

Quarterly  
Newsletter  
*SPRING 2020*

# The City of Niles



## CITY OF NILES

34 West State Street,  
Niles, Ohio 44446  
330.544.9000  
[www.thecityofniles.com](http://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



We are finally in the Spring season and I would like to wish all of our residents a Happy Easter. Our nation is faced with an unprecedented situation due to COVID-19. We are working very hard to make sure that the community is safe and basic services continue to be provided. Please be sure to frequently check the city website and social media for ongoing updates to our procedures. I want to recognize all of our essential businesses and employees during this pandemic. Now is the time for community solidarity. I have no doubt that we will overcome this situation together and become a stronger city, moving forward! You should notice changes made to the city phone system when contacting City Hall. These changes will direct you to specific personnel, ready to answer your individual questions or concerns. We are keeping the promises made to our taxpayers with many improvements coming your way throughout the spring and into summer, from paving to lighting

to demolition. Stay safe and healthy we are in this together.

~Mayor Mientkiewicz

Republic Service has adjusted trash collection procedures, due to the COVID-19 situation. Please do not leave bulk waste at the curb. If you have questions regarding trash collection, visit the Republic website for more information.



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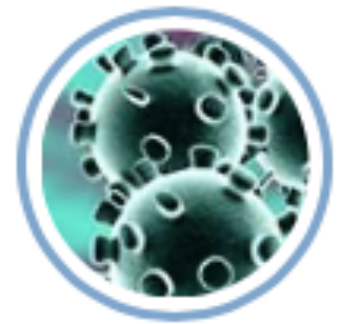
## CITY ORDINANCE:

The Ohio EPA requires that the City of Niles implement a backflow prevention program in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-95. The City of Niles has contracted with MS Consultants to administer the City's Backflow Program in accordance with City Ordinance 921.07. State regulations place the responsibility on the water customer to properly maintain and ensure that cross-connections are not created and that backflow prevention devices are tested annually under the City's backflow program. All device inspection reports should be sent to MS consultants for tracking, [lpaul@msconsultants.com](mailto:lpaul@msconsultants.com) or 330-744-5321.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) What You Should Know...

COVID-19, or the novel coronavirus disease 2019, is an upper respiratory tract disease caused by a new coronavirus strain that has not been previously identified. Symptoms, which generally appear 2 to 14 days after exposure, include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Most people who become sick do not require hospitalization, but older adults, people with chronic health conditions, and people with compromised immune systems are more likely to require more advanced care. COVID-19 is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person; between people who are in close contact with one another and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The CDC recommends the following in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home when sick
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Get adequate sleep and eat balanced meals
- Wash hands often (20 seconds or more)
- Sneeze into a tissue or your elbow
- Clean and disinfect "high touch" surface areas
- Practice good hygiene habits
- Maintain social distancing
- Avoid crowds of ten or more



Remind children that doctors and healthcare workers are learning as much as they can about the virus and are doing what they can to keep everyone safe. Reassure them that they are safe and let them know it is okay if they feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress so that they can learn how to cope.

Reinforce with kids the importance of washing their hands often, coughing into a tissue, and getting enough sleep. Inform them of COVID-19 symptoms and strive to reduce panic. Be kind, be sure to check on elderly family members and neighbors who live alone, and stay home as much as possible.

\*For more information, log onto [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) or contact the Trumbull County Combined Health District.

## Earth Day 2020:

- Earth Day is April 22 of each year. April 22, 2020 will mark 50 years of Earth Day. The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action. Please consider doing something environmentally friendly on this day. For ideas or info visit [earthday.org](https://earthday.org).

## COVID-19 City Adjustments

Public access is temporarily prohibited to all municipal buildings, in an effort to maintain social distancing and prevent the spread of COVID-19. All Utility payments are accepted by mail, drop-box (No Cash) or online. You can avoid online fees by using online bill pay with your individual bank. Payment in full is still required during this time; However, all utility shut-off for delinquencies are suspended, due to the economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 situation. All applications for building, zoning, and dwelling permits can be found on the City website. Online payments are accepted for individual permits. Please contact City Hall for any questions in regard to utility payment, sign-up, or permitting.

## OHIO Primary

### Election:

*The Ohio Primary has been rescheduled for April 28, 2020. There is no in-person voting. You will be able to vote by absentee ballot. Please contact the county Board of Elections Office for more information.*

## 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.

## Fighting Blight with iWorQ

The Housing Department has invested in software to manage blighted properties and is using the system, daily for code enforcement identification. Blighted property occurs when land, homes, and other structures are neglected. As a result, they become dilapidated, unsightly, and unsafe for residents. This becomes overwhelming but is actively managed with the department's iWorQ system.

Our housing inspectors spend a lot of time inspecting and documenting violations and sending notices to property owners. If the violations are not corrected, citations are issued, and the court process begins. Niles has made progress in solving the issues and streamlining the process for fighting issues with neglected property. The department has implemented the iWorQ system to easily track and identify vacant homes and other property concerns. The software is web-based, and inspectors can access information about the property and track case items from a tablet. The software also helps with efficiency. Our efforts have had a positive effect on creating safer neighborhoods for residents, as well as increasing property value.

The process may take time; however, the system allows the city to compile the data necessary, follow up on the property, and keep the process moving. The system also allows for instant field reports so that property owners are immediately notified of code violations. The true intent is to manage the case status from first noticing the blighted property to moving it through the court process.

The implementation of the software has helped the department save time and to further keep things organized, making it easy to keep track of what's actually going on while being able to make and see updates from the field.



