



Town of Niles Newsletter

~2022~

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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 & 3rd 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

Welcome 2022! Happy New Year!

As we begin this New Year, I am hoping everyone is well!

As the Town Supervisor, I would like to say “thank you” for all the support that I’ve received from the Constituents in the November 2021 election. I will continue to work with everyone in the town to keep Niles a great community to live and work in.

All of the town employees are dedicated to making sure our town runs smoothly for all our Constituents--“thank you for all that you do”!

I am continuing my work with both Skaneateles and Owasco Watersheds, making sure that our lakes are safe.

Have a great and prosperous year and stay healthy!

Don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have throughout the year

Joan Jayne, Town Supervisor

ENHANCED STAR PROGRAM (REMINDER)

Property owners currently receiving Enhanced STAR no longer need to reapply each year. The forms filed for the 2019 roll year allowed NYS to annually verify income (through IVP – income verification program) and let the assessor know which properties qualify for the exemption.

Property owners currently receiving Basic STAR that are now eligible to apply for Enhanced STAR have two options.

1. 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.

a. https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp425e_fill_in.pdf

b. https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp425ivp_fill_in.pdf

OR

2. Opt to receive the Enhanced STAR credit CHECK by applying directly to NYS Department of Tax & Finance.

IMPORTANT: Enhanced STAR IVP does not automatically qualify property owners for the additional Aged exemption which they may also be eligible for if their annual income is under \$29,000. In order to qualify for the Aged exemption, property owners are required to submit a yearly exemption application (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 26 – 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/>

October 31 – Exemption renewal forms for the upcoming year are mailed to owners

January 1, 2023 – 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 26th, 2022 from 4-8 pm for the purpose of hearing property owners' grievances on their assessments or exemption status for the 2022 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

Kristy Gans – Assessor Clerk

Phone: (315) 253-1502

Email: kgans@cayugacounty.us

County Office Building Hours:

Mon., Wed.-Fri., 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Niles Town Hall Office Hours:

First & Third Tuesday of the month, 9 am-12 pm OR call (315) 497-0066 during those hours.

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.

I would like to publicly thank Terry Green for her many years of exemplary service as Chair of the Board. She has taught me a great deal about town code, procedures, but most of all fair mindedness and consideration for all residents who have brought concerns and projects to the Board. She has been a great leader and a wonderful mentor. Her service will be missed.

Bob DeWitt , Planning Board Chair

From the Dog Control Officer

I am looking forward to serving the Town of Niles as the Dog Control Officer for 2022! I have been a DCO for fifteen years serving other towns and villages and also assistant shelter manager at Country Acres Animal Shelter located in Homer, NY. For any dog related issues please call me at 315-224-3110. For any other animal/wildlife complaints or concerns I will try to help but can refer you to the proper authority. Did you know a dog license fee is cheaper if your canine friend is spayed or neutered? If you need low cost spay and neuter, I can give you information. Please license your dog with the Town Clerk.



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 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 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!

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 for further information.

Karen Porter, Youth Programs Director

From the Code Enforcement Office...

2021 was another challenging year with the pandemic, building supply shortages and increased prices on many construction materials.

Building permits were issued in 2021 for several projects, including two new single-family homes in the Town and one major solar project. The total estimated valuation for permits issued from January 1 – November 30, 2021 was \$7,041,905 (\$4,799,309 for the solar project and \$2,242,596 for all other projects). 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 2021 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

Code Enforcement Office Hours are held on Thursday from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. and by appointment (call ahead to confirm that the office is open due to pandemic restrictions). 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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

J. Patrick Doyle, Code Enforcement Officer

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.

From the Desk of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity 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, and Thanksgiving Day

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website! It is our goal to provide our residents and visitors an easy way to access information. The Town's new website is well organized so you can easily navigate the site to find the information you're looking for. I encourage you to check the 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 new website can be found at www.townofnilesny.gov. Please be patient with us while we are still in the process of making some improvements!

We also have a new email address – clerk@townofniles.gov
Thank you and have a happy and safe 2022!

