

# FOCUS ON NILES

## Community Newsletter

"Where People Count"

### Village Hall Closed

April 14  
(Spring Holiday)

May 29  
(Memorial Day)

### Shop Niles



## Milwaukee Avenue Corridor Study Complete



After a one year process of planning meetings, presentations, and community-wide workshops, the Milwaukee Avenue

Corridor Study (funded mostly by a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority and done in partnership with PACE Suburban Bus) is complete.

The urban planning firm of Camiros presented the final study results and conceptual plan to the Village Board at the January council meeting. The next step in the process is for the Village to seek grant opportunities for public right of way

improvements and to ensure that new development along the corridor complements the conceptual plan.

The Milwaukee Avenue Plan addresses concepts for improving the function and aesthetics of the corridor in regard to: Urban character, Traffic and circulation, Transit, Pedestrian environment, Streetscape, and Redevelopment opportunities.

If you wish to read more about the planning process that started over one year ago, visit the Village website [www.vniles.com](http://www.vniles.com) for a list of Frequently Asked Questions about the study, or get a copy of the Milwaukee Avenue Conceptual Plan.

## Niles Residents Taxed Less

We obtained the survey below conducted by the City of Park Ridge indicating that the residents of Niles contribute the lowest amount in dollars for Village services. We are proud of this record and will continue to do everything we can to keep the cost of running government as reasonable as possible.

*Mayor Nicholas B. Blase and Niles Board of Trustees*

### Revenues Received From The Average Home In One Year

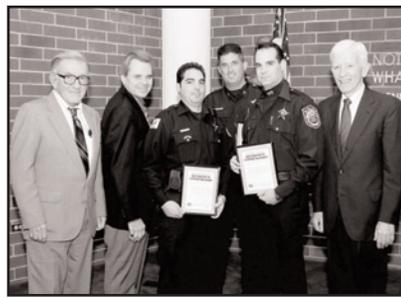
Community	County	Vehicle License	Dog License	Garbage Charge	Recycling Charge	Yard Waste Charge	Water Bill	Utility Tax	Sewer Charge	Total Property Tax	Total Direct Payments
Arlington Hghts	Cook	30.00	12.00	260.52		18.60	388.16	34.20	31.04	451.92	1,226.44
Des Plaines	Cook	30.00	3.00	168.00			368.16	86.40	73.92	468.00	1,197.48
Mt. Prospect	Cook	36.00	5.00			21.00	396.73	122.97	98.80	514.16	1,194.66
Wilmette	Cook	50.00	5.00	162.00		27.00	164.69		307.34	401.60	1,117.64
Naperville	DuPage- Will		4.00			22.20	291.95	177.60	237.45	297.52	1,030.72
Downers Grove	DuPage			236.08		27.24	356.96	122.65		257.20	1,000.13
Glenview	Cook		3.00	112.08		20.40	308.46	168.70	87.30	274.40	974.34
Park Ridge	Cook	35.00	8.00				378.70	187.64		360.80	970.14
Palatine	Cook	25.00	5.00	228.00		3.60	164.90	22.80	34.92	433.60	917.82
Northbrook	Cook	30.00	10.00	177.00		17.40	305.55	59.50	77.60	239.20	916.25
Skokie	Cook	20.00	6.00				272.33			425.60	723.93
Schaumburg	Cook -DuPage	20.00	4.00	173.76			407.91	34.20	78.57		718.44
Niles	Cook	25.00				12.00	329.80	74.70		269.20	710.70
MEAN		\$30.10	\$5.91	\$189.68	\$0.00	\$18.83	\$318.02	\$99.21	\$114.10	\$399.38	\$976.82

Village of Niles, Illinois

1000 Civic Center Drive, Illinois 60714 (847) 588-8000 [www.vniles.com](http://www.vniles.com)



Mayor Blase and Public Works Director Scott Jochim congratulate bus drivers Alice Egan and Marv Symkowiak for driving 1,000,000 miles in Niles without an accident.



