



Committed to our future.  
Inspired by our past.

Photo – Submitted by  
Francesca Larsen  
Tricycling Through Fall  
(p2)



# The Village News



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## Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

As autumn arrives and the days grow shorter and cooler, we are reminded that another year will soon be ending. Now is the time to reflect on our progress and take stock of achievements as we begin to plan for the year to come.

It's hard to imagine that four years ago I was writing to you about the devastating damage of the 2017 microburst. Who could have known that in a few short years, a virus would have life-altering impacts on the way we live, our health, and the economy? During each of these events, we could have easily focused on ourselves, but instead, our community did what it has always done best and took care of one another. From clearing debris to volunteering at vaccine clinics, our community came together and emerged stronger. This is why I am so proud to call Itasca home.

After a year with no special events, I was excited to see several classic Itasca events return this summer. It was a joy to once again celebrate our nation's independence with the region's biggest and best fireworks. And I can't tell you how much I enjoyed seeing so many of you out and about at concerts and movies in the park. A big thanks to our partners at the Itasca Park District and Lions Club who helped make these events possible.

If you missed our summer events, you have one last chance to hang out with your neighbors, as the Village and Itasca Lions once again are putting on Oktoberfest, September 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. Not only can you enjoy oompah music and German cuisine this year, but the Village is also bringing in a carnival to entertain the young and young at heart.

The development and redevelopment of properties remain a priority of the Village Board, which is why we continue to work at attracting new businesses to town and encouraging the expansion of existing ones. This summer, we celebrated several new businesses opening in town, such as Marketing Baristas, Abbott Molecular, and Ad Wrap Graphics. I am also pleased to announce that Dunkin' Donuts will be moving into the vacant site at 351 N. Rohlwing Road.

Unfortunately, the former Starbucks property continues to sit vacant. The Village has connected the owners with several interested businesses, including multiple local coffee roasters, a specialty coffee and donut shop, a national gelato and coffee chain, plus a deli and sandwich shop. A majority of the Village Board also reiterated its commitment to allow a drive-thru to

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## Mayor's Message Continued...

be built along the rear of the building on public land if the use was complimentary to the community. The same offer was conveyed to Starbucks, well before they announced their decision to move.

As a non-home-rule community, the Village has no power to enact or enforce vacant property regulations locally to encourage property owners not to sit on properties. Itasca voters have twice, during my time on the Board, turned down home-rule power, instead relying on Springfield politicians to look out for our community's best interests.

Several members of the community have asked why I, as Mayor, do not once again pursue home-rule status. The simple answer is I am honoring the voter's choice – even though I do not agree with it. Should residents choose to band together to put this issue back on the

ballot for consideration, I will stand with them once again.

In the meantime, we will continue to move Itasca forward using the tools that we do have available to us. Our new downtown plan is beginning to take shape and developers have expressed an interest in constructing a luxury rental building near the train station. I'd welcome a chance to chat with you about what you want to see in Itasca. Stop by and see us at Family Fun Day on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> between noon and 3:00 p.m. With the help of the Itasca Lions, we will be providing free hot dogs and hamburgers, plus free children's activities, and a discount carnival wristband for all residents. For more information about activities around town, check out pages 6 & 7.

Hope to see you around town this fall.

## Administrator's Message

**Carie Anne Ergo**

While I love the smell of fall and gorgeous hues of yellow, red, and orange that envelop our tree-lined streets, I must say that I am sad to see summer come to a close. It was so nice to be able to get out and about this summer, to spend time with friends and neighbors, and to enjoy community events. But alas...all good things must come to an end.

As I type, COVID numbers are once again on the rise in our area and unfortunately Itasca lags behind the state average with less than 60% of eligible persons vaccinated. Research indicates that COVID-19 vaccines are SAFE and EFFECTIVE in preventing serious illness and death among those who contract the disease. For those of you still on the fence about whether or not to get the vaccine, the DuPage County Health Department has a variety of resources available online to aid resident's in getting their questions answered – visit [www.dupagehealth.org](http://www.dupagehealth.org).

