

Town of Niles Newsletter

~ 2011 ~

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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://co.cayuga.ny.us/niles/>

Town Highway Department:
Phone: 315-477-2606

Town Clerk Office Hours:
Tuesdays 9 a.m. - Noon
Thursdays 5 p.m. - 8. p.m.
Saturdays 9.a.m - Noon

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

A Word From the Supervisor

2010 was a frustrating year. The State continues to push more responsibilities and associated costs down to the Towns. Plus, we were not successful in our American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus grant for High Speed Internet. Despite those setbacks, we were able to bring DSL to some of our residents and remediate last year's garbage situation.

New York State with its fiscal crisis continues to force more programs without financial help on local governments. We had to pass a new "Dog Law" when the State decided to eliminate that program. We still have to charge a NYS fee for Ag and Markets. New NYS Building Codes require more attention from our Code Enforcement Department. Excessive training requirements forced us to eliminate our Constable position. In 2011, the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding appears to be in jeopardy. We budgeted for the 2010 level of funding from the State but will spend as if we

Buy Local to Support your Neighbors and the Town

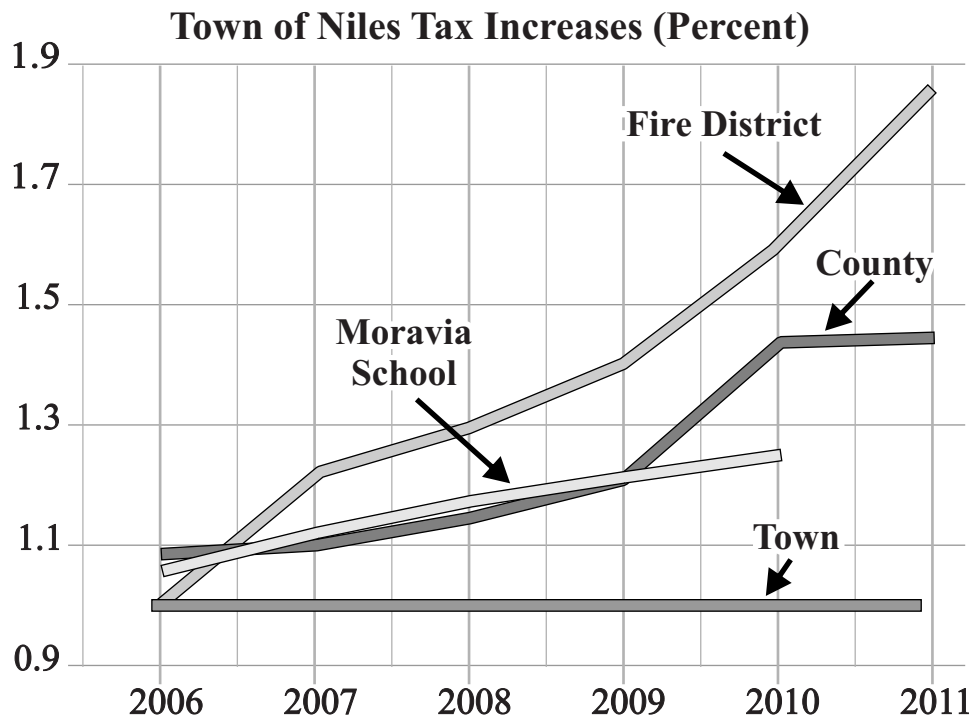
Who knew we had so many?

The Business List is available to print or view from our web site. Any new business wanting to be added or existing business with changes to your status and/or hours can call Barb Eberhardt at 784-5486 or email to Ebarbara55@aol.com.

We hope your business has prospered through last year and will continue to grow in 2011.

