



Committed to our future.  
Inspired by our past.

Photo – Submitted by  
Sarah Ruhl,  
Songbird Slough (p9)

# The Village News



Downtown Plan (p4)



Business Spotlight (p5)



Green Day Recycling Event (p7)



Congratulations Sgt. Poulakidas (p11)

## Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

Spring is one of my favorite seasons of the year, as it signals a time for growth and opportunity. Seedlings that were patiently tended to earlier begin to blossom and thrive. This can be likened to what is happening now in Itasca. After years of careful cultivation, many of the Village Board's economic and infrastructure plans are fully blossoming.

As you may recall, in the fall of 2019, Village officials obtained a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority to pursue an update to our 2003 Downtown Strategic Plan. After a delay due to COVID, the project is now in its final stage. Over the past year, the Village Board, staff, and the Village's consultant, the Lakota Group, have diligently listened to residents and businesses owners alike, to discover what they want to see happen in the downtown area in now and in the future. All this input has been compiled into a plan which will be presented to the Village Board and Plan Commission for review and approval on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

To assist in revitalizing downtown, the Village made two significant purchases this past year. In April of 2021, the Village entered into a contract with the owners of Kean's Bakery to purchase 217 N. Walnut Street, after they began publicly discussing retirement and listed the property for sale. This past January, the Village Board also approve the acquisition of 102 E. Irving Park Road. The site was last home to Starbucks who ceased operations in August 2020 after the corporation announced plans to close up to 400 locations. This site was last home to Starbucks. Opportunities to invest so directly into our Village, specifically in our downtown corridors, do not come around often, which is why the Village Board could not pass on purchasing these properties.

In addition to securing grants for the Downtown Strategic Plan, the Village also successfully obtained a grant from the IEPA in the amount of \$3,703,057 to replace lead service lines in the Phase 1 area of the Village. Typically, replacing a lead service line costs homeowners eight to ten thousand dollars. However, 100% of the cost will be covered for all eligible households through this grant. The Village's contractor, Joel Kennedy Construction, has already broken ground and begun replacing lines. Additional details on this project can be found on the next page.

Over the past few years, the Village Board has also been prudently budgeting in order to

Continued on page 2 >

## Mayor's Message Continued...

fund several significant roadway and infrastructure projects. One of these projects is currently underway on the north side of town. During this project, the Village will install new storm sewers in the area between North Street and Orchard Street and between Maple Avenue and Linden Street. This project also includes the replacement of an 80+-year-old water main. As work proceeds in April and May, there will be short-term lane closures on Walnut Street between the METRA Railroad tracks and Center Street to accommodate the storm sewer installation and the restoration of pavement and cross walks. Please be mindful of construction crews

when driving in this area. More information on this project can be found below.

As we move into this season of growth and possibility, I would like to thank current and past board members, residents, and staff for their hard work and patience in getting us here. Itasca is well positioned and will continue to be so for generations to come.

So this spring, go out and enjoy all that Itasca has worked so hard to achieve.

## Lead Service Line Replacement



The Village is happy to report that the Lead Service Line Replacement Program is officially underway, with the first replacement occurring on February 8<sup>th</sup>. This past December, the Village Board unanimously approved a 100% forgivable loan funded through the IEPA in the sum of \$3,703,057 that can be used to replace lead service lines in the Phase I area of the Village. Funding for Phase II is currently waiting for IEPA approval and will address

service located in the southern portion of town. If you are in the Phase I area, you may have been or will soon be contacted by Joel Kennedy Construction to perform an interior inspection where they will confirm the service line material type. If it is found to be lead, the property owner will have the opportunity to schedule the service line replacement with a new copper service at no cost.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Village's website at [www.itasca.com/2075/2021-Lead-Service-Line-Project](http://www.itasca.com/2075/2021-Lead-Service-Line-Project) for more information on the program.

## Stormwater System Improvements Have Begun on Walnut Street

If you have been driving in downtown Itasca, you may have noticed a flurry of construction activity going on in the area. As part of its ongoing effort to improve stormwater drainage throughout the community, the Village has begun installing storm sewers between North Street and Orchard Street and between Maple Avenue and Linden Street.

Work on this project began in mid-February and will continue until early summer. While construction is in progress, temporary closures of Walnut Street will be needed in order to maintain public safety.

The Itasca Police Department would like to provide drivers with the following safety tips for when driving in construction zones:

- **Slow Down** – the most important thing you can do to protect yourself and workers is to reduce your traveling speed.
- **Stay Focused** – driving distracted is always a bad idea, but is especially dangerous in construction zones, due to changing traffic patterns and road conditions.
- **Don't Assume** – never assume workers are not around, just because you don't immediately see them. They may be working a cherry picker, down in a hole, or walking the site.

