



# Town of Niles Newsletter

~2023~

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Town of Niles  
 5923 New Hope Road  
 Moravia, New York 13118  
 Phone: 315-497-0066  
 Fax: 315-497-9952

**Town of Niles Website:**  
<http://townofnilesny.gov>

**Town Highway Department:**  
 Phone: 315-497-2606

**Town Clerk Office Hours:**  
 Tuesday 9am – 12pm  
 Thursday 4pm – 7pm  
 2nd & 4th Saturday 9am – 12pm

**Court Hours:**  
 1st & 3rd Thursday at 5:30pm

**Town Board Meetings:**  
 2nd Thursday of each month at  
 7:00pm at the Town Hall

## From the Supervisors Desk

Hello Niles! Welcome to 2023! Personally, I thought 2022 went by very quickly.

I hope you all were finally able to get out and see friends and family again.

If you have a chance, please drive by the Town Hall to see our new roof. We are now safe from leaks for many years to come! Tina and Patty continue to do a great job in the Clerks office. Roger has taken over the Highway Dept like a pro, that he is!

Thank you all for keeping Niles going strong!

*Joan Jayne, Town Supervisor*

## STAR AND ENHANCED STAR PROGRAMS

For new STAR applications, please visit [www.tax.ny.gov/star/](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star/) or call 518-457-2036 Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm. Property owners currently receiving the Basic STAR as an exemption and have turned 65 are now eligible to apply for Enhanced STAR:

File application RP425E along with RP425IVP with your local assessor by March 1st. The first year applying, proof of age and income is also required.

**IMPORTANT:** Enhanced STAR IVP does not automatically qualify property owners for the additional Aged or Senior Citizen's exemption which they may also be eligible for if their annual income is under \$39,000. To qualify, property owners are required to submit a yearly exemption application renewal (along with proof of income) to the Assessor by March 1st.

## Reminder about Changes to New Basic and Enhanced Star Application Administration

State legislation has changed how the STAR exemption/credit will be administered for anyone applying for a new Basic or Enhanced STAR. Property owners applying for STAR tax relief after March 1st 2015 now need to apply for the credit directly through NYS Tax & Finance. The phone number to call to apply is (518) 457-2036 or apply online at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov)

## Key Dates

**March 1** – Taxable Status date – All exemption renewal forms due back to the assessor by this date.

**May 1** – Tentative Roll filed – After this date all current year assessment grievances must go through the Board of Assessment Review Committee including ratification of any reductions agreed to by the assessor and property owner.

**May 25** – Board of Assessment Review (Grievance Night) 4:00-8:00 pm at the Niles Town Hall

**July 1** – Final Assessment Roll filed September 1 – School Tax bills mailed and available online <https://gis.cayugacounty.us/webapp/tmo/>

**November 30** – Exemption renewal forms for the upcoming year are mailed to owners

**January 1, 2024** – County/Town Tax bills mailed and available online <https://gis.cayugacounty.us/webapp/tmo/>

## Board of Assessment Review

The Niles Board of Assessment Review will meet on Thursday, May 25th, 2023 from 4-8 pm for the purpose of hearing property owners' grievances on their assessments or exemption status for the 2023 assessment roll only. Grievance forms are available from the Assessor or the Town Clerk. They are available on the town website (RP-524). Please have your paperwork filled out before meeting with the Board of Assessment Review.

### ASSESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION & HOURS

*Dana Merizzi – Town Assessor*

Phone: (315) 253-1033

Email: [dmerizzi@cayugacounty.us](mailto:dmerizzi@cayugacounty.us)

*Kristy Gans – Assessor Clerk*

Phone: (315) 253-1502

Email: [kgans@cayugacounty.us](mailto:kgans@cayugacounty.us)

### County Office Building (Auburn) Hours:

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### Niles Town Hall Office Hours:

First & Third Tuesday of the month, 9 am-12 pm

## From the Planning Board

The Planning Board's purpose is to serve the town community by helping those members who want to begin projects, subdivisions and property mergers, do them correctly and in compliance with town codes and laws. Changes in property lines, commercial construction projects and most building in the town needs to be approved by the Planning Board.

To make your project go smoothly, please bring all of the necessary forms, maps and paperwork when you bring your plans to the Planning Board. All of the required forms are available on the Town's website. The Planning Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Town Hall at 7:30 pm. If you wish to reserve time on the agenda, please notify the Town Clerk at least one (1) week prior to the meeting.

We look forward to helping you with your projects, improvements and property changes.

*Bob DeWitt, Planning Board Chair*

## From the Dog Control Officer



Welcome 2023!

