



THE VILLAGE NEWS

COMMITTED TO OUR FUTURE ... INSPIRED BY OUR PAST

SPRING 2018

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GREEN DAY 2018

See page 5 for more details!



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

See page 10 for details!

Message from the Mayor



Mayor Jeff Pruyin

Spring has arrived and with it the promise of sunshine, warmth and, of course - construction.

After years of major roadwork in Itasca, including the Rohlwing Road widening and IL 390 extension, the Village Board decided it would be good to give residents a much needed break. Unfortunately, while the Village hasn't scheduled major roadway construction, we were recently informed that the utility company has other plans.

Nicor Gas advised the Village that it intends to upgrade its service lines in the older portions of town – both north and south. This means streets, parkways and driveway aprons throughout the older portions of town will be under construction much of the spring and summer. Nicor has promised to reach out to residents whose properties are directly impacted by the work. We have also asked that Nicor provide the Village with regular updates on its

progress. The Village will post these updates on Itasca.com and residents can choose to be automatically notified about updates through e-mail. More information on this project can be found on page 3.

Less intrusive, but still impactful, ComEd has advised the Village that it will be trimming trees in Itasca throughout the Spring. ComEd will be focusing on trees and branches that could interfere with power lines, causing a safety hazard or power outage for residents and businesses. Residents can log on to the Village's website and search ComEd for a map of affected streets and more information.

On a brighter note, the Village is installing a boardwalk in place of the existing wood chipped path from behind the Village Hall to the existing boardwalk north of Valley Road. The boardwalk will make it easier and safer for residents with strollers, bikes and scooters to enjoy the Nature Center. The boardwalk should be in place by summer – just in time to take a hike and enjoy the outdoors.



From the Desk of the Administrator

Help Keep Coyotes Out of Our Neighborhoods

Over the last few weeks, we have received several calls about an increase in coyote sightings.

Coyotes are a common wild animal in Illinois. Typically, coyotes reside in wooded areas, however, loss of their habitat over time has resulted in coyotes adjusting to a more urban landscape. Increased sightings this time of year are not unusual because coyotes' mating cycles result in younger animals leaving their family territories and venturing out on their own. Unfortunately, fences are no match for young coyotes, as they can easily scale a four to six-foot fence.

In the wild, coyotes primarily feed on rabbits, rodents, birds, fruit, and insects. While coyotes are typically leery of people, they can be unpredictable and sometimes dangerous, especially to small pets. You can help encourage coyotes to hunt in the wild and not in your neighborhood by avoiding feeding coyotes, either intentionally or by accident, and following these few simple rules:

- Keep pet food dishes inside, especially at night.
- Pick ripe fruits and vegetables from gardens.
- Remove ALL wildlife feeders. Feeding small animals, such as birds, chipmunks and squirrels can attract coyotes.
- Keep the lids of your garbage and recycling containers tightly closed to deter coyotes, raccoons and other wildlife.
- Be outside supervising your dog or cat whenever it is outdoors and never let your pet roam free.
- Do your best to scare away coyotes whenever you see them by yelling, waving your arms, or throwing an object at the animal from a safe distance.
- Keep your property clear of debris as coyotes are attracted to cluttered areas.

Finally, the Humane Society of America advises people to never run from or ignore a coyote, stating "Running from a coyote can initiate a chasing instinct, while ignoring a coyote creates habituation..." By working together, we can teach coyotes to stay out of yards and away from our pets.

From the Desk of the Village Clerk

Jody Conidi, Village Clerk • Phone: (630) 773-0835 • e-mail: clerk@itasca.com

Check Your Election Information Online

Before the General Election on November 6, 2018, I encourage you to visit the DuPage Election Commission website to review your election information and verify the accuracy of your name, address, affiliated party, and current voter status. While verifying your personal information, you can also view your precinct map, verify your polling location, and review a sample of your ballot before you vote. As you scroll down your information, you will find a list of your currently elected local, state, and federal officials and their contact information.

To review your election information online, go to:

- www.dupageco.org/VoterLookup
- Under the Search by Name tab
- Enter your last name
- Enter your date of birth
- Enter the last 4 digits of your social security number or your Illinois driver's license number

No registration or password is required to view your election information and the data is transmitted via a secure (SSL) page and is not stored or collected.

As you review your election information, if you find your name, address, affiliated party, or voter status are incorrect, you can visit or call the Election Commission office to have your information updated.

If you are not a registered voter, you can still view your precinct map, a sample ballot, and a list of your elected representatives by entering your address under the Search by Address tab or entering your district information under the District Search tab.

Next newsletter, learn how to become a registered voter so you can cast your first ballot at the General Election on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 to elect the next Governor of Illinois.

