



Committed to our future.  
Inspired by our past.

Photo – Submitted by  
Joe Kupfer,  
Oktoberfest 5k run (p4)

# The Village News



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## Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

As the crisp autumn air settles in, it's hard to believe that our summer of fun is coming to a close. This season has been truly remarkable, filled with numerous achievements and successful events.

Both our Fourth of July celebration and ItascaFest exceeded all expectations, drawing more attendees than we've seen in years. These festivals play a vital role in fostering a unique bond among neighbors and friends, strengthening our sense of community.

Reflecting on these events, I am reminded that every success owes its credit to a dedicated team working tirelessly to ensure smooth execution. My sincere thanks goes to Hamilton Partners for their partnership during the Fourth of July celebration. I would also like to acknowledge the Itasca Lions Club for their steadfast support throughout various events like ItascaFest and National Night Out. Their contributions have played an integral role in the ongoing success of these events over the years. I also want to express my gratitude to our staff who have invested hours into planning and executing these events.

Successful events have a profound impact on our community, not only uplifting community spirit but also driving our community's economic prosperity. These gatherings draw out visitors and generate revenue that bolsters Village services. Yet, achieving these milestones wouldn't be feasible without the support of residents and local businesses.

During our larger-scale events, businesses frequently adjust their operations to accommodate street closures or event-specific requirements. Additionally, they often provide resources and financial support to enhance the overall event experience. This year, we're thankful for contributions from entities such as Itasca Bank & Trust Co., Hamilton Partners, USA Bouquet, Panos Foods, Robinson Engineering, Fellowes, and Willy Wonka. I also want to acknowledge and thank the residents who experience increased traffic due to our festivals. Your patience and understanding are sincerely valued and play a crucial role in enhancing the positive atmosphere of our community.

Maintaining strong community bonds is important to me. That's why I encouraged Village staff to work with the Park District to enhance Usher Park. Although the park has served our community well over the past three decades, its main amenity – the central gazebo – is past its useful life and in need of replacement. Rather than just replacing what's old, the

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## Mayor's Message Continued...

time has come to invigorate and elevate the park's functionality in alignment with the evolving needs of our residents.

Throughout recent community workshops, residents have expressed their aspirations for a more inclusive and inviting space – a place that truly facilitates connections. Together, the Park District and Village are submitting a grant application. If awarded, our plans will include rebuilding the aging gazebo, with a dual-purpose gazebo/gathering space for events like concerts in the park and Winter Wonderland. We will also upgrade walkways making it easier for strollers and wheelchairs to traverse the site. Plans also include creating a new access gateway at the northeast corner and a naturalized play space for children in the tree garden. Your valuable input will be essential to the success of this venture,

so please stay tuned to our website and social media channels for updates on the grant's progress and avenues to provide further feedback.

As I wrap up this message, I invite all of you to join us at our upcoming events. On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> after Oktoberfest, all residents are invited to join us for Family Fun Day at Washington Park. This event is an opportunity to meet various officials from the Village and other governmental bodies and discover why Itasca is a special place to call home. For more information on this event and others, check out pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you around town and creating more meaningful memories together.

## Administrator's Message

Who else got whiplash watching summer fly by this year? I certainly did.

Summer brought some big changes to our little downtown, so this month, I'd like to use this space to give you a bit of an update on how the Village is working with its partners, developers, and businesses to bring the 2022 Downtown Plan to life.

First, the Village is excited to welcome Fulla Beans to town. As part of the Village's vision to breathe new life into the vacant parcel, the Village bought the property in 2022. After an extensive and open process to identify potential businesses, the Village Board approved a lease for Fulla Beans.

Fulla Beans serves coffee, sandwiches, salads, shakes and pastries. The menu reflects many of the desires expressed by the community. Their success depends on YOU...so make sure to visit, invite friends from surrounding towns, and let the staff know how you like it.