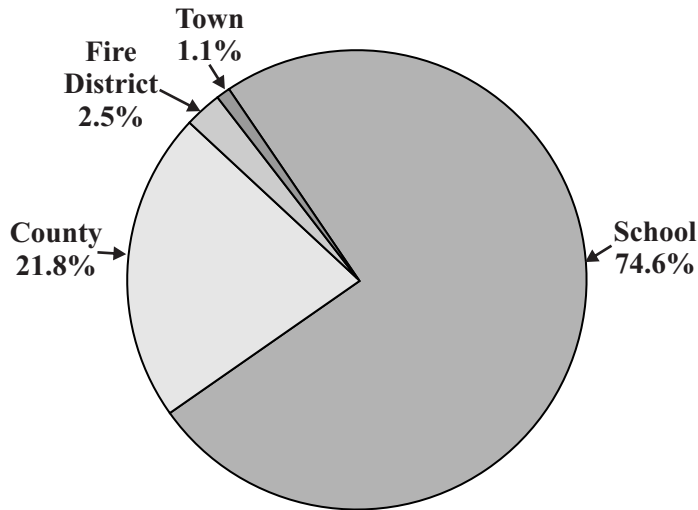
will not receive these monies. If we do benefit from the CHIPS program, we will use these funds on our Town roads.

We were still able to hold the line on property taxes for the Town. We receive less from property taxes than any local agency. The following charts tell the story:



Continued on Page 2

2010 Total Niles Tax Breakdown



During the past year, we have embarked on a Town-wide Assessment Revaluation Project. Why? Since our last revaluation in 2005, our equalization rate (determined by the State using a few sales in the Town) has deteriorated to 0.65. This means that all of our properties values have increased significantly in this economic climate. We need to have assessments that reflect market values to ensure that everyone pays their fair share, makes our assessment values easier to comprehend, reduces the discrepancies with other Towns, and to ensure that we receive our fair share of Sales Tax revenues that are distributed based on property values.

Notwithstanding our failure to receive ARRA funds, we are continuing to seek other avenues to bring Affordable High Speed Internet service to Niles. We have approached the County to look at piggybacking on their EMS Radio Service Project. To gain support in this effort, we will approach our new representatives and redouble efforts with the incumbents in our State and Federal Legislative Branches.

We have started a basement improvement project in the Town Hall. In order to save expenses (i.e., heating fuel, electricity, etc.) we have moved the History Room from the "Old Town Hall" to the basement. Installation of a water system and a new hot water heater was completed. A kitchen will be built for community use and to occupy in case of some natural disaster.

We are all here to serve. Let us know what we can do to help you and others to make the Town of Niles a better place to live.

Town of Niles Supervisor, Rick Slagle

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement entails many areas beside just new construction. The Property Maintenance Code is one and the Fire Code is another of the group of codes that we enforce.

One big change in 2009 concerns your safety and it covers carbon monoxide alarms. The Fire Code now applies this to all existing structures and just not newly built homes. The following code applies to carbon monoxide alarms.

Buildings constructed prior to January 1, 2008

A carbon monoxide alarm shall be provided on the lowest story **containing** a sleeping area, within 15 feet of the sleeping area. More than one carbon monoxide alarm shall be provided where necessary to assure that no sleeping area on such story is more than 15 feet away from a carbon monoxide alarm. *This is a code that has proven to save lives and a very affordable item to purchase!*

Swimming Pools: Another item of interest in the Town deals with swimming pools. The code covers both existing and new pools. Nothing is grandfathered! It requires barriers or fences surrounding a pool. All pools must either have a 4 ft side or surrounded by a 4 ft fence.

The complete code can be found at:
<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/code/lc-codes.html>.

If there is any question on the codes listed or other codes please contact me.

Code Enforcement Officer, Jerry Vevone

From the Planning Board

The Planning Board's responsibility is to ensure that all property, subdivisions, and add-ons comply with the Town's laws. Therefore, any changes in property lines or change of use, must be approved by the Planning Board. Also, any new commercial construction or additions must obtain a site plan review.

In an effort to save you time and money, please contact the Planning Board Chairman, the Code Enforcement Officer or the Town's Deputy Clerk before you start any project.

The Planning Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Planning Board Chairman, Bob Martin

From the Assessor's Office

We received a report from Jeff Lowe, Real Property Analyst, NYS Office of Real Property Services (ORPS). Below are highlights from this document.