Trustee Murphy and Police Chief Strzelecki join Mayor Blase in congratulating Sgt. Joseph Penze, Officer Joseph Paglia, and Officer Anthony Muscolino for a job well done.



Mayor Blase joins Trustee Biederman and Police Chief Strzelecki in congratulating Commander Anthony Fidanza on a job well done.



Trustee Callero and Police Chief Strzelecki join Mayor Blase in congratulating Sgt. John Huinker, Det. Tom Fragassi, and Det. George Alexopoulos for a job well done.



Mayor Blase joins Trustee Preston and Police Chief Strzelecki in congratulating Officer Joseph Romano on a job well done.



Mayor Blase, Trustee Przybylo, and Police Chief Strzelecki congratulate Community Service Officer Sarah Stopka on a job well done.



Trustee Bondi and Police Chief Strzelecki join Mayor Blase in congratulating Nicholas Hatzopoulos on the Chief's Citizen's Award.

## 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

## NEW NILES VILLAGE MANAGER



Niles Finance Director George Van Geem stepped into a new role on January 7th as the Village's fifth Village Manager. Van Geem joined the Village as Finance Director in 1992. He has been active in community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and United Way. George lives in the Village with his wife, Linda.

In his 14 years as Finance Director, Van Geem said he tried to focus on reducing waste and increasing efficiency on the Village's financial side. The Village has grown substantially during his time as Finance Director, including the addition of several new buildings, and now operates with a budget of about \$60 million. Van Geem believes the Village has a great team that is prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

## NILES HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Come join us this spring! Several of our displays have been changed, and we are now showcasing weddings. We have

a variety of old wedding dresses, veils, bridesmaid dresses, purses, an exquisite fan collection and photographs. Come for the program and a tour.

### Program

*(Remember When 1930's)*

Sunday, April 23, 2006 at 2:00 pm. In October 1929, the

roaring twenties came to a stop, but ushered in a decade even more exciting and important! Performer Mary Ann Burkhalter will take you on a journey to the magical time when movies were a nickel, sirloin steak cost \$.29 a pound, and a house in Beverly Hills set you back a whopping \$5,000. You'll meet Apple Annie and share great trivia, music, songs, laughs and memories of a by-gone era. (Program on 2nd floor).

The Niles Historical Society and Museum offers an open invitation to all residents to join this worthy Non-Profit Organization. Help Save Our History Of Niles! Call or Fax us at 847-390-0160.

## SAFETY FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

*Niles Senior Center*

We urgently need to know if you are a hearing impaired Niles resident who uses a TDD - or if you know of someone who is. We want you to contact the Niles Senior Center so we can collect phone numbers of TDD users to improve the Village's ability to contact users during the event of an emergency (such as weather alerts).

Please contact Trudi Davis at 847-588-8441 for more information.



## VILLAGE CLERK'S CORNER

The **General Primary Election is March 21, 2006**, and your last day to register was February 21, 2006.



The **General Election is November 7, 2006**, and your last day to register is October 10th. You can register at the Cook County Clerk's Office or at Niles Village Hall.

### Voter Qualifications:

To register, you must be: a U.S. citizen, at least 18 by Election Day, and a resident of your precinct at least 30 days prior to an election.

### Where and When to Vote:



Voters in suburban Cook County can vote early at most local village or township halls prior to the March 21st primary election. Early voting will begin on February 27th and end on March 16th, and voters will no longer have to provide an excuse or reason for voting before Election Day.

Absentee voting by mail and in person from March 17th to March 20th will remain unchanged and a reason is needed to vote during these dates. A photo ID with your address is required for both early voting and absentee voting.

## St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Day Celebration

The Niles Sister Cities Association invites you to attend an afternoon of food, drinks, and entertainment to celebrate St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Day.