Finally, it seems that the Plan Commission Public Hearing for Haymarket Center's petition to convert the former Holiday Inn–Itasca property into Haymarket Center DuPage will be coming to a close this fall. At the end of the hearing, the Plan Commission will vote to send a recommendation to the Village Board to either approve or deny Haymarket's petition. This will only be a recommendation.

Ultimately, the Village Board will decide whether to permit Haymarket Center DuPage to proceed as proposed or deny the request. Residents interested in staying up to date on the latest developments in the Haymarket Center Proposal are encouraged to sign up for email updates or check the Village's web page and click on the Quick Link to the right for the latest on the Holiday Inn – Haymarket Center Proposal.

## Tricycling Through Fall

This issue's cover photo was submitted by resident Francesca Larsen, who took this photo of her family during a bike ride at the Nature Center. Francesca said, "I love the fall colors and the leaves on the ground. It was another perfect fall day in our cute little village." If you, like Francesca, have a great photo of what life is like in Itasca and would like to have it considered for our newsletter, please submit it to [deputyclerk@itasca.com](mailto:deputyclerk@itasca.com), along with details of who/what the photograph is of, when it was taken, and its meaning.



## School is in Session

Remember that school is back in full swing and school zones have a reduced speed limit during school hours! Obey signs and pay attention to crossing guards. Be alert for kids that may be crossing the streets, especially in between parked cars.

## Enjoying time with the IPD

The Itasca Police Department would like to thank everyone who came out this summer to enjoy several events with us.

Ice Cream with the Cops & Firefighters was held at Usher Park this year, in conjunction with the Itasca Park District.

During the event, officers came out to meet the Park District summer campers and neighborhood families, enjoyed games, and free ice cream that was provided by Itasca Bank & Trust.

Director Robert O'Connor stated, "The Police Department always looks forward to spending time with Park District campers and



local children from the community."

In addition to Ice Cream with the Cops & Firefighters, residents both young and old brought their fishing poles and appetites to Happy Acres Retention Basin to fish with members of the Itasca Police Department

in July. The annual event, sponsored in conjunction with the Itasca Lions Club, was a spectacular day enjoyed by all. And there were no worries of going hungry, as Itasca's finest grilled hot dogs and handed out drinks and chips.



## New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements



**Philip Richetti**

The Village is excited to welcome several new employees to its team. Public Works is pleased to welcome Philip Richetti as its new Utilities Operator. Philip previously worked for the Village of Westmont and comes to us with over 14 years of public service background.

The Village is also excited to announce the recent hiring of Mike Latoria as Building Supervisor in the Community Development Department. Mike holds a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management from Southern Illinois University. For more than 35 years, Mike has worked collaboratively with building officials, plan commissions, clients and contractors to design, build and oversee construction on buildings across the Chicagoland area – as President and owner of Latoria Bros Construction Corp.

A former Village Trustee, Mike is now using his broad experience from the boardroom to construction sites to help residents navigate through their next building project.

The Police Department is also pleased to introduce two new employees: Officer Marcus Devers and Records Clerk Heidi Zambrano. Officer Devers was hired March 1<sup>st</sup>. He attended Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy and graduated on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. When not on the job, Marcus enjoys hanging out with wife and daughters, reading, playing basketball, and working out.

Officer Devers is currently completing an intensive 15-week field



**Marcus Devers**

training program and will then achieve solo patrol status. When asked about joining the IPD, Officer Devers stated, "I'm excited to begin my career in law enforcement with the Itasca Police Department and serve those daily to the best of my ability and want to make an everlasting impression on everyone I encounter."

Also new to the IPD is Records Clerk Heidi Zambrano. Heidi joined the IPD Records Division in June and brings with her 17 years of law enforcement experience from Hoffman Estates and Hanover Park. She enjoys spending her days off with her four children. When asked about her position at the Itasca Police Department, Heidi stated, "I enjoy working here because everyone is so welcoming and have made it feel like home."

The Fire District is also happy to announce the hiring of six new firefighter-paramedics.

This will bring each shift to full manning power, which was down due to recent retirements. The new firefighter candidates have started training and will be formally introduced in the next newsletter!

Lastly, please join the Fire District and the Village in extending congratulations to firefighters Anthony Carlini and Fred Iles on their retirements this past summer. We wish them a safe and healthy retirement after their many years of service to the Itasca Community and citizens.

