



FOCUS ON NILES

Community Newsletter

"Where People Count"

Dear Resident:

Please note the following explanation of your 2006 property tax bill which you may have already received or will receive shortly:

1. Taxable Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) for Niles went up by 9.86%. This includes any "pent-up" increases that are limited by the annual 7% statute. Most residents got a 7% increase last year and another 7% increase this year.
2. Tax rates went down for every taxpayer in Niles. Rate decreases ranged from 0.26% to 3.14%.
3. With the EAV rising by 9.86%, the typical tax bill will increase in a range from 6.74% to 9.60%. This is an average. Some will decrease, some will be higher.
4. The Village tax rate is .320, down from .355 (-9.86%).
5. The Niles Park District tax rate is .329, down from .353 (-6.80%).
6. The Niles Library tax rate is .364, up from .318 (+14.47%). This is due to their last successful referendum.
7. School tax rates:

District 63 - 2.542 (3.13% decrease)
District 64 - 2.582 (2.22% increase)
District 67 - 2.041 (4.13% decrease)
District 71 - 1.419 (1.29% decrease)
District 72 - 1.661 (3.82% decrease)

This explanation was presented to me by our Village Manager George Van Geem, who is also our past Finance Director. George does not indicate what your actual tax bill will be, but as you will note there is good news and bad news. The good news is that tax rates appear to have gone down. The bad news is that because your property values have gone up in the past several years, even with the 7% maximum taxable equalized assessed value allowed by law, you will probably see your tax bill go up. Again, it is very difficult to know exactly because as is typical in all years - some tax bills go up and others go down.

Confusing? Yes, but unfortunately that's the way things are. The one thing you should be thankful of is that your property values have increased, and that is a good thing when you are ready to sell your house. Values seem to be stabilizing now and when the Village of Niles is reassessed again, which should be in 2008, the increase should not be dramatic.

Very truly yours,

Mayor

Fall 2006 Issue

- Message from the Mayor
- School Year Safety
- GIS
- Clean Air Counts
- Homeland Security Grant
- Eagle Scout
- Taste of Sister Cities
- Milwaukee Avenue Plan
- Home Repairs
- Human Services
- Public Safety
- Public Services
- Fitness Center Promotion

Village Hall Closed

September 4
(Labor Day)

November 10
(Veteran's Day)

November 23 & 24
(Thanksgiving Holiday)

Shop Niles



Village of Niles, Illinois

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



Trustee Murphy and Deputy Fire Chief Mueller join Mayor Blase in congratulating Firefighter/Paramedic Keith Dutton and Lt. Bill White for their efforts saving the life of Niles resident Ms. Louise Pierski.



Mayor Blase, Deputy Police Chief Giovannelli & Sgt. Goduto join Officer Zawilla in a tribute to honor the memory of K-9 Police Dog Noah. A plaque and Noah's badge was presented to Officer Zawilla.



Evelyn Gaertner retires from the Community Development Department after 42 years of service.



Senator Ira Silverstein is recognized for securing over \$100,000 in State grant funds for the Village of Niles.



Mayor Blase and Village Manager George Van Geem congratulate James Stavish who retired as Senior Center Director after 8 years of service.



Mayor Blase and Village Manager George Van Geem congratulate Ron Sorenson who retired from the Family Fitness Center after 7 years of service.

Board of Trustees

Mayor

Nicholas B. Blase
Mayor@vniles.com

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Louella Preston

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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

During the School Year:



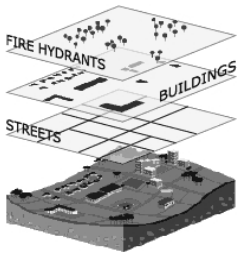
When the new school year is in session, please remember a few common courtesies when driving through a school zone.

- 1) Respect the school zone speed limit.
- 2) Devote particular attention to the pedestrian and bicycle-type traffic which comprises primarily of students.
- 3) Be very vigilant to the school crossing guards and their instructions when approaching various intersections in the respective school districts.
- 4) Please respect the patrol boys/girls who are also diligently working to provide public safety to the students of the school districts.