**When:** Saturday, March 18, 2006

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Where:** Niles Human Services  
999 Civic Center Drive

**Cost:** \$12.00 Adults (\$15.00 at the door)  
\$10.00 Seniors (\$13.00 at the door)  
\$5.00 Children \*(\$8.00 at the door)  
\*between the ages of 3 to 12



**Cost Includes:** Italian, Irish and Polish Food

All proceeds from this event will go to fund Niles Sister Cities.

We have had much success in bringing together representatives from our sister cities to discuss common problems, share cultural issues, and bring young people together to learn from each other.

Dwight Eisenhower, who felt that the opportunities to explore other cultures through long-term community partnerships would promote peace and harmony throughout the world, started Sister Cities International.

For more information on Sister Cities or to purchase tickets to the St. Joseph & St. Patrick's Day Celebration contact the Village of Niles at (847) 588-8000.

*Tickets are being sold on a first come first serve basis.  
Seating is limited to only 200 people.*

## Niles Teen Center



The Niles Teen Center is open to all youth in grades 6 through 12 that live in Niles or attend schools in Niles. The Teen

Center is supported by both the Village of Niles and Niles Park District. 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 hours for the Teen Center are Tuesday through Friday from 3:00-7:00 p.m. We have many things to offer such as Foosball Table, Outdoor Rec area, Air Hockey Table, Playstation II, Pool Table,

Basketball, TV/DVD, Internet Computers and Trips.

The cost is only \$5.00 to join the Teen Center, but some events and trips do cost an additional fee. You may register at the Teen Center or the Howard Leisure Center. Look for the Teen Center brochure which lists all of our activities and trips. Check us out on the web at: [www.nilesyc.org](http://www.nilesyc.org).

The Teen Center is also the home of the Niles Youth Council which is a group of teens that make a positive impact in the community and help create opportunities for all teens to be involved in programs and activities of interest.

For more information about the Youth Council or Teen Center, call (847) 663-9185.

## 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.*





## HEATING TIP - NILES SENIOR CENTER

Like gasoline and oil prices, the price of natural gas is on the rise. Early Energy Information Administration predictions stated that natural gas prices could be 71 percent higher in the

Midwest. The following tips can help individuals stay warm and manage rising energy costs this winter:

### 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.

### Low Income Home 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 Economic Opportunity. 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 nicorgas.com.

**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.

Weatherize all seams, cracks, 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.

Reverse the rotation of ceiling fan blades. During the winter, blades should spin counter-clockwise so that warm air near the ceiling can be redistributed around the room. Install a programmable thermostat to gradually lower indoor temperature at night or when the home is unoccupied; five degrees lower is recommended. This will automatically regulate the temperature for increased comfort and savings.

## How Can a HERO Make A Difference?

The Niles Senior Center has created: Niles Helping Elders through Referral and Outreach (HERO). The HERO program is a collaborative, community-based system for identifying and assisting older adults at-risk physically, emotionally, socially or financially. As Niles Senior Center social workers, we can respond to your HERO referrals by providing comprehensive assessment, referral, case management and counseling services. In addition, we can offer crisis intervention, help arrange in-home support services and address concerns about available community resources.

### When Should I Make a Hero Referral?

Some general reasons to refer older peers to the HERO program include:

\*Signs and Symptoms of Distress/Emotional Changes

\*Health Issues (difficulty coping with medical issues; reduced ability to manage daily life; struggling with self-care; falling; home-bound)

\*Safety Issues (wandering; kitchen fires; disconnected phones; occasionally unable to recognize surroundings)

\*Financial Issues (problems managing finances and paying bills; can't make change or balance checkbook)

\*Caregiver Issues (caregiver appears overwhelmed or expresses anxiety about caring for a spouse, relative or vulnerable adult)

### How Can I Make a HERO Referral?

To make a HERO referral, call (847) 588-8420 and say, "I want to make a HERO referral." It is important to note that your HERO referral will remain confidential. To learn more about the Niles HERO program, please contact Bev Wessels at (847) 588-8420.



