

Quarterly
Newsletter
Summer 2022

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
Development.....	1170
Planning/Permitting.....	1180
Street.....	1190
Water/Sewer.....	3101
Park/Cemetery.....	1140
Wellness Center.....	1300
Law Dept.....	1501
Senior Center.....	2555
Human Resources.....	1115

NILES CITY COUNCIL

President of Council:
Robert Marino, Jr.

Council At Large:
Michael Lastic
Jim DePasquale
Jimmy Jullian

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

Clerk of Council:
Nicole Bacak

Message from Mayor Mientkiewicz

Niles Residents,

Summer is in full swing in the City of Niles! We enjoy seeing our residents utilize city amenities for outdoor activities in the parks and on the bike trail. We have many infrastructure improvements scheduled for this summer including street resurfacing, Maple Street Waterline replacement, and Bellevue Storm Outfall Rehabilitation. We continue to be fiscally responsible and transparent with your tax dollars by working within the Council approved budget. The

Fourth of July weekend in Niles was very successful and included many exciting events. I would like to extend a thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, and committees who helped organize the Miss Niles pageant, annual parade, and Scrappers baseball game & fireworks. Take the time this Summer to visit the downtown area and look at the Hometown Heroes banners and hanging flower baskets, stop by the McKinley Memorial for a lawn concert, or visit the newly opened Cadence Coffee and Creperie. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give me a call.

~ Mayor Mientkiewicz

SAVE THE DATE:

The City of Niles will host the City-Wide Garage and Yard Sale on August 5, 6, and 7. There is no cost for registration and all permit fees have been waived.

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City Ordinance:

All fences constructed within a residential district shall comply with the following provisions:

*-All fences shall not be erected closer than the one foot to the property line.
-All types of fences shall have a finished appearance on the side facing a neighboring property, or the street.*

NCO- 1157.10

Important Reminders:

- Online bill-pay is available through the city website (fee associated). You can pay online through your personal online banking to avoid a fee.

- Signing up for utility service? Applications for new service or to transfer service can be found on the “Billing” page of the city website. Please be sure the application is completed, signed, and returned with the specified documents.

Waddell Park Grant

The City of Niles was recently awarded a federal grant for Waddell Park Improvements, in the amount of 2.55 million dollars. These funds were made available through the Office of Congressman Tim Ryan. The funding is earmarked through the 2023 federal Presidential Budget.



The City of Niles has undertaken an initiative to improve the city park system, focusing on facilities, beautification, health and safety. The goals are to enhance facility features that promote a healthy community, incorporate an attractive landscape, and allow residents to enjoy a quality-of-life activities in a comfortable setting.

The grant funding is specifically earmarked for Waddell Park Improvements with the following individual project budget breakdown:

Community Splash Pad	\$350,000.00
Gazebo/Pavilion	\$50,000.00
Comfort Station Restrooms	\$100,000.00
ADA Accessible Playground	\$850,000.00
Athletic Field Turf	\$900,000.00
Fencing Upgrades	\$100,000.00
Asphalt/Concrete Upgrades	\$100,000.00
Sanitary/Septic Upgrades	\$100,000.00
Total	\$2,550,000.00

Mosquito Spraying:

Spraying for mosquitoes will take place in the evenings of August 4th and September 1st. Though the spray is safe, please be aware of open windows, pets outside, and outdoor activity.

City Planning & Grant Writing

The city has created a new position within the administration dedicated to planning and grant writing. This position is accountable for comprehensive zoning and planning, grant writing for various departments, and capital infrastructure plans. The position is responsible for overseeing the city’s GIS mapping system and will work on EPA stormwater plans. A focus on researching and exploring new revenue streams to offset local dollars is a key factor with this position. You can reach the Planner/Grant Coordinator at 330-544-9000 ext.1601.

For park cabin or pavilion rental information, please contact the Park Office or visit the city website.

