



FOCUS ON NILES

Community Newsletter

"Where People Count"

Fall 2007 Issue

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Village Hall Closed

September 3
(Labor Day)

November 12
(Veteran's Day)

November 22/23
(Thanksgiving)

A New Look For The Niles Free Bus

Take a Ride on One of Our Brand New Pace Buses

The Village of Niles is a popular place to live, work, run a business, and raise a family. There are many factors that contribute to the Village's popularity - its environment, convenient location, livability, public services and, of course, the Niles Free Bus. With the price of gas so unpredictable, where else can you get a free ride in a brand new vehicle?

Long the envy of other communities, the Niles Free Bus system is better than ever. Pace, the suburban bus agency that partners with the Village to operate the service, recently replaced the buses used on the three Niles routes. Ten 30-foot E-Z Rider II buses from ElDorado National have taken the place of old Chance buses. They've already received positive reviews from both riders and drivers.

Story Continued on Page 4



Parental Responsibility for Underage Drinking in the Home

The conviction of a husband and wife from a nearby community for allowing liquor to be consumed by teenagers in their home should be an example for all of us to be very careful about this problem in the future.

Laws regarding this subject have been on the books for a long period of time, but it takes an awful example like this to really dramatize the fact that all of us must be more careful regarding underage drinking in our homes.

Nicholas B. Blase

Nicholas B. Blase

Mayor

Niles



Teen Center

Now Open at
Golf Mill!!

Teen Center Opens at Golf Mill

Shopping Center
*Come Check Us Out and
Become a Member*

The Teen Center officially opened at Golf Mill Shopping Center on Wednesday, August 1st. You can find us near mall entrance number 6 by Sears.

The Center is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The Center is open to youth who are in 6th through 12th grades.

Teen Center Celebration

The Niles Teen Center will be holding a celebration at the Golf Mill Mall on

Saturday, September 15th, at 11:00 a.m. The day will feature refreshments, door prizes and a raffle. We will also announce the winner of the new Teen Center name and logo contest. Plan to stop by and become a member. For more information, call the Niles Teen Center at 847-375-8949 or write nilesyc@vniles.com.

Village of Niles, Illinois

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



The Village of Niles Board of Trustees. Pictured from left to right is Bart Murphy, Louella Preston, Bob Callero, Mayor Blase, Kim Biederman, Joe LoVerde and Andrew Przybylo

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Mayor Blase and Village Manager George Van Geem congratulate retiring Business Coordinator David Esposito. David served for 39 years, starting in Niles as a Police Officer in 1968.



Mayor Blase and Village Manager George Van Geem congratulate retiring Housing Supervisor George Nowak. George served for 28 years with the Community Development Department.



Mayor Blase congratulates retiring Code Enforcement Inspector Tony Scipione. Tony served 16 years with the Community Development Department.



Mayor Blase congratulates retiring Bus Driver Marv Symkowiak. Marv demonstrated his commitment to safety when he was inducted into the PACE Million Mile Club in 2005.

Community News

Local Businesses Right Around The Corner

Get to Know What is in Your Neighborhood

Several businesses in Niles occupy rather unique historical positions and, over the next year, we will be featuring them in this newsletter. Take time to visit them and all Niles businesses.

Meinke's Garden Center. The oldest surviving business, Meinke's Garden Center has been located at the same location at 5803 W. Touhy Avenue since 1871.

The White Eagle. Since 1966, many well known figures, to include a Pope, U.S. President, Chicago Mayor, and more, visited this Polish-American restaurant. The White Eagle, once known as the Silver Leaf Tavern, is located at 6938 Milwaukee Avenue.

Schmeissers. Famous for their "Home Made Sausage," Schmeissers is well known for their old-fashioned one-on-one service. You can find Schmeissers at 7649 N. Milwaukee Avenue.

Minelli Brothers. An Italian Specialty Store located at 7780 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Minelli Brothers carries imported Italian foods and have a well known deli counter and freezer full of Mama Minelli's recipes.

Golf Mill Shopping Mall. Officially opened in 1960 at the corner of Golf and Milwaukee, Golf Mill Mall was one of the first malls of its kind. Enclosed entirely by 1986, the mall is currently undergoing a massive renovation project with a planned Grand Opening on September 15, 2007. Come and see the improvements.

SHOP LOCALLY

Shop Niles

How Do I Dispose of Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL)

Fluorescent bulbs should not be disposed of in your regular garbage. Compact fluorescent bulbs contain small amounts of mercury. The mercury poses no threat while in the bulb; but if you break one, be careful not to inhale the mercury - immediately use a wet rag to clean it up and put all of the pieces, and the rag, into a plastic bag.