If we all recognize the above recommendations, this should be a safe school year for everybody!

Community News

WHAT GIS MEANS TO THE PEOPLE OF NILES



Five years ago, the Village of Niles embarked on a project to build a Geographic Information System or GIS. GIS combines information, grouped by layers (village limits, streets, water lines, parks, etc.) and organized in order to visualize and analyze spatial (where things are) and descriptive (what things are) data. Today, it is being used by every department in the Village to help improve the services we provide to our residents and businesses.

Fighting fires in Niles is done by the Niles Fire Department. Niles is part of the Regional Emergency Dispatch or RED Center. RED consists of fourteen community fire departments all dispatched from a single location and pledged to provide mutual aid to each other. Using a combination of technologies all built on GIS, RED Center can identify the exact location and status of fire apparatus at any time. This enables the RED Center dispatchers to make better decisions regarding which fire companies to dispatch and how to approach the scene. Also, as a result of GIS, all our fire vehicles are equipped with the latest detailed mapping including the location of every fire hydrant in the Village. Niles has provided each of the Fire Departments in RED with this mapping to ensure that emergency personnel not familiar with Niles can find a location or hydrant whether it's the middle of the night or in six-feet of snow.

Navigating the Village of Niles is not just an issue for

Fire. The Niles Police Department uses GIS mapping to coordinate incidents in the field, as well as helping new officers get acclimated more quickly. Police also use GIS to analyze crime patterns, prepare emergency plans and have even used GIS's aerial photography to apprehend a known fugitive.

The Niles Police Department is also part of a multi-jurisdictional dispatch center including Morton Grove, Des Plaines and Park Ridge called the North Suburban Emergency Communications Center or NSECC. Niles has provided the NSECC with the latest GIS information. Now when 911 calls come in, they are instantly brought up on a map increasing the speed, accuracy and efficiency of responding personnel.

Other examples where GIS has helped improve the community include: designing a free bus route for teens taking them directly from school to the teen center; identifying inadequate street lighting; and coordinating the replacement of older road signs so that we can maintain their visibility. The Senior Center uses GIS to help them create routes to deliver flu shots and distribute food for homebound residents. The Community Development Department uses GIS every day to analyze and verify construction plans, manage health issues, and ultimately to keep our great Village strong and beautiful.

When the Village of Niles was originally introduced to GIS, it was described not just as a system that allows us to map things, but as a way to connect the many pieces of information managed by our departments. Today, the combination of all this information allows the Village to make better decisions based on more accurate information and deliver services more quickly and efficiently.



The Village of Niles is now a member of 'Clean Air Counts', a nonprofit campaign that is working to improve air quality in the Chicago area by targeting the problem of urban smog. Visit www.vniles.com to learn more about our efforts and www.cleanair-counts.com to learn how you can "Make a Visible Difference."

Drive less, walk, bike, or use transit whenever possible.

It is estimated that motor vehicles contribute 55% of the nitrogen oxides (NOx) and 42% of the volatile organic com-

pounds (VOCs) emitted in the United States (U.S. EPA).

While cars today are much cleaner than in the past, we have not seen an overall drop in NOx and VOC emissions, due to the increasing number of cars on the road.

So, one of the best ways you can help reduce smog is to use your car less frequently. Walking and biking are the best options for the environment and for your health. The Niles Free Bus is also a great option: it's less polluting, and cheaper, than driving a car. Carpooling is a great way to get the benefits of using a car while still eliminating all the excess emissions that would be caused by multiple single-occupancy vehicles.



Homeland Security Grant

If you are a manufacturer or business doing research and development on Homeland Security you could be eligible for a grant up to \$150,000 from the Department of Commerce & Economic

Opportunity.

For more information, contact David Esposito, Economic Development Coordinator at 847/588-8046.