Stay up-to-date on all of Public Works active projects, by visiting [www.itasca.com](http://www.itasca.com).

## Call or Click Before You Dig

Planting a tree? Planning a building improvement? Installing a fence? Here's what you need to know first: Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hiring a professional, smart digging means calling JULIE at 8-1-1 or visiting [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com) before each job. JULIE is the Joint Utility Locate Information Exchange which notifies utilities in the area where digging will be done. The utility workers then locate any of their lines which may interfere with the digging. You must call at least two working days before you dig!



# Administrator's Message

Carie Anne Ergo

Growing Pains. Besides being a classic 80s sitcom, it is something that we all go through during times of change. While it can be annoying and sometimes painful, it is necessary to achieve growth. I, like many of you, have to remind myself of this when I traverse through the north side construction.

While I'd like to be able to tell you it will be magically finished before summer...I can't. The reality is there are many more closures and detours in the weeks and months ahead. This multi-million-dollar improvement is the first of a five-phase plan designed to improve the stormwater system, add curbs and gutters, rebuild streets, and replace aging water mains. And lest the south side feels left out, Bloomingdale Road will also be improved this year – thanks, in part, to a \$2 million federal grant.

Village staff is also experiencing growing pains as we work to upgrade the Village's financial technology system that was originally implemented in the early 1990s. In December, the Village began implementing a new water billing system, and rollout was about as bumpy as those north side roads. To resolve customers' issues, staff worked long hours over the weekends and holidays. Fingers crossed, most of the kinks have been worked out, and we are on our way to creating a system that will be convenient for residents moving forward.

And since we're speaking about water bills, the Village's water & sewer rates recently increased. Once per year, rates increase by 5% or less to cover the costs of purchasing water through the DuPage Water Commission from Chicago Water Reclamation District, delivering water to homes, and treating sewage. By prioritizing small annual increases, the Village avoids large sporadic spikes. This year, rates for water increased from \$12.32 to \$12.93 per 1,000 units, and increased from \$11.77 to \$12.36 for sewer. These increases have already taken effect and will be seen on the March water bills.

You may also see periodic changes to your water bill due to differences in the amount of water used over the billing period. Because the

Village still manually reads water meters, your billing cycle can vary significantly from month to month. This can result in a large bill one month and a smaller bill the next.

While it is tempting to compare the Village's water and sewer rates to other communities, it is important to remember that rates vary based upon many factors such as the number of customers, the age of the system, and how water and sewer expenses are funded. For example, some neighboring communities in Cook County have a separate sewer line on their tax bill – in addition to the municipal tax rate. Some other municipalities choose to subsidize water rates from municipal property taxes. Itasca does not – as a result, property taxes paid to the Village for a median home value in Itasca are only \$350 annually.

That being said, I acknowledge that Itasca's rates are higher than many nearby communities. Itasca has one of the oldest water and sewer systems in our area – and thus was one of the first to require replacement. Ten years ago, the Village rebuilt its wastewater treatment plant at a cost of more than \$40 million. Half of this amount was funded by a federal subsidized loan at 0% interest. The other half was funded by Build America Bonds, which the Village recently refunded, saving customers approximately \$2.5 million. Additionally, the Village received \$5 million in debt forgiveness through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

At the same time as the Village is paying off these loans, it is faced with needing to replace aging water mains – some that are more than 80 years old. The cost of these improvements will likely top \$20 million; much of that cost can be funded through capital reserves.

Finally, I am particularly pleased to report that the Village went to the market with Alternate Revenue Source Bonds totaling approximately \$14 million to fund street and storm sewer improvements. S&P Global Ratings assigned the Village of Itasca an AA+ credit rating citing Itasca's "good financial policies and practices" and highlighted "the village's generally robust management practices and strong institutional framework."

## Help Our Community Restore Local Funding

Itasca is joining communities across the State in urging Springfield to restore local funding for essential services to fulfill the State's agreement with municipal governments.

The Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) is a portion of Illinois income taxes, paid by you, our residents, and businesses, that are collected by the State and redistributed back to municipalities on a per capita basis.

LGDF can account for a significant portion of a municipality's operating budget, in some communities amounting to millions of dollars annually. LGDF helps fund services that our community relies on, such as police and fire, road repairs and maintenance, garbage collection, and flood prevention. It also helps avoid increases to property taxes.

From the inception of Illinois' income tax in 1969, the General Assembly agreed to allocate 1/12 of income tax revenue back to Illinois municipalities in lieu of a local income tax. In 1993, the General Assembly decided to increase the allocation to 10 percent to ensure

that municipalities have a reliable source of funding to invest in our communities. However, since 2011, the State has reduced the LGDF share from 10 to just 6.06 percent.