Election Commission Office

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Jack T. Knuepfer Building

421 N. County Farm Road

Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 407-5600

<https://www.dupageco.org/election>



Community Development Year in Review

The Itasca Community Development Department is responsible for guiding and managing the development, construction, and use of property in a manner that maximizes the benefits for all of Itasca and minimizes the negative impacts on the use and enjoyment of individual properties.

This past year was exceptionally active year for the Community Development Department. Major accomplishments in 2017 include the items listed below:

- Reviewed and issued 1,496 construction permits. This is the highest number of permits in the last five years, and an increase of over 44% from 2016.
- Coordinated and conducted inspections at three sizable development projects: the Residences at Hamilton Lakes apartments; American Academy for Pediatrics headquarters; and St. Peter the Apostle Church. All were substantially completed in 2017.
- Managed 159 code enforcement violation cases.
- Approved plans for a new building for RagingWire Datacenters and an expansion to the Itasca ComEd substation to accommodate similar datacenter facilities elsewhere in the region.
- Continued to work to implement the Village's Economic Development Plan.
- Issued 21 new business licenses.
- Continued to coordinate public outreach on IL-390 construction through Itasca. With major construction in Itasca completed, much of the communication effort came to an end at the close of 2017.
- Responded to July's microburst with property damage assessments, emergency inspections, and timely permit processing with fees waived. Department staff also coordinated with DuPage County Department of Emergency Management and provided support and information to property owners. Over 300 building permits were issued for storm damage repairs. The value of this construction was over \$6.7 million.
- Participated in activities to prepare the Village for the 2020 Census.

For the last two years, the Community Development Department prepared a report summarizing its activity. A copy of the Community Development Department Annual Report for 2017 is available on the Village's website at: itasca.com/1943/Annual-Report.

Nicor Gas Line Replacements

Nicor gas utility is planning to repair, rehab, and replace aging gas lines throughout Itasca this year. The reasons for the improvements are to ensure its customers have access to the energy they need and to increase the safety of its natural gas distribution system.

Work is expected to start this summer and have an impact on Itasca streets, parkways, and driveway aprons. Visit the Village's website at www.itasca.com for a preliminary list of streets on which construction is expected to take place.

The Village of Itasca will share more information about Nicor's construction project as it becomes available. To sign up for email or text notices from the Village, please visit the Village's website at: <http://www.itasca.com/list.aspx>. Login (or create a login) with your email address, and select "Nicor Gas Utility Project 2018" by choosing the email or text icons. You must confirm your account before you will receive any alerts. Please check your email for the confirmation link.

It is our understanding that Nicor will also be directly in contact with property owners, if your neighborhood or property will be affected by its work. This contact may be in the form of a letter, door hanger, or face-to-face visit from one of its employees or contractors.

Please call the Itasca Village Hall at 630-773-0835 with any questions.



Itasca Means Business!

The Village of Itasca is proud of its business community and would like to extend a warm welcome to the following companies which recently received Village Board approval to operate in our town:

- Daisy's Café, 1240 W. Irving Park Rd. (Video Gaming Café)
- American Signature Inc., 1475 W. Thorndale Ave. (Furniture Warehouse)
- 960 Maplewood Drive, LLC, 960 Maplewood Dr. (Property Management)
- Noteable Events, Inc., 345 Park Blvd. (Catering and Lunch Services)
- Fischer Technology, Inc., 450 E. Devon Ave. (Measurement Technology)
- Castle Alliance, Inc., 1200 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 200 (Executive Search Firm)
- Michael Niehaus Insurance Agency, 921 W. Irving Park Rd. (Insurance Agency)
- Elite Athlete Sports Training, 1400 Norwood Ave. (Indoor Baseball Training)



Water & Sewer Rates

The Village of Itasca is dedicated to providing citizens and community members with reliable, sustainable, and safe drinking water, as well as, environmentally-safe treatment of wastewater. A thorough study of the water and sewer rates was completed in the fall of 2015 and found that the Village was experiencing constant annual declines in water usage of about 2.5% or an estimated \$162,000 per year. The cost to annually operate the water and sewer fund, as well as, complete the critical capital projects that have been identified for improvement in the near future, was putting additional strain on the fund. These revenue deficits and annual expenditure requirements resulted in necessary action taken by the Village Board to address revenue shortfalls. The Village Board is confident that the measured approach taken to close this revenue gap over the next few years was implemented by the adopted rate schedule. On January 1, 2017, water and sewer rates increased based off of the rates adopted in the fall of 2015. The chart below shows currently projected rates through 2019.