## Grief Workshop To Offer Support

### Three Session Series to Begin in April

Beginning Wednesday, April 12, the Niles Senior Center will hold a three-session grief workshop for Niles residents touched by the loss of a loved one. Participants may attend one workshop, or join us for the entire series. The workshops will meet on Wednesdays from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. and will focus on the following areas:

**Workshop #1, April 12 -** "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, April 19 -** "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, April 26 -** "On my own." At this workshop we will explore the stress of living alone and ways to adjust to new social roles and responsibilities.

Please call Bev Wessels, MSW, LSW, ACSW, or Melanie Amin, LCSW, at (847) 588-8420 for more information. Enrollment is necessary for this workshop, which is offered at no cost.



## **INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE - What to do when you find one.**

*By Animal Control Officer Babikan*

The season is approaching when the days get longer and warmer and animals are more active. Along with the blooming of the flowers and trees comes the birth of many different wildlife. The months of April-June are the busiest time of year for babies. For many people, you will find squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, baby birds, and fawns among others.

To most people when they see a

baby animal alone, the first thought is to think that it is abandoned or orphaned. Here are some general signs that the Humane Society of the United States says to look for in determining if an animal needs help or should be left alone:

- ❑ A wild animal presented to you by a cat or dog
- ❑ Any signs of bleeding
- ❑ An apparent or obvious broken limb
- ❑ A featherless or nearly featherless bird (nestling) on the ground
- ❑ Shivering
- ❑ Evidence of a dead parent nearby

If you should happen to find an animal that you believe is either injured or has been abandoned, the

best thing to do is call your local animal control officer or animal hospital. Under certain circumstances you may need to move an animal. Follow these simple instructions when doing so:

- ❑ Always wear gloves or use a towel.
- ❑ Keep the animal in a warm, quiet place such as a cardboard box with air holes punched in it.
- ❑ DO NOT give food or water to the animal because it may choke, drown or develop other problems.
- ❑ Call local animal control or animal hospital as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or seek further information please call Niles Animal Control 847-588-6508.

## **Fifth/Third Bank Robbery** *- Niles Police Department*



On December 27, 2005 the Fifth Third Bank at 5950 W. Touhy was held up by a man who claimed to have a bomb. The offender presented a note to the teller and placed a briefcase on the counter before leaving with several thousand dollars. Niles Police arrived on the scene and began their investigation. The bank provided Niles Detectives with a picture of the offender from a video security camera.

Niles Police Detectives then presented the picture to a clerk at the Y.M.C.A. who recognized the offender as a resident of the Y.M.C.A.

Detectives then checked with local cab companies where they learned the offender called a cab to use for transportation to and from the bank for the robbery. The offender was dropped off at O'Hare Airport by the cab driver where the offender flew to Mexico.

This information was turned over to the F.B.I. within an hour and a half of the robbery. One week later the offender was arrested in Mexico where he was turned over to F.B.I. agents for extradition back to the United States. Due to a quick response and immediate follow-up a bank robber was identified and his location was pinpointed within an hour and a half of the incident.

*Congratulations to the Niles Police Department on a job well done!*

## **Niles Healthy Community Partnership Parents, Teenagers & the Law {Part III}**

### **Teens, Tobacco and Curfew**

It is against the law for anyone under the age of 18 to smoke tobacco in the Village of Niles.

- No minor under the age of 18 shall buy any tobacco product. The use of false identification to purchase tobacco is also an offense.
- No adult may purchase tobacco products for anyone under the age of 18.
- It is unlawful for vendors to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18.
- Parents may be held



responsible for a violation and may be required to make a court appearance and pay a fine.

- Unless accompanied by a responsible adult, children under the age of 17 must be home between 10:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. However, on Friday and Saturday, curfew begins at 11:30 p.m.

- Parents and teens should be aware that other communities may have curfew laws more restrictive than Niles.

Look for Part IV in the next Focus. To access the entire brochure, either go to the Village web site at [www.vniles.com](http://www.vniles.com) or call the Village of Niles Family Service Department at 847-588-8460.