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

Niles Senior Citizens

The Niles Senior Citizens usually meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Town Hall in January, February, and March. I have booked a trip to Pittsburg and the Flight 93 Memorial in July, and a trip to Mackinaw Island in August 2022. At the end of September we have a trip booked to see David and Goliath at the Sight and Sounds Theater. I am also planning a two day trip to Letchworth State Park in the fall.

We want to thank our town for their continued support to help fund the cost of the bus. Without their help these trips would not be possible – thank you so much!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meetings. Lunch at noon with a dish to pass and your own table service. The meeting follows lunch.

Stay well and see you soon!

Elaine Axton, Trip-Coordinator

Town Historian



Hello from the Town of Niles Historian. We have been plugging along on indexing all the items in the historian room in the basement of the Town Hall.

We have received donations of old beautiful dresses from Terry Green and Willard / Gloria Jackson. A Ladies Auxiliary uniform from Shirley Moss and numerous other records that needed a good home. It has been a hard year keeping up with the current obituaries. We lost a lot of residents this year.

One item of interest is that we have applied for a "Legends and Lore" historical marker grant from the Pomeroy Foundation, that will describe how New Hope got its name. We won't know until December if the grant is approved but if it is, you will see a new sign at the corner of Glen Haven Road and 41A in the spring. Penny Wells of New Hope Naturals has graciously offered a corner of her property for installation. Fingers crossed. We are also working on digitizing the white "Niles 1833-1983" book that Mabel Crosby wrote and have been offered to have it uploaded to the SCRLC (South Central Regional Library Council) or to the Seymour Library /New York Heritage page. We are still working on this so, hopefully, by the time we write the next newsletter, we can say we are live on-line.

Please keep the historian office in your thoughts as you clean out attics and basements. We would love period clothes, antique tools (no farm machinery!) and pictures (labeled with addresses or people's names).

Thank you for your continued support.

*Lorie DeWitt-Antilla
Niles Historian*

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 : Greg Palmer

Vice President : Jim Gettel

Secretary : Phillip Auchampaugh

Treasurer : Rich Winters

With any luck at all we are planning our annual clambake for the first Saturday of May 2022, and our Annual Harvest Dinner for November 2022.

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.

Please have a Safe and
Happy New Year
Dave Glanville Jr. Chief
West Niles Fire Department!

New Hope Fire Department



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

This has been a very difficult time for everyone with the COVID pandemic. We encourage everyone to practice social distancing. We encourage anyone not feeling well to stay home and quarantine for the proper number of days, or if you need to call 911, tell the dispatcher if you are experiencing symptoms so that our first responder can come prepared.

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.

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 have embarked on a new partnership 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.

The department completed 2021 with just over 200 responses.

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 2022 are: Chief George Seemann, Assistant Chief Jeff Stanton, President Donald Slater, Vice President Matt Stayton, Secretary Judy Cuddeback, and Treasurer Stefanie Raymond.

We are always accepting applications for new members. 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 2022 a great year and look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year.

Yours truly,
George Seeman, Fire Chief

Three Town Fire District

The Three-town fire district is rarely in the news and we would like to take the opportunity to let the taxpayers know a little about the happenings in the district.

The district is composed of the Town of Sempronius (in part) and the Town of Niles. We house three different departments which are New Hope, Sempronius, and West Niles.

The district is led by Three- Town Chief Tyler Bloodgood, and his three Assistant Chiefs (New Hope-George Seemann, Sempronius-Eric Jandrew, and West Niles-David Glanville). We want to extend our deepest gratitude to all of the members of the community for their continued support over the years.

The district was originally formed in 1948, after a series of major fires on State Route 41A. The town of Moravia was originally included and later split to form their own fire district. We have had many advances since the early years. Each department currently owns their own fire house and The District pays each of them rent to house the fire trucks. Each department is responsible for the up keep and maintenance of their respective houses. New Hope Fire Department is actively fundraising to build a new fire house. Their goal is to do this without any taxpayer funding. To learn more about how you can help, please contact any New Hope member.

