down storm drains
- * Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- * Compost your yard waste
- * Avoid pesticides
- * Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces
- * Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- * Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil
- * Pick up after your pet
- * Sweep and pickup debris rather than rinse it into storm drains.

For more information, visit

www.epa.gov/nps or www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater

Niles Free Bus

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



Thinking of Removing a Tree - Call Ahead!



If you are considering removing a tree in your front yard, please call the Public Services Department at (847)

588-7900 before starting work.

A representative from Public Services will confirm whether or not the tree is on private property or within the Village right-of-way.

Trees located in the Village right-of-way can only be removed by the Public Services Department and must be insect infested, diseased or dead to be eligible for removal.

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 begins: June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th, and September 5th (Monday Holiday)

*For residents living WEST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE, branch pickup begins: June 26th, July 31st, August 28th, and September 25th

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

~ Residents should place their 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 or stickers are not needed to use this service.
- ~ Larger sized logs and branches should be disposed of by a tree service or landscaper hired by the homeowner.

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 588-7900 should you have any questions regarding this service.

NILES RESIDENT APPRECIATION MONTH

25% DISCOUNT FOR ALL RESIDENTS
ON **ALL NEW** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS
PLUS
\$0 ENROLLMENT FEE (\$59 savings)



Call The Membership Service Team For Details



niles family fitness center
fit for every **body**

Offer Expires June 30, 2006

www.nilesfitness.com

847-588-8400

Village of Niles
1000 Civic Center Dr.
Niles, Illinois 60714

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