

Quarterly
Newsletter
Winter 2020

The City of Niles



CITY OF NILES

34 West State Street,
Niles, Ohio 44446
330.544.9000
www.thecityofniles.com

Departments by extension:
Administration.....1100
Auditor.....1120
Billing.....1150
Treasurer.....1130
Light.....1160
Engineering.....1170
Zoning.....1180
Street.....1190
Water/Sewer.....3101
Park/Cemetery.....1140
Wellness Center.....1300
Law Dept.....1501
Senior Center.....2555
Human Recourses.....1115

NILES CITY COUNCIL

President of Council:
Robert Marino, Jr.

Council At Large:
Michael Lastic
Barry Profato
Ryan McNaughton

1st Ward: Doug Sollitto
2nd Ward: Sheri Smith
3rd Ward: Linda Marchese
4th Ward: Al Cantola

Clerk of Council:
Nicole Bacak

Message from Mayor Mientkiewicz



Happy New Year, Niles! As we begin the year 2020, we're excited about the many initiatives have slated. We will continue to take on many infrastructure improvements, including an expanded street resurfacing program, the North Road waterline replacement project, replacing another twelve hydrants, and much more. Also, we will be looking into engineering studies to address flooding in certain areas of the city. We are engaging in more economic development initiatives than ever, exploring ways to revitalize and enhance the aesthetics of our downtown area. We will also take part in the planning process with an updated comprehensive plan. Please remember that street parking is prohibited throughout the winter months, during snow emergencies. By keeping your vehicle off the street, this will help with the Street Department clearing snow and allow emergency vehicles to reach your home in a timely manner. I hope everyone has a safe, exciting, and prosperous year ahead. As always, feel free to stop in the Mayor's Office and say hello...

~ Mayor Mientkiewicz



The City of Niles safety forces recently submitted their 2019 year-end reports. The police dept. finished the year with 13,950 calls. The fire dept. finished the year with 3,168 runs. Each department remains fully staffed.



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City Ordinance:

Swales are to be maintained by the owners of the parcels on which they are located, and at no time will anyone plant shrubs and/or trees, or discharge, empty, or place any material, fill or waste into any swale so as to divert to impede drainage flow. Small swales can be mowed as part of the yard. Larger swales in meadow situations should be mowed less frequently in order to allow grasses to grow taller to retard runoff and prevent erosion.

Niles City Ord. 1395.10

Important Reminders:

- Niles City Hall will be CLOSED on MLK Day and President's Day.

- During income tax season, please contact RITA Ohio for any income tax concerns.
1-800-860-7482.

- Online bill pay is available to all Niles utility customers. To create an account, make a payment, or view your monthly utility statements, please visit the City's website.

2020 Annual Budget

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Total</i>
General	Council	\$46,393.00
	Mayor	\$83,807.00
	Auditor	\$352,444.00
	Treasurer	\$83,810.00
	Law Director	\$139,717.00
	Court	\$500,635.00
	Civil Service	\$33,553.00
	Planning Commission	\$2,100.00
	Service Director	\$18,159.00
	Safety-Service Complex	\$400,238.00
	Engineering	\$33,459.00
	Building/Zoning	\$411,501.00
	Safety Director	\$24,081.00
	Historical House	\$21,200.00
	Senior Center	\$12,000.00
	Miscellaneous	\$11,498,000.00
General	Police Pension	\$512,500.00
	Fire Pension	\$607,500.00
Police/Fire 1%	Police	\$4,102,820.00
	Fire	\$3,591,215.00
General	Permissive Tax	\$240,000.00
	Computer	\$55,080.00
	Park	\$947,814.00
	DUI	\$80,000.00
	Street	\$789,446.00
	State Highway	\$96,659.00
	Community Development	\$1,200,000.00
	FEMA	\$94,297.00
	Special Projects	\$28,000.00
	Legal Research	\$7,000.00
	Impound	\$125,000.00
	Cemetery	\$334,322.00
	Seizure	\$2,000.00
	Probation	\$177,947.00
	Law Enforcement	\$1,000.00
	Drug Enforcement	\$2,000.00
	Capital Projects	\$1,682,000.00
Enterprise	Water	\$8,166,700.00
	Light	\$29,392,354.00
	Sewer	\$5,181,263.00
	Transit	\$9,633.00
	Endowment	\$100.00
	Fire Loss	\$50,000.00
	Payroll Clearing	\$11,000,000.00
	Motor Fuel	\$276,000.00
	Hospital Self Insurance	\$3,500,000.00
	Utility Trust	\$60,000.00
TOTAL		\$85,973,747.00

