

FOCUS ON NILES

Quarterly Newsletter

"Where People Count"

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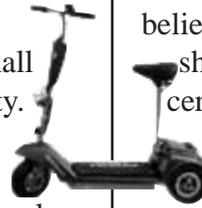
Shop Niles This Season



From the Desk of Nicholas B. Blase

Electric or Gas Powered Scooters and Public Right of Ways

Every town in the nation, from California to Washington, is wrestling with the growing safety concerns related to the use of motorized push-scooters, motorized skateboards, and other small motorized vehicles on public property. As it stands, these vehicles can be potentially hazardous to the operators and others, but being a new technology, safety issues are not addressed by current laws.



The question many states and municipalities are asking is: Are these vehicles safe and should they be allowed on streets, sidewalks, bike paths, parks or other public ways?



Many communities have passed laws forbidding the use of these vehicles on streets and sidewalks.

Before the Village acts on legislation regulating what the state considers as "personal assistive mobility devices," we welcome input from residents on the issue.

Please write my office at the address below to share your thoughts and concerns on the subject. Let me know if you believe these small motorized vehicles should be regulated due to safety concerns or other issues such as noise.

Regarding those of you who own one of these small motorized vehicles, please be safe and careful to protect yourself and others. For those persons considering purchasing one of these personal devices, it may be wise to wait and see if state or local laws change in the near future.

Thank you and I look forward to reading your letters.

Nicholas B. Blase

Mayor
1000 Civic Center Drive
Niles, Illinois 60714



WARNING!



WARNING! The Deadline to Purchase a Vehicle Sticker is September 1st.

All vehicles that are principally stored, parked, or garaged in the Village of Niles must have a valid vehicle sticker. This includes all leased vehicles used by residents and businesses. The fee for a vehicle sticker is \$25, with a \$15 discount for drivers 62 years or older.

Police enforcement will begin on September 1, 2003. The fine for failing to purchase a vehicle sticker is \$50.

Vehicle stickers may be purchased at Village Hall, selected currency exchanges, and banks.

Village of Niles, Illinois

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

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Nicholas B. Blase

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

Village Clerk

Marcia Jendreas

Village Manager

Mary Kay Morrissey

Village Holidays

September 1, Labor Day
November 11, Veteran's Day

Village Phone Numbers

Emergency.....	911
Information Line.....	588-8411
Mayor's Office.....	588-8003
Village Clerk's Office.....	588-8003
Information Line.....	588-8411
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

Village Welcomes New Board Trustee

Kim Sychowski Biederman Joins the Team



Kim Sychowski Biederman is sworn in to office by Village Clerk Marcia Jendreas (right)

Kim Sychowski Biederman was sworn in as a Village Trustee on July 22, 2003. A lifelong resident of Niles, Trustee Biederman served on the Niles Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals since 1999.

She was a Legislative

Assistant for Congressman Sidney Yates in Washington D.C. and also worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Currently, she is the Operations Manager for the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons in Rosemont, Illinois. Trustee Biederman has a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Trustee Biederman serves the community, by being accessible and accountable, to continue making the Village of Niles the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

National Do Not Call Registry

Stop the Telemarketing Calls at Home



Are you fed up with unwanted telemarketing calls? You can now sign up for a national do-not-call list that will block many sales calls. The Federal Trade Commission launched this free service on July 1st.

Placing your number on the National Do not Call Registry will stop most, but not all, telemarketing calls. You may still receive calls from political organizations, charities, telephone surveyors or companies with which you have an existing business relationship. You may, however, request that telemarketers soliciting charitable contributions not call you and they are required to honor your request or be subject to a fine.

Consumers who register should see a decrease in telemarketing calls after it begins enforcing the do-not-call list in October 2003. Consumers who wish to register may call the toll-free number 1-888-382-1222 or go to the Do-Not-Call Registry Website at www.donotcall.gov.