Calendar Year	2017	2018	2019
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VOLUMETRIC RATES: Charged Per 1,000 Gallons Used

Water Usage Rate (per 1,000 Gallons Used)	\$10.13	\$10.90	\$11.45
Sewer Usage Rate (per 1,000 Gallons Used)	\$9.68	\$10.42	\$10.94

MONTHLY FIXED FEES: Charged per month per active account

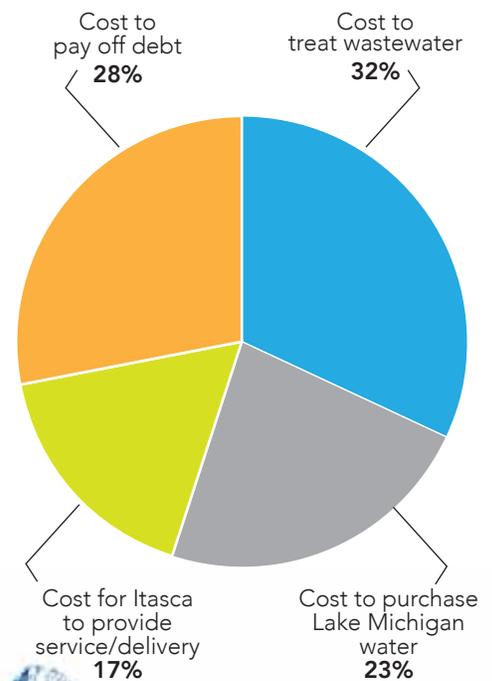
OMA: Water Service and Availability

up to 1" service line	\$12.36	\$13.29	\$13.95
1.25-1.5" service line	\$17.00	\$19.94	\$20.94
2" service line	\$21.63	\$26.58	\$27.91

OM: Sewer Service and Availability

up to 1" service line	\$14.51	\$15.60	\$16.38
1.25-1.5 service line	\$19.95	\$23.40	\$24.57
2" service line	\$25.39	\$31.20	\$32.76

Where does my money go?





Arbor Day 2018

The Village of Itasca will be celebrating Arbor Day on Saturday, April 28th at the Itasca Village Hall. Ceremonies will be held in the Village Board Room, beginning at 1:00 pm and will include the dedication of memorial and commemorative trees. Following the ceremonies, attendees will be able to view the trees in the arboretum, located to the south and west of the Village Hall.

To have an existing tree in the Village's arboretum dedicated to commemorate a special event (ex. birth, anniversary) or to honor the memory of a departed loved one, please contact Mr. Fred Maier (fmaier@itasca.com) no later than April 9th. An existing tree in the Village's arboretum can be dedicated for \$250.00, which covers the cost of installing the plaque and post on the south side of the tree. The plaque identifies the tree species, who or what the tree is dedicated for, and who dedicated it. You will also receive a certificate acknowledging the tree dedication that will include all the information found on the plaque.

For more information or to download a tree dedication order form, please visit the Village website: <http://www.itasca.com/index.aspx?nid=1151>.



GREEN Day 2018

The Village of Itasca, in cooperation with DuPage County, will host a GREEN Day recycling event this year on Saturday, May 5th at the METRA Parking Lot on Irving Park Road in Itasca from 8:00 am until noon. While we will be accepting electronic wastes again this year, **we will be limiting the number of tube (CRT) televisions/computer monitors to one per car.** Thanks to the support of DuPage County, we will be accepting paper, including documents for shredding. Please note that this is offered to residents and in-home businesses only. If you have large volumes of paper documents that need to be destroyed, please contact International Paper, located here in Itasca.

Along with electronics and paper, we will also be accepting fabric, used bicycles, American flags, eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription medications, used motor oil, used antifreeze, automotive batteries, scrap metal, fire extinguishers, books, school & office supplies, cell phones, ink jet cartridges, keys, clothing buttons, safety pins and cooking oil. We will accept the cooking oil in the containers, or the containers can be dumped out so that you can take the containers back home.

We will NOT accept hazardous household wastes or paint. If you have paint that you need to dispose of, please contact Earth Paint, located at 147 Front Street in Wood Dale.

Each year, Fellowes, Inc. has provided personal paper shredders for a few lucky attendees. These will be distributed to random participants throughout the day.

For more information, please visit the Village website at www.itasca.com, or e-mail fmaier@itasca.com with any specific questions.





Join the Sweep Tradition

Please join us at the Springbrook Nature Center on Saturday, May 19th, 2018 from 9:00 am – Noon for this year's annual River Sweep. We are in need of helping hands to walk our River Walk and the banks of Springbrook Creek, clearing blockages, collecting litter and removing invasive species as part of this community volunteer program.

The annual DuPage County River Sweep is a county-wide self-coordinated stream cleanup which has been held each spring for over twenty years. The purpose of the River Sweep is to encourage volunteers to help "sweep our rivers clean" by picking up debris in and along the local waterways and restoring nearby land back to its natural state. More than 11,000 volunteers have removed nearly 258 tons of garbage from DuPage County streams since 1991. The Sweep encompasses the East and West Branches of the DuPage River and Salt Creek, as well as many tributaries. Last year volunteers from all over the area came together to remove 6 tons of trash. More than 600 volunteers made an impact on county waterways and over 200 of those volunteers were students.

