



Committed to our future.
Inspired by our past.

Photo – Submitted by
Katie Sisk,
Hamilton Lakes (p9)

The Village News



Downtown North TIF District (p4)



New Tenant (p5)



Green Day Recycling Event (p7)



Smoke Alarm (back cover)

Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

Having lived in the Midwest all of my life, I am still determining what is easier to predict, the weather or winning lottery numbers. With some of the warmest temperatures recorded in recent years, this past winter has felt more like a balmy spring day than a true winter season. While I may not be able to help you choose appropriate outwear, I can confidently tell you that 2023 will be an exciting year for the Village. At the forefront of our priorities is the continued implementation of the road infrastructure program and a continued focus on economic development and financial sustainability.

Last year, the Village Board approved a new Downtown Strategic Plan based on feedback received from 400+ residents and businesses in town. The Board moved swiftly to purchase the vacant building that anchors Usher Park. The Board wanted to secure a tenant that was: a) responsive of the desires of community members that attended a previous open house on potential uses, and b) would complement goals in the Downtown Plan.

After a competitive review process, the Board chose to extend a lease to Fulla Beans, which will open this summer as a new gathering spot for Itasca residents of all ages. Local owners Rich and Dena Renieri plan to offer coffee, deli sandwiches, sweet treats, and more.

The Board also moved to explore creating one or more Tax Increment Financing Districts, which will allow the Village to offer incentives to secure the type of economic development that the community has identified as desirable in the recent Downtown Plan. We are grateful to have the unanimous support of our local governmental partners as the Village moves forward to establish a TIF north of Irving Park Road to spur redevelopment downtown.

As a prelude to spring, I learned this week that Itasca will receive a \$600K grant to improve the paths in the Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary and the softball complex. The grant was made possible thanks to the Village's commitment to match those funds to connect Springbrook Nature Center to the ballfields through a pedestrian bridge over the creek to connect the path system in Spring Lake Business Park to the path system in and around the ball field complex. The Village would like to thank the Itasca Park District Board and their staff for leading the efforts in securing the grant funds.

Investments in enhancing our community are possible through deliberate and thoughtful

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Mayor's Message Continued...

planning. Each spring, the Board and staff undertake our most important and crucial responsibility to our residents – the annual budget. This is when we set aside funding for Village operations and projects in the next fiscal year, which begins May 1st. The long-term sustainability of the Village's budget has been a key focus area for the Village Board and staff for the last several years. As in past years, the focus will be on continuing capital investments to maintain infrastructure, preserve public safety services, and protect the local economy's vitality.

As I conclude this message, I would like to invite you to participate

in the Village's Shape of Itasca event on Monday, May 8th, which is sponsored by Itasca Bank & Trust, Co. Shape of Itasca is an annual town hall meeting in which leaders from each of the taxing bodies are present highlights and significant accomplishments from the prior year, upcoming projects, and the outlook for 2023 and beyond. Residents can attend in person or watch live on the Village's YouTube channel.

I wish you a great spring, and enjoy all that Itasca has worked so hard to achieve.

Administrator's Message

Carie Anne Ergo

Oftentimes, when I introduce myself as your Village Administrator, the next question that follows is – “So, what do you do?”

My daily responsibilities vary widely by day, week, and season. Broadly, however, I provide oversight of day-to-day municipal business operations, and focus staff on developing and implementing strategies that move forward the vision of the Village Board under the direction of Mayor Pruyn.

Currently, we are in the process of budgeting for fiscal year 2024, which begins May 1st. The Board has prioritized several major projects designed to improve the quality of life for people who live and work in town.

This spring, Bloomingdale Road construction will be completed. With a total cost of more than \$3.8 million, the Village is fortunate that non-local funding was able to cover 100% of project costs.

This year the Village will also begin work to improve the intersections in the area of Park Boulevard, Pierce Road, and Devon Avenue. This \$2.6 million roadway improvement is funded without any local capital dollars – instead relying on federal, county, and privately dedicated dollars to complete the project.

By leveraging outside funds for projects with regional benefits, the Village is better able to dedicate local dollars to improving residential roads and infrastructure. We recently solicited bids for the second phase of the North Side Infrastructure project. Using bond dollars, secured before the sharp rise in interest rates, the Village is replacing aging water and sewer pipes, rebuilding streets, and adding curbs and gutters to better manage stormwater.

The Board also prioritized funding to replace Itasca's aging residential water meters. The new equipment, which is scheduled to be installed in homes later this year, will allow meters to be read on the same day each month. This will provide residents increased transparency on water usage and normalize meter periods to decrease fluctuating bills due to longer or shorter reading cycles.