Just a reminder of the Town's Local Dog law. Dogs should be leashed or confined to your property. Dogs also should be licensed yearly at your Town's Clerk Office. You will need your dog's current rabies certificate. License fee is \$12. If your dog is spayed or neutered it's only \$5. There are other benefits of having your dog spayed or neutered. They can live longer healthier lives. It can also decrease your dog wanting to roam.

Contact me if you are looking for a rabies clinic or looking for a spay and neuter clinic.

Please call me if you have any dog related complaints or concerns, if you have a lost or found dog, or you would like to adopt a dog. Adoptable dogs are listed on the shelter website: [countryacresanimalshelter.org](http://countryacresanimalshelter.org)

*Suzie Tracy (315) 224-3110*

## Buy Local to Support Your Neighbors and the Town

The Business List is available to print or view from our website. Any new business wanting to be added or exiting business with changes to your status and/or hours can contact the town clerk.

## Zoning Board of Appeals

In Niles we have laws intended to protect the nature of our community. If you are planning a change, such as constructing a new building, an addition, or even sometimes a renovation, it would be smart to check the town and NYS building codes, including setback and lot area laws of Chapter 164, Niles Codes (linked through the Town web site).

If you, or the Code Enforcement Officer, determine that your proposed project does not meet the minimum requirements, AND you would like to proceed, you will have to apply to the Town Board of Appeals for a Variance to the Town Laws.

The Variance application is available online and at the Town Hall. Once the Town Clerk receives your Variance application, and the required fee, we will schedule a hearing for your appeal.

There are four factors which the ZBA must consider in all appeals:

1. Will an undesirable change be produced in the character of the neighborhood or detriment to nearby properties be created by granting the variance?
2. Will the proposed variance have an adverse impact on the physical or environmental conditions of the neighborhood.
3. Can the benefit sought be achieved by some other method, other than a variance?
4. Was the alleged difficulty self-created?

*Happy Building!*

## From the Code Enforcement Office...

Happy New Year and welcome to 2023! I hope that everyone has been enjoying the holidays and time with family and friends.

2022 was another busy year in the Code Enforcement Office. Building permits were issued for several projects, including 9 new single-family homes in the Town.

The total estimated valuation for permits issued from January 1 – November 30, 2022, was \$4,608,670. New construction adds to the Town's tax base and increases the amount of sales tax the Town receives from Cayuga County to fund the Town budget.

Several projects were referred to the Niles Planning Board in 2022 for Site Plan Review to ensure that erosion control measures and proper drainage plans are implemented, especially in environmentally sensitive areas on or near Owasco and Skaneateles Lake. Projects were also referred to the City of Syracuse Watershed Inspection Department, Owasco Lake Watershed Department and Cayuga County Environmental Health Department for review and approval.

Building permit applications are available on the Town Website and at the Town Clerk's Office. Not sure if you need a permit? Call or email with your questions before you begin your project at (315) 497-0066 – office or (315) 729-3921 – cell or email [codes@townofnilesny.gov](mailto:codes@townofnilesny.gov)

Code Enforcement Office Hours are held on Thursday from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. and by appointment. Please feel free to call me on my cell phone outside of office hours at (315) 729-3921 or email me at [codes@townofnilesny.gov](mailto:codes@townofnilesny.gov)

*J. Patrick Doyle, Code Enforcement Officer*

## Niles Youth Programs

The Town of Niles supports two programs for students who live within the town.

The first is Recreation. Recreation is held in Moravia each summer at Filmore Glen. The program is for children kindergarten thru sixth grade. You must register for this program. It is held for six weeks during the summer. There is no cost for town of Niles residents – however if you register we ask that you attend because we have to pay for the number of students registered.

The second program is for students enrolled in kindergarten thru sixth grade. It is held at the Auburn YMCA and is on Mondays and Wednesdays during July. The swim time is 1:30 -2:30. This program has not operated for the past two years because of Covid complications. In mid March we will evaluate interest and operate ability of these programs. Please refer to our website [townofnilesny.gov](http://townofnilesny.gov) for further information.



*Karen Porter, Youth Programs Director*

## From the Desk of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector

It is a pleasure to continue to serve as the Town Clerk and Tax Collector for the Town of Niles. Patty Podolak will continue to serve as Deputy Clerk. Please stop by the Clerk's Office to license your dog, get a hunting or fishing license, get a marriage license, and to pay your Town and County taxes (until March 31st). All unpaid Town and County Taxes must be paid to Cayuga County after March 31st. Please be advised you CANNOT pay your school taxes in this office. They must be paid at the school tax collector's office.