Eagle Scout Collecting Old Cell Phones

J.J. Palliser of Boy Scout Troop 175 from St. John Brebeuf Parish in Niles is currently coordinating an Eagle Scout community service project which involves the collection of used cell phones, cell phone batteries, cell phone chargers, cell phone accessories, pagers, and PDAs/Blackberries.

Questions?? Please contact J.J. Palliser at bsascout175@gmail.com. Donations are tax deductible and receipts are available by request.

Taste of Sister Cities

**At the White Eagle Banquets
6839 Milwaukee Ave., Niles**



**Date: Sunday, November 19, 2006
Time: 1:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m.**

The Sister Cities Committee of the Village of Niles invites you to a Food and Cultural Festival. We'll have food from our sister city countries provided by our finest local restaurants. Featuring Italian, Greek, Irish, Polish and other ethnic foods.

Other activities include: live ethnic music, door prizes, children's games, a silent auction to start your holiday shopping, a cash bar, and don't forget — food a plenty!



**Admission (includes tasting of foods):
\$15 per adult; \$13 seniors; \$5 children (3 to 12 years)**

For more information contact the Village of Niles at 847/588-8000
All proceeds will fund our programs fostering peace & harmony among people!

Village Receives State Grant Funds Supporting Milwaukee Avenue Plan



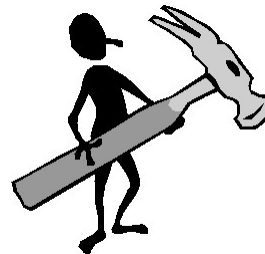
This June 2006, the Village was awarded an \$820,000 grant from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) for Streetscape improvements

along the Milwaukee Avenue Corridor. This grant will allow the Village to take the initial steps toward beautifying a portion of the Milwaukee Avenue Corridor based on the conceptual plan developed with the community and adopted by the Village Board in 2005. The boundary for the ITEP project is Monroe Street to Birchwood Avenue. The public will once again be involved in the detail design work that will set the actual "look" and "feel" for the corridor.

In addition to the ITEP grant, the Village was earlier awarded \$2.5 million for the street reconstruction of Milwaukee Avenue from Harlem Avenue to the south Village limits. Both projects require design and engineering prior to construction, which is estimated to begin the Spring of 2008.

Please go to www.vniles.com to get the latest information on the project or contact Assistant Village Manager Steven Vinezeano at 847-588-8007 or scv@vniles.com.

\$25,000 Available for Home Repairs



Home repair loans with 0% interest are available to qualified homeowners. The Northwest Housing Partnership offers interest deferred loans up to the maximum amount of \$25,000 with no monthly payments as long as the homeowner lives in and retains title to the

home.

Funds can be used to perform basic structural repairs to the home including new roofing, the installation of new doors and windows, electrical, plumbing, heating repairs and improvements, and building weatherization. Cosmetic improvements alone, such as remodeling and redecorating, are not eligible for the program.

The program is open to individuals of all ages and household size provided they satisfy the program guidelines. The annual household income must be less than \$41,700 for 1-person households and \$47,700 for 2-person households. The income limit increases for larger households. Eligible participants must also have a financial need for this assistance, as evidenced by an inability to pay for the needed repairs.

For more information about the program contact the Northwest Housing Partnership Program Manager at (847) 348-3024. Applications are also available at the Niles Senior Center.

Human Services



Are You Worried About Dealing With Grief During the Holidays?

Get Support From Others at Our Holiday Grief Support Group

First Session Begins on Tuesday, November 14, 2006.

The Niles Senior Center will hold a five-session Holiday Grief Support Group to help Niles seniors cope with the loss of a spouse/loved one during the holiday season.

While others are planning holiday festivities, grief can make it difficult to find comfort during the holiday season.

Maybe you're struggling

with your family's expectations of you during the holidays - or your own. It's not uncommon for a grieving adult to wonder "how can I deal with the holidays without my spouse by my side?" Also, "how can I make it through regular family traditions when I'm feeling so sad?"

