

Quarterly
Newsletter
SUMMER 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
HR.....	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



I hope everyone is enjoying the summer months. Take some time to relax on the Waddell Park nature trail or Niles-Greenway bike trail. Because of the COVID-19 situation our lives are continuously changing and we need to adapt to the many guidelines that are in place, such as wearing a mask in public. Please be sure to take the necessary precautions to keep yourself and others safe and healthy. We will emerge from this pandemic a stronger community. As we move into road construction season, please remember to use caution while traveling through construction zones and be aware of walkers, joggers, and bicyclists on our streets and sidewalks. I would like to recognize our community partner, The Avenue & Main, for purchasing the downtown hanging flower baskets this year. Take a look at the baskets, they are beautiful and are maintained by our city employees. Should you have any questions, concerns, please feel free to give me a call.

~ Mayor Mientkiewicz

You can make a difference in the community by participating in the 2020 Census. The census informs how billions of dollars are allocated every year for local school programs, emergency services, roads, affordable housing, and hundreds of other critical services and programs that make a difference in our lives every day. It only takes a few minutes, but the impact will be felt for years. Taking the time to complete the 2020 Census is a win-win for Niles, Trumbull County and all of Ohio! For more information: www.2020CENSUS.GOV.

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CITY ORDINANCE:

Residents shall not place trash receptacles or rubbish at the curb prior to noon before regularly scheduled trash pick-up. Receptacles or bulk items need to be removed from the curb no later than 12 hours after pick-up per Niles City Ordinance 951.07. To schedule bulk pick-up, please contact Republic.

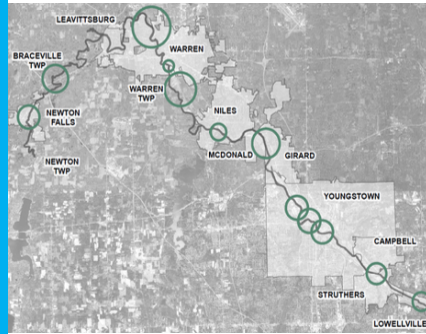
Important Reminders:

- Niles City Council will hold one meeting in the month of August, due to summer recess. Council will meet on August 19th at 6:00p.m.
- The dates for the city-wide garage sale will be August 7th, 8th, and 9th. Permit fees have been waived for Niles residents.

Veterans Advisory Board

The Niles Mayor's Veteran Advisory Board was recently created by Mayor Mientkiewicz, in conjunction with the Trumbull County Veteran Services. The City of Niles, Ohio has a rich tradition of its residents serving in this nation's military, starting with the most famous son of Niles, William McKinley. In order to properly represent this population, the Mayor's Veterans Advisory Board will serve as a direct conduit to the executive office to the city. This board will provide consultation to the Mayor on issues that concern those who have served and those still serving in the United States Armed Forces. The Mayor's Veterans Advisory Board will provide outreach to the Veteran community by sharing information, combining resources, and networking to better serve the Veterans in the City of Niles. Board members will provide insight and assist the Mayor with leadership related to Veterans affairs, needs, opportunities, and policy. Those interested in serving on the board must be an honorably discharged Veteran, a Niles resident, and actively involved in a Niles Veteran organization. For more information on the board, please call the Mayor's Office.

Mahoning River Revitalization



The purpose of the Mahoning River Corridor Revitalization Plan is to bring collective economic opportunities and shared prosperity to the Mahoning Valley through connecting our communities, protecting wild spaces, and preserving our legacy. The planning phase of the project has commenced and we are very excited to be a part of the project. In the upcoming months we will be asking for community input, via an online survey. Please visit www.mymahoningriver.com for more information.

Mosquito Control

The COVID-19 situation has led to many hardships among our business community. Please support our wonderful hometown businesses and restaurants within the City of Niles!

Because we are in mosquito season, and the emergence of mosquito borne illness, such as West Nile Virus, Chikungunya, and Zika Virus may be present, the city recently completed one of two applications of mosquito spraying throughout the city. Mosquito spraying was completed on June 30th and a second application will occur on July 28th at a cost of \$2,983.00. Please keep children and pets indoors during the evening hours while spraying occurs. The City of Niles and Trumbull County Combined Health District have teamed up to reduce the mosquito population in the community and protect residents from mosquito bites. As such, the TCCHD will be providing, at no cost to the residents, a mosquito larvaciding service, which are tablets dropped into stagnant water to inhibit mosquito breeding. Please contact the Mayor's office for mosquito tablets.



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.

Updates from the Safety Departments

Niles Police- Chief Jaison Holland

Please be mindful when driving on city roadways of children playing outside, bicyclists, and pedestrians walking/jogging this summer. Please adhere to city speed limits.

The Niles Police Department received a provisional certification for the latest standards set by the Ohio Collaborative Community/Police Advisory Board. This year's topic was the department's vehicle pursuit policy, which was reviewed by the board and found to be compliant with their standards. The Ohio Collaborative Community/Police Advisory Board certification is a voluntary process in which a law enforcement agency submits their policies and procedures for review by a state appointed board of assessors who establish best practices. The department is now certified by the collaborative in the below areas of: Use of Force, Recruitment and Hiring, Community Engagement, Body Worn Cameras, Dispatcher Training, Bias Free Policing, Investigation of Employee Misconduct, and Vehicle Pursuits.

Niles Fire- Chief Dave Danielson

Fire hydrant flushing has been completed. All hydrants have been flushed and tested by the Niles fire department.