Since adding restoration to Sweep activities in 2009, more than eighteen acres of land near waterways have been stewarded by volunteers removing invasive species such as buckthorn, garlic mustard, honeysuckle and multiflora rose.

To Register

If you would like to be involved in the 2018 DuPage River Sweep, there are two ways to get participate in Itasca's program: either as a **Group Coordinator**, or **Individual Volunteer**. Group coordinators, either one member of a family group, or a leader of a youth group or organization, should contact Mr. Fred Maier (fmaier@itasca.com) to coordinate your group's efforts. Supplies are provided by organizations sponsoring the Sweep to help your efforts. To learn more about being a **Group Coordinator**, read Sweep Responsibilities and the Conservation Foundation's 2017 Group Coordinator Manual.

Individual volunteers may request being assigned to a group or may work independently. Pre-registration is required. Both the pre-registration form and the Group Coordinator's manual are available at the Conservation Foundation's website:

(<http://www.theconservationfoundation.org>) and click on the "Events" link to be directed to the DuPage River Sweep page.

Restoration Sites

If picking up trash isn't your bag, help the Itasca community by restoring natural areas along Springbrook Creek. Please indicate this preference on your registration. Adult supervision is requested for volunteers under age 18.

Itasca Garden Club

How does your garden grow? The answer to that questions is by stopping by the two plant sales that the Itasca Garden Club is having in May. On May 12, 2018 homegrown perennials will be sold by the Itasca Garden Club. The plants have been divided from club members' gardens and marked for color and planting location. Prices are from \$2.00 to \$5.00.

Members will be on hand to answer questions and give suggestions for the plantings. The plant sale will be in the parking lot of the Depot Museum at Catalpa and Irving Park from 9:00 until 12:00 noon.

Order forms will be available from mid-March until mid-April for the Itasca Garden Club 2018 plant sale. Forms can be found at the Itasca Community Library and the Itasca Park District. Annuals of various colors will be available for pre-order. There will be flats, hanging baskets and single plant pots.

There are varieties of impatiens, geraniums, begonias, petunias, million bells and vegetables available. On the day of the sale, May 19, 2018 plants will also be available for sale. By pre-ordering you will have your choice of color and plant variety. The pickup location and plant sale is from 10:00 to 12:00 noon in the Orchard Evangelical Church parking lot, 716 E. George St., Itasca. For more information or questions call 630-773-8518.

Village of Itasca Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Monday:	No Meetings Scheduled	Wednesday:	2nd Wednesday – School District #10 – 7:00 pm 3rd Wednesday – Plan Commission – 7:00 pm 3rd Wednesday – Peer Jury – as Scheduled
Tuesday:	1st Tuesday – Board of Trustees – 7:00 pm, Committee of the Whole immediately after 3rd Tuesday – Board of Trustees – 7:00 pm, Committee of the Whole immediately after	Thursday:	3rd Thursday – Historical Commission – 7:00 pm
		Friday:	No Meetings Scheduled



FREE Child Safety Seat Inspections

Did you know that approximately 80% of all child car seats are installed improperly? The Itasca Police Department will be conducting FREE Child Safety Seat Inspections on June 2nd at 1640 Norwood Avenue (Colonial Village Apartments) from 9:30AM until 12:30PM and on July 7th at 540 W. Irving Park Road (Itasca Police Department) from 9:30AM until 12:30PM. The inspection consists of a certified technician inspecting the child safety seat and then showing you how to install the seat properly. Please bring the following items to the inspection: the child seat and instruction manual, vehicle and owner's manual.

Deputy Chief Matuga Graduates from SPI

On November 9, 2017, Deputy Chief John Matuga graduated from the prestigious Southern Police Institute's 138th Administrative Officers Course. DC Matuga completed the demanding 12-week graduate level course and received the Dean's Scholar award for academic excellence.

The Administrative Officers Course is a challenging, accredited college level educational program. The course curriculum is designed to develop informed, effective, ethically and technically competent law enforcement managers who are capable of assuming positions of leadership in their agencies.

DC Matuga completed course work in Managing Organizational Performance, Criminal Justice Leadership, Law Enforcement Administration and Legal Aspects of Criminal Justice Management.

The Southern Police Institute is a division of the Department of Justice Administration, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Louisville. It is an advanced education and training institute whose mission is to enhance the professional development of law enforcement practitioners. SPI is consistently ranked among the top law enforcement educational and professional development schools in the nation.

Director of Police Robert O'Connor stated "Deputy Chief John Matuga's accomplishments in the area of police management will contribute to the success of the Itasca Police Department going forward."