This interactive, educational group is designed to provide support during the holidays. The group begins on Tuesday, November 14 at 2 p.m. and runs through December 19 (there will be no meeting on Tuesday, November 21). Please contact Bev Wessels, Ewa Nevler or Melanie Amin at (847) 588-8420 for more information. This program is offered at no cost, but enrollment is necessary.

Parents, Teenagers and the Law *School, Truancy and Trespassing*

- Pagers are prohibited in Niles schools and may be subject to seizure.
- No medications, including aspirin, may be brought to school unless they are to be dispensed by the school nurse.
- School district policies and State law require children under the age of 16 to attend school.
- Parents may be held criminally responsible for truancy.

Driving Privileges

- As a parent you may be required to appear in court for your minor child that receives a citation for violation of a traffic law.
- The driver's license of a 16 year old is NOT valid after curfew.
- If you are under the age of 18, you may lose driving privileges for various laws related to DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR VIOLATING OTHER STATUTES. For a copy of the entire brochure call either Family Service at 847-588-8460 or visit the Villages web site a www.vniles.com.



Safety in the Home

Today, there is an increasing number of parents who work. More children will have the responsibility of staying home alone after school, and some who will care for younger family members.

The Niles Fire department would like to offer some suggestions that may help you and your child have a safe school year.

- 1) Inform children of the dangers of kitchen appliances, especially those that produce gas. If the oven is not to be used, prepare after school snacks that do not need to be reheated.
- 2) Prepare a First Aid kit with your child and discuss the appropriate measures in the event of an emergency. Post emergency phone numbers near all the telephones and be sure to include contact information for neighbors and relatives that live nearby.

3) Review when to call 911 and what information should be given. The Niles Fire department has been teaching children emergency 911 procedures in the local schools, but reviewing this will build confidence. Take this time to also review home emergency evacuation drills.

- 4) Children should never tell someone that they are home alone.
- 5) Consider creating a list of things the child can do once they are home: chores, homework etc.
- 6) Keep doors locked.
- 7) Have your child call you once they are home safe.
- 8) Keep obvious dangers like firearms and alcohol out of reach.
- 9) Explain to your child exactly what is expected of them, and how important of a responsibility this is.

"5th Annual Pet Parade"

October 9th at 1:00pm

The animal kingdom will reign supreme at the 5th Annual Niles Senior Center Pet Parade on Monday, October 9, at 1:00pm. Whether large or small, cute or scary, four-footed (or three), costumed pets and their adoring humans will take center stage to thrill animal lovers of all ages. Pet registration required; please call the Senior Center for more information, 847-588-8420.



NILES HISTORICAL MUSEUM 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles



Come join us this fall! We have wonderful programs scheduled. It is a great way to spend a couple of hours enjoying a program and touring your museum.

Programs:

Sunday, September 24, 2006 at 2:00 pm
Presidents and Their First Ladies by William Wills

Sunday, October 22, 2006 at 2:00 pm
40's on the Home Front by Ceci Wiselogel

Public Safety



Halloween Party Canceled

The Village of Niles will not host an annual Halloween Party this October, so the Niles Police Department would like to take this opportunity to provide safety tips for parents and their children.

- * Remind your children not to accept rides from strangers or ever approach a vehicle occupied by a stranger.
- * Do not allow children to go out alone.
- * Always know where your children are.
- * Remind your children to never enter a home.

- * Children should know their home address/telephone #.
- * If there is a problem, encourage them to call you and/or the Police Department.
- * Do not let a child go to a shopping mall, movie, park, arcade, etc. alone on Halloween.
- * Advise your children not to eat candy until you check it.

The Niles Police Department hopes these suggestions will make your Halloween celebration a safe and happy event for you and your entire family.

Please call the Police Department at 847/588-6500 if you feel something has occurred out of the ordinary involving your children or family. We are here to serve you!

The Ticket Amnesty Program enacted in May was a success and is being extended through September 30th, 2006.



