



Town of Niles Newsletter

~2025~

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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 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 2025.

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

We have updated our fleet of trucks for the Highway Department, and the board members have been doing well as we try to keep costs down with high inflation new regulations.

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:

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 29 – 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, 2025 – 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 29th, 2025, 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

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 7:00 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

email: rwd3038@aol.com

From the Dog Control Officer

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 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.

Adopt local! We also have dogs for adoption. Please follow our Facebook page Canine Cove.

Phone: 315-224-3110

Email: covedogs@outlook.com

Suzie Tracy, Dog Control Officer

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Niles building Codes are written to help protect the high quality of our community. If you are planning a change, such as constructing a new building, addition, or renovation, it would be a good idea 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 are required to apply to the Board of Appeals for a Variance to the Town Laws.

The Variance application is available on-line 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 board *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!

Don Klein

From the Code Enforcement Office...

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025! I hope that everyone has been enjoying the holidays and time with family and friends.

Building permits were issued in 2024 for several projects, including 8 new single-family homes in Niles. The total estimated valuation for permits issued from January 1 – October 31, 2024, was \$3,694,650. 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 2024 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 2025 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 has two programs for the students of our town. Each program is for students whose parent or grandparents that own property in the Town of Niles.

The recreation program is for students enrolled in kindergarten through sixth grade. It is held at Fillmore Glen State Park and is from July through the first two weeks of August; a total of six weeks.

Our other program is a Swim program. Swim lessons are provided at Auburn YMCA. This is held Monday and Wednesday morning during the month of July. This is for students enrolled in Kindergarten through sixth grade.

Contact me with any questions you may have at 315-685-3154.



Karen Porter, Youth Programs Director

From the Desk of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector

I would like to thank everyone for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Town Clerk. I have learned a lot my first full year in office and enjoyed getting to know all the townspeople. I look forward to serving another year as Town Clerk and Tax Collector. 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, and to pay your Town And County taxes (until 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.

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 January 20th/Martin Luther King Day; February 17th, Presidents Day; November 27th, Thanksgiving Day; December 25 & 26, Christmas Holiday

Some important dates to note when paying your taxes:

Feb 10 last day to pay 1st installment or pay in full, 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 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 Town). 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 a bill pay service to pay your taxes.

I'd like 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 2025!

Bev Guzalak, Town Clerk
Patty Podolak, Deputy Town Clerk

Town Historian

Hello from the Town of Niles Historian. This year we have built out the History Page on the town's website with a couple of sub-pages that are still growing. You can find History under the "Departments" tab across the top of the website (townofnilesny.gov), at the bottom of the departments you will see "History" and there is an arrow that takes you to Historical Buildings (a work in progress) and Historical Markers. I have also updated the home page with links to other websites of interest to history buffs and genealogists.

I am currently working on a project with the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society on digitizing New York records. The town of Niles has 4-5 record books that have been in use since the town began and should be digitized for safe keeping. We are in the beginning stages of this project but hopefully will have it done by the middle of next year.

I am also working on trying to "restore" the Van Duyne family cemetery (Located off Rockefeller Road up in the woods behind 3847 Rockefeller Road). Ronnie Van Duyne came to the historian office hoping for some help to ensure this little cemetery doesn't get forgotten. Buried within is a Revolutionary War Patriot, John Van Duyne. I am working on collecting proof of his service and will then apply for a historical marker for the cemetery (with the landowners permission).

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.

Lorie DeWitt-Antilla
Niles Historian

Niles Senior Citizens

Hello everyone. The Niles Senior Citizens meet the second Wednesday of the month at the Niles Town Hall basement. We meet around 11:30 a.m. for a noon meal with a dish to pass (bring 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, Pigeon Forge, TN, the Villa Roma, and the Wild Animals Farm. I am still in the planning stages for the coming year. These will be posted on the Niles website, the Seniors Facebook page, and at the Town Hall.

We would like to thank the town for helping fund a portion of the bus cost! It is truly 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. 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. In the Spring of 2024, we applied for a new state funded grant. The grant that we applied for was under the infrastructure portion. And we are pleased to announce that we have been granted \$1 Million toward the construction of a new firehouse. We are currently awaiting the final details.

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.

Over the last several years we have experienced an increase in the number of requests for emergency services. We are seeing a continuing upward trend of requests for emergency services, as have our local partners.

At the time of the submission of this article, we have not conducted elections for the 2025 officers. Elections will take place during our December meeting.

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 2025 a great year and look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year.

Yours truly, George Seeman, Fire Chief

From Highway Superintendent

Hope everyone had a great summer this year.

We finished the last phase of DeWitt Road by paving the entire road, half with hot asphalt on hills and curves, and the other half with pug mix. On lower half of DeWitt Road, guard rails were installed for safety, and the entire road was widened for the increase of traffic and large farm equipment.

We repaired a large ditch repair on Carver Road with the help of Soil & Water Conservation for controlling erosion and rushing water entering Skaneateles Lake. We oiled and stoned various roads before the winter. The bridge project on Murray Road is still going forward with surveying almost completed, geological testing and boring is being done, designing and mapping being done in the spring of 2025. We are hoping for bidding to be going out in the summer or fall of 2025.

Most of the mowing this summer has been done this has been done this year with our new tractor and double flail

mower, saving a lot of time and resources.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Rob Kimball, Patty Lee, Pat Steger, and Neil Stevens for all the hard work this summer and last winter, and to all the towns that helped us on all road projects.

I hope everyone has a safe winter, and Happy Holidays!!

NOTE: Anyone that needs dirt fill or mulch, please contact the Highway Garage at 315-497-2606 or leave a message.

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 Slater, Highway Superintendent

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. Our next clambake will be May 3, 2025. Tickets will be on sale by March 1, 2025. We will be having a second clambake which will be Oct. 4, 2025. Tickets will be on sale beginning Aug. 1, 2025. Please reach out to a fire department member if you would like a ticket to attend. 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, 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 fireman Corey Holmes at 315-406-3755.

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 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 fire fighting 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 and 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 2025 that will affect the pick-up schedule:
- **Memorial Day (May 26th)** – Garbage and recycling will be collected Tuesday May 27th.
- **Labor Day (September 1st)** - Garbage and recycling will be collected Tuesday Sept. 2nd.
- **Cart Placement:**
- Keep containers on a hard, level surface clear of snow and other landscaping debris and no more than 6' from edge of curb.
- 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.
- Please place carts side by side with at least 3' of clearance between containers.

Garbage and Recycling Pick-up Regulations:

- **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.
- **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.



A nonprofit organization created by paint manufacturers, PaintCare is committed to making it easy and convenient to recycle leftover paint in states with paint stewardship laws.

xx-mcen-0522

2025 Clean-Up Dumpsters – Mark Your Calendar!

Niles Town Garage in New Hope

April through September

Monday – Thursday 7 am – 3:30 pm

Second Saturday of the month from 8am-12pm,
on the following dates: 5/10, 6/14, 8/9, and 9/13

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-Thursday 7 am 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.

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



Find a drop-off site near you:
(855) PAINT09 | paintcare.org



Paint Smarter

Scan the code above with your smart phone or visit paintcare.org/paint-smarter to get tips on how to buy the right amount of paint, use up what's left, and recycle the rest with PaintCare.



It's easy to recycle your leftover paint, stain, and varnish.

Niles Town Phone Numbers & Email Addresses



Supervisor: Dave Denman315-704-8501
supervisor@townofnilesny.gov

Council Members:

Allan Badman315-497-3297
Joan Jayne315-730-8919
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