## NILES PARKS:

Due to the COVID-19 situation and the Governor's Stay-at-Home order, the park playgrounds are CLOSED. All City parks remain OPEN for walkers, joggers, and family recreation. Any gatherings of more than ten are prohibited until May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Demolition

The City continues to be aggressive with demolitions of vacant, condemned property. With the established demolition fund, the City will demolish three homes throughout the Spring months. The homes approved for demolition are:

112 South Chestnut, 211 McDonald, and 26 Federal

The City continues to work with Trumbull Neighborhood Partners, through their demolition program to fight blighted homes with no cost to Niles taxpayers. Throughout the Spring and Summer months, TNP will demo multiple homes within the City. If you are aware of a condemned home in your neighborhood, please contact the housing department to check the status of the home.



## The City of Niles

### >Vision

### >Planning

### >Success

### Was your yard or sidewalk damaged?

Restorations from Winter waterline repairs will begin this Spring. If your property was affected by excavation due to a water break, please contact the Director of Public Service and the City will schedule the repair.

### Municipal Court

The court was recently awarded an emergency technology grant from the Ohio Supreme Court in the sum of \$12,133.14 for new video conference capabilities.

## Updates from the Safety-Service Complex

The Niles Fire Department will be conducting Spring hydrant flushing, in an effort to help maintain the water quality and evaluate the effectiveness of all hydrants serviced by The City of Niles. The flushing program will begin on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

A lot has been accomplished the last few months at Fire Station 7. New bay heaters were installed to replace units that were not working, painting of the interior of the station and a new bay floor installed. The biggest project was the kitchen replacement, which was completed by the firefighters while on duty and has transformed the look of the entire eating area.



The Niles Police Department recently added two new officers. Zachary Zigmont and Wesley Washington. Mayor Mientkiewicz swore in the two new officers and welcomed them to the Niles community.

Please beware of COVID/Stimulus payments scams. You can always call 330-652-9944 and ask to speak to an officer if you are not sure.

As mandated by the Ohio Constitution, the Niles Municipal Court remains open for business from 8-4 Monday through Friday. Check-in kiosks for court attendance and probation limit our customers' face-to-face interaction with staff. Payments are made in the court lobby through a secure payment window. Online payments can easily be made 24 hours a day by accessing the court website.

For employee safety during the COVID-19 situation, all city owned buildings have been disinfected with an electrostatic solution by an outside company.



## Auditor:

Giovanni Merlo

## Treasurer:

Stephen Telego



## Quarterly Financial Report

We have seen strong financial reporting throughout the first quarter. With the COVID-19 situation now in full effect, we have cut back city-wide spending to emergency items only, knowing that the situation will have a negative impact on area economics, including income tax and utility revenues. March gross income tax collections totaled **\$2,258,154.54**. The economics are being monitored daily, and adjustments will be made to ensure that the City remains in good financial status. Citywide overtime through March is at **\$102,686.61**. The current cash balance in the General Fund is at **\$8,595,186.67**, Water Fund is at \$2,230,522.00, Light Fund is at **\$14,473,466.67**, and Sewer Fund is at **\$2,220,657.21**. Please check the Ohio Online Checkbook for all online expenditures.

330-989-5095



- Niles City School Board Offices will only be open on Wednesdays from 8:00am.-3:00pm.

- Please check the school district website for ongoing updates, [nilescityschools.org](http://nilescityschools.org).

*Spring Break Dates:  
April 10 - April 17*

## Niles City School Adjustments

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced schools will be closed through May 1, 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns. However, learning opportunities will continue for the Niles City School District. The Trumbull County Combined Health District also asks that all residents of Trumbull County be mindful of the rapid spread of this disease in our community. As a result, food distribution and Board Office hours have changed during the month of April.

Instructional packets for grades K-8 will be placed on the District website by Monday, April 6. Hard copy instructional packets are available for pick up on Wednesday, April 8 at the Board Offices located at 309 N. Rhodes Avenue between the hours of 8:00am.-3:00pm. Students in grades 6-12 are asked to continue to check their student email and Google Classroom for their lessons. Parents who wish to drop off their student's completed work may drop off at the Board Offices on Wednesday, April 8. However, it is not necessary to drop off the work as parents will have another opportunity to do so.

In an effort to keep families and employees safe, food service distribution will be on Wednesdays from 9:00am.-11:00am. at the Board Office. Families will be able to pick up five days of food per child. This includes April 15, during spring break.

# Niles City Schools

- YSU is currently conducting GIS mapping of all underground electric lines. This technology will allow for efficiency while our crews are in the field.

- Throughout the Spring months, please refrain from blowing grass clippings into the street and make sure that catch basins are clear of debris. This will help reduce neighborhood flooding.

- National Lineman Appreciation Day is April 18<sup>th</sup>. Please express your utmost appreciation to the Niles Light Department for always keeping your power on, especially during inclement weather.

## City Improvements

The City will continue its annual street resurfacing program throughout the Spring and Summer months. Please use caution and be aware of traffic delays in work zones. You can report potholes on your street by calling City Hall.

ODOT is scheduled to begin resurfacing two main roads within the city in the early part of May. They will pave SR-169 from Cleveland to McKinley Heights and SR-422 from Niles Vienna to McKinley Heights. The local street resurfacing program will consist of roughly \$500,000.00 toward the proposed streets: West Park, East State, Hartzell, Camrose, Lafayette, Hughes, Moreland, Harry Stevens, Smith, Neil, West Federal, Steel.



The LED street lighting program will continue with the installation of 500 LED lights within the residential neighborhoods. The \$80,000.00 annual project will consist of the following streets: St. John, Potomic, Difford, Hogarth, Roosevelt, North/South Bentley, North/South Rhodes, Russell, Lafayette, Maple, West Park, Lantern Lane, Pepperwood, Butterfield, and Sharkey Dr.