Itasca should be able to rely on predictable funding levels and consistent distribution of funds each year. State legislators have an opportunity to restore LGDF in 2022, which could help reduce the reliance on property and other taxes without increasing income taxes for our residents and businesses.

You can help by making your voice heard in Springfield! Please contact your State Senator and Representative and let them know that you support restoring LGDF funding to municipalities. Contact information for your local representatives can be found at [www.bit.ly/MyILRep](http://www.bit.ly/MyILRep).



# Downtown Plan Update

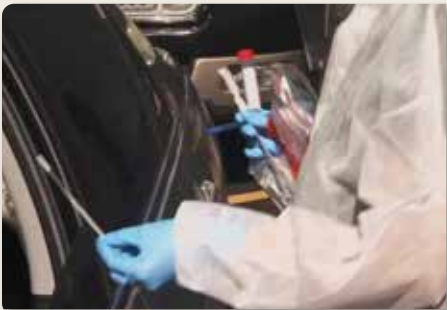
The Village has made significant process updating its Downtown Strategic Action Plan in line with the community's voice. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the Village hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> community workshop to seek input on the Draft Final Plan's Recommendation and Strategies. Approximately 300 community members attended the Open House and provided valuable input and thoughts on what they envisioned for the future of Downtown Itasca.

Phase 3 of the project is nearing an end. The next step is to formally present the Draft Final Plan to the Village Board and Plan Commission for review and approval. A public meeting will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

To view the Draft Final Plan or stay up to date with the Downtown Plan, please visit the project website at [www.ItascaDowntownPlan.com](http://www.ItascaDowntownPlan.com). If you have questions regarding the Downtown Plan, please contact Mo Khan, Village Planner, at [mkhan@itasca.com](mailto:mkhan@itasca.com).



## Avoid COVID Testing Scams



Due to the spread of the omicron variant and the nationwide shortage of COVID-19 tests, people are turning to pop-up testing locations that may be unauthorized and illegitimate.

Since these testing sites are not licensed or regulated by any government agency, personal information may not be appropriately stored and susceptible to identity theft.

Itasca is fortunate to have an accredited testing facility in town, Testative, Inc., located at 127 N. Walnut Street. More information on Testative can be found on page 4. However, should you find yourself in need of another testing site, the Itasca Police Department recommends the following tips:

- Utilize state-sponsored testing sites found on the Illinois Department of Public Health website at [www.dph.illinois.gov/](http://www.dph.illinois.gov/).
- Do not share your social security number. Legitimate testing sites will often ask for insurance information and a state-issued ID. If you're asked for information that you are not comfortable providing, ask if you can obtain the test without providing it. If denied, the site may be fraudulent.
- Do not respond to unsolicited text messages, emails, or calls regarding COVID-19 testing sites.
- Avoid paying out-of-pocket fees for the tests. Legitimate testing sites will not ask for out-of-pocket payment. Instead, they will bill insurance companies or seek reimbursement from a federal/state fund if individuals are uninsured.

If you see a testing site that you believe may not be legitimate, report it on the Illinois Attorney General's website at [www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov).

## A Year in Review of Economic Developments

Economic development continues to be a priority of the Village as it generates sales taxes and grows the property tax base to help share in the costs of local government and our schools. Last year, the Village welcomed 30 new businesses into the community ranging from marketing professionals to construction material suppliers. In total, these 30 businesses leased over 1.3 million square feet of commercial space in the Village and have generated over 630 jobs! Each one of these businesses play a role in improving the vibrancy of our community.



Some of the most notable developments included:

**MEI Systems** – MEI Systems is a manufacturer of machines used in the production of eyeglasses and sunglasses. Staff finished review of their plans and they are slated to begin construction of their North American Headquarters later this year.

**Dunkin!** – National retailer Dunkin! will be soon opening a location at 351 N. Rohlwing Road, which has been vacant for almost a decade. By reactivating this site, the Village is closer in accomplishing its goal of providing additional retail and food options along Rohlwing Road as identified in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan.

**Bridge Point** – One of the Village's largest developments, Bridge Point is a state-of-the-art facility, that offers both industrial and commercial space. Although recently constructed, all three warehouse/industrial buildings have been fully leased in less than 12 months of breaking ground! The Village is excited to have this economic partner in town and is looking forward to a prosperous relationship with them.

# Business Spotlight

## Church Street Brewery Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Village of Itasca is proud to be the home of award-winning Church Street Brewing Company, who will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

What started out as a small brewery operation has grown into an award-winning taphouse. Church Street was recently listed as the #2 Best Brewery in Illinois by [www.bestthingsil.com/](http://www.bestthingsil.com/)! In addition to this title, their Bishop Bock Brew won Silver at the 2022 Beer World Championship.