If you have any questions about what's going on in Itasca, feel free to drop me an email at cergo@itasca.com anytime.



Carie Anne Ergo

Voter Information for April 4th, 2023, Consolidated Election



The next upcoming consolidated election will be Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Residents are encouraged to visit the DuPage Election Commission website to review their election information and verify the accuracy of their name, address, affiliated party, and current voter status. When verifying your personal information, residents can also view their precinct map, verify their polling location, and review a sample ballot before they vote.

Important Dates:

- March 20: Early Voting Begins
- April 4: Polls Open 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Interested in helping out on election day? Sign up to become an election judge at https://www.dupagecounty.gov/elections/election_judge_application.php.

Village Offers Rear Yard Flooding Assistance



The Village has a cost-sharing Rear Yard Flooding Assistance Program designed to assist property owners to address rear yard flooding problems. The Village may share the cost of up to 50% of eligible improvements, up to \$3,000.

Eligible improvements may include but are not exclusive to the installation of a rain garden, dry well, bioswale. Participation in this program is based on a first come, first served basis and is subject to available funding. Learn more about the yard flooding assistance program at www.itasca.com/2028/Rear-Yard-Drainage-Assistance-Program.

New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements



Cindy Sliwinski

The Village is pleased to announce the promotions of Cindy Sliwinski and Tom Poulakidas. Cindy was recently promoted to the Village's HR Generalist/Office Coordinator role in January. She has been with the Village since 2015, serving as the Administrative Assistant for the Police Department. In addition to her experience in Itasca, Cindy has prior HR, office management, and Public Works experience. Cindy has a bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management and is looking

forward to using her knowledge in her new role.



Tom Poulakidas

Also recently promoted is Deputy Chief Tom Poulakidas. Tom began his career with the department in 2000, where he served as a patrol officer for 8 years. In 2008, he was assigned to the investigations unit. During this time, he also served on the DuPage County Major Crimes Task Force, assisting other DuPage County police departments in investigating serious crimes.

After 13 years of service, Tom was promoted to sergeant in 2013 and later assigned as shift watch commander. In 2021, Tom attended the University of Louisville Southern Police Institute as part of the 146th Administrative Officers Course, graduating as a Dean Scholar. When asked about his new role, Deputy Chief Poulakidas stated, "I'm excited about this new challenge. I've always strived to better myself and advance in my career. This appointment will allow me to work on different components of law enforcement and build upon the great product our agency already is."

Director O'Connor remarked that he was looking forward to Deputy Chief Poulakidas's assistance with the administration of the Police Department. "Throughout Tom's career, he has always given his best and excelled in whichever capacity he was assigned. Tom's promotion is a testament to his can-do attitude. I know the Police Department and Village will benefit from Tom's new leadership role."

Please join the Village in congratulating Cindy and Tom on their promotions, as well as continued success in their new roles.

Seasonal Jobs Available

Both the Village of Itasca and the Park District are offering great seasonal jobs for local teens and young adults. A summer job is a great hands-on experience for teens to learn about responsibility, time management, and expectations associated with being a valued worker. These essential skills are valuable for college admission and landing a full-time job in their chosen career. Encourage your child or neighbor to look and apply online today for a Public Works seasonal job at www.itasca.com. Or apply on the Park District's website at www.itascaparkdistrict.com to become a lifeguard, waterpark cashier, or camp counselor this summer.

In Memoriam



Frank Nunez

On Sunday, January 22nd, Itasca Firefighter Frank Nunez passed away after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Firefighter Nunez joined the Fire District in 2018 and was a source of inspiration for all that knew him. His funeral services were held at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Itasca on Saturday, January 28th.

The Board of Trustees, Chief Schneider, the officers, and firefighters of the Itasca Fire Protection District would like to thank everyone in the community and surrounding area fire departments for their support and kindness during this difficult time. The citizens who lined the procession route on such a cold day were noticed and appreciated by the family and District members. Please keep the family, friends, and fire district members that knew and loved Firefighter Frank Nunez in your thoughts and prayers.

Check Out Our New Look



The Itasca Police Department is proud to introduce its new squad design. Not only has the design been updated, but the department has also added four new hybrid squads to its patrol. The hybrid squads are expected to help save the department on fuel costs and reduce the department's carbon footprint.