Did You Know:

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 city will be hosting the second scrap tire drop-off of the year. The program will take place from:

September 1st - 15th

City residents may place up to ten tires and rims in the bin located behind the Police Station.

The Niles Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) offers small businesses in the downtown area grant funding for upgrades to their signage, façade, or sidewalks. For details about each of the grant programs or to apply for a CIC grant, visit the city website.



Energy Savings Tips

With the summer heat in full swing, these simple steps can help you save energy and money while keeping your family cool:

Set the Thermostat- Turn your thermostat up a few degrees. Adjusting the temperature is one of the most effective ways to reduce cooling costs. Installing smart thermostats can help you monitor and adjust the temperature in your home so that you save energy while you're away or asleep.

Close Blinds- Keeping window coverings shut during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce your home's overall temperature.

Reduce Appliance Use- Avoid using appliances that produce heat, like ovens and dryers, when it's hot outside. You can reduce cooling costs simply by changing your everyday habits. Unplugging appliances or using smart power strips in your home can also lead to savings.

Use a Fan- Use your ceiling fan and set it to rotate counter clockwise so that it pushes cool air down. Ceiling fans create a wind chill effect, making you feel comfortable without using excess energy. This can help make your room feel up to 10 degrees cooler.

Keep Vents Clear- Move any furniture that may be blocking the vents around your home and be sure to check that they are open and free of any dust. This will allow your cooling system to circulate air more effectively.

Seal and Insulate- Conduct a thorough inspection for air leaks around your home. Consider installing weatherstrips on the bottom of externally-facing doors and caulking the edges of your windows to prevent the loss of any cool air. You want to air condition your home, not the outdoors.

CMAQ

The City of Niles was recently awarded a federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant in the amount of 2.2 million dollars.

The grant is dedicated to the downtown area and the scope of work is for signalization and infrastructure upgrades from State Street to North Road. The proposed improvements include reconstruction of seven existing traffic signals including mast arms, cabinets, controller units, vehicle and pedestrian detection, pedestrian signal heads, and communications.

Traffic signal coordination will also be implemented from State Street to Federal Street including optimized phasing and timing plans. Sign installations which currently exist will be replaced on the new mast arms or other acceptable locations.

Project design and engineering is underway with final plans being completed in 2024. Construction will be completed by 2025.



>Vision

>Planning

>Success

Notice to Residents:

Niles City Council will hold one meeting in the month of August, due to summer recess. Council will meet on August 17th at 6:00pm. in the Niles Senior Center. A reminder that all meetings are available through a live Zoom stream. Information about how to log on to a City Council meeting can be found on the city website or by contacting the Clerk.

NECO Water Metering Hardware

NECO will be continuing the water meter transmitter (MIU) and register head maintenance program this Summer. If you receive a letter from NECO, please contact the company to schedule your appointment. This will ensure that you are receiving actual reads on your monthly water bill. Look closely to be sure your bill is labeled actual (ACT) and not estimate (EST). If you receive an estimated (EST) bill, immediately contact the Niles Utility Billing Office so that one of our service representatives can schedule, inspect, and replace your metering hardware.

Niles Safety Departments



Mayor Mientkiewicz most recently swore-in the City's newest firefighter, Todd Allen. Todd brings firefighting experience to the department after working with the Austintown Fire Department.

The Niles Police Department was recently awarded \$262,350 in state grant funding. This funding is associated with the Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program. Funding will be used to aid in police officer retention to ensure that staffing in the department remains at full strength. It is geared toward a continuing effort to prevent and investigate violent crimes within the City of Niles.

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 after the second quarter is at \$12,665,990.48. The enterprise funds include utility revenue from water, light, and sewer customers. The current balance for the Light fund is approximately 17.1 million dollars, the Water fund balance is approximately 4.2 million dollars, and the Sewer fund balance forward is approximately 4.8 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 throughout the second quarter of 2022 is \$5,851,497.42.

City wide overtime through the second quarter of 2022 came in at \$282,324.23, 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.