Due to Warnings of Higher Natural Gas Prices *Residents Should Prepare Now for Winter Weather*

The American Gas Association states that natural gas prices are on the rise and that this trend should continue into this fall and winter. Here are some ways you can keep your costs down when the weather turns cold:

§ **Update Your Insulation.** If your home was built before 1980, there is an 80 percent chance that it lacks proper insulation. Adding insulation to the attic is perhaps the easiest and most cost-effective way to reduce heating costs.

§ **Seal Windows and Doors.** Weatherize all seams, cracks, and openings around windows, doors and baseboards, as well as the small openings around television cables, dryer vents and plumbing pipes with caulking, sealant, or weather-stripping. And, remember to close the chimney flue when not in use.

§ **Check Your Furnace.** Flames should be blue and steady. Inspect the condition of the pipes. Replace air filters every three to six months.

§ **Savings in Your Hot Water Heater.** Lower the thermostat setting to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Wrap the tank with an insulation blanket. Insulate water pipes leading out from your water heater. Periodically drain the water heater until water runs clear. Run only full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher. Keep your showers as short and as cool as tolerable.

If you have problems keeping up with your Nicor gas bill this winter, you may want to use the Nicor "Budget Plan". You may also qualify for financial assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce (1-800-252-8643) or the Sharing Program administered by the Salvation Army (773-205-3521). You may also visit www.nicorinc.com.

Residents Have a Choice *Natural Gas Competition Offered*

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 five alternative natural gas suppliers - Corn Belt Energy, Dominion, MxEnergy, Peoples Energy, and Santanna Energy. Here are some questions you can ask suppliers to help decide which offer is best:

- * What pricing options are available to me?
- * 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.



Become Familiar With Weather Warning Sirens

Did you know that the Village has five weather warning sirens placed throughout town? Here are the locations:

1. Niles Police Department,
2. Niles Fire House #2,
3. Grennan Heights Park,
4. 9620 N. Milwaukee, and
5. 7400 N. Lehigh.

State law mandates that each

community test their warning sirens at 10:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. It is very possible that you may even hear sirens at this time from other surrounding communities.

The purpose for the sirens is primarily to warn citizens of an approaching severe storm or tornado.



NILES FAMILY FITNESS CENTER

NILES

987 Civic Center Dr.
(847) 588-8400
www.vniles.com

“Building A Healthier Family”

Family Fitness Center

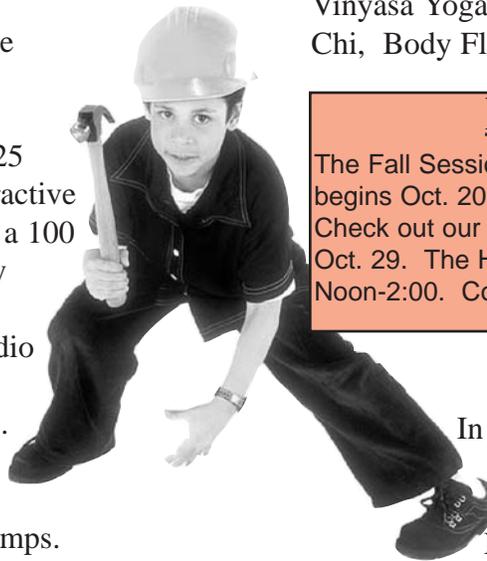
AT A GLANCE



The Family Fitness Center is dedicated to keeping everyone in your family healthy and happy.

We strive to offer a variety of fitness programs and activities to meet the needs of anyone from the age of toddler to senior adult. Here is what we have:

- * 5,000 square foot fitness facility.
- * Selectorized strength equipment, free weights, and state-of-the-art cardiovascular equipment.
- * Indoor Aquatics Center featuring a 25 yard lap pool, zero depth pool, Interactive spray fountains, a swim channel, and a 100 foot water slide. A whirlpool and dry sauna are also available for over 18.
- * Group Exercise: Tai Chi, Yoga, Cardio Dance and more!
- * Parent-tot classes and special events.
- * Learn to Swim and pool special events.
- * Youth sports, fitness, science and camps.
- * Adult volleyball, scrapbooking, and line dancing.
- * Infant child care now available !!