Although household CFL bulbs may legally be disposed of with regu-

lar trash (in the US), they are categorized as household hazardous waste. As long as the waste is sent to a modern municipal landfill, the hazard to the environment is limited. The best solution, however, is to save spent CFLs for a community household hazardous waste collection, which would then send the bulbs to facilities capable of treating, recovering or recycling them.

For more information on these options, contact the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County at 847-724-9205 or visit

The Mayor of Pisa Visits Niles Niles Sister Cities Celebrates 15 Years

The Mayor of Pisa and other public officials from Pisa, Italy are coming to visit the Village of Niles from October 3rd through the 7th. There will be a dinner honoring the Pisa Delegation on Friday, October 5, 2007 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Przybylo's White Eagle located at 6845 Milwaukee Avenue.

The public is invited to attend. Tickets to this celebration are \$25.00 per person and can be purchased in advance at Village Hall or at the door on the day of the event. You will have an opportunity to talk to those public officials from our most famous Sister City.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Denise Joseph at (847) 588-8005.



Pisa, Italy

The Village of Niles and their sister city Pisa, Italy established a pact on April 29, 1991.

www.swancc.org.

Although CFLs have these handling and disposal issues, the large energy savings of CFL bulbs compared to incandescent is of greater overall environmental benefit.

Find out how you can make Clean Air Count by visiting www.cleanair-counts.org.



Niles Free Bus Special

Continued from Cover Story - "A New Look"



Free Bus Driver Fred Malekfa

The latest Niles buses look good, feel good and operate more efficiently. They sport the new Pace logo and blue and white color scheme, and offer lots of new features for an even more comfortable ride. The vehicles have padded and upholstered seats and a completely

electric low floor boarding ramp for easy access. Another plus for passengers are the easy to read LED signs at the front and side of the bus. The front destination sign is the largest size available at the time the buses were manufactured.

In addition, these well-designed buses are equipped with the latest technology, so they can run more efficiently and reliably. They have detailed information systems to record events like engine idle times. The transmission uses synthetic fluid for extended drain intervals which is better for the environment.

Pace and the Village of Niles invite you to take a look at your new buses. Check them out at one of the popular stops like Golf Mill, the Civic Center Plaza or the Leaning Tower YMCA. Or better yet, try them for your next trip around the Village. The schedules for all three routes are enclosed or call the RTA Travel Information Center toll-free from any area code at 836-7000. Just about any place in our community is reachable on the Free Bus.



through a training period.

From the driver's perspective, she stated the biggest changes are the driver's seat location, improved visibility and width of the bus. Previous buses had the driver sitting behind the front axle. With the new buses, drivers sit in front of the front axle and are able to look out of a much larger front windshield.

"This makes the fourth type of bus I've driven for the Village and by far is the best model," Alice said. The first bus she drove was a challenge. "In the summer you had to choose between acceleration or air conditioning, so often times there was no air conditioning. That bus also had a school bus type door and was much smaller."

She added another benefit of the new buses is the reduced floor height. "The old buses required passengers to 'climb' in and out of the bus. With the new buses we can use the 'kneeler' option to reduce the height of the step. This makes it much easier for passengers, especially seniors."

For passengers in wheelchairs, Alice said the accessibility has greatly improved. "The new wheelchair ramp is spectacular. The old wheelchair lifts took 3 to 5 minutes before a passenger was secure. With the new buses, the ramp system only takes 1½ to 2 minutes."

Alice also said passengers have commented on the new buses. Several passengers have said they love the new buses, and credited it to bringing in some new faces. While moving up to a new bus provided a much smoother ride and roominess, the one thing Alice also liked is shared by many new car owners - the new car, or in this case, the new bus smell.

As part of Golf Mill's The Scene/Regrand Opening Event on Saturday, September 15th, the Village of Niles will provide shoppers the opportunity to kick off the use of the new buses by "kicking the tires" on the buses used on the Village of Niles Free Bus System.

"The new buses provide much more comfort and reliability to our riders, and we want to show them off and give current and new riders the opportunity to inspect them up close and personal," said Director of Public Services Scott N. Jochim.

A new bus will be displayed at Mall Entrance Number One, next to J.C. Penney, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Said Jochim, "Take the time to look at our new buses and learn how easy and convenient the Niles Free Bus routes are to use by joining us on this day."



From the Driver's Point of View

Free Bus Drivers Sound Off About New Buses

"The first thing you notice when you see the new buses is the size," said Alice Egan, Niles Free Bus Driver since 1976. "The interior is much roomier from side to side and from head to toe, but once you get behind the wheel it's great to drive."