# Downtown Plan Update

Phase 1 of the Downtown Plan Update has been completed by the Village and its consulting team, Lakota Group. Phase 1 aimed to study and provide a summary of the Existing Conditions of the Downtown and gather initial feedback from the Steering Committee, Village Board, and other community stakeholders on their thoughts on the current state of downtown Itasca. The final “State of the Downtown Report” is available at [www.ItascaDowntownPlan.com](http://www.ItascaDowntownPlan.com).

Phase 2 of the Downtown Plan Update is now in full swing, with the Steering Committee and Village Board having met in August 2021 for a visioning session on what they imagine for downtown Itasca. These ideas will be presented to the public during a Community Workshop on

September 23, 2021, at Village Hall. Residents are invited to attend and provide feedback on the suggestions, as well as their own thoughts for what they hope for the future of downtown Itasca. Look for a postcard and postings on the Village’s website and social media pages for further details.

Stay up to date with the Downtown Plan Update and learn how to get involved, and provide your thoughts and feedback at [www.ItascaDowntownPlan.com](http://www.ItascaDowntownPlan.com).

If you have questions on the Downtown Plan Update, please contact Mo Khan, Village Planner at [mkhan@itasca.com](mailto:mkhan@itasca.com).



**ITASCA MEANS BUSINESS** – Follow us on Twitter: @ItascaMeans and on Facebook: Itasca Means Business

The Village of Itasca is proud of its business community and being a premier destination for all types of businesses and would like to extend a warm welcome to the following companies which received Village Board approval to operate in our town:

## **ICP Industrial – 1440 W. Thorndale Ave.**

ICP Industrial is a global leader in the development, application, & technical support of specialty coatings. Their industrial platform delivers innovative solutions to the packaging, labeling, and graphic arts industries. They are expanding their business in Itasca with this second location, their first location is at 1600 Glenlake Ave. To learn more about ICP Industrial, go to [www.icpindustrial.com/](http://www.icpindustrial.com/).

## **Richard’s Building Supply Co. – 909 W. Irving Park Rd.**

Richard’s Building Supply is a retail construction/building material sales company providing a wide material of construction materials for sale, including materials for roofing, soffit & rainware, doors, siding, decking, molding & millwork, windows, and cabinets. They provide the industry’s best brand for sale and only use materials from the very best-in-class manufacturers. To learn more about Richard’s Building Supply, go to [www.richards-supply.com/](http://www.richards-supply.com/).

## **Slipmate, Inc. – 761 District Dr.**

Slipmate, Inc. is a coating solutions business providing services to a variety of industry sectors including food, manufacturing, aerospace, computer, wireless, industrial, medical, and automotive. They will be returning to their original facility here in Itasca after relocating to Elgin briefly. To learn more about their business, go to [www.slipmate.com/](http://www.slipmate.com/).

## **Abbott Molecular, Inc. – 1015 W. Devon Ave.**

Abbott Molecular manufactures more than 450 products related to molecular diagnostics testing solutions. Abbott’s life-changing technology helps people live fully and offers information, medicines, and breakthroughs to help manage people’s health. Abbott will be occupying the entirety of 1015 W. Devon Ave. which is the easternmost building of the Bridge Point Itasca Development. To learn more about their business, go to [www.abbott.com/](http://www.abbott.com/).

## **Walter E. Smithe – 1442 Norwood Ave.**

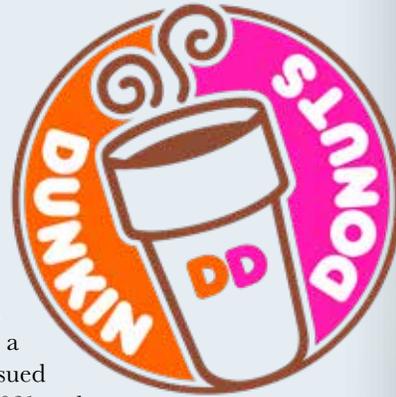
Walter E. Smithe Furniture, Inc. recently expanded its operations in Itasca. While its headquarters and main warehouse facility continue to be located at 1251 W. Thorndale Ave., they have signed a lease for additional warehousing/storage space at 1442 Norwood Ave. Walter E. Smithe strives to bring their clients the best in home furnishings for every style, budget, and stage of life. To learn more about their business and how they can furnish your home and business, go to [www.smithe.com/](http://www.smithe.com/).