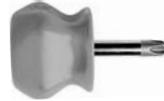
MASSAGE THERAPY

Enjoy the benefits of massage therapy by a certified massage therapist. After your relaxing massage schedule an appointment with our certified health professional for a Nutritional Counseling Session! Now that you are feeling relaxed and eating healthy, have one of our certified personal trainers set up a program that best suits your goals. Pricing and scheduling information for our specialty fitness services is available by calling 588-8400.



Fitness Center Hours

Monday - Friday 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. p.m.



EXCITING CLASSES

We now offer core strengthening and balance training on our new BOSU Balance trainers. These exciting new classes will improve participants' balance, strength, cardiovascular capacity, agility and flexibility. Registration for the fall session begins in August and classes begin the week of September 8th. Other group fitness classes offered are: Pilates, Yoga, Vinyasa Yoga, Healthy Backs Yoga, Cardio Mix, Tai Chi, Body Flex, Cardio Box & Spinning group cycling.

LEARN TO SWIM

The Fall Session 2 Learn to swim session registration begins Oct. 20 for members and Oct. 24 for everyone. Check out our Stroke Technique Workshops on Oct. 28 and Oct. 29. The Halloween Pool Party will be Oct. 26 from Noon-2:00. Come enjoy all of the Aquatic Activities!

FAMILY NIGHT

In the months of October and November the fitness center will be hosting an after hours Family Night. This evening is designed to give families the opportunity to use the facility together for an evening of swimming, track and gym activities. Individuals or families who purchase an annual pass during family night will receive \$30.00 off the activation fee per membership application. No pre-registration is necessary to enjoy the evening. For further information contact Member Services at 588-8400.



Saturday Oct. 4th and Nov. 1st: 6:00-8:00pm

Members:	Free
Residents:	\$3.00
Non-Residents:	\$5.00

5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The Family Fitness Center will celebrate their 5-year anniversary on Saturday, DECEMBER 6, 2003. The event will take place from 6-9pm. Bring your family and friends and enjoy an evening of fun and recreation.



Animal Proofing Your Home

Keep Wild Animals in the Wild



Cold weather is right around the corner and it is not too early to protect your home against wildlife for the fall and winter seasons. As many of you may have

encountered before, animals will be looking to find shelter during the cold weather. Animals will seek out a vent opening or hole in the roof to crawl into for warmth. Animals such as birds, opossums, raccoons, skunks and squirrels will be your most common culprits.

Following are several things that you, the homeowner, can do to deter wildlife from seeking refuge in your home or garage this winter:

Fireplace/furnace chimney - Install a commercial chimney cap.

Attic exhaust fan - Cover bottom of fan from inside attic with hardware cloth and staple hardware cloth over the top of the cover on the roof.

Vent openings - Cover outside with hardware cloth.

Window wells - Cover top with commercial grate.

Weak or rotted areas in roof, soffit or fascia - Make necessary repairs as soon as possible; inspect and maintain on a regular basis.

Cement stoops/slabs - Dig a trench 8 inches wide and at least 2 feet deep around cement area; secure hardware cloth to side of stoop or slab at least 2" above the bottom of slab and place cloth against the hole to the bottom of the trench; fill trench.

Decks - Follow the same instructions for cement stoops. Nail hardware cloth at least 1-2" above bottom of deck.

Check these areas now and you will save yourself money in extensive repair costs later. For more information contact the Village of Niles Animal Control Officer Peter Babikan at 847-588-6508.



Unsafe Consumer Products

Be Aware and Eliminate Them

The U.S Consumer Product Safety Commission has targeted the following consumer products associated a growing number of home fires:

Supplemental Home Heaters - Space heaters (electric and gas) account for 120,000 residential fires annually. If you use one in your home, remember the following: keep combustibles at a distance of at least 3ft away, use a proper extension cord, use it in a well ventilated area, set it in location that it will not be knocked over, and always shut your space heater off before going to sleep.

