



FOCUS ON NILES

Community Newsletter

"Where People Count"

Village Hall Closed

November 11
(Veteran's Day)

November 25/26
(Thanksgiving Day)

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To: Niles Property Owner

You recently received a new assessed valuation notice for your residential property. As you will obviously note, there was an increase in your assessed valuation. It is important to understand that this increase will not affect the next property tax bill you receive in September, 2004, as that bill will be based on the 2003 assessment.

According to a law recently passed in Springfield, the assessed valuation of your property can only effectively be increased by 7% in any one year. This means that even though the actual value of your home may have gone up significantly--- for purposes of real estate taxes, only 7% of the increase in the value of your home can be used in computing your property tax bill for next year. This will be reflected on the tax bill you receive in 2005.

The point of all of this is don't get nervous about the fact that your property valuation

went up. Remember, of course, that when you sell your property, this will be a great benefit to you. The area we live in is a very desirable area to many people because of its proximity to the City of Chicago. Property values in our area have gone up significantly higher than in many other areas. That, of course, should please us.

Also, remember that we have property tax caps in the State of Illinois. These tax caps limit most governments to a maximum of 5% increase in their operational costs from one year to another. This means that even though your property values may have gone up over 5%, the tax cap limitation will put an effective block on any dramatic increase in your property tax. I do wish to remind you though, that if there is a referendum election to raise the property tax limit for a specific taxing body and that referendum is approved, it can increase your taxes beyond the 5% limit.

Nicholas B. Blase

New Niles Police Chief Dean Strzelecki

A 29-Year Veteran of the Niles Police Department

29-Year veteran Dean Strzelecki replaces retiring Police Chief Gerald Sheehan. Police Chief Strzelecki has served as a patrolman, detective, sergeant, watch commander, and was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2000.

Dean Strzelecki has been a Niles resident since 1967. He is currently the acting President of the Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Chief Strzelecki officially took office effective on September 4th, 2004. Former Police Chief Gerald Sheehan announced his plans to retire in May after four years as Chief and 33 years with the Niles Police Department.



Chief Strzelecki is pictured center with Mayor Blase and Trustees Andrew Przybylo, Kim Biederman, Bart Murphy, Bob Callero, Tom Bondi, and Louella Preston

Shop Niles



Village of Niles, Illinois

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



Notre Dame Boys Baseball "State Championship Team Day"

The Mayor and Board of Trustees proclaimed July 27, 2004 as the "Niles Notre Dame Boys Baseball State Championship Team Day."

Chamber of Commerce Week

Mayor Blase, Trustee Callero, and Trustee Przybylo stand with officers and staff of the Niles Chamber of Commerce as they celebrated "Chamber of Commerce Week" September 13th through September 17th.



VFW Day

Mayor Blase and Trustee Kim Biederman stand with officers of the Niles VFW to announce the Veterans of Foreign Wars Day celebrated on September 29th, 2004.



September 11 Ceremony

Trustees Bob Callero, Kim Biederman, and Louella Preston attend the VFW's 9/11 service with VFW Ginger Toiani, VFW Commander Bette Horstman, District Chief Marty Feld, and Police Chief Dean Strzelecki.



Farewell to the Chief **Chief Sheehan Retires**

Mayor Blase and the Niles Village Board joins retiring Police Chief Jerry Sheehan & New Police Chief Dean Strzelecki for one last picture at Jerry Sheehan's retirement party on September 10, 2004.



Board of Trustees

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Nicholas B. Blase

Mayor@vniles.com

Trustees

Kim Sychowski Biederman

Tom Bondi

Robert M. Callero

Bart T. Murphy

Louella Preston

Andrew Przybylo

Trustee@vniles.com

Village Clerk

Marcia Jendreas

Village Manager

Mary Kay Morrissey

Annual Halloween Party **Sunday, October 31st**



St. John Brebeuf
School

8301 N. Harlem Ave
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A SAFE ALTERNATIVE!!

Garage Sale Guide

Garage and yard sales are allowed in residential areas with a valid permit. One sale, lasting no more than one weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) is permitted between the hours of 9 am and 6 pm. No more than one permit per residence per 12 month period.