### The Town Clerk's Office will be open:

**Monday – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (during Jan. & Feb. only)**

**Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Thursday – 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**2nd & 4th Saturday – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Or by Appointment**

**The Clerk's Office will be CLOSED Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day Weekend, July 4th, 11/23-11/27 for Thanksgiving, and 12/23-12/26 for Christmas.**

**\*Please note that we will have additional office hours 2/10 and 3/31 from 9am – 12pm.**

Some important dates to note when paying your taxes:

- February 10th (last day to pay a first installment and the last day to pay without penalty)
- February 28th (last day to pay with a 1% penalty)
- March 31st (last day to pay at the Town and last day to pay with a 2% penalty)

Please remember that I cannot wave penalties, these are governed by Real Property Tax Law §924. Any mailed tax payment with a postmark dated within the penalty-free period is a timely payment. "If the postmark is illegible or does not appear on the envelope, it is not a proper postmark, and any payments received in these instances are deemed paid upon the date received by the collecting officer, not the date of the postmark" (copied from the AOT Tax Collection in Towns). Privately metered mail does not constitute a United States postmark and are considered paid upon receipt. I am sharing this with you as some people are using a bill pay service to pay their taxes and these services do not contain a postmark. To avoid penalties and having your tax payment sent back to you I would encourage you to take this into consideration when paying your taxes.

I want to encourage everyone to check the Town website for current and valuable information. Residents can also go to the "Stay Informed" section on the home page and subscribe to receive updated information. The Town of Niles website can be found at <http://townofnilesny.gov>.

Thank you and have a happy and safe 2023!

*Tina Weed, Town Clerk*  
*Patty Podolak, Deputy Town Clerk*

## Town Historian



Hello from the Town of Niles Historian. In last year's newsletter I told you I had applied for a grant under the Pomeroy Foundation to get a "Legends and Lore" historical

marker, discussing how New Hope got its name, but hadn't heard if we won it or not by the time last year's newsletter came out. Well, we were awarded that grant, the sign was made and thanks to Don DeWitt and Tyler Buckler, it was installed on the New Hope Church grounds. (Thanks to the church trustees for voting to allow it to go there.) I was also present at the opening of the new Carpenter's Falls overlook and handicapped accessible area this summer. I finally got to see what the falls looks like! I am currently working on creating a page on the town's web site, on the Historian's page, to show all the historical markers in our town. I have been taking pictures of the ones I can find but if you know of one, please let me know. I have gotten a few over on the east side but anyone in West Niles who knows of markers, please let me know. Also, this coming year I am going to work on getting some of these old ones repainted. In the meantime, work continues on indexing. I have had requests from out of towners for family information and have supported those as best I can. I appreciate the townspeople's support and donations!

*Lorie DeWitt-Antilla*  
*Niles Historian*

## Niles Senior Citizens

The Niles Senior Citizens meet the second Wednesday of every month at the Niles Town Hall basement. We meet for a noon meal with a dish to pass. In July we have a picnic at the Ward O'Hara Museum and in December a Christmas party at a chosen location.

This year (2022) we enjoyed trips to the Flight 93 Memorial & Pittsburgh, a trip to Mackenac Island and one to Lancaster, PA.

The trips planned for 2023 include Lancaster, PA in July, Branson, MO in August, and a boat ride on Raquette Lake and time in Old Forge in September.

We would like to thank the town for helping fund a portion of the bus cost.

Please join us for fun and friendship!

*Elaine Axton, Trip-Coordinator*

## New Hope Fire Department



New Hope Fire Department thanks our community for their continued support and participation in our events.

Our “Famous” Chicken Barbeques are held on the third Sunday of every month beginning in March and ending in October. Please watch event announcements on Facebook to place your pre-orders or you may contact (315) 406-0262.

Last year we embarked on a new fundraiser. We raffled off a Ranger side-by-side with trailer. This new adventure was a success for us, thanks to the members of our community. So, we have decided to do it again. We will be starting sales of tickets in December 2022. Tickets will be \$50 each. If you are interested in purchasing some, they can be purchased by contacting our Facebook page, or calling Stef (315-406-0262) or Harmonie (757-773-0214). The drawing will be after our May BBQ.

As many know, our current station is small and is showing its age. Plans for a new and improved fire house are under way and moving forward. We are in the process of gathering additional information on funding to assist in building the new fire house. If you would like to donate to the building fund, please mail donations to the current fire house address (5947 New Hope Road, Moravia, NY 13118).