Cigarette Lighters and Smoking Materials - These items account for over 200 deaths a year and about two thirds of these are the result of children playing with lighters. Children as young as two years old are capable of using a lighter, so never use them to entertain children and always keep them out of reach. Smoking materials are also a problem these days because ashes can fall into the cracks of furniture or mattresses and can smolder for hours. Never smoke in bed.

Wearing Apparel - Sleep wear such as pajamas, nightgowns, and robes are commonly made from flammable materials such as cotton, rayon, and acrylics. If you wear this type of clothing when cooking, roll up your sleeves. Also, never store candy or cookies above the stove, thus reducing the attraction of children, preventing them from climbing on cooking equipment.

Annual Halloween Party Friday, October 31st



St. John Brebeuf School
8301 N. Harlem Avenue
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A SAFE ALTERNATIVE!!

HUMAN SERVICES

The Village of Niles Club 55/62

An Invitation for Fellowship, Trips, and Activities

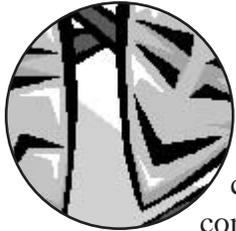


Are you interested in a Dinner Club? Theatre Club? Day or Overnight Travel Club? If so, this invitation is for you. The Village of Niles is reaching out to residents around the ages of 55 - 62 to increase the membership in our special Club 55/62.

We're thinking of concerts at Ravinia, trips to the Grand Victoria Casino, dinner and theatre outings, etc., some with transportation provided so that you don't need to worry about driving and parking.



There are also possibilities of participating in health lectures, computer classes, language classes, and more. Volunteer opportunities are also available. This is a chance to get out of the house and meet your neighbors. We meet on evenings and weekends.



We began just over a year ago with our first event: A pizza party at Riggios. From that event, volunteers came together to form a planning committee. Since then, the planning committee met several times to plan events such as Dinner at the Gale Street Inn; A Holiday Party filled with plenty of activities, holiday music, and a delicious dinner; and A Night with Elvis, which was a great evening of dinner and entertainment.

Please contact Jaymi at 588-8482 for further information. Find out what events are planned. We would love you to join the planning committee. We are looking forward to the opportunity of meeting with all of you and hearing some of your ideas. Please sign up.

Some Important Dates - Family Services

“Celebration of Parenting” Workshop on Saturday, November 15. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Gemini Jr. High. This workshop sponsored by the Niles Healthy Community Partnership.

A Workshop titled, “Brain Development & Behavior in Children/Teens” is planned for late October. Please contact Family Services at 588-8460 for more information.

Triumph Over Adversity

Editorial Opinion from the Family Services Director

I recently saw the film "SEABISCUIT" and it was indeed an inspirational story! It takes place during the final years of the Depression, and, as in all bad financial times, people were looking to escape the cold hard facts of poverty, joblessness, and hopelessness. Seabiscuit came along at a perfect time to capture the hearts of Americans. Giving the whole country something to cheer about, Seabiscuit overcame incredible odds, seemingly showing everyone that if you worked hard enough and are given the opportunity, you can succeed.



This story reminds me of what is currently occurring in our country today. People are out of work or fear for their jobs, children are concerned about their futures, and many of us just feel that no one cares.

This film is about determination and helping one another, a basic principle that this country was built on. So see this movie and take your children and then discuss it with your children. We all can use the message that this film delivers.



The Senior Center Men's Club

We are Seeking Members

Our Senior Center Men's Club meets the third Monday of every month. Following each Men's Club meeting, lunch is served and entertainment is enjoyed. Also, the Men's Club sponsors special events each month throughout the year, such as the popular BBQ's, the Annual Holiday Party, and the Village of Niles July 4th Parade. We'd love to increase our membership. Please call Mary Ann at 588-8420 for further information.

2003 Leaf Pickup Program

The Village of Niles 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 and continues through that week. 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 6th, October 20th, November 3rd, and November 17th.