Don't miss out on enjoying this local gem! With live entertainment, games, a great selection of wine and beer, Church Street is a great destination to unwind and relax with family and friends.

Church Street is located at 1480 Industrial Dr. Unit C, off Prospect Avenue. They are open Monday through Thursday from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m., Friday 4:00 - 10:00 p.m., Saturday 12:00 - 10:00 p.m., and Sunday 12:00 - 7:00 p.m. To learn more about Church Street, please visit their website at [www.churchstreetbrew.com/](http://www.churchstreetbrew.com/). Also, follow them on Twitter @ChurchStBrew.



*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.*



Follow us on Twitter: @ItascaMeans and on Facebook: Itasca Means Business

The Village of Itasca is proud to be a premier destination for all types of businesses and would like to extend a warm welcome to the following companies who recently received Village Board approval to operate in our town:

### **Finzer Roller, Inc. – 880 W. Thorndale Ave.**

With over 13 locations across the United States, the Village is excited to announce it is the home of another manufacturing company's corporate headquarters! Finzer Roller manufactures rubber rollers used in various industrial/commercial industries, such as corrugated, film/flexible package, and commercial printing products. To learn more about the company, visit their website at [www.finzerroller.com](http://www.finzerroller.com).

### **Testative, Inc. – 127 N. Walnut, Suite 105**

Testative is a COVID-19 Testing/Collection Facility that offers rapid and PCR Testing. Testative provides free COVID testing seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. No appointments or insurance is necessary. Testative partners with Lab Care, LLC to complete its testing of PCR Test.

Lab Care, LLC. CLAI (Clinical Labs Improvement Act) Certification Waiver ID # 14D2242519 Website: [www.labcarellc.com](http://www.labcarellc.com).

### **Chief Supply, Inc. – 1301 Ardmore Ave.**

Chief Supply, Inc. is a retailer of industrial supplies, primarily wood reels for wire storage. To see how they can potentially meet your needs, call them at (847) 290-8686.

### **U.S. Industrial, LLC – 751 Hilltop Dr.**

U.S. Industrial, LLC is a commercial/industrial building demolition and site decommissioning contractor. Services provided include Dismantling & Removal, Decommissioning Assistance, Rigging & Machinery Moving, Scrap Metal Removal, Asset/Investment Recovery, and Warehouse Cleanouts. To get a quote or ask a question, contact [steelbuyers@gmail.com](mailto:steelbuyers@gmail.com) or (773) 967-8079. For more information, visit their website at [www.usindustrialdemolition.com](http://www.usindustrialdemolition.com).

### **ePost Global Shipping – 225 S. Prospect Ave.**

ePost Global Shipping provides bulk mail and parcel services to businesses. ePost Global's international parcel and mail shipping solutions allow enterprises to streamline global distribution while increasing customer satisfaction. Their worldwide network, technology-backed support model, and extensive knowledge of international shipping requirements provide a seamless experience with delivery reliability, accuracy, and consistency. To learn more information, go to their website at [www.epostglobalshipping.com](http://www.epostglobalshipping.com).

# Celebrate Our Community

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



**Wed., March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Lucky's Flashlight Hunt**  
Washington Park  
8:00 p.m.

Lucky, Itasca's Leprechaun, is helping celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Flashlight Hunt at Washington Park! Ages 1-14 years old; \$8 per child.



**Mon., March 21<sup>st</sup> - May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Drop-In Family Storytime**  
Itasca Library  
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Join the library for stories, songs, and more at this in-person storytime. Geared to ages 6 & under.



**Wed., March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**I Survived Book Club**  
Itasca Library  
4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Get your free copy of the book, and then come to the library for activities based on *I Survived the Galveston Hurricane, 1900*. For grades 2-5. Registration is required.



**Wed., March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**An Evening with Jenny Lawson**  
Itasca Library  
7:00 p.m.

Join the library for an evening on Zoom with Jenny Lawson to discuss her most recent bestseller, *Broken (In the Best Possible Way)*. Registration is required.



**Thurs., March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Family LEGO Challenge**  
Itasca Library  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Are you a LEGO master? Drop in and spin the wheel, receive a challenge, and show off your brick building skills. Registration is required.



**Sun., April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Hoppy Visits**  
Itasca Park District  
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Itasca Bunny is hopping around town and visiting residents. Ages 1-14 years old; \$25 for the first child and \$15 for any additional children.



**Mon., April 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Becoming & Being a Chef**  
Itasca Library  
7:00 p.m.

Interested in a culinary career or just curious what it takes to be a professional chef? Chef Susan Maddox will share her wisdom, knowledge, and experience. Registration required.



**Mon., April 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Flashlight Egg Hunt**  
Springbrook Nature Center  
8:00 p.m.