- The verification of inventory data for all parcels has been completed by the staff and contractors for the Town of Niles. Pictures have been taken for every parcel, and entered on the computerized file.
- The Assessor has verified all residential sales for use in valuation of residential parcels.
- A land pricing table will be used to value the land types in the Town. This table was based on sales that occurred since 2005 and then compared to neighboring Towns for consistency. Improved farm parcels were processed through a costing system that adds the land value to an estimate of depreciated replacement cost for all structures. Residential parcels were processed through a similar costing system that adds land value to an estimate of depreciated replacement cost for all structures. Residential parcels were also processed through a market comparable system. The NYS ORPS has and will continue to test and verify the land and structure value estimates throughout the valuation process.
- Field reviews have begun for each parcel by the Assessor's office. A field review consists of visiting each parcel with the valuation documents to determine a full market value.
- A cost approach and income method will be used to value commercial properties.
- According to RPTL 511, by March 1, 2011 each property owner must be mailed an Assessment Disclosure Notice. This notice will contain the preliminary 2011 assessment and an estimate of what the prior year's Town and County taxes would have been if all of the new assessments had been in place for the 2010 assessment roll. A public information meeting is scheduled on Thursday, February 3, 2011 to explain these documents.
- Between March 1st and May 1st, the assessor will conduct informal meetings, by appointment, with individual property owners to review and discuss their preliminary 2011 assessments. This affords people an opportunity to voice concerns and share information that may impact their assessment without having to pursue the formal grievance process.
- On May 1, 2011 the assessor will file the tentative assessment roll. Following a formal grievance hearing, any changes to the roll after this date can only be made by the **Board of Assessment Review**. Grievance Day by law is scheduled for May 26, 2011.
- On July 1, 2011 the assessment roll is finalized.

Please call my office (420-1467) if you have any questions.

Assessor, Dan Stanford

Board of Appeals

If you are considering building, please study and follow the law as set forth in the Town Codes. Specifically for setback and area codes, please examine Chapter 164. This law as well as the rest of the Town's Codes can be reviewed at the Town Hall, online at our Town's Website under "Links", or go directly to <http://www.generalcode.com/webcode2.html>.

If your building permit has been denied by either the Code Enforcement Officer or the Planning Board, you may choose to bring an appeal to the Board of Appeals.

The Variance Application is available online at (http://co.cayuga.ny.us/niles/Forms/Board_of_Appeals_Variance_Application.pdf) or at the Town Hall. PLEASE read the second page carefully. There are 4 items listed that we MUST consider in reviewing an application for a variance. The law, Chapter 164-14-E, specifically requires the Board of Appeals to consider if the proposed construction is denied, will it "create undue hardship" for the property owner.

Board of Appeals, Don Klein

From the Desk of the Deputy Clerks/ Tax Collectors' Office

With passing of our Town Clerk, Christine Nolte, the Town Clerk's Office will now be staffed by the two Deputy Town Clerks; Johann Drake-DeWitt and Robin Sheehan. Town Clerk's Office hours are as follows:

Tuesdays 9 a.m. - Noon
Thursdays 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. - Noon

Beginning in January, there will be changes made in the dog licensing procedure. The entire process will be completed at the Town's office. You will not be receiving notifications from the State any longer. There will be a slight increase in the licensing fees. They are as follows:

Unaltered Dog \$12/year
Spayed or Neutered \$5/year
Kennel Fee \$50/year plus State Fees

Hours for tax collection for the months of January and February will be as follows:

Mondays 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Tuesdays 9 a.m. - Noon
Wednesdays 9 a.m. - Noon
Thursdays 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. - Noon

Have a safe and productive year.

*Deputy Town Clerks,
Johann Drake-DeWitt and Robin Sheehan*



From the Historian's Room

A big THANK YOU to Bill Carman and Jeremy Crochran for the work they did for my new room in the basement

of the Town Hall. We are finished and I welcome residents to come and see our new look.

We received a letter from Israel requesting information on the Town of Niles. It was a pleasure to be able to supply him with history on his family.

Please come and see all the donations I have received from the residents of our Town.

Hours at the Historian Room are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Have a safe any happy New Year.

Historian, Alberta Darlene Winters

From the Dog Control Officer



It has been a busy year! I have picked up 11 dogs for the year of 2010 and responded to numerous complaints and problem calls.

Please continue to keep all dogs on a leash or contained in your yards. Remember that all dogs 4 months and older MUST be licensed. Anyone who has a dog that is not licensed will be fined. You can get a license at the Town's Deputy Clerk's office. If applicable, you need to bring proof of a rabies Vaccine and spay/neuter certificate.