What is the Ticket Amnesty Program? The Village of Niles will suspend all penalties attached to outstanding tickets and require the ticket holder to pay only the original fine.

Once the amnesty program ends, the Village will begin enforcement to collect the fine, penalties and court costs on tickets. If violators have ten or more outstanding tickets, a 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, 7000 W. Touhy Ave., Niles, IL 60714. Please write the ticket number on your check. If you do not know your ticket number, payment may be made in person.

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

Fight The Bite



As we head into fall, enjoy the outdoors but don't forget about mosquitoes. Just one mosquito bite can transmit West Nile Virus or other mosquito-borne diseases. Prevention is your best bet to reduce your risk:

1. Use Mosquito Repellent
2. Eliminate Breeding Sites
3. Install/Repair Screens
4. Avoid peak biting periods outdoors from dusk till dawn

The risk of infection is generally July-September peaking at mid-August. To date, no human cases of West Niles Virus have been reported in Illinois



New Animal Control Ordinance

The Village of Niles passed an Animal Control Ordinance. Information regarding the changes will be shared with residents soon. Please keep an eye out for this to be in your mail.

For more information, contact Peter Babikan, Animal Control Officer at 847/588-6508.



Handicap Parking Village of Niles Ordinance 98-157(22)

The above parking space is dedicated to handicapped individuals who possess a valid certified identification card indicating their condition. Also, please respect the lined areas on each side of the above type parking space, this area is part of the handicap parking space.

The purpose of these white lines is to add additional space to assist the above individual and their respective equipment in and out of their motor vehicle.

Parking on Sidewalk/ 98-157(10)

No vehicle may park over, across and/or block any sidewalk within the Village of Niles which also includes sidewalks that traverse a private driveway.



Please contact the Niles Police Department if you have any questions/concerns pertaining to the above indicated local ordinance.

Stop the Borer & Save Ash Trees



The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a new pest starting to affect trees in the Chicago area. The emerald ash borer, which is 1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide, is native to Asia. While the insect is tiny, its impact has been great. Since its arrival, the EAB has been responsible for the death of 15 million ash trees, mainly in Michigan.

The adult emerald ash borer emerges in May - July and the female lays numerous eggs in bark crevices and between layers of bark. The eggs hatch in 7 - 10 days and larvae bore into the tree where they chew the inner bark and phloem, creating serpentine galleries as they feed. The feeding on the tree cuts off the flow of water and nutrients in the tree, causing dieback and death.

The most visible sign of infestation is crown dieback, which appears after the first year. Branches at the top of the crown will die and more branches will die in subsequent years.

Typically, the tree will be completely dead in about three years, though suckers will sprout from the base of the tree and on the trunk. The bark may also split vertically and woodpeckers may feed on the beetle leaving visible damage on the bark. Treatments with insecticides are being studied, however all ash trees close to any new infestation will be lost.

Adult beetles emerging from trees leave a very small 1/8 inch diameter distinctly "D" shaped exit hole, and may be found anywhere on the trunk or upper branches.

If you think you have an Emerald Ash Borer, on a tree please call the Niles Public Services Department Forestry Section at (847) 588-7900. More information is available at the Morton Arboretum website at: www.mortonarb.org.

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: August 7th and September 5th (Monday Holiday).

* For residents living **WEST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE**, branch pickup begins: August 28th and September 25th.



PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

- * Residents should place their branches at the curb on the appropriate Monday 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.

Leaf Collection



The leaf pickup program runs from mid-October through late November, and is provided to residents every other week according to the following schedule.

Residents should place their leaves in the curb on the appropriate Monday for pickup during the week.

* For residents living **EAST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE**, pickup begins on the following Mondays and continues through that week. Leaf pickup begins on the following dates: October 2nd, October 16th, October 30th, November 13th.

* For residents living **WEST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE**, pickup begins on the following Mondays and continues through that week. Leaf pickup begins on the following dates: October 9th, October 23rd, November 6th, November 20th.

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 placed 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.