Fire District Home Safety Inspections



The Fire District invites you to take advantage of their free Home Safety Inspection! Through this program, homeowners receive free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. During the inspection, fire personnel will replace smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors that are past their lifespan of 10 years. They will also look for any hazards that could be a life safety concern, a fall/trip hazard, or a fire hazard. No penalties will be assessed if violations are found. The Fire District just wants you to be as safe as possible in your home. For more information or to request a visit, please visit the Fire District's website at www.itascafd.org, and go to the public education tab. If you have further questions, feel free to call the Fire District at (630) 773-1223, Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The program is funded through a generous donation by Itasca Bank & Trust, Co.

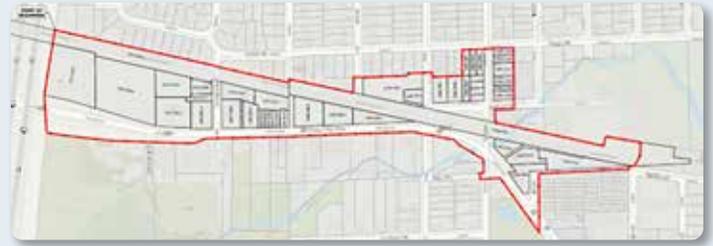
Downtown North TIF District Designation Underway

After a considerable review of the Village’s long-term financial needs, the Village Board has determined that maintaining and enhancing the Village’s revenue base is vital to the long-term sustainability of the community. As a potential tool to support reinvestment and spur redevelopment in the community, the Village is currently exploring the establishment of a Downtown North TIF District.

Tax Increment Financing, known as TIF, helps local governments attract private development and new businesses using local resources that do not depend upon an increase in taxes or reduction of other services. TIF projects also help to sustain and grow the equalized assessed value (EAV) for the proposed redevelopment project areas. The EAV growth and private investment mean more revenue to help the Village meet its other needs. As a result, the community as a whole, not just the area targeted for TIF, improves.

As part of the process, the Village has created an Interested Parties Registry to keep those interested in the development of the district informed about the process. The registry form is available on the Village’s website under ‘News Flash.’

The Village Board also approved a resolution to establish dates



for a Tax Increment Financing District, (TIF) public hearing and Joint Review Board meeting. The Joint Review Board (JRB) is composed of certain taxing districts affected by the TIF, such as the school district, community college, fire district, county, township, and park district. It is initially established when a new TIF is under consideration, and will remain in existence should the TIF District be approved. Agendas and minutes for this board can be found online under the Village’s Agenda Center.

Questions regarding the TIF District can be directed to Community Development Director Vijay Gadde at (630) 228-5671 or vgadde@itasca.com.



– Follow us on Twitter:
[@ItascaMeans](https://twitter.com/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:

Smart Kiddo – 810 N Arlington Heights Rd., Suite #4

Smart Kiddo provides a variety of tutoring classes and educational enrichment services for school-aged children, focusing on elementary-aged students. To learn more about the classes and services provided at Smart Kiddo, contact them at (847) 287-1861.

EGL Logis – 1020-1050 W. Thorndale Ave.

EGL Logis, a subsidiary of Binex Line, provides freight forwarding services and 47,5000 ft.² of short-term warehousing/storage products for businesses. With multiple offices and locations throughout North America, they assist companies with international shipments. To learn more about the services and products offered, visit their website at www.binexline.com.

Insomnia 888 – 1437 Harmony Ct.

Insomnia 888 provides freight forwarding services from its office location in Itasca. Although the company primarily focuses on over-the-road (OTR) truck services, they also coordinate airfreight and rail freight transportation services. To learn more about the services and products offered, visit their website at www.insomnia888.com.

Ricky Rockets Fuel Center – 1221 N. Rohlwing Rd.

Ricky Rockets Fuel Center is a 24-hour gas station with a convenience store and café that provides fuel services for passenger and truck diesel. Conveniently located at the interchange of Rohlwing Rd. and IL-390, this location offers great access for motorists traveling on IL-390 and Interstate 290/355.

Joe’s Donuts – 1221 N. Rohlwing Rd.

Joe’s Donuts is a breakfast-oriented café located within the newly opened Ricky Rockets Fuel Center on Rohlwing Road. Though breakfast oriented, the café will provide food and beverage options for all parts of the day. Indoor seating will soon be available for those looking to take a quick break while heading off the nearby highways of IL-390 and Interstates 290 and 355.



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 Building Safety Starts with You. For more information, please visit <https://www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/building-safety-month/building-safety-month/>.