Grab your flashlights and head to the field at Washington Park for an Egg Hunt in the dark! Ages 1-14 years old; \$10 per child.



**Sat., April 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Author Visit: Arshay Cooper**  
Lake Park High School  
11:00 a.m.

Join Arshay during his visit to discuss his experiences chronicled in his memoir, *A Most Beautiful Thing: The True Story of America's First All-Black High School Rowing Team*.



**Tues., April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Trivia Night**  
Itasca Library  
7:00 p.m.

Join the library at Fox & Turtle restaurant to compete with your team of up to six people for a chance to win prizes.



**Wed., April 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Boozey Bunny Egg Hunt**  
Itasca Park District  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Adults 21+ will enjoy walking out their front door to find 24 eggs hidden in their yard filled with candy and some favorite adult beverages. Registration required.



**Thurs., April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**History Smashers**  
Itasca Library  
4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Get your free copy of the book, and then come for a book discussion on *History Smashers: The Titanic* on the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ship's sinking. For grades 3-7. Registration is required.



**Mon., April 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Planning an Active Retirement**  
Itasca Library  
7:00 p.m.

Gene Flynn focuses on how you might best live your life in the early years of retirement and semi-retirement. Presented through the library on Zoom. Registration is required.



**Tues., April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Virtual Teen Cooking Club**  
Itasca Library  
6:30 – 7:15 p.m.

Celebrate National Pretzel Day by making a recipe or two featuring pretzels with the library on Zoom. For grades 6-12. Registration is required.



**Mon., May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Porcelain Utopia: Lustron Homes**  
Itasca Library  
7:00 p.m.

Join the library for a photography presentation on the unique and peculiar Lustron Homes. Registration is required.



**Thurs., May 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Mom & Me Spa Day**  
Itasca Library  
4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Get ready for Mother's Day with a little DIY pampering! Grandmas are welcome, too. For grades 1-6 with an adult. Registration is required.

# Celebrate Our Community



**Sat., May 7<sup>th</sup>**

## **Green Day Recycling Event Public Works 8:00 a.m. – Noon**

Dispose of unwanted electronics during the Village's annual Green Day event. More information on this event can be found below.



**Thurs., May 12<sup>th</sup>**

## **Board Game Night Itasca Library 7:00 p.m.**

Come learn the rules of some of the new board games for adults that are now available for checkout at the library! Registration is required.



**Sat., May 21<sup>st</sup>**

## **River Sweep Event Springbrook Nature Center 9:00 a.m. – Noon**

Join the Village in a county-wide stream cleanup event at Springbrook Nature Center. More information on this event can be found below.



**Tues., May 24<sup>th</sup>**

## **The History of the Edgewater Beach Hotel Itasca Library 7:00 p.m.**

In this presentation, historian Leslie Goddard explores the history of the famous resort on the lake. Registration is required.

## Green Day Recycling Event



The Village of Itasca will be hosting a Green Day recycling event this year with additional sponsorship by the Itasca Bank & Trust Co. The event will be held on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Public Works (411 N. Prospect Avenue). 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, only 32" and smaller, and no projection screen TVs.

We will also be accepting paper documents for shredding on-site. Please note this offer is for Itasca residents, Itasca Bank & Trust Co. customers and their associates, and in-home businesses only. Please limit shredding services to five (5) "copy paper sized" boxes. Boxes will not be disposed of and will be returned to each individual. Additionally, documents must be removed from 3-ring binders. We will not accept books, catalogs, magazines, or newspapers. If you have large volumes of paper documents that need to be destroyed, please contact International Paper, located here in Itasca, at (630) 250-1300.

Along with electronics and paper, we will also accept fabric, used bicycles, American Flags, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prescription medications, used motor oil, used antifreeze, automotive batteries, scrap metal, fire extinguishers, books, school & office supplies, cell phones, inkjet cartridges, keys, clothing buttons, safety pins, and cooking oil. We will accept the cooking oil in containers, or we can dispose of the oil and return the container to you. 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.

Fellows, Inc. has provided personal paper shredders for a few lucky attendees each year. These will be distributed to random participants throughout the day. For more information, please visit the Village website at [www.itasca.com](http://www.itasca.com) or email [byarbrough@itasca.com](mailto:byarbrough@itasca.com) with any specific questions.

## Join the Sweep Tradition

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> to join in a wonderful tradition that began in 1991. The annual DuPage County River Sweep is a county-wide self-coordinated stream



cleanup held each spring. The purpose of the one-day river sweep is to encourage volunteer groups to help "sweep our rivers clean" by picking up debris in and along the local waterways. Since the program's inception, over 292 tons of waste have been removed from DuPage waterways.