This spring, the Village Board also approved looking into transforming Gigi Gruber Lane (in front of Full of Beans) into flexible outdoor gathering space. This suggestion was made in the Downtown Plan as a potentially better use for the space.

Unfortunately, the time finally came for Mr. and Mrs. Kean to hang up their aprons and retire. And boy did you show up to let them know how you will miss them. I still can't find a comparable pecan coffee cake!

While we were sad to see Kean's go, the Village understands

the importance of these key businesses and is committed to seeing the site redeveloped. That's why the Village entered into an agreement with the Kean's to purchase the property several years ago. This fall, the Village will launch another open public process to identify potential businesses interested in redeveloping this space – similar to the process used for Fulla Beans. Village Board and staff are committed to attracting a development that compliments the vision set forth in the Downtown Plan.

Embracing change is not always easy, but it is essential for growth and progress. The Village's recent decision in May to establish its first Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District exemplifies the Village's commitment to transformative initiatives. Villages such as Elmhurst, Bloomingdale, Roselle, and Arlington Heights all have adopted TIFs to help transform their towns. This milestone has already unlocked exciting new prospects and is enabling exciting new development.

For example, the Village has been talking with Holladay Properties about developing in downtown Itasca for several years. The approval of the TIF District paved the way for Holladay to move forward its plans to build Itasca Station, a five-story luxury apartment building featuring first-floor commercial space at the corner of Orchard Street and Maple Street. This project reflects the vision set forth in the 2022 Strategic Plan.

As you can see, the Downtown Plan is more than just a document on our shelves. Shaped by your input and ideas, it serves as the guiding force behind our endeavors to create a vibrant and thriving community. It stands as a testament to the collective aspirations and visions of our residents, and serves as our blueprint, aligning our goals and ensuring that our community evolves to reflect your dreams for the future.



Carrie Anne Ergo



## Embracing Fall's Tranquility



As the cooling fall weather sets in, it's a wonderful time to relish the refreshingly cool breezes that sweep through the neighborhood. Many of us enjoy keeping our windows open to let in the crisp air and savor the ambiance of the season. However, to fully appreciate this experience, we must all take steps to ensure everyone's peace and tranquility. There are two local laws that aid in this regard.

One of the regulations pertains to construction noise, which should be limited to specific hours. If you're planning any construction work at home, please remember that noisy activities are permitted between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays (Monday through Friday). On weekends (Saturday and Sunday) and holidays, construction noise should be restricted to 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. This allows everyone to enjoy the calmness of the fall season without disruptions during the quieter hours of the day.

Another important reminder concerns the disposal of refuse, recycling, and yard waste. To maintain a tidy and organized neighborhood, please remember that recycling, yard waste, and garbage should not be put out before 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. Additionally, all carts used for waste collection should be removed from the curb by 10:00 p.m. on pick-up day. This thoughtful practice ensures that our streets remain clear and accessible during the evening, offering convenience and safety to all residents. Let's work together to preserve the serenity of our community during this beautiful time of year.

## Smart Water Meter Update

Recently, the Village of Itasca launched the Water Meter Replacement Program with the aim of modernizing the existing metering system. The program involves the installation of state-of-the-art "smart" metering technology in all residential and commercial properties, bringing significant improvements to water management, consumption monitoring, and customer service.



Approximately 1-2 weeks prior to your meter replacement, you will receive additional communications from the Village requesting that you call to schedule your meter replacement. The installation

## Yard Waste & Brush Collection

As the leaves start to drop, now is the perfect time to take advantage of the Village's free brush and yard waste program. When clearing out seasonal brush, please keep the following guidelines in mind:



- Place yard waste in biodegradable paper bags or a reusable container not exceeding 34 gallons, clearly marked as "Yard Waste," and ensure it weighs no more than 50 pounds.
- Brush pick-up occurs every Monday. If you need brush disposal at other times, contact a landscaper for removal.
- Bundle brush using biodegradable twine, with each bundle not exceeding 50 pounds. Arrange the bundles neatly with cut ends facing the street and place them on the parkway for collection.
- Branches and limbs can be up to 6 inches in diameter and no longer than 4 feet. Larger branches and tree trunks should be handled by homeowners.
- Avoid placing refuse, recycling, and brush/yard waste at the curb before 4:00 p.m. on the Sunday before trash pick-up. Remember to remove these items from the curb by 10:00 p.m. on the designated pick-up day.