The district purchased 2 new rescue trucks this year. This will give us the ability to respond more rapidly and through to the rescue calls in the area such as MVA and Sick persons. The new trucks are housed in New Hope and Sempronius.

We are continuing to participate in the State LOSAP program. Each member that meets the active firefighter standard within the district and also meet the state requirements will receive a reward that can be collected at the time of retirement.

The departments are always in need of new volunteers that are committed to the job. The requirement to be an active volunteer include completion of at least 40 hours of training every year, attend at least 6 meetings, and attend a percentage of calls each year. The commitment is high but so is the reward. If you are interested in joining please see any of the department chiefs.

The district hosts its monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month and will host a budget meeting on the 3rd Tuesday in October any and all are welcome to attend to find out the happenings of the district.

This has been a very difficult time for everyone with the COVID pandemic. We encourage everyone to practice social distancing. We thank all of the members of the community for their continued support during this difficult time. We encourage anyone not feeling well to stay home and quarantine for the proper number of days and if you are to call 911 tell the dispatcher if you are experiencing symptoms so that our first responder can come prepared.

Thank you again to the members of the community for your continued loyalty and help supporting each department and the district.

Sincerely,
Stefanie Raymond, Secretary/Treasurer

Town of Niles Highway Department

5921 New Hope Road

Moravia, NY 13118

Phone (315) 497-2606

Fax (315) 497-9952

First off I would like to congratulate Pat Steger on his retirement in April of 2021. I would like to thank him for the help in transitioning me as the Highway Superintendent. Also, I would like to thank you for electing me as the new Town Highway Superintendent. I will continue to strive to make the roads safe in our town.

We had an interesting year with the hurricanes in July and August in other states, causing heavy rainfall in our areas. With the help of the highway crew, we were out in each storm staying on top of the damage from the heavy rainfall. We paved and chipped many roads in the town of Niles this past summer, and with help from other towns, we were able to keep the cost down.

Please be careful on the roads during our winter months. Watch for the snow plows and please be patient if you happen to get behind one. I would like to thank the town board and the highway crew for supporting me this past summer and fall and look forward to serving as highway superintendent.

If you have any issues or concerns, or any questions regarding our roads in the Town of Niles, please don't hesitate to call me at the Highway Town Garage Office at (315) 497-2606.

Important numbers:

Cayuga County Highway Dept.

(315) 253-1366, or

Al Simmons, Cayuga County Foreman,

Cell # (315) 743-6555.

NYS DOT Waterloo, NY

(315) 539-3112

**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 2022 that will affect the pick-up schedule:
 - o Memorial Day (May 31st) – Garbage and recycling will be collected June 1st.
 - o Independence Day (July 4th) - Garbage and recycling will be collected July 5th
 - o Labor Day (September 5th) - Garbage and recycling will be collected September 6th.
- **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.

**2022 Clean-Up Days
Mark Your Calendar!**

Niles Town Garage in New Hope
April through September
Monday – Thursday 7 am – 3:30 pm

Clean – Up Days 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.

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced a change to the town clean-up days going forward. 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. Social distancing is required by wearing a mask and staying at least 6 feet apart when multiple vehicles are at the site unloading. 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 electronics 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 2022. 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 and under the Government heading click Agencies and Cornell Cooperative Extension then to Events for more information about dates of collection in 2022.

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

Town of Niles
5923 New Hope Road
Moravia, NY 13118

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUBURN, NY
PERMIT No. 1

Niles Town Phone Numbers & Email Addresses



Supervisor: Joan Jayne315-497-0066
supervisor@townofnilesny.gov

Council Members:

Steven Cuddeback315-784-5471
Clancy Edmonds315-496-2124
Bernard Juli315-497-9525
Joseph MacDuffee.....315-209-0230

Highway Superintendent:

Roger Slater315-497-2606
highway@townofnilesny.gov

Town Clerk:

Tina Weed.....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

County Legislator:

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

Town Historian:

Lorie Dewitt Antilla315-497-0066
historian@townofnilesny.gov

Niles Youth Group:

Karen Porter315-685-3154