## **Ad Wrap Graphics, Inc. – 1337 Industrial Dr.**

Ad Wrap Graphics, Inc. is a manufacturing company that prints and installs vinyl wraps and decals for commercial vehicles. They use high-quality vinyl, premium eco-solvent inks, and provide excellent graphic design services. Their product can help businesses get over 70,000 daily vehicular impressions, which is two and half times more attention than a static billboard. To learn more about how they help your business, go to [www.adwrapgraphics.com/](http://www.adwrapgraphics.com/).

# Business Spotlight

The Village is proud to announce Dunkin' Donuts will be moving into the vacant site at 351 N. Rohlwing Rd., which was previously occupied by Burger King and vacant for almost 10 years. Dunkin' Donuts will be making a great investment into the building, site, and the community by rehabbing and developing the site into a modern-day Dunkin' Donuts with a drive-thru. The Village issued Dunkin' Donuts' general contractor their building permit in July 2021 and construction has started with interior and exterior demolition. Construction is expected to be completed near the end of 2021/early 2022, so get ready Itasca to Run on Dunkin' Donuts!



*If you are a small business owner in town and would like to be featured in our next edition, please contact [commdev@itasca.com](mailto:commdev@itasca.com) with your information.*

## Thank You for Supporting Our Hometown Restaurants

The Village of Itasca and the Restaurant Community would like to extend our heartfelt thank you and appreciation to all of Itasca who have supported and patronized our restaurants during the COVID pandemic, whether by dining in, ordering carry-out, or both! Through the Itasca Bucks Program, you have helped generate over \$685,000 in revenue for our restaurants since the program began. Itasca Bucks are valid through the end of the year, December 31, 2021, so do not forget to use them at your favorite Itasca restaurant.



Participating Restaurants and Breweries:

### Restaurants:

- Antonio's Ristorante
- Buenos Dias Burritos
- Cucina Casale
- Daddy O's Diner
- Fox & Turtle
- Grando's Hot Dogs
- Kean's Bakery
- Naxos Restaurant
- Market Place Eatery @ Westin Chicago Northwest / Itasca
- Prairie River
- Tree Guys Pizza

### Breweries:

- Church Street Brewing Company
- Itasca Brewing Company

## Tutor.com – Free Through Your Library!



Just in time for the new school year, the library is pleased to announce the launch of Tutor.com! This online service provides Itasca Community Library cardholders with on-demand academic tutoring, homework help, and test preparation to students in grades K-12, plus early college students and adult learners. Tutors are available in over 60 subjects and test prep areas every day from 3:00 - 10:00 p.m. Tutor.com also includes a writing lab, ACT/SAT test preparation from The Princeton Review, Advanced Placement course videos, and much more. Many resources, including a writing lab, are available 24/7. To access this service, please visit our website at [www.itascalibrary.org/databases-2](http://www.itascalibrary.org/databases-2).



## New at the Park District

The Itasca Waterpark and new bathhouse opened in June and has been a welcomed facility that now features the Hideaway Room that will be used year-round for programs, events, and facility rentals.

# Celebrate Our Community

To register for a library event, please call (630) 773-1699 or visit [www.itascalibrary.org](http://www.itascalibrary.org). To register for a Park District event, please call (630) 773-2257 or visit [www.itascaparkdistrict.com](http://www.itascaparkdistrict.com).



**Sat., September 4<sup>th</sup>**

**International Vulture Awareness Day**

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Springbrook Nature Center**

Learn about the importance vultures have on our ecosystem and what you can do to protect these magnificent creatures.



**Thurs., September 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Oktoberfest**

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

**Washington Park**

Come enjoy some German cuisine and music with your neighbors. Carnival times are from 4:00 – 9:00 p.m.



**Fri., September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Oktoberfest**

4:30 – 10:00 p.m.

**Washington Park**

Come enjoy some German cuisine and music with your neighbors. Carnival times are from 4:00 – 10:00 p.m.