This year's event will be held at the Springbrook Nature Center from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Last year, over 20 participants picked up debris at the Nature Center grounds and along Spring Brook Creek. To register for this event or obtain additional details, please visit [www.theconservationfoundation.org/sweep](http://www.theconservationfoundation.org/sweep).



## Building Safety Month

Building Safety Month is an international campaign that raises awareness about building safety and the importance of having sustainable structures. This year's theme is Safety for All: Building Codes in Action. For more information, please visit [www.iccsafe.org/content/building-safety-month-2022-safety-for-all-codes-in-action/](http://www.iccsafe.org/content/building-safety-month-2022-safety-for-all-codes-in-action/)

## Lake Park Reads

Itasca Community Library joins Bloomingdale Public Library, Roselle Public Library District, and Lake Park High School to read *A Most Beautiful Thing* by Arshay Cooper and present programs on the book's themes (listed below). *A Most Beautiful Thing* is the moving true story of a group of young men growing up on Chicago's West Side who formed the first all-Black high school rowing team in the nation and, in doing so, transformed a sport and their lives. Complimentary copies of the book are available while supplies last. For more information, call the library at (630) 773-1699.

### **Becoming & Being a Chef: The Inside Scoop**

Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
at Itasca Community Library

Interested in a culinary career or just curious what it takes to be a professional chef? Chef Susan Maddox will share her wisdom, knowledge, experience, and entertaining stories about her career path. Register at [www.itascalibrary.org](http://www.itascalibrary.org).



### **Vision: See Yourself Before You Get There**

Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
at Bloomingdale Public Library

Learn to achieve your goals with motivational expert, producer, and author, Cherise Nicole. Register at [www.mybpl.org](http://www.mybpl.org).



### **Emancipation to Inauguration: The Black Experience in Chicago**

Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
through Roselle Public Library District on Zoom

Join historian Clarence Goodman for a presentation on the Black experience in Chicago. From Chicago's first settler to the nation's Chief Executive, the African American presence is deep, rich, and proud. Register at [www.rosellepld.org](http://www.rosellepld.org).



### **Author Visit: Arshay Cooper**

Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m.  
at Lake Park High School

Arshay Cooper is a rower, Benjamin Franklin award-winning author, the protagonist of the critically acclaimed film *A Most Beautiful Thing*, a Golden Oar recipient for his contributions to the sport of rowing, motivational speaker, and activist particularly around issues of accessibility for low-income families. Join Arshay during his visit to discuss his experiences chronicled in his memoir, *A Most Beautiful Thing: The True Story of America's First All-Black High School Rowing Team*. No registration is needed.



## The Library Is Now Fine-Free!

Itasca Community Library is fine-free! There are no longer any overdue fines for any item you check out at the library. Almost all of the library's collection (except a few specialty items) now check out for 21 days with two automatic renewals (provided no one has it on hold). Please continue to return your items when you're finished enjoying them so that other patrons can use them. Once items on your account are 21 days overdue, your account will be blocked. Once the overdue items are returned, your account will be immediately unblocked with no fines assessed. Sign up to receive email notifications to stay on top of all the items you have checked out. For more information, call the library at (630) 773-1699.

## Migration Season

Every spring, birds of many shapes, sizes, and colors begin their great migration north. Many of us associate the calls of songbirds with warming temperatures, but did you know many raptor species migrate every year as well? Broad-winged hawks migrate over 4,000 miles every year down to South America and back! Stop by Springbrook Nature Center and visit two migratory species, a broad-winged hawk and a turkey vulture.



These birds are cared for by Wings and Talons, a 501(c)(3) non-profit comprised entirely of volunteers. Care of the birds is funded by donations from the public. For more information, visit Wings and Talons at [www.wingsandtalons.org](http://www.wingsandtalons.org) or find them on Facebook and Instagram.

## Take a StoryWalk® this Spring!

The Itasca Community Library has teamed up with the Itasca Park District to present a StoryWalk®, a fun way to combine reading and exercising. A StoryWalk® is a series of signs featuring spreads from a children's picture book. Those signs or pages are spread throughout indoor or outdoor spaces in all seasons, allowing a reader to follow along with a story by walking.

The StoryWalk® this spring will feature Candace Fleming's picture book, *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*, and it will be at the loop right next to the Springbrook Nature Center building beginning early to mid-March. This project is sponsored by the library, Itasca Park District, Friends of the Itasca Community Library, and Friends of Springbrook Nature Center of Itasca. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.



## Itasca Park District Early Childhood Programs



This spring, the Park District kicks off the season with their Early Childhood Education Program Registration for the 2022 - 2023 school year! The Park District is now accepting registration for our 2-year-old Tiny Tikes Program, 3-year-old Preschool Program, and

4-year-old Junior Kindergarten Program. The Itasca Park District Early Childhood Education Program is a theme-based curriculum emphasizing alphabet recognition, phonics, and numbers. These skills are acquired through various games, art, music, stories, science activities, and daily small group work at the Rec Center & Springbrook Nature Center. Their highly qualified teaching staff carefully follows Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines to provide our students with a safe and fun format for learning.