In 2021 the department launched a new Facebook page. It is New Hope-NY Fire Department. Our page shares upcoming events, important tips for fire safety, significant events that our members have responded to and some of our training experiences. We hope in the future to include more information about our participation in the community. Please check it out.

We are still partnered with the American Red Cross to provide FREE smoke detectors to residents in the community. Up to 3 detectors per residence are allowed. Anyone who is interested, or who knows someone who could benefit from this program, can contact us via our Facebook page or by email at [harmonienhfd@gmail.com](mailto:harmonienhfd@gmail.com) or [nhfd81@yahoo.com](mailto:nhfd81@yahoo.com).

In 2022 New Hope Fire Department experienced an increase in the number of requests for emergency services. Currently we are on track to reach over 220 calls this year.

We have had a couple changes to our officers for this year and would like to thank all of our past officers and our current officers for their continued support. Officers for 2023 are: President Jeff Stanton, Vice President Harmonie Seemann, Secretary Judy Cuddeback, Treasurer Stefanie Raymond, Financial Secretary Megan Stayton, Trustees Joe Hughes, Matt Matijas and Matt Stayton, Chief George Seemann, and Assistant Chief Jeff Stanton.

We are always accepting applications for new members. If you would like to help but feel that emergency response is not for you, we do have positions in where you can help with the non-emergency things. Contact any member or come to our monthly meeting held the first Monday of each month at 7pm for more information on joining our team.

I would like to thank our community again for their everlasting support and participation. Together we will make 2023 a great year and look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year.

Yours truly,

*George Seeman, Fire Chief*

## **West Niles Fire Department**

I would like to take the time to thank all our volunteers for a successful year.

We would also like to thank the community for their continued support.

Our current officers are:

- Chief : Dave Glanville Jr.
- Assistant Chief : Doug Winters
- President : Jim Gettel
- Vice President : Greg Palmer
- Secretary : Phillip Auchampaugh
- Treasurer : Rich Winters

We are anticipating a call volume for 2023 of between 50-60 calls this year.

With any luck at all we are planning our annual clambake for the first Saturday of May 2023. Please see members for tickets.

We may be doing our annual Harvest Dinner for November 2023, if we can get enough help.

As always, we are looking for new members.

There are always jobs to do without going to the scene of a fire. To join please stop by the firehouse on the first Monday night of every month for our monthly meeting, or ask any of our members, or at our functions.

The West Niles Fire Co is asking that everyone have one of our green reflective 911 signs in front of your home. It really saves us time in an emergency when minutes matter. For a small donation of \$12 we would be more than happy to get one for you. Applications can be found on the Town of Niles website.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

***Dave Glanville Jr. Chief  
West Niles Fire Department!***

## **Town of Niles Highway Department**

It was a very busy summer for our Highway Dept. this year. One of our biggest projects was the reconstruction of Appletree Point Road. This project has been on our to-do list for a few years now. It consisted in drainage, slope protection, new culverts, guardrails, signage, and widening for resident and emergency vehicles. Most of the funding for these projects was through a grant with Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation, which covered 97% of the cost. I would like to thank my crew, Derek Coningsby and Rob Kimball with all their time and help that they put into it, along with Soil & Water to get this project completed.

The Highway Dept also completed six miles of chip seals on various roads, and multiple cross culverts as well. We also completed the last phase of paving on Gahwiler Road South, with a chip seal.

As you all know, prices of fuel, tires, oil for chip seals, parts, have increased a lot for the town, as has with the country, in which we adjusted our work projects and home life.

I would like to thank all towns and county personnel that helped on our town projects to get completed, and to keep costs down by using shared services.

As winter approaches, I would like to say, "be safe" while driving in the snow, and watch out for others as well as the plows trying to clean the roads. Here's wishing you and your family a wonderful New Year.

### **Important numbers:**

**Cayuga County Highway Dept.**

**(315) 253-1366**

**NYS DOT Waterloo, NY**

**(315) 539-3112**

**Town of Niles Highway Dept.**

**(315) 497-2606**

Sincerely,

***Roger E. Slater***

***Highway Superintendent***

**Our Garbage Hauler is:  
Casella Waste Systems, Inc.**

**Phone: 315-781-6500**

**Office Hours:** Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Casella appreciates this opportunity to continue to serve the Residents of Niles for their garbage and recycling collection.