**Sat., September 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Oktoberfest**

1:00 – 10:00 p.m.

**Washington Park**

Come enjoy some German cuisine and music with your neighbors. Carnival times are from 1:00 – 10:00 p.m.



**Sun., September 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Family Fun Day**

12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Washington Park**

Enjoy free hot dogs and hamburgers, and discounted carnival rides! Free kid's activities from noon to 3:00 p.m.



**Mon., September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Drop-In Family Storytime**

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

**Library**

Join the library for stories, songs, and more at this in-person storytime. Geared to ages 6 & under. No registration is needed. More Monday dates are available; check the library's website for more information.



**Wed., September 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Teen Craft Club**

4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

**Library**

Join in the creative fun at this monthly club for teens (grades 6-12) who like to craft! Registration is required.



**Sat., September 18<sup>th</sup>**

**0.5K Beer & Donut Run**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary**

The race is perfect, just a loop around the Bird Sanctuary; just try not to spill your beer and finish that donut! There will not be an official timekeeper for the race because we are all winners. Registration is required.



**Mon., September 20<sup>th</sup>**

**The Art of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera**

7:00 p.m.

**Library**

Art historian Jeff Mishur looks at the paintings of both artists in this virtual program. Registration is required.



**Wed., September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Virtual Intro to Microsoft Word**

7:00 p.m.

**Library**

Learn the basic functions of Microsoft Word in this program for beginners on Zoom. Registration is required.



**Tues., September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Doodlebugs**

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

**Library**

Experiment with painting, gluing, sticking, and creating while developing fine motor skills. Geared towards ages 2 - 5. Registration is required.



**Wed., September 29<sup>th</sup>**

**The History of the Beach Boys**

7:00 p.m.

**Library**

The library will have fun, fun, fun with this musical history program presented by Gary Wenstrup. Registration is required.



**Thurs., September 30<sup>th</sup>**

**The Great Chicago Fire**

7:00 p.m.

**Library**

Terry Lynch will commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this historical event. Registration is required.



**Sat., October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Meet the Cricut**

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Library**

Drop in and see the library's new Cricut Maker 3 in action. No registration is needed.



**Sat., October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Passport Fair**

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Library**

Drop in to apply for a passport, pick up forms, or just get your questions answered by passport agents. No appointment is necessary.



**Sat., October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Itasca Halloween Celebration**

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Washington Park**

Enjoy free pony rides, bounce house, games, pumpkin decorating, and more. Participants are encouraged to bring canned food or nonperishable food items for the Itasca Food Pantry.

# Celebrate Our Community

## Wings and Talons Fall Events

Come to the Nature Center and see for yourself how magnificent raptors can be. This fall, Wings and Talons will be celebrating all things vulture and owls with two special events. Join them Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup> for International Vulture Awareness Day from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> for Owl-O-Ween from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Be sure to keep an eye on their Facebook page for more details at [www.facebook.com/WingsAndTalons/](https://www.facebook.com/WingsAndTalons/) or email [info@WingsAndTalons.org](mailto:info@WingsAndTalons.org) for more information.



**Tues., October 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Virtual Teen Cooking Club**  
6:30 - 7:15 p.m.  
Library

The library will help your teen make a recipe in your own kitchen on Zoom. Geared towards grades 6 - 12. Registration is required.

**Sat., October 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Ale-Gating**  
1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.  
Itasca Softball Complex

The Park District is turning the Softball Complex parking lot and fields into an Ale-Gate for a 90-minute tasting window to enjoy some beer, sunshine, and friends. Registration is required.



**Wed., October 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Teen Craft Club**  
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.  
Library

Join in the creative fun at this monthly club for teens (grades 6-12) who like to craft! Registration is required.



**Fri., October 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Haunted Trail**  
6:00 - 9:30 p.m.  
Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary

You will be petrified to enter the trail as your guide leads you through the 1/3 mile loop turned into your worst nightmare. Purchase tickets at the event, cash only - \$7 per person.



**Sat., October 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Trick-or-Treat Trail Event**  
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary

Children along with their parents, will enjoy walking the trail around the newly opened Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary and receiving crafts and treats on the trail.