The City of Niles website has the burning ordinance for all to read.

COVID-19 Adjustments:

Niles City Hall remains open for appointment only. Please enter via the West entrance and follow guidelines marked on the door. We are not accepting in-person or cash payments. Please continue to pay utility bills by mail, online, or drop box. The Safety-Service complex remains closed to the general public. Walk-in emergencies will continue to be treated case-by-case.

Park News

The Park Department, through the Trumbull County Combined Health District received a \$5,000.00 grant to manage improvements in Stevens Park. This grant will increase access to active living opportunities for Niles Residents.

The Niles Wellness Center remains open to members only and visitors must follow specific social distancing guidelines. For membership information, please contact the Park Department.

Please ensure that your animals are on a leash any time they leave your fenced yard or home. This is especially important in areas where people gather or tend to walk. Dogs, including the bike trail and parks. It is also critical that animal waste be picked up immediately.



The City of Niles

>Vision

>Planning

>Success

Message from the Planning & Permitting Department...

It is now easier to obtain permits from the city through our new online permitting portal. You can apply for, purchase, and receive building and zoning permits online. Please visit the Planning & Permitting section of the City website for more details about specific permits.

Updates from the Service Departments

The 2020 Street resurfacing program will commence in September. Streets to be resurfaced will consist of the following:

Bonnie Brea (Niles Vienna to Spruce Ct.), Steel Street (West Federal to Main St.), West Federal (Main St. to Steel St.), Neil Street (North Main St. to Holford), Smith Street (Hunter to Hyde), Harry Stevens Alley (Robbins to East Park), Camrose (North Rd. to Trumbull), Moreland (SR 46 to Difford), Hartzell (Robbins to Niles Vienna), Hughes (SR 46 to Lafayette), and Lafayette (Pearl to Davis).

West Park and East State Street will be resurfaced through state/federal grant programs this Fall.

What you are responsible for as a homeowner:

- dead or unsafe trees on the devil strip or in your yard
- cracked, broken, or unsafe sidewalks on your property
- vegetation maintenance of storm ditches/swales on private property
- service line replacement for gas, water, and sanitary



Auditor:
Giovanni Merlo

Treasurer:
Stephen Telego

*Visit the Ohio online
checkbook to see all city
expenditures.*



Quarterly Financial Report

As we continue to monitor our general fund, we ended the half way point of the fiscal year with a positive fund balance of \$9,293,826.27, with an encumbrance of \$322,443.89. The general fund pays for our safety forces, parks, cemetery, building, housing, zoning, and streets. All enterprise accounts remain positive, including electric, water, and sewer.

City wide overtime for the first half of the year came in at \$200,899.87, which is within budget. This number reflects emergency services for snow and ice removal, water break repairs, sewer backups, power outages, and police/fire overtime.

The Auditor and Treasurers offices are working very close with R.I.T.A to monitor income tax collections and evaluating how the COVID-19 situation will affect general fund revenues. The City continues to make cost-saving adjustments to the overall budget in an effort to make sure that our finances remain solvent due to income tax loss or delay. The City will have a better understanding of actual dollars lost due to the COVID-19 situation toward mid-August.

We are a Community

2020 Consumer



Confidence Report

The City of Niles is pleased to provide you with this year's annual water quality report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. The testing of our water meets state guidelines. If you would like a copy of the report, please contact the Mayor's Office or view it on our website.

Our Goals in Action

The administration has been focused on establishing annual priorities for the betterment of the community. This set of priorities will help charter a path of fiscal responsibility and stability for the future of the City. Our goals that contribute to continuous improvement are identified as:

- Fostering fiscal health through disciplined planning, cost control, heightened efficiency, increased revenue and cost recovery.
- Producing high-quality services to the community through a commitment to local government best practices and employee development, support and retention.
- Instituting forward-thinking business, land use development, housing, and public safety strategies that promote community growth and innovation.
- Creating a healthy, sustainable community and maintaining and improving the City's infrastructure.
- Building strong connections with community partners, residents and employees.

Be Stormwater Smart! Keep grass clippings out of the street

Grass clippings and bits of leaves that are blown into the street after lawn maintenance can be just as bad as other forms of litter. They clog up gutters and storm drains and what doesn't get stuck ends up in the nearest waterway (stream, pond, lake, and/or river) causing further problems. Any material (litter, grass clippings, leaves, etc.) in the storm drains reduces the amount of stormwater that can move through the drain system. Stormwater that should move quickly through the system may begin to back up, causing high water on roads or other, more hazardous, flooding situations.

Remember – there is no treatment or filtering of stormwater between the drain on your street to the nearest body of water. Even though grass clippings, leaves and soil are natural forms of debris, when they are put into the storm drain, they can destroy the balance of our waterways. Storm drains are not garbage disposals!

TIRE DROP-OFF:

Annual tire drop-off will take place in September. Niles residents will be permitted to drop-off an unlimited number of tires near the recycling bins during that week. Tires only, NO rims. More information about the program will be available on the city website.

Recycling

Recycle stations are located behind the Safety-Service Complex. Please recycle responsibly and be sure all recyclables are placed in the bins and not in areas outside of the recycle bins. Visit the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste website, www.gottagogreen.org, for more information. The City was recently awarded a \$4,000.00 grant to establish an "E-waste" collection (electronics, phones, televisions, computers) through a "Go Green Community Grant". More details in the upcoming months will be released on the city website and social media.