Business Spotlight

Edward Jones' Financial Advisor Branch Office

The Village of Itasca is proud to be the home of Edward Jones' Financial Advisor Branch Office of Erin Wambangco, located in the Hamilton Lakes Business Park at 300 Park Blvd., Suite 290.

Erin and her team can provide the necessary services to help achieve your personal and family's short-and long-term financial goals, such as retirement or education planning. When asked why she got into this field, Erin said, "throughout my life, helping others has been an integral part of who I am. I choose a career in financial services because I believe I can make a difference in the lives of families in my community." Erin is part of the Itasca Chamber of Commerce and Greater O'Hare Business Association (GOA).

To learn more about Edward Jones and Erin Wambangco's branch office, please contact her at erin.wambangco@edwardjones.com or visit her website at www.edwardjones.com/us-en-financial-advisor/erin-wambangco.



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



Village Board Approves Tenant for 102 E. Irving Park Road



The Village is pleased to announce that Itasca residents will soon be welcoming a neighborhood café to the community. On December 20th, the Village Board unanimously approved a lease agreement with DDRan, LLC, to operate Fulla Beans at 102 E. Irving Park Road. This comes only

5 months after the Village acquired the property and released a Request for Proposals.

Fulla Beans will be a full-service café offering breakfast sandwiches, shakes and floats, and lunch and dinner items. Owners Richard and Dena Ranieri are local residents who own two successful Fulla Bologna restaurants in Elmhurst and Bloomingdale.

As area residents of the community, both Richard and Dena understand the importance of this location and the desire for it to be a central gathering place for our community. They stated, "we see Fulla Beans as the place you go to celebrate an accomplishment or meet your friends and hang out. We want to be the location that the runners club can meet or where you can grab a coffee before heading to work. We want to be that spot where lifelong memories are created."

Stayed tuned to Village's website and Facebook page for details on the opening date.

2023 DuPage County River Sweep



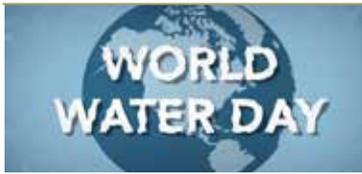
This spring marks the 32nd Annual DuPage River Sweep. The event is hosted by the Conservation Foundation and will be held at the Itasca Nature Center on Saturday, May 20th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This annual county-wide, self-coordinated event, cleans up our local streams each spring by encouraging volunteer groups to "sweep our rivers clean" and pickup debris in and along the local waterways.

For details on the event or how you can help, please visit www.theconservationfoundation/river-sweep/. The deadline for registration is Friday, May 5th.

The Village would like to thank the sponsors of the event: WM, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, The Printing Store, DuPage County Stormwater Management, American Rivers, Gerald Subaru of Naperville, and Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Inc.

Celebrate Our Community

To register for a library event, please call (630) 773-1699 or visit 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.



Wed., March 22nd

World Water Day Drop-In
Itasca Library
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Drop into the library for water activity stations in celebration of World Water Day. No registration needed.

Sat., March 25th

Shark Tank Junior: Craft Sale for Kids and Teens
Itasca Library
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Come and shop to support local young entrepreneurs. Kids in grades 1 - 8 can apply to sell their products by March 17th. Registration is required.

Fri., March 31st

The Art of Inflation Balloon Show
Itasca Library
10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Enjoy comedy and balloon art with Magical Balloon-dude Dale! Geared towards families. Registration is required.

Sun., April 1st

Spring Fling Event
Itasca Park District
10:30 a.m. - Noon

The Itasca Bunny will be hiding eggs at Washington Park this year! After the egg hunt, each family can take a picture with the Itasca Bunny! This is a free event.



Sun., April 2nd

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. Registration is required.

Mon., April 3rd

Flashlight Egg Hunt
Itasca Park District
8:00 p.m.

Grab your flashlights and head to Springbrook Nature Center for an egg hunt in the dark! Ages 1 - 14 years old; \$10 per child. Registration is required.

Tues., April 4th

Eggstreme Teen Night Egg Hunt
Itasca Park District
8:00 p.m.

Tweens and Teens come enjoy an "eggcellent" egg hunt. This event is free for ages 10-15 years old.

Wed., April 5th

Henna Program
Itasca Library
7:00 p.m.

Learn the history of henna body art and receive designs from henna artist Asma. Registration is required.



Wed., April 5th

Senior Scramble Egg Hunt
Itasca Park District
7:00 p.m.

Itasca seniors, come out and remember what it is like to be a kid! This event is free for ages 60+ years old.