**Sat., October 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Screech Cinema**  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Springbrook Nature Center

This exciting event brings together the beauty of the outdoors at the Nature Center and the feeling of a drive-in movie!



**Mon., October 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Family Bingo**  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Library

Join the library for a night of BINGO, prizes, and fun. Registration is required.



**Thurs., October 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Drop-In Trick-or-Treating**  
10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Library

Wear your Halloween costume and drop into the library to trick-or-treat. No registration is required.



**Sun., October 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**Owl-O-Ween**  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Springbrook Nature Center

Come meet some of Itasca's resident owls and find out why you can't have Halloween without Owl!



**Thurs., November 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Intro to the iPad**  
10:00 a.m.  
Library

Attend an introductory course to Apple's iPad. Registration is required.



**Sat., November 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Compost Your Pumpkin**  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Public Works Facility

The Village of Itasca will be accepting pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns of all sizes for composting.



**Sat., November 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Daddy Daughter Dance**  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
Itasca Rec Center

Participants will enjoy dancing, desserts, crafts, and more on this magical night. Registration is required.



**Mon., November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Virtual Jackbox Games Night**  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Library

Join the library for an evening of fun with party games on Jackbox. Geared towards grade 6 - 12. Registration is required.



**Wed., November 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Teen Craft Club**  
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.  
Library

Join in the creative fun at this monthly club for teens (grades 6-12) who like to craft! Registration is required.

## Oktoberfest

Join us for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Itasca Oktoberfest event on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at Washington Park. This is a great family event with FREE admission and parking. New this year is the family carnival for all to enjoy. Please see below for more information.



Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

- Bratwurst Brothers Band from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. .

Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 10:00 p.m.

- Tapping of the first keg with Mayor Pruyn
- Alpine Thunder from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Kids Korner from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 10:00 p.m.

- Euro Express Band from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Johnny Wagner Band from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Kids Korner from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Authentic German food prepared by Catering with Elegance:

- Spaetzle
- Pork with red cabbage
- Bratwurst
- Sauerkraut
- Pretzels

German Hats will be sold for \$3.00 each with all proceeds going to the Itasca Walk-In Ministry and the Itasca Food Pantry.



## Passport Fair at the Itasca Community Library

Need to get passports for yourself or the kids? Drop in to apply for a passport, pick up forms, or just get your questions answered at the library's Passport Fair on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Make sure you have the required IDs, photos, and paperwork but let the passport agents do the rest! Stop in between 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; no appointments necessary.

If you can't make it to the Passport Fair, the library accepts appointments for applications anytime a passport agent is available, up to one hour before closing. To make an appointment, call the library or email them at [passport@itascalibrary.org](mailto:passport@itascalibrary.org). Visit [www.itascalibrary.org/services/passport-services/](http://www.itascalibrary.org/services/passport-services/) for more information.

## Halloween Hours

Ghosts and goblins are preparing to haunt Itasca this Halloween. Those who wish to trick-or-treat, are recommended to do so between the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

With COVID still present in the community, all are encouraged to review public health guidance before participating in any Halloween activities.

To help families celebrate safely, the Village recommends the following guidelines:

Trick-or-Treaters:

- Wash your hands before and after trick-or-treating
- Bring hand sanitizer to use before, during, and after trick-or-treating
- Stay home if you're sick
- Bring a flashlight or glow sticks to help see and to be seen by drivers
- Decorate costumes and trick-or-treat bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors
- Carry a cell phone or team up with someone who has one. Keep the phone easily accessible and report any suspicious activity or incidents to the Itasca Police by calling 9-1-1
- Plan a safe route and avoid cutting through alleys, backyards, or unlit areas
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up

Homeowners:

- Homes participating in trick-or-treating should turn ON their front porch/outdoor lights. If your home will not be handing out candy, please turn OFF your lights
- Do not hand out candy if you are sick
- Wash hands often and consider wearing a mask
- Do not place candy in communal bowls, which could encourage congregating and contact with others

## Fun in Fall

Thank you to the Aioanei family for submitting this picture and reminding us of the fun of fall. Nicoleta said "We have lived in Itasca for almost five years. We're proud to call Itasca home because it's a beautiful, safe, and friendly place to raise our kids, Abigail and Ezra."