For residents living WEST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE, pickup begins on the following Mondays and continues through that week. 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 13th, October 27th, and November 10th

Loose leaves free of foreign materials such as grass, branches, plants and rocks should be raked into the curb by Monday of the pickup week. 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 may choose to place leaves at the curb for collection with their refuse and recycling, but this requires a yard waste sticker (\$1.00 each) and that the leaves be placed in a paper bag or 32 gallon plastic container. The container should be placed at the curb for collection on the regularly scheduled garbage pickup day. Please contact the Public Services Department at 588-7900 if you have any questions regarding this service.

Branch Pickup Ends September 30, 2003

This is the last month residents have to dispose of branches through the Village's branch pickup program.

Residents East of Milwaukee Avenue should place branches at the curb on September 2nd to be picked up that week. Residents West of Milwaukee Avenue should place branches at the curb on September 29th to be picked up that week.

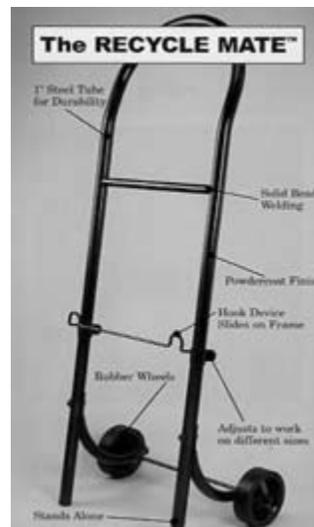
Branches must be less than 10 inches in diameter and tied in bundles no more than 18 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length (one person must be able to lift bundle). No stumps, roots or attached dirt will be accepted. Yard waste bags or stickers are not needed to use this service. Larger sized logs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

For more information contact Public Services at 588-7900.

The "Recycle Mate" Offered To Residents *Bring Your Recycling Bin to the Curb with Ease*

A limited number of "Recycle Mates" will be available for order at a price of \$17 per unit - the actual cost for the product. This utility cart is used to easily wheel curbside recycling bins to the curb for collection. It eliminates the bending and lifting associated with recycling bins.

If you wish to order a Recycle Mate, please contact Steven Vinezeano at 847-588-8007. The Village only has 48 Recycle Mates on hand for sale, but more Recycle Mates may be ordered if necessary. Available for pickup only and some assembly required.



Garbage Must Be In Proper Container 35 Gallons or Less Required at the Curb

Important information for residents in single-family homes regarding the **size limit for garbage cans**. (Nordica Townhomes, Washington Street Townhomes, and Lyons Townhomes excluded).

The Village's garbage contract with Groot requires that garbage containers be **no larger than 35-gallons**.

Residents may rent a "heavy-duty" 65-gallon cart from Groot Recycling and Waste Services for \$2.25 per month. These heavy-duty carts are specially made for the hydraulic lifts on Groot garbage trucks. To order a Groot 65-gallon cart, call Groot at 1-800-244-1977.



32 or 35-gallon
OK



65-gallon Groot Cart
OK

Please Use the Proper Refuse Container

Personal and Household Prevention of West Nile Virus

It is the goal of the local Mosquito Abatement Districts to inform all residents of the preventive measures residents can take to avoid mosquito bites and avoid contracting the West Nile Virus that plagued the area last season.

How to Avoid Mosquito Bites:

-Try to avoid or limit time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn.

- Wear light-colored clothing, long sleeves, long pants, and socks.



- Use insect repellent that contains DEET. Talk with your doctor before applying any type of insect repellent to babies and young children.

Homeowner Tips:

- Clean and properly maintain catch basins.

- Cut and remove excess overhanging vegetation along or over standing water.

- Eliminate standing water.

- Inspect and clean rain gutters and downspouts.

- Change the water often in bird-baths and wading pools weekly.

- Check flower pots for mosquito larvae.

- Maintain swimming pools by draining and covering any pool not in use.

- Notify your Mosquito District of any stagnant pools or standing water in and around your home/neighborhood.

-Maintain and install window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out.



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

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