Thurs., April 6th

Adult Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt
Itasca Park District
8:00 p.m.

Egg hunts are not just for kids! Come to Washington Park to see for yourselves. Event is free for ages 18+ years old.

Thurs., April 20th

Teen Poetry Wordplay
Itasca Library
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Learn about many types of poetry and create your own. For grades 6 - 12. Registration is required.

Wed., April 26th

Simple, Tasty Spring & Summer Meals
Itasca Library
7:00 p.m.

Join Chef Susan Maddox for this cooking demonstration and tasting. Registration is required.



Thurs., April 27th

Ladies Night Out: BINGO!
Itasca Library
7:00 p.m.

Bring items for the Itasca Food Pantry and win prizes! Hosted by Friends of the Library. Registration is required.

Sat. April 29th

Arbor Day Celebration
Springbrook Nature Center
10 a.m. - Noon

Join the Village and Park District at the Nature Center to celebrate Arbor Day. There will be several free activities and demonstrations available.

Wed., May 3rd

Organizing 101: Organizing Anything Anywhere
Itasca Library
7:00 p.m.

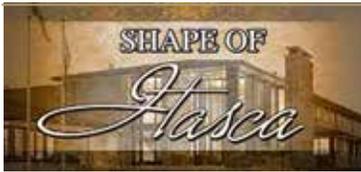
Learn how to be more organized from professional organizer Jennifer Barnes. Registration is required.

Sat., May 6th

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 on page 7.

Celebrate Our Community



Mon., May 8th

Shape of Itasca
Village of Itasca
7:00 p.m.

All are invited to attend this traditional town hall meeting, where leaders from each taxing body will be present to discuss their accomplishments and plans for the upcoming year.



Tues., May 9th

Teen Spa Night
Itasca Library
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Pamper yourself before finals and make DIY spa recipes. For Grades 6 - 12. Registration is required.



Sat., May 13th

Mother's Day Crafts
Itasca Library
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Stop in the library to make a craft for Mother's Day. No registration is needed.



Sat., May 20th

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.



Wed., May 24th

iPhone Basics
Itasca Library
7:00 p.m.

Come to the library for an introductory course to Apple's iPhone. Registration is required.



Mon., May 29th

Memorial Day Parade
Usher Park
9:30 a.m.

Join us for the annual Itasca Memorial Day Parade! A memorial service will be provided by V.F.W. Post #5167 and a picnic will follow the parade at Usher Park. Any group wishing to participate, please contact the Itasca Park District.

Green Day Recycling Event



The Village of Itasca will be hosting its annual Green Day recycling event thanks to a generous sponsorship from Itasca Bank & Trust, Co. The event will be held on Saturday, May 6th from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Public Works (411 N. Prospect Avenue). While we will be accepting electronic waste again this year, we will limit 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, foam, 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.

Fellowes, 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 or email byarbrough@itasca.com with any specific questions.

Arbor Day Celebration

First celebrated in Nebraska in 1872, Arbor Day was created to increase the planting of trees. Today, Arbor Day is celebrated worldwide and raises awareness of the social, ecological, and economic benefits that trees provide.

This year, celebrate Arbor Day by dedicating an existing tree in the Village Arboretum to a loved one. For more information or to download a tree dedication order form, please visit the Village's website or contact the Village's tree arborist, Kevin Farley, at kfarley@itasca.com.



Be sure to join the Village and Park District on Saturday, April 29th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Springbrook Nature Center. Mayor Prunyn will kick off the event with a reading of the Village's annual Arbor Day Proclamation, which will be followed by a small ceremony for any tree dedications.

Then enjoy making an Arbor Day craft and a tree climbing demonstration presented by Davey Tree Expert Company.

Itasca Garden Club Plant Sale

It is never too soon to start thinking of what you would like in your garden come summertime. Gardeners can get the growing season off to a good start



with a purchase from the Itasca Garden Club's plant sale, which will feature perennials, vegetables, and herbs. Preorder forms will be located at the Itasca Community Library and the Itasca Park District beginning in mid-March. Orders can be picked up on Saturday, May 20th. For more information, please call (630) 773-8518.

All plant material comes from Murphy's in Itasca.

Springbrook Boardwalk Replacement Project



You may have noticed in February that construction began on everyone's favorite walking spot, the Springbrook Nature Center Boardwalk. In partnership with the Park District, two sections of the

boardwalk are being replaced: the far southwest corner and the section behind the Itasca Waterpark that goes North and South. While we will attempt to keep the boardwalk open as much as possible, please watch for signage about potential closures.