## Compost Your Pumpkins This Fall

This fall, many families will participate in the time-honored tradition of picking out pumpkins for their porches, like the Laiche family. According to her mom, Michelle, Emily loves fall and hopes to get 100 pumpkins this year. But what to do with them afterwards?

Instead of tossing your jack-o-lanterns into the trash, turn them into dirt instead. The Village of Itasca, in cooperation with SCARCE and other municipalities throughout DuPage County, are sponsoring a pumpkin collection and recycling event on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am until noon. Public Works will be accepting pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns of all sizes at their facility located at 411 N. Prospect Ave. From there, the pumpkins will be taken to Land and Lakes Composting Facility for composting into nutrient rich soil. Kay McKeen, the Executive Director of SCARCE, states “Illinois grows more than 485 million pounds of pumpkins each year, which is more than any other state, and we are really excited about this new program because it will help recover some of the fantastic nutrients from pumpkins through composting, rather than fill up our landfills.” The Village is excited to once again offer this event to do our part to be better environmental stewards. Please remove all candles and decorative items from pumpkins before dumping them in the bin.



## Stay Active this Fall

Enjoy the refreshing, cool, crisp of autumn air as you stay active this fall by taking time to visit one of our many parks. There are a variety of playgrounds and walking trails where you can enjoy all the sights, sounds and smells of fall. Thank you to the Mode family for submitting this photo of Eleanor and Buddy enjoying a walk around the Springbrook Nature Center.



## Storm Drain Adoption

The Village is asking you to consider adopting a storm drain in your neighborhood. Storm drains are the open grates found along the edges of our streets and in some of our local parkways. Storm drains are designed to collect stormwater and direct it to underground storm sewers.



The storm sewers then direct the stormwater to local retention and detention ponds or local streams. Any pollution or debris that goes down a storm drain winds up entering these same waterways, so please do not dump anything down into the storm drains. Please help us keep storm drains free from debris and remove any litter that may get caught there. While the Village does have all streets swept with a commercial street sweeper regularly during the spring, summer, and fall, yard waste and trash can build up between sweepings. These leaves and other debris (and during the winter - snow and ice) can quickly clog the storm drain, preventing water from entering. This causes local flooding, which creates problems for you and your neighbors. Help clear away materials that may clog the stormwater intake.

## On the Same Page

Each October, Itasca Community Library partners with Roselle Public Library and Bloomingdale Public Library for *On the Same Page*, a community reading event. This year, they’ll read *I Always Loved You* by Robin Oliveira. Programs and book discussions based on the book are held in October at each of the three libraries. See the list of programs in the library’s fall newsletter or at [www.itascalibrary.org](http://www.itascalibrary.org). If you participate in a book discussion at the Itasca Community Library or a library-run discussion off-site, you will get a copy of the book to keep. To register for a program at the Bloomingdale Public Library, go to [www.mybpl.org](http://www.mybpl.org) or call (630) 529-3120. To register for a program at the Roselle Public Library District, go to [www.rosellepld.org](http://www.rosellepld.org) or call (630) 529-1641.

## October is Fire Prevention Month – “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety”

Is there a beep or a chirp coming out of your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm? What does it all mean? Knowing the difference can save you, your home, and your family! Make sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and knows how to respond.



## What Are Your Alarms Telling You?



### Smoke Alarm

- A continued set of three loud beeps—beep, beep, beep—means smoke or fire. Get out, call 9-1-1, and stay out.
- A single “chirp” every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

### Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm

- A continuous set of four loud beeps means carbon monoxide is present in your home. Go outside, call 9-1-1, and stay out.
- A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be replaced.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

## Thanksgiving... Let's give thanks...For Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Keep them safe this Thanksgiving by following these tips:



- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop, so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Keep kids 3 feet away from the stove and away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy, or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently. If you are deep frying your turkey, please be sure to follow all the directions for doing it safely!
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks, or bags.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer, or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.

## Candle Safety - “CANDLE WITH CARE”

Candles may be pretty to look at, but they are a cause of home fires and home fire deaths. Many people like to use candles in their Halloween pumpkins, on the dinner table for Thanksgiving, or as decorations for the approaching Christmas season. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn. Take these safety precautions when using candles this season.