## Itasca Park District Summer Camp

Summer Camp registration is now open. They are looking forward to having a blast with friends and enjoying a summer full of fun at the Itasca Park District! The Park



District is planning many activities for their campers such as arts & crafts, sports, water games, visits to the Itasca Waterpark, nature-based activities, and in-house special events! Summer Camps are available for children ages 3 to 14 years old, including preschool, sports, teen, and nature camp! Check out all their camps online at [www.itascaparkdistrict.com](http://www.itascaparkdistrict.com).



## Itasca Park District Youth Sports and Adult Athletic Leagues

The start of spring also means time for youth sports and adult athletic leagues! The Inter Village

Soccer Registration deadline is March 21<sup>st</sup>, with the league beginning April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Registration is now open for the Park District's Spring Softball Leagues and Summer Cup In Hand Kickball League. Spring Softball begins April 26<sup>th</sup>, and Cup in Hand Kickball begins June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Register your team online at [www.itascaparkdistrict.com](http://www.itascaparkdistrict.com) or at the Rec Center.

## Arbor Day Tree Dedication

Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1872 in Nebraska as a way to increase the planting of trees. Today Arbor Day is celebrated in many countries worldwide and helps raise awareness of the social, ecological, and economic benefits trees provide.

There are many ways to celebrate Arbor Day this year. Below are some fun activities that you and your family can do:

- Dedicate an existing tree in the Village's arboretum to a loved one. For more information or to download a tree dedication order form, please visit the Village website or contact the Village's tree arborist, Kevin Farley, at [kfarley@itasca.com](mailto:kfarley@itasca.com).
- Go for a walk around the community. See if you can find the biggest or oldest tree in your neighborhood.
- Stop by the Springbrook Nature Center for a special Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available on the Park District's website closer to the date.



## Spring Cover Photo

### Beautiful Beginnings at Songbird Slough



This edition's cover photo was submitted by resident Sarah Ruhl, who took this photo while walking her dogs at Songbird Slough. Sarah said, "We love taking our dogs on walks through the Slough. It's beautiful and a great place to enjoy nature. My husband and I volunteer for Fetching Tails Foundation, an Itasca based dog rescue, so we love taking our fosters there as well."

If you, like Sarah, 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.

## Yard Waste Collection



Yard waste and brush pick-up will begin on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The Village appreciates our residents' efforts to maintain their property and recognizes that removing tree debris and yard waste may be difficult. This is why the Village offers residents free Yard Waste and Brush Collection

between the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of April through the last Monday in November. To ensure your material is picked up by Republic Services, please follow the guidelines below:

### Yard Waste Collection

- Place in biodegradable paper bags or reusable containers marked "Yard Waste."
- Maximum reusable container size – 34 gallons
- Maximum bag or reusable container weight – 50 pounds

### Brush Collection

- Bundle brush with biodegradable twine.
- Stack bundles in the parkway in neat, manageable piles with the cut ends facing the street.
- Maximum bundle weight – 50 pounds
- Maximum branch diameter – 6 inches
- Maximum branch length – 4 feet

Contact Republic Services Itasca Customer Service for yard waste or brush pick-up questions at (847) 981-0091.

## Village Adopts New Building Codes

As the ice and snow melts and construction begins to ramp up for 2022, the Community Development staff is ready to assist residents and businesses with their projects this year. The Village Board and staff have been working hard to update the Village of Itasca Building Codes and will soon be adopting the 2018 International Code Council Building Codes which will replace the previously adopted 2006 International Code Council Building Codes. By adopting newer codes, the Village provides residents and businesses the flexibility to construct projects with the newest materials and construction methods, which can save you money. The full listing of the Building Codes with Local Amendments that the Village of Itasca has adopted can be found online at [www.itasca.com/286/Building-Division](http://www.itasca.com/286/Building-Division).

