



Town of Niles Newsletter

~2024~

IN THIS ISSUE, ARTICLES FROM:

Supervisor 1
 Town Assessor1-3
 Dog Control Officer..... 2
 Board of Assessment Review..... 2
 Zoning Board of Appeals 3
 Code Enforcement..... 3
 Planning Board..... 3
 Garbage District Exemption..... 2
 Youth Programs..... 3
 Town Clerk/Tax Collectors’ Office.... 4
 Historian’s Room..... 4
 New Hope Fire Department 5
 West Niles Fire Department 6
 Highway Department..... 6
 Casella Waste Systems, Inc. 7
 Holiday Pick-Up..... 7
 Garbage Pick-up Regulations 7
 Clean-Up Dumpsters..... 7
 Clean-up Days Regulations 7

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 3pm – 6pm
 2nd 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 Town of Niles residents. I would like to send a sincere greeting with best wishes to all of you in 2024.

I am looking forward to working with town board members and employees to keep town services running smooth. We have an experienced and knowledgeable staff with a commitment towards team work that will help us in our decision making process.

I hope to meet Niles residents at the town board meetings and appreciate your comments, questions, concerns and insightful conversations.

Dave Denman, Town Supervisor

STAR AND ENHANCED STAR PROGRAMS

For new STAR applications, please visit 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 that are now eligible to apply for Enhanced STAR have two options:

1. File application RP425E along with RP4251VP with your local assessor by March 1st. The first year applying, proof of age and income is also required. -OR-
2. Opt to receive the Enhanced STAR CHECK by applying directly to NYS Department of Tax & Finance.

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 household income is under \$37,400. 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

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 30th, 2024, from 4-8 pm for the purpose of hearing property owners' grievances on their assessments or exemption stats for the 2024 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

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 Boards 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 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 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 2024!



Just a reminder of the Towns Local Dog law. Dogs should be leashed or confined to your property. Dogs also should be licensed yearly at your Towns Clerk Office. You will need your dogs 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

Suzie Tracy (315) 224-3110

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 2024! I hope that everyone has been enjoying the holidays and time with family and friends.

Building permits were issued in 2023 for several projects, including 3 new singlefamily homes in the Niles. The total estimated valuation for permits issued from January 1 — October 31, 2023, was \$1,731,315. 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 2023 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.

The Code Enforcement Officer enforces the NYS Property Maintenance Code and the Junkyard Law for the Town. Niles residents are fortunate that we have town-wide garbage and recycling collection. In addition, dumpsters are available at the highway barn during warmer months to accommodate resident property clean up. More detailed information on garbage and recycling collection and clean-up for 2024 is in the Town Newsletter. Please take advantage of these services and help keep our Town clean!

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

Code Enforcement Office Hours are held on Thursday from 3:00 5:00 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

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. In Mid March we will evaluate interest and operate ability of these programs.

Please refer to our website townofnilesny.gov for further information.



Karen Porter, Youth Programs Director

From the Desk of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Deputy Town Clerk this year for the Town of Niles. I would like to thank everyone that voted for me. I look forward to serving the community as Town Clerk and Tax Collector starting January the 1st. 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.

There will be new Office Hours starting in January:

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

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Thursday – 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

2nd Saturday every month – 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, July 4th, November 28 for Thanksgiving.

Some important dates to note when paying your taxes:

February 12th (last day to pay a first installment and the last day to pay without penalty) February 29th (last day to pay with a 1% penalty)

April 1st (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 5924. 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 consider this when using 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://townofnilesnv.gov>.

Thank you and have a happy and safe 2024!

*Bev Guzalak, Town Clerk
Patty Podolak, Deputy Town Clerk*

Town Historian



Roger Slater, Robert Kimball and Chad Mason cleaning up Millard Fillmore site.

Hello from the Town of Niles Historian. This year I was finally able to get a couple of the historical markers in our town repainted. In honor of the 200th anniversary of the New Hope Mills, I was able to get the mill marker repainted and hopefully sealed against rust damage for a few more years. This sign can be seen in New Hope off 41A just north of Glen Haven Road. I was also able to repaint the historical marker at the Millard Fillmore Boyhood Home site on Carver Road. A very special thank you to the highway road crew for removing and reinstalling the sign for me. Those things weigh a ton!