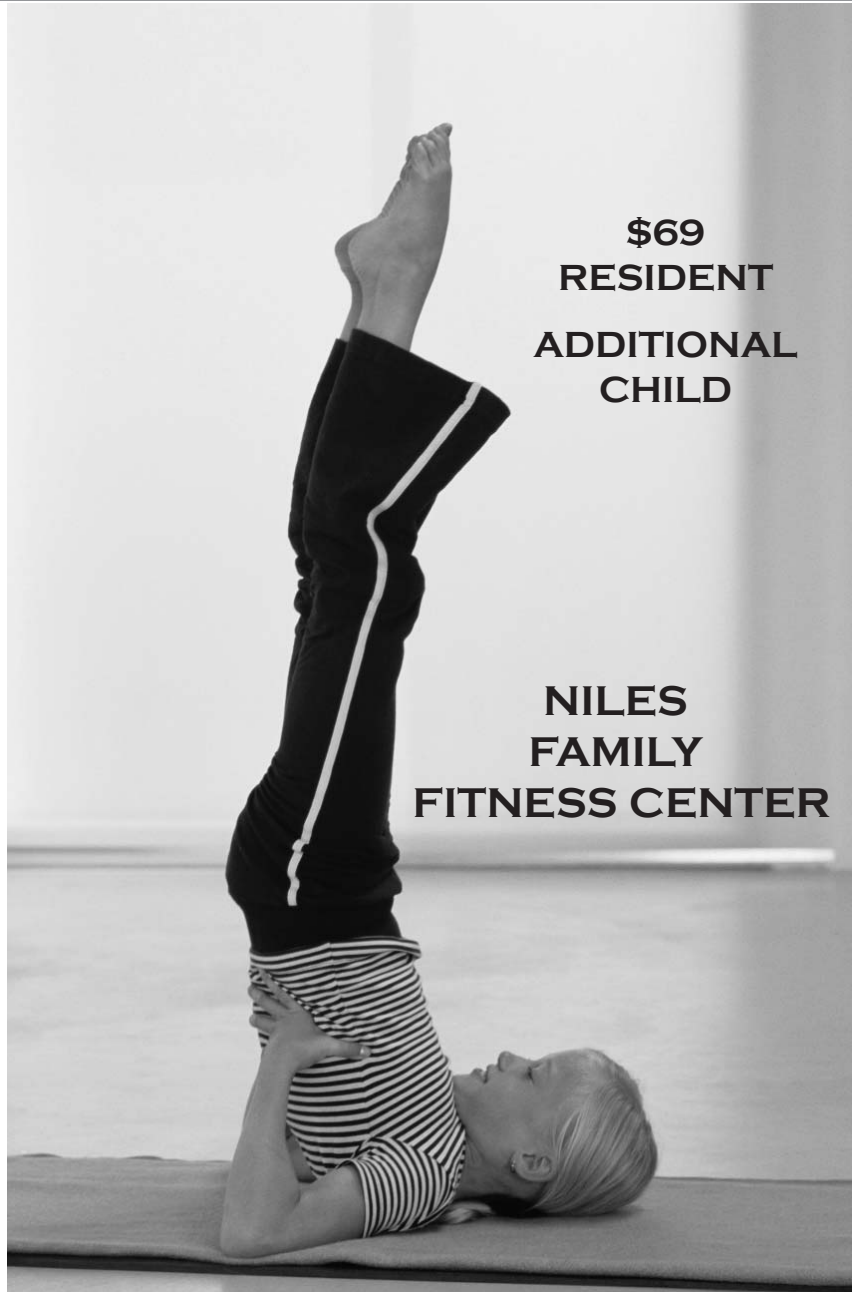
NEW! GYM AND SWIM MEMBERSHIPS

FAMILY SPECIAL

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CHILD MEMBERSHIP RATES
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ON ALL
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terms and conditions apply



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CHILD**

**NILES
FAMILY
FITNESS CENTER**

Offer Expires: September 30, 2006

www.nilesfitness.com

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