## Tips for Preventing Water in Your Basement

There are several things that you can do to keep your basement dry this spring:

- Make sure your downspouts and sump pump lines are directed to the front yard or backyard, and away from neighboring properties.
- Check to make sure your foundation floor and walls do not have any cracks which can be a source of seepage.
- Purchase a rain barrel to manage water runoff from your roof.
- Maintain your sewer lines by cleaning and televising them on a regular basis to ensure they are not allowing infiltration through open joints or existing cracks.
- Install a battery backup on your sump pump.
- Consider installing a flood control system or overhead sewer to minimize future backups. The Village's a first-come, first-served reimbursement program up to \$5,000 for qualifying homes. More information can be found on the Village's website here: [www.itasca.com/2031/Sanitary-Sewer-Backflow-Prevention-Progr](http://www.itasca.com/2031/Sanitary-Sewer-Backflow-Prevention-Progr)

## Start Planning Now for Spring Rains

Does your yard flood during heavy rain? A rain garden may be an effective way to sustainably manage stormwater runoff on your property. Incentives are available for residents interested in pursuing green infrastructure projects like rain



gardens, bioretention, and dry wells. For more information about the Village's Rear Yard Drainage Program visit [www.itasca.com/2028/Rear-Yard-Drainage-Assistance-Program](http://www.itasca.com/2028/Rear-Yard-Drainage-Assistance-Program).

## Don't Forget Your Permit

As warmer weather approaches, many homeowners begin to think about and prepare for home improvement projects. Homeowners are reminded that certain projects require a building permit to ensure the safety of the work and its compliance with building, construction, and zoning codes.

Building Permit information, forms, and contractor requirements are available on the Village's website at [www.itasca.com](http://www.itasca.com) under the "Community Development" tab. If you are unsure whether a permit is required, Village staff will be happy to meet with you to discuss your project and walk you through the process. Please contact our Community Development Department at (630) 773-5568, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.

## Itasca Shows Its Generosity

During the 2021 holiday season, the Itasca community once again demonstrated its generosity when it came to caring for those in need. Through the Village's hat and mitten tree drive, the Village donated over 50 hats, mittens, and scarves to the Itasca Food Pantry.

In addition, the Village Board continued its annual tradition of donating revenues derived from Oktoberfest hat sales and Lions Club tips to the following the non-profit-agencies:

Walk-In Ministry - \$1,717.50

Friends of the Library - \$1,717.50



Itasca Food Pantry - \$2,561.40

Friends of Springbrook - \$1,138.40

DuPage PADs - \$1,138.40

District 10 Foundation - \$1,138.40

Park District Scholarship Fund - \$1,138.40

Please join us in thanking the Itasca Lions Club and all of these wonderful non-profits, for their continue partnership and dedication to the community.

## Itasca Police Department Satisfaction Survey

The Itasca Police Department is committed providing outstanding service to residents, business owners, and visitors through law enforcement, education, and exceptional service. To ensure that they are meeting these needs, the Police Department wants to hear from you.

Please take a few moments to complete a short, confidential survey. The purpose of this survey is to measure resident and business perceptions regarding a range of issues relevant to the Itasca Police Department. To participate in this survey, please visit [www.itsasca.com/ps2022](http://www.itsasca.com/ps2022)

## New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements



Jody Conidi

The Village is excited to announce the recent hiring of Jody Conidi as Finance Assistant. Jody will be handling several day-to-day responsibilities within the Finance Department, such as utility billing and accounts payable. As a 31-year resident of Itasca, she is happy to serve the community that she calls home. Please join us in welcoming Jody to our team.

## Congratulations Sergeant Poulakidas



Thomas Poulakidas

On November 11, 2021, Sergeant Thomas Poulakidas graduated from the prestigious Southern Police Institute's 146<sup>th</sup> Administrative Officers Course. Sergeant Poulakidas 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, and ethically and technically competent law enforcement managers who can assume leadership positions within their agencies.

Sergeant Poulakidas completed course work in Managing Organizational Performance, Criminal Justice Leadership, Law Enforcement Administration, and Legal Aspects of Criminal Justice Management, among other diversified topics.

The Southern Police Institute is a division of the Department of Justice Administration, College of Arts and Sciences at the 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.

"I'd like to thank Director O'Connor and the Village of Itasca for giving me the opportunity to attend the Southern Police Institute's 146<sup>th</sup> Administrative Officers Course. The course work, instructors, and conversations with officers from police agencies throughout the country have provided me new perspectives and concepts to bring back to the Itasca Police Department. This experience has taught me a great deal in leadership, management, and the importance of maintaining positive relationships with the community. I'd also like to thank my wife for supporting me in this endeavor which took me away from home for several months. I could not have accomplished this without her sacrifices at home while I was gone."

Director of Police Robert O'Connor stated, "Sergeant Poulakidas was chosen to attend this executive development curriculum because he has proven his abilities to lead personnel in achieving the goals of the Itasca Police Department internally and externally. His accomplishments in police management will contribute to the success of the Itasca Police Department and to the Law Enforcement profession. Congratulations Tom."

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

**Mayor**

Jeff Pruyn

**Village Clerk**

Jody Conidi

**Trustees**

Jeff Aiani

Dino Gavanis

Ellen Leahy

Kathy Linsner

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



Village of Itasca

550 W. Irving Park Rd.

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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