I have been working on a couple of projects to help build out our historian site on the Town of Niles website. One currently in the works (and hopefully finished by this printing) will be a compilation of pictures past and present of houses in the Town of Niles. Mabel Crosby and Helen Newell took a number of pictures around town in the 1990's and I want to provide pictures of what those places look like now and (hopefully) older pictures of what they looked like 'back in the day'. We have received donations of antique household equipment, like an old washtub "washing machine" and some additional donations of a quilt, old pictures, etc. Some of which can be seen in the basement out of the historian room, and some are in the room.

Please keep the historian office in mind as you clean out unwanted items (please, no pictures unless you know who the people are in them!) We will happily accept donations.

Please check out the historian page on our website. I am trying to keep it new and exciting!!

*Lorie DeWitt-Antilla
Niles Historian*

Niles Senior Citizens

Hello everyone — the Niles Senior Citizens meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Niles Town Hall basement. We meet at 11:30 for a noon meal with a dish to pass. (and your own table service) In July we have a picnic at the Ward O'Hara Museum and a December Christmas party at a voted on location.

We welcome all to join our group for fun and fellowship. Last year we enjoyed trips to Lancaster, PA in July, Branson, MO in August and Raquette Lake in September.

We are planning a day trip on May 29th to the Villa Roma Resort for lunch and a show (tribute to John Denver and Olivia Newton John). In July to the Wild Animal Farm, the Oz Museum, lunch and Weedens Mini Mall. August will be to Pigeon Forge, TN and October to Lancaster to see "Daniel" at the Sight & Sound theatre. These will be posted on the Niles Website and also on the seniors facebook page.

We would like to thank the town for helping to fund a portion of the bus cost! It is appreciated!

*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. This year we are making a change. They will begin in April and end in October. Please watch event announcements on Facebook to place your pre-orders or you may contact (315) 406-0262.

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 Rd 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 or nhfd81@vahoo.com.

In 2023 New Hope Fire Department experienced an increase in the number of requests for emergency services. Currently we are on track to reach over 230 calls this year. We are seeing a continuing upward trend of requests for emergency services, as have our local partners.

Officers for 2024 are: President Jeff Stanton, Vice President Matt Stayton, Secretary Judy Cuddeback, Treasurer Stefanie Raymond, Financial Secretary Megan Stayton, Trustees Joe Hughes, Matt Matijas and Don Slater, 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 2024 a great year and look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year.

Yours truly,

George Seeman, Fire Chief

West Niles Fire Department

Happy New Year from the West Niles Fire Department!

I would like to start out by thanking our community for your support over the past year. One of the ways that they have supported us was by attending our clambakes. Our members work very hard by conducting a 50/50 raffle. This year the members and friends will be preparing all the food for the clambake. Our next clambake will be May 4, 2024. Tickets will be on sale by March 1, 2024. Please reach out to a fire department member if you would like a ticket to attend. Our second one will be in the fall, the date will be announced at a later date.

Be on the lookout for different raffles throughout the year. Watch for them to be advertised on our West Niles fire department's Facebook page as well.

If you are in need of a reflective mailbox sign please go to the town website to fill out an application and mail to the firehouse at 3956 Valentine Rd, Moravia, NY 13118.

Remember, our firehouse is available to rent for special occasions. Please contact the fire chief Doug Winters at 315-246-7051.

We are always looking for new members to join our team. Meetings are the first Monday of every month except if it's a holiday then they are on Tuesday. Times are different throughout the year, winter months they start at 7pm and summer months they start at 8pm. Please feel free to stop by at one of our meetings to meet the members and grab an application to join.

Thank you for your continued support!