Police Department Welcomes New Hire



The Itasca Police Department is pleased to introduce Officer Jennifer Green. Officer Green was sworn in on June 27, 2017 and graduated from the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy on September 29, 2017. She then completed an intensive 15 week field training program before achieving her solo patrol status.

Officer Green has two children who are her biggest supporters, and a wonderful family who has done so much to help her get to where she is today. When asked about joining the department, Officer Green stated, "Joining the Itasca PD has enabled me to achieve my dreams of being able to help others on a daily basis. Itasca is a wonderful department and I am truly blessed to be part of this family now."

The Itasca Police Department welcomes Officer Green and wishes her a long and successful career.



Stay Vigilant to Scams

In the last six months Itasca Police Department has seen several different types of scams reported by residents. The following is a sample of the different scams reported;

- Public Defender calling about a grandson that was in an accident and DUI. The caller requested bond money and wanted the money sent by Western Union.
- Craigslist purchase. The scammer posts phony items and requested the victim purchase gift cards. Once the gift cards were purchased they requested the victim scratch off and provide redemption numbers. Most of the time these types of scams are by email only.
- Microsoft pop-ups that advise the victim contact Microsoft. The scammer attempts to get the password so they can control the victim's computer remotely. Once they control the computer, they then demand money for the victim to get the control back.
- IRS scam advising the victim owes money. The scammer requested that the victim pay immediately with different types of gift cards. The scammer threatened to get an arrest warrant for the victim if they didn't pay immediately.
- Scammer advised that they were a bank and the victim was the winner of 3.5 million dollars from Publisher's Clearing House. The scammer requested personal and banking account information.
- The victim had an item for sale on Craigslist and the potential buyer (scammer) sent a check to the victim for more than the purchase price. The scammer advised that victim to cash the check and give the extra money to the person picking up the item that was for sale.
- Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust, like a government official, a family member, a charity, or a company you do business with.
- Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request – whether it comes as a text message, phone call, or email.
- Don't believe your caller ID. Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real.
- If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back the number you know is genuine.
- Scammers might ask you to pay in advance for things like debt relief, credit and loan offers, mortgage assistance, jobs, or taxes on prizes you have won.
- Consider how you pay. Scammers normally ask you to pay by systems that have no fraud protection. Wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram is risky because it's nearly impossible to get the money back. That's also true for reloadable cards like MoneyPak, Reloadit, Vanilla, and gift cards. Government offices and honest companies won't require you to use these payment methods.
- Do online research. Search for phrases that describe your situation, like "IRS call." You can also search telephone numbers to see if other people have reported them as scams.
- Sign up for free scam alerts from the FTC at ftc.gov/scams.

Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to different types of scams. Scammers use regular mail, telephone, emails, and different types of social media to set up their victims. The Itasca Police Department urges you to stay vigilant against scammers. The following are some tips to prevent becoming a victim of a scam.

- The IRS does not ask for credit card numbers, pre-paid debit cards or wire transfers over the telephone.
- The IRS never threatens a lawsuit, arrest, or license revocation if you don't pay immediately.
- The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text message, or social media channels to request personal or financial information.
- The IRS will not call you about your tax bill without first sending you a bill in the mail.
- Scammers are normally aggressive and try to scare people into making immediate payment.

For further information on scams visit www.irs.gov and www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov. If you believe you are a target of a scam please report it to the Illinois Attorney General at 1-800-386-5438 and/or the Itasca Police Department.





Board of Trustees

Chris Kunze, President - ckunze@itasca.com | Kevin Boehne, Treasurer - kboehne@itasca.com | John Kearney, Secretary - jkearney@itasca.com

IFPD Spring 2018 Financial Update

As has been our practice in previous newsletters, we have shared with you the financial state of the Itasca Fire District. We are now eight months into our fiscal year and unfortunately, as we have been projecting for the last eighteen months, despite our continued efforts in controlling and reducing expenses, tax revenues are not keeping pace with expense increases. Our projections are that we will have less than \$300,000 left in our reserves for the upcoming fiscal year, which could be exhausted by January 2019. We wish this was better news, but the fact is this level of reserve funding means that we have very little ability to absorb emergencies, such as the July 2017 storm or other events of even greater magnitude.

To understand the District's position we believe that it is appropriate to restate the same answers that we provided in the Spring of 2017 newsletter and contrast them with where we are today:

■ **Spring 2017** – The District will continue to respond to all calls by using overtime and not filling current open positions. We can operate for the next several years by drawing on our cash reserves to meet operating expenses.

■ **Spring 2018** – The District continues to draw on its cash reserves to meet daily operating expenses. It is projected that our reserves will be approximately \$300,000 by the end of our current fiscal year.