**2020 Budget Source:
Niles City Auditors Office*

The annual city budget consists of wages, benefits, operating and maintenance supplies, contracted labor, contracted services, debt retirement, yearly fees and capital expenditures. The budget was presented by the administration and unanimously approved by Niles City Council for the fiscal year 2020.

Are you signed up for NIXLE???

Niles residents can register to receive text alerts for severe weather, community events, and emergencies including power outages, water break/boil alerts, traffic delays, and AMBER alerts. To sign up, visit the homepage of the city website.

The North Road waterline replacement project will commence in the later part of winter. Please be patient during construction, as water service may be temporarily affected.

Community Improvement Corporation

The Niles Community Improvement Corporation or “CIC” was recently re-established under the leadership of several elected officials, as a part of the Mayor’s city-wide economic development plan, which includes downtown revitalization. The mission of the “CIC” is to promote and support economic development, in an effort to make

Niles a better place to live and work. This is a collaboration of elected officials, community members, business leaders, and non-profit groups all focusing on the area in and around downtown Niles. Through the annual City budget, \$50,000.00 was allocated for the sole purpose of reinvesting into the area. The “CIC” will explore small business loans, property retention, marketing, business grant matching programs, and much more. The “CIC” will partner with the City, in hopes to attract new business with the use if recently established incentive programs, such as the Income Tax Incentive program and the Downtown Power Incentive program. With the re-establishment of the Niles “CIC”, we have had many inquiries from potential businesses. One potential business is a coffee and crepe shop that is very much interested in opening up on Main Street. The membership of the “CIC” is excited to build off of existing assets, including the Mahoning River and Niles-Greenway bike path, both of which are directly adjacent to downtown Niles. The City’s partnership with YSU has led to a downtown inventory plan, focusing in business, infrastructure, inventory and occupancy within the downtown footprint. The “CIC” will also turn to local non-profit groups this spring and summer to help with aesthetics, including flowers, welcome banners, flowering trees and more. The re-establishment of this dedicated group is one more step in the right direction for the City of Niles!



2020 Census:

Census results help determine how federal funding flows into our community. In mid-March, households will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. You are able to respond in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. Visit www.2020census.gov for more information.

Park/Cemetery News

As of January 1st, the park and cemetery office has been relocated to a new office inside the Niles Wellness Center. For park rentals, wellness memberships, cemetery purchases, or any other information pertaining to these departments please visit the new office or dial 330-544-9000 ext. 1140.

Zumba, line dancing, health classes, pickleball and much more is offered at the Wellness Center throughout the winter months. Please take a look at the city website or park/wellness center Facebook page for periodic updates.

The Veterans’ section of the Niles Cemetery has specific rules set forth by the American Legion, William McKinley Post 106. Please help us respect our deceased military members by following these rules, which can be found on the City website. If you are considering cremation for a family member, new columbarium niches are available for purchase in the Niles City Cemetery.

The City of Niles

>Vision

>Planning

>Success

Notice to Residents:

If you have curbside mail, please check your mailbox's integrity. Mailboxes in poor condition may not be able to sustain winter conditions. The city is not responsible for damaged mailboxes, due to normal snow removal operations.

Winter Updates

The Niles Street Department is prepared for snow and ice removal for the winter season. The department has stocked up on a reserve supply of 300 tons of road salt. Through a purchasing consortium with Trumbull County, the city is able to purchase road salt at a price of \$69.00 per ton. This cost-saving measure allows us to purchase more, for less, in an effort to keep our streets safe during winter.

During heavy snowfalls, please be patient as street crews maintain 87 miles of roadway within city limits. All Street Department personnel are experienced in plowing City streets. Streets are plowed in the following order:

- Main Streets, State Routes
- Secondary Streets
- Side Streets, Developments, Cul-de-Sacs

Street Department trucks are prohibited from plowing driveways and private parking lots.