***Doug Winters, Fire Chief
West Niles Fire Department!***

Dear Three-town Fire District Community,

We hope this message finds you well, and we appreciate the ongoing support from all our community members. The Three-town Fire District, comprising parts of Sempronius and the Town of Niles, consists of three departments: New Hope, Sempronius, and West Niles. Led by Chief Tyler Bloodgood and Assistant Chiefs George Seemann, Eric Jandrew, and Doug Winters, respectively, each department plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety of our district. In our efforts to keep you informed, we are pleased to share some recent developments within the district. Recognizing the importance of staying current with firefighting capabilities, the district has acquired two new rescue vehicles. The recent addition, a new rescue housed in West Niles, further enhances our emergency response capabilities, providing vital support to our community.

Moreover, we are in the process of procuring a new engine for the New Hope Fire Department. This upcoming engine will mark a significant milestone as the first in the county equipped with a all-new turnout gear, enhancing their ability to respond to emergencies with the utmost professionalism and preparedness.

The Three-town Fire District, established in 1948 after a series of major fires on State Route 41A, Has evolved significantly over the years. Each department now manages its own firehouse, with the district providing rent to house the fire trucks. New Hope Fire Department is actively engaged in fundraising efforts to construct a new firehouse, aiming to achieve this goal without relying on taxpayer funding. For more information on how you can contribute to this initiative, please contact any New Hope member.

The recent addition of a new truck, housed in West Niles, represents a crucial step in aligning our district with current state-mandated requirements for fire departments and equipment.

Additionally, our commitment to the State LOSAP program continues, offering rewards to members who meet active firefighter standards within the district and fulfill state requirements, redeemable upon request.

As we strive to maintain the highest standards of service, we are always in need of dedicated volunteers. Those interested in joining our ranks are encouraged to reach out to any of the department chiefs. The commitment is substantial, requiring at least 40 hours of training annually, attendance at six meetings, and a percentage of calls each year. While demanding, the rewards of serving the community are immeasurable.

Our monthly meetings, hosted on the third Monday of every month, provide an opportunity for community engagement and discussion. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the community for your unwavering loyalty and support for each department and the overall district.

Sincerely,

***Stefanie Raymond Secretary/Treasurer
Tyler Bloodgood Three-Town Chief***

**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 two holidays in 2024 that will affect the pick-up schedule:
 - o **Memorial Day (May 27th)** – Garbage and recycling will be collected May 28th.
 - o **Labor Day (September 2nd)** - Garbage and recycling will be collected September 3rd.
- **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 and Recycling 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.

Town of Niles Highway Department

I would like to say thank you to everyone who voted for me this year. It's been another busy year for road work, with paving and chip seals. We have been short staffed since June 1st, but we got by with the help of other towns.

We completed last phase of paving and drainage on Appletree Pt Road, and started work on DeWitt Rd with drainage / cross culverts as well as Glen Cove Rd. Next year we are hoping to do paving on De-Witt Rd as well as Glen Cove Rd, and do some Chip seals on various roads thru out the town.

Also the Town of Niles was awarded 1.5 million in a grant to fund Murray Rd bridge and realign part of curve towards the bridge. This grant has helped the Town of Niles immensely.

Thank you goes out to the highway crew for doing the work they did while being short staffed. NICE JOB GUYS.

So drive safe during the winter months, and have a healthy new year. Note: Anyone that needs dirt fill or mulch call highway garage at 315-497-2606.

Important numbers:

Town Garage 315-497-2606

**Cayuga County Highway Dept.
315-253-1366 or**

Supervisor 315-743-6555

New York State DOT 315-539-3112

Sincerely,

*Roger E. Slater
Highway Superintendent*

Niles Town Phone Numbers & Email Addresses



Supervisor: Dave Denman315-497-0066
supervisor@townofnilesny.gov

Council Members:

Allan Badman315-784-5471
Joan Jayne315-496-2124
Joe MacDuffee.....315-209-0230
Doug Weed..... 315-221-3684

Highway Superintendent:

Roger Slater315-497-2606
highway@townofnilesny.gov

Town Clerk:

Bev Guzalak.....315-497-0066
clerk@townofnilesny.gov

Town Deputy Clerk:

Patty Podolak315-497-0066
deputyclerk@townofnilesny.gov

Town Justice:

Lawrence Comeau315-497-0066

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 Antilla315-497-0066
historian@townofnilesny.gov

Niles Youth Group:

Karen Porter315-685-3154