## Prepare for Spring Storm Season - A Safety Checklist

Spring is tornado and thunderstorm season. These storms mostly occur from April through July. Below are some safety tips for your family:

-Move cars into a garage or carport to prevent damage from hail.

-Keep a radio tuned to weather reports. Have a portable radio too.

-Do you know the difference between a warning and a watch? A watch implies favorable conditions. A warning means actual conditions exist.

-Keep flashlights and batteries on hand and never use candles during a power outage.

-Keep any medications you need on hand.

-Know where all keys are. (home, car, garage, etc)

-If you require electricity or home oxygen, keep a backup battery or bottle nearby. Contact your supply company for suggestions.

-Turn off all appliances. Power often comes back intermittently and may cause damage.



## Spring is Coming - Inspect Your Home

Spring is the time to get your landscape ready to bloom and ready yourself for outdoor projects, but it is also a time to inspect your home.

-Make sure all exhaust fans and dryer vents are clean and clear. Remove all lint, and leaf buildup that may have accumulated through the winter.

-Remove ashes from fireplace pits.

-Trim bushes/trees that may be covering your address. This will help emergency vehicles that may be responding to your home.

-Outdoor lights should be working because this will also help emergency vehicles that are responding to your home at night.

-Keep all pesticides and lawn care products out of reach from small children. Once empty, dispose of containers so they cannot be found by children.



## 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:

following schedule:

❑ For residents living EAST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE, branch pickup is: April 3rd, May 1st, June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th, and Sep. 5th (Monday Holiday)

❑ For residents living WEST OF MILWAUKEE AVENUE, branch pickup is: April 24th, May 30th (Monday Holiday), June 26th, July 31st, August 28th, and September 25th.

### PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

- ✘ Place 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/stickers are not needed for this.
- ✘ Larger sized logs and branches are not allowed.



## Public Access Channel 19

Have you ever watched a television program and thought to yourself, I can do that? Well here is your chance. Comcast offers television production certification classes at its Niles facility located at 7611 N. Milwaukee Avenue. Residents can participate in the four week class, which teaches individuals the basics of television production from directing, editing, lighting and shooting. Comcast will provide the technical assistance, equipment and air time, while the residents provide the subject matter, creativity and production crew.

This is the perfect opportunity for you to develop programming about your local neighborhood groups, school groups, community and service organizations.

Producing programming that is of interest to area residents takes a great deal of time and effort, but getting involved in a production, producing a program and becoming a certified Comcast Access producer can result in great achievements.

For more information about the Comcast's Public Access Certification Class, call Mike Heuel at (847) 965-



Use the coupon below to receive **\$100.00**  
off One New Adult Annual Membership!

Niles Family Fitness Center  
987 Civic Center Dr.  
Niles, Illinois 60714

March 1, 2006

PAY TO THE ORDER OF: Niles Family Fitness Center

**\$100.00**

One Hundred Dollars 00/100 dollars

For: \* One New Adult Annual Membership

\* Adult is considered ages 19-61 years of age.

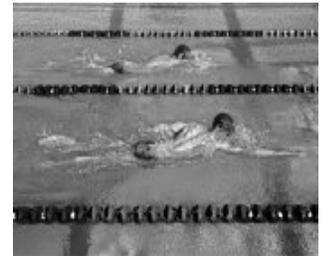
Membership must be new or have expired 1 year or more to be considered new

not redeemable for cash

Offer Valid March 1-31, 2006



- \* STATE-OF-THE-ART FITNESS FACILITY
- \* INDOOR AQUATIC CENTER
- \* INDOOR TRACK
- \* GYMNASIUM



\* WE INCLUDE A VARIETY OF GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES WITH AN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

**Offer Effective: March 1-31, 2006**

[www.nilesfitness.com](http://www.nilesfitness.com)

**847-588-8400**

Village of Niles  
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Niles, Illinois 60714

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