■ **Spring 2017** – We currently have two open positions, due to retirement and injury, that we have frozen pending the referendum outcome. We are not planning on filling those positions and will continue to use overtime to compensate for the staffing loss.

■ **Spring 2018** – As a result of injuries and retirement we had six open positions during the year, we have filled three of those and used overtime to fill the staffing gap. As a result, our overtime costs have nearly doubled from the previous year. We are not planning on filling the three open positions due to the District financial constraints.

■ **Spring 2017** – We will always continue to seek out opportunities for additional cost savings in non-personnel expenses, however the relatively small size of that expense pool limits the potential savings.

■ **Spring 2018** – The District continues to look for internal cost saving opportunities, cost sharing with neighboring fire districts as well as seeking grant monies to allow us to purchase needed EMS and Fire replacement or upgraded equipment.

■ **Spring 2017** – We will continue to consider a freeze on hiring for future open positions as they occur through attrition. However, our manning projections show that within 2-3 years the number of expected open positions, based on upcoming retirements, may result in safety and staffing issues and potentially affect response time.

■ **Spring 2018** – Because of the unfilled positions, the District had 241 days in 2017 where we were at a minimal staffing level of 5 personnel per shift. This number is up from 188 days in 2016. For safety reasons running below our minimum staffing level of 5 is not acceptable. With 5 personnel, 2 are assigned to the paramedic unit and 3 are assigned to the engine. Having 3 personnel assigned to the engine is the absolute minimum in order to perform any kind of initial rescue or fire attack. One person to drive and operate the pump, two firefighters, at a bare minimum, to go into the building for rescue or fire suppression. Staffing an engine with only 2 personnel creates significant safety issues for firefighters and our residents, as rescue and fire suppression duties are always done in teams of 2 as a minimum. Having only 2 personnel on the engine would mean the driver and officer would have to enter the building leaving the engine and pump unattended which we will not allow.

■ **Spring 2017** – We currently have an ambulance that is ten years old and was scheduled for replacement due to age and the cost of retrofitting new technology. We had put that replacement order on hold until the referendum was decided and will now re-evaluate less desirable alternatives.

■ **Spring 2018** – Our ambulance is now 11 years old and we have experienced an increasing number of breakdowns and maintenance issues with resulting repairs totaling more than \$70,000 since 2010. This vehicle has now been relegated to reserve status which means we only use it when we absolutely need to, such as when the newer unit is down for repairs or out on call. We cannot be in a position of not having a dependable EMS unit. We have looked at rebuilding and retrofitting the older unit, but due to technology advancements the costs to do so are nearly the same as a new unit. We need to acquire a new ambulance and as an alternate source to assist in funding the purchase, Chief Burke has applied for a Federal AFG Grant from the Federal Government. We are hopeful this will be approved. As we do not have the funds to purchase this unit outright, which has been our past practice, we will be seeking to secure a loan for whatever portion of the purchase price the grant does not cover.

The Board's responsibility to you, the District residents, is to provide fiduciary oversight on the tax dollars that the District spends, as well as secure the financial resources needed to provide the equipment and personnel to meet the service levels that you the taxpayer expect. Please keep in mind that unlike other taxing districts, the Fire District is 95% dependent on property taxes. We do not have an option to levy other taxes such as a hotel tax to help fund the department.

Reluctantly, because of all of the above factors, we have decided that we have no other option but to approach you, the taxpayer for a much-needed increase in our tax levy. We anticipate the referendum vote will be on the November 2018 Election Ballot.

Please keep in mind that the referendum is not to increase staffing, buy additional equipment or build a new Fire station. It is to provide funding to keep our current staffing, service levels and current station in good repair well into the foreseeable future.

The District cordially invites anyone who is interested to attend the monthly Trustee meeting so that we can answer your questions and hear your suggestions. Furthermore, Chief Burke, as well as the Trustees, are happy to meet with any individual or group to discuss the issues in depth. Chief Burke has also volunteered to come out and speak to any organizations, homeowner's groups, etc. that would be interested. We would just ask that you call the station to schedule a time, so that we can ensure that we are there and not on call or at another meeting.

Itasca Park District

Maryfran Leno, Executive Director • Phone: (630) 773-2257
e-mail: maryfran@itascaparkdistrict.com



Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary & Dog Park

Watch for a Grand Opening Event in late spring! The amenities include Itasca's first Dog Park, a nature-based play area, ADA accessible boardwalk with an approximate half-mile loop, shelter, grill, and habitat restoration! See our Summer Brochure for operational information of the Dog Park. The expected cost of the project is \$800,000 with an OSLAD Grant funding \$363,500. Location: Rohlwing Road north of Bloomingdale Road bordering the Softball Complex.