To advertise your garage sale, you may place one sign no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet (a height not exceeding 3 feet above ground to the top of the sign) on your property where the sale is taking place. All other types are prohibited.

Garage or yard sale permits may be obtained from the Community Development Department.



Now is Time to Prepare for Winter

Do Your Best to Lower Nicor Gas Bills

We've been experiencing higher gas prices

over the last few years, and national trends indicate this winter will be no exception. Though the temperature may still be relatively warm, it's not too early to prepare. Nicor Gas has bill payment and financial assistance options, energy tips and information to help you. If you have a specific question, call **1-888-642-6748**.

Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 115 or 120 degrees. You'll save energy and money, avoid scalding and still have comfortably warm water.

TIP

Hard time paying your gas bill?

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP provides qualifying households with monetary relief once per year for energy bills. It is a government funded program administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. To qualify, your monthly income cannot exceed 150 % of the federally established poverty level. For more information or to apply for assistance, call 1 800 252-8643 or visit nicor-gas.com and click on "financial assistance."

Sharing Program

Customers who do not qualify for federal assistance can apply for the Nicor Gas Sharing program, which provides grants of \$150 per household once per year. Your monthly income cannot exceed 200% of the federally established poverty level. Grants are administered by the Salvation Army and you must apply in person at one of their offices. For a list of Salvation Army offices, visit nicorgas.com and click on "financial assistance."

The Budget Plan

The Budget Plan helps even out the seasonal highs and lows of your natural gas bill by spreading out your payments over a 12-month period. Nicor will calculate your monthly payment by estimating your gas use and gas prices for the next year and take into account your current balance. This total is then divided by 12 to arrive at your monthly Budget Plan payment.

Seal Your 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.

Lightning Warning System Installed by Park District System to be Tested Every 4th Thursday at 10:00 a.m



Lightning is one of nature's most deadly forces and very unpredictable. Some of the most dangerous locations during a storm are parks and outdoor facilities.



The Niles Park District has installed a lightning detection/warning system (**Thor Guard**) consisting of sensors, placed within park facilities, that measure electrostatic charges. When conditions indicate that a lightning occurrence is possible, an 8 to 12 minute warning sounds to clear the area and seek shelter.

The system is divided into two zones - North and South. The North zone provides protection for Iceland Skate & Swim, Golf Mill Park, Courtland Park, Washington Park, Greenwood Park and Oak Park. The South Zone provides protection for Howard Leisure Center, Tam Golf Course, Pioneer Park & Oakton Manor Park. **The equipment is mounted on a pole with visible orange and white hazard warning signs.**

The Thor System sounds two distinctly different tone sequences. **When lightning is**

imminent, a SINGLE 15 second blast will sound at each location accordingly. A strobe light will remain on while the danger of lightning is present. Whether you are in a park owned location or your own yard, please seek shelter. **When the danger has passed, you will hear THREE short 5 second blasts and the strobe light will go off**, at that time you may return to outdoor activities.

The system will be in operation from April to November, seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. We will test all locations each month. **Every 4th Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m., the "ALL CLEAR", THREE short blast sequence will be manually activated, unless dangerous weather is approaching.**

You can contact us at 847-967-6633.

Park Board of Commissioners

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Executive Director Joseph V. LoVerde

Citizens Utility Board (CUB) Natural Gas Choices?

Residents may be approached by natural gas companies, other than Nicor, this fall/winter in an effort to sell them natural gas through the "Customer Select" program. CUB warns that the program is confusing, open to misleading marketing, and fails to give consumers the information they need to make the right choice.

Should you participate in Customer Select? The cost of gas accounts for up to 75% of your gas bill, so choosing whether to stay with Nicor or go with an alternative supplier is a big decision. Unfortunately, no one can say whether or not you'll save money in Customer Select. Enrolling in the program is like investing in the stock market. Call CUB at 1-800-669-5556 for more information.

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