We are trying to keep accurate records of all the dogs who reside in the Town of Niles. Therefore, please contact the Deputy Clerk if you no longer own a dog licensed under your name.

From time to time, I have a really nice dog who hasn't been claimed and needs a good home. Feel free to check with me if you are looking to add a pet to your family.

If you have any dog questions and/or problems, please call me at 497-2941.

Dog Control Office, Stacey Morris

Niles Senior Citizens Organization



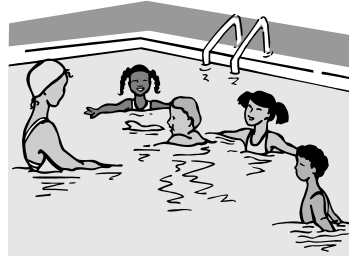
Niles Senior Citizens meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Midlakes Church in New Hope with a meal starting at noon. Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass. The meeting follows the meal. At most of our meetings, we have had a good turnout of approximately 35 to 40 members.

Each year we plan four or five day trips and one long trip. This year our long trip will be early September to either Myrtle Beach, S.C. or the outer banks of N.C. I am still in the planning stage for the rest of the trips but I should have them all arranged by April 1st.

We invite everyone to join our group and enjoy our trips.

I would like to thank all who continue to support my efforts to make this possible.

Trip Coordinator, Elaine Axton



Town of Niles Youth Programs

The Town of Niles sponsors two programs for the youth who reside within the Town.

Swim Program: This is for the children enrolled in kindergarten through sixth grade. The Swim Program is held at the Auburn YMCA. The program is held during the months of July and August each summer. We ask each child to pay one dollar per day that they attend swim lessons to help defray the cost of pay for the bus driver. The bus makes two pick-ups and drop-offs; the first, at the New Hope Church and the second, at the West Niles Fire House.

Recreation Program: This is for children completing kindergarten through sixth grade. The recreation program is held in Moravia at the Filmore Glen State Park. This program is held for six weeks during July and August. Each Friday during recreation, there is a bus trip. Students must pay for this trip themselves. The Town of Niles pays for the rest of the program. The Town is assessed on a per child basis for the length of the program. The Town of Niles pays for each child that signs up during registration and the first week of recreation. If a child signs up for the program but does not attend, the Town must still pay for that child.

We, at the Town of Niles are happy to support your children in these programs. However, as we are required to pay for each registered child, please do not register your child unless you are sure they will be participating in this program.

We will hold two sign-up sessions this year at the Niles Town Hall in New Hope. You must attend the sign-up if you plan to have your child attend either program. The sign-up dates are Saturday, June 11th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Wednesday, June 15th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Town Youth Representatives.

*Belinda Stayton (315-427-8385)
or Karen Porter (315-685-3154)*



Highway Department

When a problem arises many people do not know who to call for a solution so the following information may steer you in the right direction.

State road issues can be directed to The New York State Department of Transportation which is located in Waterloo and can be reached at (315) 539-3112.

Niles works in conjunction with the Cayuga County Highway Department on the county roads with roadside mowing, downed trees, dead animal removal and flooding. In the winter, 5 miles of roads are swapped for more efficient snow removal. The Cayuga County Highway Department can be reached at 253-1513 for the office and 253-1366 for the garage.

Over the last 20 years, the Town has improved over 9 miles of gravel roads to macadam surfaces which improves travel and snow removal. The Town of Niles Highway Department can be reached at 497-2606 to report any problems on Town roads.

There is NO PARKING on any public highway within the Town of Niles between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am during the period beginning November 15th and ending March 15th.

Please drive with caution while passing the snow plows to keep everyone safe this winter.

Best wishes to everyone for the New Year

Highway Superintendent, Patrick Steger



Three-Town Fire District

The district total calls for 2010 were approximately 330 and could not have been accomplished without the dedication of our volunteers. Active members are required to complete at least 40 hours of training per year and the district has contracted with an instructor who holds classes each month. These classes meet the requirements of OSHA, NFPA and New York State.