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep. More than one-third of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- Keep candles at least 1 foot away from anything that can burn.
- Consider using flameless candles in your home instead. Nowadays, they look and smell like real candles.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easily on uncluttered surfaces.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen tanks are used in the home.

## Caring for Your Trees in the Fall



Fall is just around the corner, and soon the leaves will be changing color. Although we're coming to the end of the growing season, trees still need care to make sure they go into dormancy on a healthy note. Following these easy tips can help ensure your trees are healthy when leaves return in spring.

- Make sure you water. Although the ground isn't drying as quickly as it did during the summer, trees still need to receive adequate water through the fall. Generally, they need about an inch of water per week.
- Don't forget to mulch. It is recommended that you place mulch around the base of the tree to help retain soil moisture and keep the ground from freezing, allowing more time for roots to grow. Mulch should not be piled up against the trunk of the tree, but rather be placed at ground level right next to the trunk.
- Be sure to trim. Removing dead and broken limbs can help improve the health of the tree, as well as reducing overwintering insects and fungi, and removing fallen leaves, fruit, and other tree debris from the landscape can help reduce foliar diseases the following season.

## Yard Waste & Bulk Brush Collection Ends November 30<sup>th</sup>

As a reminder, the Brush and Yard Waste program is ending for the season on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Collection will not resume until the first Monday in April. When clearing out seasonal brush, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Yard waste must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or a reusable container no larger than 34 gallons clearly marked "Yard Waste" weighing a maximum of 50 pounds.
- Brush is picked up every Monday - any homeowner who needs brush disposal at other times must contact a landscaper for disposal of materials.
- Brush must be bundled with biodegradable twine with a maximum weight of 50 pounds. Each bundle must be in neat manageable piles, with cut ends facing the street, placed on the parkway.
- Branches and limbs can be up to 6 inches in diameter and no longer than 4 feet. Larger branches and tree trunks must be handled by homeowners.
- Refuse, recycling, and brush/yard waste may not be placed out at the curb before 4:00 p.m. on the Sunday before trash pick-up and must be removed from the curb by 10:00 p.m. on the day of pick-up.
- Should you miss the last collection, residents are encouraged to mulch their yard waste or compost it.

## Park District Fall Programs



Registration for fall programs began on Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. If you did not receive the brochure in your mailbox, you can find it online on the Park District's website. There are still a few openings in the Park District's Preschool & Junior Kindergarten Early Childhood Program. The Park District also offers a "Kids Day Off Program" for when School District 10 is off in the fall and winter months. Register online for these programs.

Don't forget to sign up for Inter-Village Soccer and WIBA Basketball. These popular leagues take place from September through December. Dance and gymnastics are also back in full swing and offer a variety of different classes for all skill types and ages. The Park District is also excited to start their Adult & Senior Trips back up this fall with shows, tours, and lunches.

## Discover Itasca

There is something about Itasca that always brings forth a sense of peace and tranquility. You can find this in one of our many walking paths throughout town. A special thanks to photographer Katie Sisk for providing the below collage of our beautiful town. More of her work can be found at <https://photosbykatie.com/>.



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

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Jeff Pruyn

**Village Clerk**

Jody Conidi

**Trustees**

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Frank Madaras

Patrick Powers

**Village Administrator**

Carie Anne Ergo

**Village Departments  
and Taxing Districts**

**Village Administrator**

773-0835

**Village Clerk's Office**

773-0835

**Community Development**

773-5568

**Public Works**

773-2455

**Wastewater Treatment Plant**

773-5571

**Police Department Non-Emergency**

773-1004

**Police Department 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 Non-Emergency**

773-1223

**Fire District Emergency**

9-1-1

**O'Hare Noise Hotline Complaints**

(800) 435-9569



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Thank you to all the contributing editors  
of the newsletters, especially:



**Schedule of Monthly Meetings**

**Monday:**

No Meetings Scheduled

**Tuesday:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday** - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.\*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.\*

**Wednesday:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** - Plan Commission - 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** - Historical Commission - 7:00 p.m.

**Friday:**

No Meetings Scheduled

\*Committee of the Whole immediately after