Schiller Park renovation was complete in December and included new equipment with turf safety surfacing, 4 swings, a large play structure with ramped accessibility, slides of 3 different heights, climbers, a picnic table, benches, and more. Location: On Schiller St. west of Prospect Ave.

Let's get ready for summer! **Waterpark passes** are on sale beginning April 2nd! Get in early for the best rate!



Age 60+ let's go to the show! Late Night Catechism on Thursday, April 5 at 6pm at the Royal George Theater in Chicago. This interactive comedy is part catechism class, part stand-up routine. Don't miss this hilarious show! Fee: \$35 Meet at the Itasca Rec Center.

Multi-Sport Mania begins Monday April 9 at 4:30pm for ages 3-5 years. Kids will explore the wide world of sports. Fee: \$36/\$41

Gym Drop-In is on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10-11:30am for ages 0-5 years with an adult at the Rec Center Gymnasium. Drop on by! Fee: \$30 for 5 visits.

Try our new Group Fitness Class Seniors in Motion on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:15am!

Register for Summer Day Camps, Sports & Nature Camps now!



Try our 9 new treadmills with cable and internet access at the Itasca Fitness Center! Two new StairMasters too!

new Jr Kindergarten and Preschool Classes are adding more Enrichment Class options at the Nature Center this fall!

Keep your preschoolers engaged in learning this summer while taking advantage of the beautiful outdoors at the Springbrook Nature Center with our **Summer Preschool Programs**. Register now!



Follow the Itasca Park District on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

Park News

Don't miss one of Itasca's best events of the year—the Itasca **Memorial Day Parade!** Step-off will be on Monday, May 28th at 9:30am. A Memorial Service provided by V.F.W. Post #5167 and a picnic will follow the parade at Usher Park. Parade awards will also be announced. Let's support our local veterans!

Check out these upcoming events at the **Depot Museum: Itasca Art on Display:** all ages are invited to submit Itasca-centered artwork of all formats! The showing will be Friday, May 25th on the Museum Campus. Entries must be received by May 11th! Winners will be displayed at the Depot Museum for the summer.

Mums the Word: Decorate a beautiful flower pot for Mother's Day on Tuesday, May 8 for ages 18+. Learn about medicinal uses for plants and flowers and plant some flowers in your new pot.

Register for programs online or at the Itasca Rec Center.

Remember a special celebration or special person with a Leaf, Acorn, or Stone on the Itasca Park District Giving Tree. Visit: www.itascaparkdistrict.com/givingtree.

Hold your party at the Itasca Rec Center, Nature Center, or Waterpark. Call 630-773-2257 to reserve your date!





Itasca Community Library

Tuki Sathaye, Library Director • Phone: (630) 773-1699 • e-mail: tsathaye@itascalibrary.org



Food for Thought @ Your Library

Join us for one of the following food-themed programs this spring. Registration is required for most programs. Register online at itascalibrary.org or call the library at 630-773-1699.

For Kids:

Kids Cooking Club (Grades 3-5)

Thursday, April 19, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Come to our quarterly Kids Cooking Club to learn how to make some delicious recipes.

Cook Up a Good Book (ages 4-8 years with a caregiver)

Thursdays, May 3, 10 and 17, 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Join us for a new program that will combine storytime with a cooking class! Each week, we'll share stories and make a recipe together. To enjoy a full experience, a variety of different foods will be explored. If you are someone with a sensitivity to food allergens, your health and safety is our utmost concern. In that case, please attend one of our many other programs where you can fully participate. A separate registration is required for each week.

Mom and Me Tea (ages 4-8 years with a caregiver)

Saturday, May 5, 10:00-10:45 a.m.

You are cordially invited to an afternoon of fancy finger foods, stories, and a fabulous craft in honor of Mother's Day. Dads are invited, too!

For Teens:

Cake Pops for Teens (Grades 6-12)

Wednesday, March 28, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Come make, decorate, and eat cake pops out of different flavors of cake, melted chocolate, and whatever fun decorations we provide!

Teen Cooking Club (Grades 6-12)

Monday, April 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m. OR Tuesday, April 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Come to our quarterly Teen Cooking Club to learn how to make some delicious recipes. Both sessions will be identical; please sign up for only one.

For Adults:

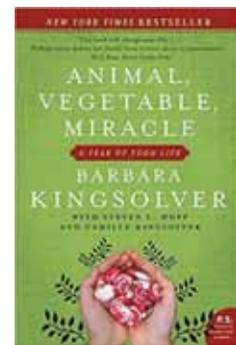
Beyond the Library Book Discussion

*Monday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.
at Fox & Turtle Restaurant*

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle

by Barbara Kingsolver

Itasca, Roselle, and Bloomingdale Public Libraries are joining together to present a mini version of our *On the Same Page* Community Read in April. Each library will present programming relating to its themes. Check each library's website for more information.