This joint project is being funded by a Capital Museum Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that was awarded in 2022. Once construction ends in early May, residents will be able to enjoy the serene landscape of the boardwalk, which was beautifully captured in this photograph submitted by resident Eileen Skalski.

Be Aware & Park with Care - Sidewalk Parking Courtesy

Please remember maintaining access to sidewalks throughout our community ensures everyone can get around easily. Sidewalks blocked by vehicles can present problems to pedestrians, strollers, bicyclists, and people who rely on wheelchairs or motorized vehicles to get around, especially during the warmer months. As a result, residents may find themselves forced from the sidewalk and into the street.



Show your care, and park with care! Your neighbors will thank you for it.

Shark Tank Junior at the Library

Shark Tank Junior is back at the Itasca Community Library! After a three-year hiatus, this popular craft sale for kids and teens will be held on Saturday, March 25th, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Young entrepreneurs in grades 1 - 8 are invited to bring their businesses to the library for the Shark Tank Junior competition and craft sale. Sell your homemade jewelry, sewing projects, artwork, or craft items at your booth. Make a pitch to Itasca Bank & Trust Co. representatives, just like on the show Shark Tank. The bank will award the top booth(s) a cash prize. If you are interested in having a booth, an application must be submitted along with your registration by Friday, March 17th.



The library encourages community members of all ages to support Itasca's young entrepreneurs by coming to the craft sale to shop at their booths. See who will win this year's competition, and walk away with some fabulous homemade products!

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 readers to follow along with a story by walking.

The StoryWalk® this spring will feature Emily Gravett's picture book, *Tidy*. It will be at the loop next to the Springbrook Nature Center building beginning in early April. 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.

License Plate Renewal Services

Illinois residents can renew their license plate stickers at the Itasca Community Library and leave with their sticker on the same day. To renew your sticker, you must bring your Illinois vehicle registration renewal notice or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), driver's license number, and license plate number. Please see itascalibrary.org/services/license-plate-renewal or call the library at (630) 773-1699 for more details.



Rain Barrels

This spring, the Village will partner with the Conservation Foundation to provide Itasca residents an opportunity to purchase rain barrels at a reduced cost.

Rain barrels are a simple, efficient, low-cost method to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff from your property. Estimates indicate that a quarter inch of rain falling on an average home yields over 200 gallons of water. Rain barrels are simply large containers that capture stormwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost as runoff. Modern rain barrels are sealed, safe around children, and insect resistant – they can even be painted or decorated to your liking. You can divert water from your downspout to fill your rain barrel, and a hose spigot on the front makes the water easy to access and use.



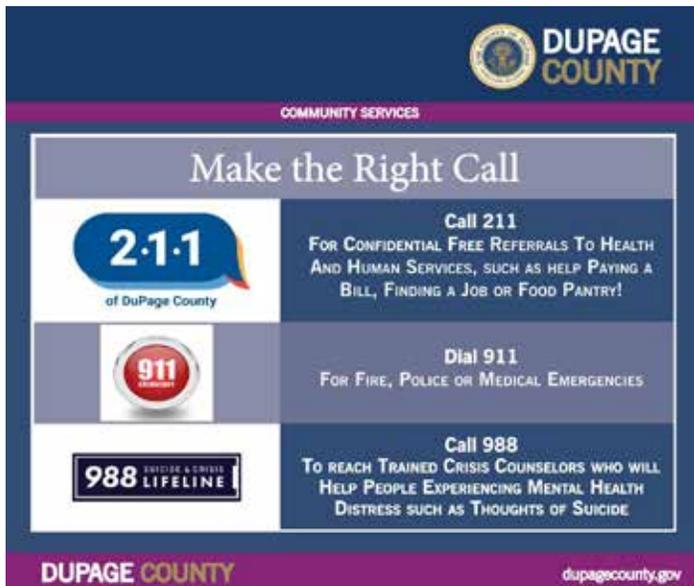
Rainwater doesn't contain chlorine, lime, or calcium which makes it ideal for watering your flowers and vegetable garden, or washing your car or windows. Even if you don't have an intended use for the water, emptying the rain barrel after a storm reduces the rate and volume of stormwater the sewer system and our rivers and streams have to manage at a peak time.

Order yours today and pick it up during the Village's Green day event on May 6th at the Itasca Public Works facility at 411 N. Prospect Ave. Please visit www.itasca.com for additional information.

Fun Fact: Around 40% of the total household water used during summer is for watering lawns and gardens. By using a rain barrel, you may notice a decrease in your water bills!