The State provides grant money for training and equipment and we were fortunate to receive funding in 2010. Thanks for the efforts of those who take the time to fill out the applications.

The fire departments would like to remind residents that Carbon Monoxide Detectors are now mandatory in all homes per State law.

Homeowners should post their house number prominently so that in the event of an emergency, the responders can find your house without any delay once the 911 dispatch center is activated.

The district and its fire departments need and appreciate the support from the community. Interested candidates for membership are needed and all are encouraged to apply. It is great to see the citizens take an active interest and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

We hope you have a successful and safe New Year.

Three-Town District Secretary/Treasurer, Bill Carman



New Hope Fire Department

Another year has come and gone with the New Hope Fire Department making new advancements to serve our community.

Our Fire Department received a forestry grant from the NYSDEC. They provided funds to cover 50 percent of the cost to purchase equipment that makes it possible to handle fires in areas less accessible than we could with our standard equipment.

We continue to make our response to your emergency as quickly as possible. You can assist us in identifying your location by posting your house number at the roadside so it is visible from both directions. This saves precious time when responding to your call.

Also this year, we are planning to continue our tradition of the New Hope Chicken Barbeques. It is a pleasant event for us and we are delighted that so many of you enjoy our barbequed chicken. We certainly appreciate your compliments! These barbeques will be held on the third Sunday of each month from April through October.

We are accepting new members. Our meetings are the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the New Hope Fire Department. Please stop by or see any of our fire department members for details on joining.

With great appreciation, I would like to thank the members of the community for the support shown to the New Hope Fire Department over the last year.

Fire Chief, Dennis Bell, Jr.

West Niles Fire Department



The West Niles Fire Department responded to 88 calls in 2009. 57 of those calls were medical (rescue) calls, 24 fire incidents, and 7 were miscellaneous calls (trees or wires blocking a road). 2010 looks like we will have responded to even more calls. Therefore, we really encourage you to have one of our reflective 911 signs in front of your house. This saves us a lot of time in an emergency when minutes matter. For a small donation of \$12, we can supply you with a 911 sign for your property. 911 sign applications are available on the Town of Niles Website. If you are unable to access a computer, please contact me for the form.

The West Niles Fire Department officers for 2010 are as follows: Chief Doug Winters, Assistant Chief Dave Glanville, President Rick Slagle, Secretary Danielle Winters and Treasurer Rich Winters.

Our events for this year are as follows:

- January 30th and the end of February - Two pancake breakfasts
- Early April - Consignment auction
- June and July - Antique tractor pulls
- August - Modified lawn mower pull along with an "out of the yard" lawn tractor class and some lawn mower races with Grasscar
- Year End - Election night supper

We are also looking for new members. There are a lot of jobs in keeping a volunteer fire department running. In 2010, we added 3 new fireman and 12 auxiliary members. To join, stop by the fire house on any Monday night or ask one of our members at one of our functions.

In addition, we have an ongoing auxiliary. They are planning for a lot of events throughout the year with their first one planned for January 22nd - a spaghetti supper from 4-7 p.m. This group also plans various activities for the children. These events are advertised in the Shopper and by providing a flyer sent home with the kids.

Have a safe and happy New Year from the West Niles Fire Department.

Fire Chief, Douglas Winters



**Our Garbage Hauler is:
Dependable Disposal, LLC
315-689-9588**

**Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Dependable Disposal, LLC

Dependable Disposal, LLC is proud to continue to work with the Town of Niles and its residents for garbage collection for 2011. We are complying with all of the OCRRA rules and regulations regarding recycling in New York State. We have been operating a co-collection truck which has 2 separate compartments so that the waste and recycling can be collected at the same time.

The service day will continue to be Monday, with collection starting at 7 a.m.

2011 Holiday Pick-up

Memorial Day (May 30th), July 4th, and Labor Day (Sept. 5th) are all holidays that fall on a Monday. During the week of these holidays, your pickup will be delayed by one day. Therefore your pickup for these 3 weeks will be on Tuesday.