DuPage Farm Bureau Explains It All: USDA Terminology

Wednesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m.

GMO, gluten-free, organic, free range; the DuPage Farm Bureau will explain what these and other food-related terms mean. Learn what to look for when buying healthy food for your family.

Nick's Kitchen Tips: Electronic Pressure Cookers

Wednesday, May 23, 7:00 p.m.

Join one of our librarians as he talks about electronic pressure cookers and their different features and uses. He'll share some recipes, and there will be a chance to try some creations.



Village of Itasca
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The Village News is the official publication of the Village of Itasca.

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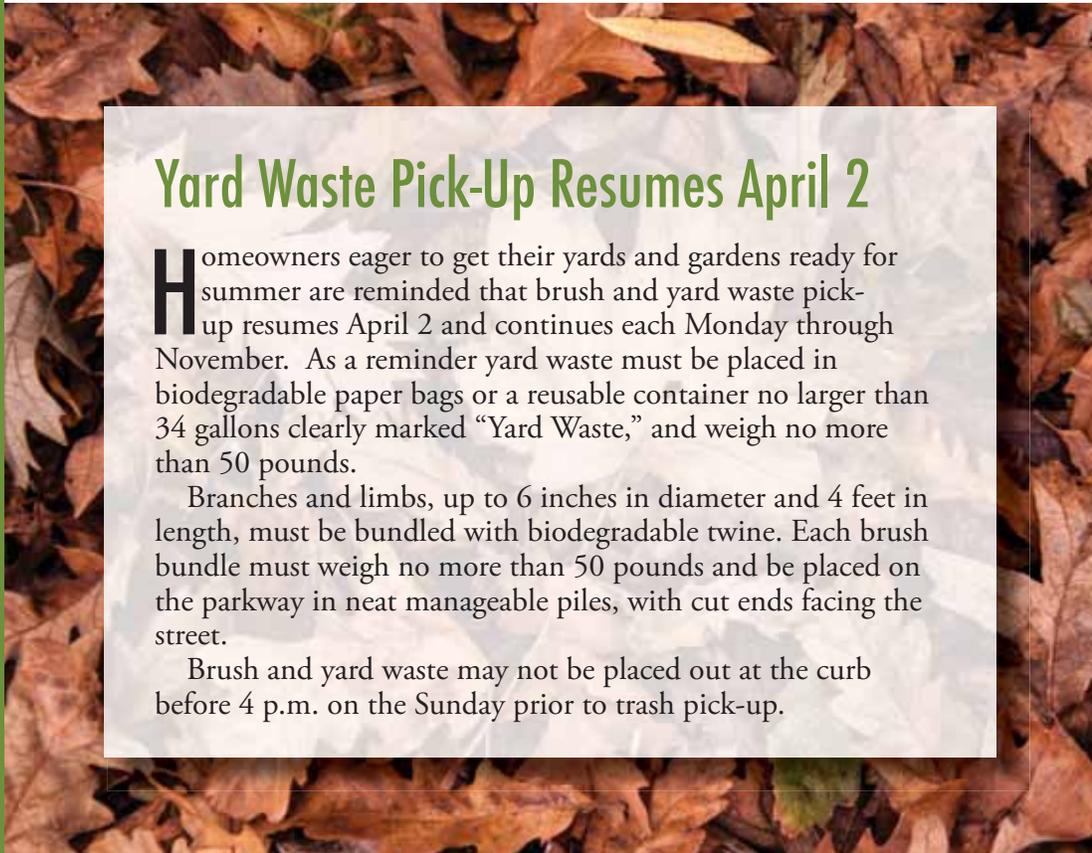
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- Village Clerk's Office 773-0835
- Community Development 773-5568
- Public Works 773-2455
- Wastewater Treatment Plant 773-5571
- Police Department 773-1004
- non-emergency
- Emergency 9-1-1
- Itasca Chamber of Commerce 773-2949
- Springbrook Nature Center 773-5572
- Library 773-1699
- School District #10 773-1232
- Park District 773-2257
- Fire District 773-1223
- non-emergency
- Emergency 9-1-1
- O'Hare Noise Hotline**
- Complaints 800-435-9569



Yard Waste Pick-Up Resumes April 2

Homeowners eager to get their yards and gardens ready for summer are reminded that brush and yard waste pick-up resumes April 2 and continues each Monday through November. As a reminder yard waste must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or a reusable container no larger than 34 gallons clearly marked "Yard Waste," and weigh no more than 50 pounds.

Branches and limbs, up to 6 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length, must be bundled with biodegradable twine. Each brush bundle must weigh no more than 50 pounds and be placed on the parkway in neat manageable piles, with cut ends facing the street.

Brush and yard waste may not be placed out at the curb before 4 p.m. on the Sunday prior to trash pick-up.