Alice credited the driver training she received from Pace as vital, saying it especially helped her with making turns. Prior to using the new buses, all drivers and mechanics went

Niles Senior Center

By Kelly Mickle, Director of Senior Services



CarFit

Thursday, October 18th
9:00am - 3:00pm

Are you comfortable and in control behind the wheel? Checking to see that you and your vehicle fit well

together can be as important to your safety as a mechanical checkup for your car.

A good fit means you have:

- * A clear line of vision over the steering wheel.
- * Room between your breastbone and steering wheel.
- * A seat you fit in comfortably and safely.
- * Properly adjusted head restraints.
- * Easy access to gas and brake pedals.
- * A safety belt that is firm yet comfortable as you drive.

CarFit is a program designed to give you a quick but comprehensive check of how well you and your vehicle work together. A trained professional will ask you simple questions and complete a 12-point CarFit checklist. The entire process takes about 25 minutes, and you leave with recommended car adjustments and adaptations. Contact the Senior Center for more information and to schedule an appointment. The program will be held at: NIPSTA (Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy), 2300 Patriot Boulevard, Glenview, IL 60026



Free 911 Emergency Cell Phone for Seniors Register Today!

Cook County Sheriff Thomas J. Dart and the Niles Senior Center invite senior citizens to register to receive a free 911 Emergency Cell Phone on Thursday, October 4th, at 1:00 p.m. Registration is required.

Sheriff Dart's Cell Phones for Seniors program provides a free cellular telephone to county residents over the age of 65, who DO NOT have a cellular phone. Having a cell phone that can reach emergency services offers seniors an extra measure of security as they are driving, taking public transportation or participating in outdoor activities.

In addition to the phone, each senior attending the event will receive two batteries, a charger and instructions on how to access 911 on their cell phone.

Individuals who would like to donate their old and unwanted cell phones to this program can drop them off at the Senior Center. The Sheriff's cell phone program will accept any brand, make or model of cellular telephone whether it is in working condition or not. Even components of cellular telephones will be accepted.



So, Your Child is Returning to School

By Marty Friedman, Director of Family Services

As the school year begins, there are just a few things for parents to be aware of regarding their children returning to school:

1. Your child has just spent an entire summer not thinking about school; give them some time to readjust to school.
2. From the first day of school, start having daily non-critical discussions about what their day was like.
3. When asking your child about school, be specific i.e., how was the bus? How was your math class?

4. Starting with the beginning of school, get used to contacting your child's teachers every other week. Teachers have lots of children to concern themselves with. You have one! It is easier for you to call and the teacher will appreciate it.
5. Learn to appreciate how difficult it is sometimes for you child to go to school. The peer pressure is enormous!
6. Try to encourage learning vs. production. If your child does not have to worry about if you will be angry over grades, they will be able to focus on learning and the grades will follow.
7. Lastly, remember, the school year lasts until late spring. This is a long race not a sprint. Children have all year to improve. Encourage vs. anger.

If you should need any assistance with your child please contact Niles Family Service at 847-588-8460.

Public Safety



Keep Pet IDs Current

By Animal Control Officer Peter Babikan

Pet owners need to do everything they can to help a lost pet to return home safely and quickly. How? Keep pet ID tag/microchip information current and on your pet's collar at all times.

ID tags may be purchased at any pet store. All tags should include the pet's name, current address and phone number. It doesn't help your lost pet if you have an old address or disconnected phone number on the tag.

If your pet does not like to wear a collar, a more permanent alternative is to have a microchip implanted by a veterinarian at the cost of around \$35- \$40. The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is inserted with a syringe underneath the animal's skin between the shoulder blades. We here at the Niles Animal Control scan every stray animal for a microchip. The big advantage to the microchip is it can NEVER be removed or fall off like a collar or tags. As with an ID tag, if you move or change a phone number, you must contact either your veterinarian or the microchip company itself and report any changes.

Remember, pet ID tags and/or microchips are only helpful if the information is correct.

If you need to report a Lost or Found pet, please call Niles Police Department immediately at 847/588-6500.



Halloween Safety

By Deputy Fire Chief Steve Borkowski

Residents should take the following safety tips to heart this Halloween.

- * Purchase costumes and props labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
- * Provide children with lightweight flashlights to carry for lighting or as part of their costume.
- * Dried flowers, cornstalk and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.
- * Use flashlights or battery-operated



candles when illuminating Jack-O-Lanterns. Use extreme caution when decorating with candle-lit Jack-O-Lanterns, and supervise children at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside Jack-O-Lanterns, use long, fire-place-style matches and be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn including doorsteps, walkways and yards.

- * Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, ensuring clear escape routes.
- * Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose cos-



Beware of Telephone Scams

By Deputy Chief Charles Giovannelli

Several residents have received telephone calls from con-artists who claim to be doctors, police officers, or even emergency workers. These con-artists then allege that there is an emergency and that the resident should call a given telephone number, preceded by *72 or 72#. When the actual telephone call is made by the unsuspecting resident, there is NO answer.

Be aware that dialing "72" is a phone company feature that forwards calls while people are on vacation and/or unavailable. As the result of this sort of telephone call and ruse, any subsequent calls from the number that was originally dialed will be charged to your personal telephone account.

This is a SCAM and many of these calls to local residents are originating from inmates in the Cook County Jail.

If you receive any type of call like this you must just HANG UP!! Otherwise, YOU pay the BILL!!!!

If you experience this con, please call the Niles Police Department at our non-emergency number of 847-588-6500.

tumes may brush against the lighting.

- * Instruct children to stay away from open flames or other heat sources. Be sure children know how to stop, drop and roll in the event their clothing catches fire. (Stop immediately, drop to the ground, covering your face with your hands, and roll over and over to extinguish flames.) Cool the burn.
- * Instruct children who are attending parties at others' homes to locate the exits and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

Source: National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA).





Recycling Cart Rental

\$27.00 a Year



Do you find that your 18-gallon recycling bin is just not big enough for all of your recycling? Do you find it difficult to carry your full bin to the curb? Do you find that your recycling gets blown out of the bin on windy days?

Through an agreement with the Village of Niles, Groot Industries will rent residents a "heavy-duty" 65-gallon Groot Recycling Cart for only \$2.25 per month or \$27 per year. The recycling carts are specially designed for the hydraulic lifts on Groot trucks. Call Groot today to order.



Call Groot Today!!

1-800-244-1977



AT&T U-verse

Competition for Cable & Satellite

The State of Illinois has opened the door for AT&T to provide competitive video services. Currently, a Village of Niles resident may subscribe to Comcast or a Satellite Dish company (such as Dish Network or DirecTV) for video services, but soon residents will have more of a choice.

Prior to AT&T offering this new combined video, internet, and phone service to residents, the company must first upgrade their current system. This will require AT&T personnel and subcontractors of AT&T to work within Village right-of-way and utility easements.

AT&T's new product will be called U-Verse. What is AT&T U-verse? It is a suite of Internet Protocol-based products and services which includes U-Verse television and high-speed Internet access delivered over a broadband network. U-Verse will be available in Niles in mid-2008.

If you experience problems during this upgrade or experience workers without identification, call the Niles Village Hall at 847-588-8005.

Free Leaf Collection

October through November

The Village of Niles will again offer free leaf pickup service this year to residents. The leaf pickup program runs from mid-October through late November, and is provided to residents every other week according to the following schedule.

For residents living EAST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE,



pickup begins on the following Mondays. Residents should place their leaves in the curb on the appropriate Monday for pickup during the week. Leaf pickup begins on the following dates: October 1st, October 15th, October 29th, November 13th (Monday Holiday).

For residents living WEST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE, pickup begins on the following Mondays. Residents should place their leaves in the curb on the appropriate Monday for pickup during the

week. Leaf pickup begins on the following dates: October 8th, October 22nd, November 5th, November 19th.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

- * Loose leaves should be raked into the curb by Monday of the pickup week and be free of foreign materials such as grass, branches, plants and rocks.
- * Leaves will not be collected if they are placed in plastic bags or boxes - all leaves must be loose.
- * Leaves placed for pickup on the appropriate Monday morning will be picked up during that week, not necessarily that Monday.
- * To provide the leaf collection equipment better access to the streets, residents are encouraged to park vehicles in garages or driveways.
- * Residents choosing to bag their leaves may purchase yard waste stickers (\$1.00 each), and place the sticker on the paper yard waste bag or a 35 gallon garbage can used for disposal and place for collection on their regular garbage pickup day.

Remember, leaves placed for pickup on the appropriate Monday morning will be picked up during that week, not necessarily that Monday. Please contact the Public Services Department at (847) 588-7900 should you have any questions regarding this service.

BACK TO FITNESS AT THE NILES FAMILY FITNESS CENTER

**10%
DISCOUNT**



**ON ALL
NEW
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS**

terms and conditions apply

Offer Expires September 30, 2007

www.nilesfitness.com

847-588-8400

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