DuPage County Services

The Itasca Police Department wants you to be aware of these DuPage County services and their numbers, should you ever have a need.



DUPAGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Make the Right Call

 of DuPage County	Call 211 FOR CONFIDENTIAL FREE REFERRALS TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, SUCH AS HELP PAYING A BILL, FINDING A JOB OR FOOD PANTRY!
	Dial 911 FOR FIRE, POLICE OR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES
	Call 988 TO REACH TRAINED CRISIS COUNSELORS WHO WILL HELP PEOPLE EXPERIENCING MENTAL HEALTH DISTRESS SUCH AS THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE

DUPAGE COUNTY dupagecounty.gov

Roadway and Infrastructure Improvements

In its ongoing effort to improve the community's stormwater drainage and main water conditions, this spring, the Village of Itasca will be commencing Phase 2 of the Roadway and Infrastructure Improvements project.

Similar to the initial phase completed in 2022, this project will consist of the installation of a new storm sewer and the replacement of a water main along Center Street from Catalpa Ave. to Maple Ave., Oak Street from the Railroad tracks to North Street, Maple Ave. from Center St. to North St., Division St. from Oak St. to Maple St., Elm St. from North St. to Bryn Mawr Ave., North St. from Elm St. to Rush St., and Linden St. from Division St. to North St; and storm sewer along North St. from Willow St. to Oak St.



Not only will this improve drainage, installation of the storm sewer will allow for the urbanization of the streets within this area. Urbanization involves the addition of curb and gutters, which help collect and guide stormwater runoff. During Phase 2, curbs and gutters will be installed along Center Street from Willow St. to Maple Ave., Oak Street from the Railroad tracks to North Street, Maple Ave. from Center St. to North St., Division St. from Oak St. to Maple St., Elm St. from North St. to Bryn Mawr Ave., North St. from Elm St. to Rush St., and Linden St. from Division St. to North St.

The Village will be holding an Open House on Saturday, March 18th from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at Village Hall, to allow residents an opportunity to view the plans, ask questions, and discuss the project with the design team, contractor, and Village staff.

Spring Cover Photo

Hanging at Hamilton Lakes



This edition's cover photo was submitted by photographer Katie Sisk, who took this photo of the fountain at Hamilton Lakes Business Park. From this picture, it is no wonder why so many businesses like the

Westin, NTT Data, American Pediatric, Flexera, and Canon call the business park home.

If you, like Katie, 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, along with details of who/what the photograph is of, when it was taken, and its meaning.

Water Meter Replacement and AMI Program

Beginning this spring, the Village will be replacing all of its residential and business water meters, as well as modernizing its infrastructure to an Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI).

Through the new meters and AMI System, data will automatically transmit wirelessly and eliminate the need for Village staff to read each meter at the beginning of the month manually. Additionally, with the integration of an AMI system, the Village will be able to prevent reading errors and create more accurate reading periods, resulting in more consistent billing.

Why is Itasca installing and modernizing our water meter system?

Water meters across the Village have approached the American Water Works Association's recommended lifecycle. As the current mechanical water meters age, they may slow down, and their accuracy in registering water consumption decreases. The planned water meter modernization will replace all water meters in the Village to achieve technological and customer service benefits. This meter replacement project is one of many projects that the Village is investing in to provide safe, reliable water and wastewater service for current and future generations.

Do you have to enter my home/business to change my meter?

Yes. Due to freezing temperatures in the winter, all meters must be installed inside. Most homes also have a device for remote reading access on the outside of their homes, which will also be changed as part of this project.

Once the program is awarded, the Village will begin contacting residents and business owners to schedule appointments to replace their water meters and the radio transmitters. The work will unfortunately require an interruption of water service for a short period of time.

Please visit www.itasca.com - Public Works - Active Projects tab for more information.

Go Green! Sign Up for Paperless Water Bills

Residents are encouraged to sign up to receive their water bills electronically. Visit www.itasca.com and click on "Water Bill Payments." The site offers payment by credit/debit cards and checking/savings accounts. If you register your account, you will have the option to sign up for paperless billing and enroll in auto pay. You will need your account number to register. Automatic bill pay is FREE and reduces your time by eliminating the need for postage, checking writing, and worrying about due dates. To register for automatic pay, please visit www.itasca.com.



Because minor water leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has declared March 20 - 26th as Fix a Leak Week.