Alternatively, residents can dispose of yard waste in the following ways:

- Start a compost pile or add leaves to an existing one. Composted leaves and other organic materials are excellent resources for fertilizing your garden during the summer months.
- Utilize a mulching mower to chop leaves into smaller pieces that decompose directly on lawns. The resulting leaf pieces can also be collected and spread around flowerbeds and shrubs as mulch.
- If on-site recycling is not feasible, residents may bring leaves to DuPage Yard Waste (1195 W. Washington St., West Chicago) for a fee.

Please keep in mind that the last day for collection will be Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. After that, the collection of yard waste will resume in April. Please refrain from raking leaves into the street, as they will not be picked up by Republic Service or the street sweeper.

will take approximately 30 minutes during which time your water service will be interrupted. Please be advised that the installers must have access to your water meter, which is most likely located in your basement or crawlspace.

The Village appreciates your patience and cooperation during this important and mandatory program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Village of Itasca Public Works Department at (630) 773-2455. For additional information please visit the Village of Itasca website at [www.itasca.com/2182/Water-Meter-and-AMI-Project](http://www.itasca.com/2182/Water-Meter-and-AMI-Project).

## On the Same Page

Each October, the Itasca Community Library partners with Bloomingdale Public Library and Roselle Public Library District for **On the Same Page**, a community reading event. This year, read *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro. Programs and book discussions based on the book are held in October at each of the three libraries. You can receive a free copy of the book to keep if you sign up for October's Beyond the Library book discussion or stop by the Adult Desk beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> (while supplies last). A complete list of programs can be found in the library's fall newsletter. To register for a program at Itasca Community Library, visit [www.italibrary.org](http://www.italibrary.org) or call (630) 773-1699. To register for a program at Bloomingdale Public Library, go to [www.mybpl.org](http://www.mybpl.org) or call (630) 529-3120. To register for a program at Roselle Public Library District, go to [www.rosellepld.org](http://www.rosellepld.org) or call (630) 529-1641.

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**PAGE**  
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## Fitness Center Revitalization



You are invited to check out the newly renovated Itasca Fitness Center. The fitness center recently underwent a revitalization project that included installing 28 new pieces of fitness equipment, constructing a new weight area floor, and refurbishing the wood gym floor.

## New VanGo Program

The Village is excited to announce that it has partnered with Pace to launch VanGo, a new transportation program in Itasca. Launching later this fall, it will replace the suspended Pace Bus Route 616, offering a flexible and eco-friendly alternative for riders with adaptable work schedules. Two vans, provided by Pace, will be stationed at the Village's North Metra lot. Commuters can reserve and drive these Pace-owned vans within a designated geographic boundary for their work commute. To participate, commuters will need to sign up as either a driver or passenger at Pace's website, and pay a \$5 reservation fee for the following day's commute on any weekday. For more information, visit: <https://www.pacebus.com/vango>.



## Passport Services at the Itasca Community Library



Are you considering winter travel and need passports for yourself or the kids? Look no further than the library, which serves as a Passport Acceptance Facility. You can schedule appointments for passport applications anytime a passport agent is available, up to one hour before closing. To make an appointment online, visit [www.italibrary.org/services/passports](http://www.italibrary.org/services/passports). If you have additional questions, you can call the library or email [passports@italibrary.org](mailto:passports@italibrary.org).