Regulations for Pick-up

Household Trash:

- All trash must be tied in a clear plastic bag.
- Each customer is entitled to put up to 7 bags per week out for collection. If you have more than your 7 bag allotment in a given week, please call the office to make other arrangements.
- No tree limbs, lawn clippings, brush or any other "yard waste" will be collected.
- No lumber in excess of 36" will be collected.
- No wet paint, motor oil, cooking oil or other such materials will be collected.
- All trash must be placed at the curb at the edge of your property. Please make sure that all trash is bagged and all bags are secure inside a garbage can. This will eliminate the possibilities of weather and/or animals making a mess of your trash.

Household Recycling:

- Please make sure that your container is clearly marked for recycling.
- Plastic (#1 and #2) glass and metal can be put into one bin and will be collected together.
- Newspapers will need to be bundled together or put into a paper grocery bag.
- All cardboard must be flattened and cut no larger than 3' x 3'.
- Please do not bag your recyclables.

If you have any questions or comments, we encourage customer-carrier interaction and invite you to call our office.

Dependable Disposal, LLC

Garbage Exemptions

Garbage Exemptions Forms for storage, senior citizens and seasonal use are available at the Town Clerk's office and on-line at the Town of Niles website. These forms **must** be filed annually by November 1st, 2010.

Property owners with storage facilities only and those who file a 100% exemption, shall be allowed to use the annual clean-up days. The exemption form **must** still be filed, even though there is no garbage tax on the property.

2011 Clean-Up Days Mark Your Calendar!

West Niles Firehouse

April 16th • June 18th • August 20th
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Niles Town Garage at New Hope

May 21st • July 16th • Sept. 17th
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



NOTE: Again you will be asked to bring your tax map number and sign in to show proof that you own property in the Town of Niles. A Town Board Member will be recording this information so please have this available upon your arrival.

2011 Clean-Up Days Regulations

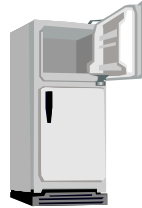


Tires (*Passenger & Small Truck)

Limit four (4) per household - only accepted at the Niles Town Garage (New Hope).

Please do not bring tires to the West Niles Firehouse!

*Tires will be measured to ensure that they meet the Seneca Meadows' requirements. NO Tractor or Large Truck Tires!



Refrigerators, Freezers, Dehumidifiers, and Air Conditioners

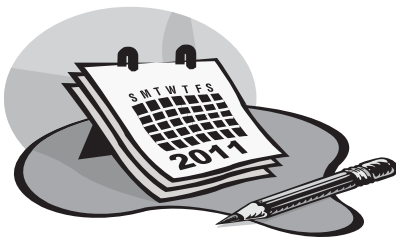
Refrigerant lines must be intact - Appliances with cut lines will NOT be accepted



Niles Town Phone Numbers

Supervisor: Rickey Slagle	497-0250
Council Members:	
Clancy Edmonds	496-2124
Barbara Eberhardt	784-5486
Bernard Juli	497-9525
Alberta Darlene Winters	784-5030
Highway Superintendent: Pat Steger	497-2606
Town Deputy Clerks: Johann Drake-DeWitt & Robin Sheehan	497-0066
Town Justice: Richard Winters	497-0066
Town Assessor: Dan Stanford	420-1467
Town Code Enforcement: Jerry VeVone	729-3665
Dog Control Officer: Stacey Morris	497-2941
Town Planning Board: Bob Martin	685-1060
County Legislator: Steve Cuddeback	784-5471

Town of Niles
5923 New Hope Road
Moravia, New York 13118



Dates to Remember

Tuesday, March 1st

Applications for STAR, senior, veteran and agricultural exemptions are due
Reminder: In the year that you turn 65, you must apply for your Enhanced STAR Exemption. The form for the STAR and the Enhanced STAR Exemption is located at http://www.orps.state.ny.us/star/star_forms.cfm and also listed under "Links" on the Town of Niles Website.

Saturday, April 16th

Clean-up day at the West Niles Firehouse - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 21st

Clean-up day at the Town of Niles Garage - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, May 26th

Grievance Day - 9 a.m. - Noon and 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday, June 18th

Clean-up day at the West Niles Firehouse - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, July 16th

Clean-up day at the Town of Niles Garage - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, August 20th

Clean-up day at the West Niles Firehouse - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, September 17th

Clean-up day at the Town of Niles Garage - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1st

Garbage exemptions due