- Your service day will remain on Monday with collection starting at 6:30 AM for both garbage and recycling.
- Here are the Three Holidays in 2023 that will affect the pick-up schedule:
  - o **Memorial Day (May 29th)** – Garbage and recycling will be collected June 1st.
  - o **Labor Day (September 4th)** - Garbage and recycling will be collected September 5th.
  - o **Christmas Day (December 25th)** – Garbage and recycling will be collected December 26th.
- **Cart Placement:**
  - o Keep containers on a hard, level surface clear of snow and other landscaping debris and no more than 6' from edge of curb.
  - o Please allow containers a 3' perimeter of clearance from obstructions such as parked cars, trees, mail boxes and utility poles. There must also be a 15' overhead clearance from any low hanging tree branches or power lines, etc.
  - o Please place carts side by side with at least 3' of clearance between containers.

**Garbage Pick-up Regulations:**

- o Garbage
    - All materials must be placed in the cart.
    - No lumber in excess of 48 inches.
    - No tree limbs, brush or lawn clippings.
- Please make special arrangements with the hauler if more or bulky items.
- o Recycling
    - All recyclable materials must be placed unbagged in the cart.
    - Cardboard needs to be flat or cut into pieces that will fit in the recycling cart.
    - Items that **CANNOT** be recycled include plastic bags, clothing, food waste, scrap metal, batteries, electronic waste, medical waste, hazardous materials, toys, coated paper items, plastic wrap/films/tarps, ceramics or baking glassware.

**2023 Clean-Up Dumpsters  
Mark Your Calendar!**

**Niles Town Garage in New Hope**

April through September

Monday – Thursday 7 am – 3:30 pm

Clean – Up Dumpsters are a service for Town of Niles property owners. Its purpose is to provide a way for residents to dispose of junk and debris to keep their properties clean. It is for Niles residents and property owners only and out of town trash is not allowed. A tax map or proof of owning or renting property in the town is still required and a town representative may be checking. We ask business owners within Niles to refrain from bringing debris generated from their business operations. Please make separate arrangements for job site dumpsters.

All junk and debris will be brought to the New Hope site only, behind the Niles highway garage and it will be the resident's responsibility to unload it into the appropriate containers. The gate will be open for access to residents April through September on regular highway department work days, Monday through Thursday from 7am to 3:30pm (Closed Holidays). **Absolutely No Dumping around fence when the gate is closed – cameras are watching!**

No hazardous waste allowed. No junk cars, boats, cut up house trailers, etc. will be allowed. Excessive construction / remodeling debris will not be accepted – secure your own container for large home projects! Passenger car and small truck tires will be allowed but limited – No truck loads. No tractor or large truck tires. No appliances containing Freon will be allowed (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers). There is a pallet for TVs and small electronic as well as a container for scrap metal and larger non-Freon appliances. Trees, brush and yard waste will be accepted and unloaded into the tree pile in the back lot.

In the past few years Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County has held collection days for hard to get rid of items and hopefully the program will continue in 2023. Some of the events are as follows: Hazardous waste, electronics, tires, small appliances with Freon (no refrigerators or freezers larger than dorm size). Go to [www.cayuga-county.us](http://www.cayuga-county.us) and under the Government heading click Agencies and Cornell Cooperative Extension then to Events for more information about dates of collection in 2023.

If everyone follows the set rules this service will be available for years to come!

*Town of Niles*

**Niles Town Phone Numbers & Email Addresses**



**Supervisor:** Joan Jayne .....315-497-0066  
supervisor@townofnilesny.gov

**Council Members:**

Steven Cuddeback .....315-784-5471  
Clancy Edmonds .....315-496-2124  
Bernard Juli .....315-497-9525  
Joseph MacDuffee.....315-209-0230

**Highway Superintendent:**

Roger Slater .....315-497-2606  
highway@townofnilesny.gov

**Town Clerk:**

Tina Weed.....315-497-0066  
clerk@townofnilesny.gov

**Town Deputy Clerk:**

Patty Podolak .....315-497-0066  
deputyclerk@townofnilesny.gov

**Town Justice:**

Lawrence Comeau .....315-497-0066

**Town Code Enforcement:**

J. Patrick Doyle.....315-729-3921  
codes@townofnilesny.gov

**Town Assessor:**

Dana Merizzi.....315-253-1033

**Dog Control Officer:**

Suzie Tracy.....315-224-3110

**Town Planning Board:**

Bob DeWitt.....315-497-0066  
secretary@townofnilesny.gov

**County Legislator:**

Mark Strong.....315-294-8076

**Town Historian:**

Lorie Dewitt Antilla .....315-497-0066  
historian@townofnilesny.gov

**Niles Youth Group:**

Karen Porter .....315-685-3154