The City of Niles does not permit snow from a private driveway to be pushed from the driveway and onto a city street. Please be sure your snowplow contractor is aware of this.

Please use caution when traveling behind plow trucks. Maintain a safe distance of at least 50ft. and never cross in between two plows that are moving in tandem.

Auditor:

Giovanni Merlo

Treasurer:

Stephen Telego



Visit the Ohio Online Checkbook to see all city expenditures.

Quarterly Financial Report

The city continues to maintain strong fiscal oversight, in regard to income tax collections and expenditures of tax-payer dollars. The General Fund balance forward into 2020 is approximately 7.8 million dollars. The enterprise funds include utility revenue from water, light, and sewer customers. The balance forward into 2020 for the Light fund is approximately 14.1 million dollars, the Water fund balance forward is approximately 1.8 million dollars, and the Sewer fund balance forward is approximately 2.6 million dollars. Our goal is to continue to grow these funds, while aggressively reinvesting back into our aged infrastructure and keeping our utility rates stable for Niles utility customers.

Total net income tax revenue for 2019 was \$9,645,558.80. This is a \$379,206.20 increase in revenue from the previous year. Collections are expected to remain strong in 2020, despite the GM Lordstown affect, but with new industry moving into Trumbull County and new business filling vacant stores at the Eastwood Mall, we expect tax revenue to stabilize, if not grow. However, we are monitoring this trend closely and are taking a conservative approach with our fiscal forecast.

Updated projected earnings on interest and all investments:

YEAR	AMOUNT	YEAR	AMOUNT
2019	\$450,000.00	2016	\$44,879.00
2018	\$254,460.00	2015	\$5,745.00
2017	\$44,879.00	2014	\$6,544.00

NILES

BUSINESS

SPOTLIGHT

Thomas *Law* *Office*

10 South Main Street
Niles, OH 44446
330-349-2963

Hours~ Mon-Fri:
8:30-4:30
**by appointment only*

Jeffrey W. Thomas, Attorney at Law owns and operates an independent law office in downtown Niles. The office has been inherited from longtime business owner, and grandfather, James, “Duke” Sandy.

Attorney Thomas said, “I am lucky enough to share office space with my grandfather, “Duke”, who has always had a vested interest in the Niles community. He is a 1950 graduate of Niles McKinley, and still operates his contracting company, Total Resources. We take great pride in representing multiple generations of small business in Niles. I can only hope that other families see the benefits not only of living in this city, but investing in its future.”

Attorney Thomas is a lifelong Niles resident. He is 2004 graduate of Niles McKinley High School, a 2009 graduate of the University of Akron, and a 2012 graduate of Capital University Law School. His office is located on Main Street in downtown Niles and hours are set by appoint only. Attorney Thomas operates a general civil practice specializing in probate law.

Attorney Thomas is a member of the Trumbull County Bar Association where he serves as chair for the young lawyers committee. He is also a member of the Mahoning County Bar Association and the Ohio State Bar Association. Additionally, he serves on the Board of Trustees for the McKinley Memorial Library.

On his decision to open a business in Niles: Operating a business in my hometown of Niles fills me with great pride. This city has undergone many changes in my lifetime, and not always for the better. But there are great families here, and our downtown has tremendous potential. I believe that with a collective effort from the community, downtown Niles can become a destination for small business and improve the local economy.



Contractor Registration:

Every year contractors need to re-register with the building office. Contractor registration is \$50.00 per year and forms can be found on the city website. For additional information about contractor registration, please call 330-544-9000 ext. 1180. If your contractor is not registered, please call the city to confirm that we have received their registration documents.

Keeping up with the Law

The City of Niles is focused on transparency and making sure public meetings, discussions and correspondence follow Ohio Revised Code 149.43 and 109.43. Mayor Mientkiewicz, Law Director Zuzolo, and Councilwoman Smith recently completed a public official’s open records & meetings training seminar, through the Ohio Attorney Generals Office. We strive for openness in government and this training allowed the group to gain insight on all of the updated Ohio Sunshine Laws. For all open records requests, please contact the City Law Director or visit the City website. All requests shall be met in a reasonable amount of time.

TIP: For more information about the Public Records Act, the Sunshine Laws Manual can be downloaded online. It is a great resource for finding answers to common and complex questions.