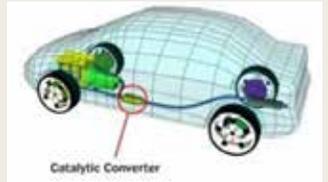
Sponsored by the EPA's WaterSense® program as part of the We're for Water campaign, this week is an opportunity to improve the water efficiency of your home by finding and fixing leaks. In an average home, household leaks waste more than 10,000 gallons of water each year. That's enough to wash nearly 10 months' worth of laundry!

Here's how to identify and fix leaks around your home:

- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- Search for toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl without flushing first, you have a leak.
- Be a leak detective. Look for dripping faucets, shower heads, and fixture connections.

Safety Tips to Reduce the Risk of Catalytic Converter Theft

Catalytic converter thefts continue to occur in Itasca and surrounding towns. Catalytic converters are stolen because they are valuable for metal scrapping. Please remember the following tips to avoid being a victim:



- Park in well-lit areas, close to building entrances that others can easily see.
- If you have a garage, park your car inside and keep the garage door shut.
- Catalytic converters are typically removed with power saws, so be aware if you hear a power saw in the middle of the night.
- Consider installing a catalytic converter protection device.

If you see a theft in progress, do NOT confront the offender(s). Please call 9-1-1 immediately.

Real ID Deadline Extended

The federal Real ID deadline has been extended for an additional two years. With this extension, current standard Illinois driver's licenses or ID cards will continue to be accepted at airports for domestic air travel until May 7th, 2025.

Yard Waste Collection



Yard waste and brush pickup will begin on Monday, April 3rd. 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 1st 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.

Holidays Impacting Refuse

The following holidays will impact refuse and recycling pick-up:

- **Memorial Day** – 5/29
- **Labor Day** – 9/4
- **Christmas Day** - 12/25

Refuse will be picked up on Tuesday instead of Monday.

Itasca 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 looking forward to having a blast with friends and enjoying an action-packed summer. The district has been

busy planning several activities for their campers to enjoy, such as arts & crafts, sports, visits to the Itasca Waterpark, nature-based activities, and field trips! Summer Camps are available for children ages 3 to 14 years old. Check out all their camps online at www.itascaparkdistrict.com.

Street Sweeping Schedule

To keep our streets clean and prevent the buildup of debris, leaves, and other items that can clog sewers, the Village regularly performs street sweeping. Street sweeping is done throughout the year but most frequently is performed in the spring to clean up the roads from the winter months and in the fall to remove leaves from the roadway that can clog stormwater inlets and other structures.

Sweeping also helps remove garbage and debris that might otherwise be allowed to enter lakes and rivers. This helps improve the quality of the Village's stormwater runoff, thereby improving the quality of local waterways.

Village-wide street sweeping will commence during March and occur during the weeks listed below.



2023 Sweeping Schedule (Week of)

3/12/2023	7/4/2023	10/16/2023
3/27/2023	8/7/2023	10/30/2023
4/10/2023	8/21/2023	11/6/2023
4/24/2023	9/11/2023	11/20/2023
5/15/2023	10/2/2023	12/11/2023
6/5/2023		

Itasca Park District Early Childhood Programs



Registration is now open for the Itasca Park District's Early Childhood Education Program for the 2023 - 2024 school! The Park District is now accepting registration for their 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, and science activities, along with daily small group work at the Rec Center & Springbrook Nature Center. Their highly qualified teaching staff provides their students with a safe, nurturing, and fun format for learning.

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

Mayor

Jeff Pruyn

Village Clerk

Jody Conidi

Trustees

Jeff Aiani

Brendan Daly

Dino Gavanis

Ellen Leahy

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.

Itasca, IL 60143

(630) 773-0835

www.itasca.com

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**What is the Updated
Illinois Smoke Alarm Law?**

Effective January 1st, 2023, a new Illinois law went into effect that requires residents to replace their old smoke alarms with an alarm that has a long-term, non-removable, 10-year sealed battery.

Smoke alarms in single or multi-family homes before January 1st, 2023, may remain in place until they exceed 10 years from their manufactured date, fail to respond to operability tests, or otherwise malfunction.

Most local hardware and home improvement stores sell 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms. For additional information or possible exemptions from the law, please visit www.IFSA.org/smoke-alarm-law.

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



Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Monday:

No Meetings Scheduled

Tuesday:

1st Tuesday - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.*

3rd Tuesday - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.*

Wednesday:

3rd Wednesday - Plan Commission - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday:

3rd Thursday - Historical Commission - 7:00 p.m.

Friday:

No Meetings Scheduled

*Committee of the Whole immediately after