Mark your calendar for the Passport Fair on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. During this event, you can apply for a passport, pick up forms, or inquire about the process without needing an appointment. Just make sure you have the required I.D.s, photos, and paperwork, and let the passport agents handle the rest. For more information, call the library at (630) 773-1699. Get ready for your winter adventures hassle-free with the help of the library's passport services!

## Fall Cover Photo

### Running with the Itasca Runners Club



The cover photo for this edition was submitted by resident Joe Kupfer, perfectly capturing the spirit of Oktoberfest. If you're interested in participating in this exciting 5k run on Saturday, September

9<sup>th</sup>, be sure to register at the Itasca Runners Club website: [www.italascaoktoberfast5k.org/](http://www.italascaoktoberfast5k.org/). It's a fantastic opportunity to challenge yourself, have fun, and be part of the community's spirit. If you've never run/walked the race before, now is your chance to experience the excitement.

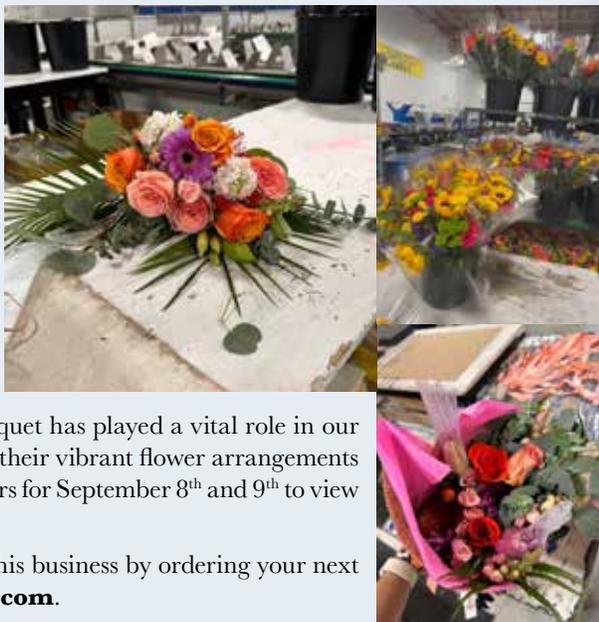
Additionally, if you have a great photo that represents life in Itasca and would like to see it featured in our newsletter, please submit it to [deputyclerk@itasca.com](mailto:deputyclerk@itasca.com). Include details about the photograph, such as who/what it depicts, when it was taken, and its significance. We would love to showcase the beauty and life of our community through your lens!

# Business Spotlight

This season, discover USA Bouquet, a locally rooted establishment in our community. With a history of delivering exceptional floral services, USA Bouquet has been creating wedding arrangements and sympathy flowers for residents and businesses since 2001.

Additionally, for the past 15 years, USA Bouquet has played a vital role in our Oktoberfest tradition by generously donating their vibrant flower arrangements to the event. Don't forget to mark your calendars for September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to view their creations in person.

Please join us in celebrating and supporting this business by ordering your next token of affection from them at [www.usabq.com](http://www.usabq.com).



*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](https://twitter.com/ItascaMeans)  
and on Facebook:  
[Itasca Means Business](https://www.facebook.com/ItascaMeansBusiness)*

The Village of Itasca is proud of its business community and being a premier destination for all types of businesses. Join us in extending a warm welcome to the following companies who received Village Board approval to operate in our town:

### **Crown Cars & Limousines - 115 N. Prospect Ave.**

The Village warmly welcomes Crown Cars & Limousines, Chicago's premier car service and limousine company. This woman-owned business holds the distinction of being Chicago's sole, green-certified transportation company. Renowned for its unwavering commitment to safety and punctuality, Crown Cars & Limousines offers convenient access from O'Hare Airport and serves the city with regular service from Midway and beyond. Customers can effortlessly book their rides online or by phone, enjoying the flexibility of both pre-arranged and last-minute "ASAP" reservations. To learn more about their exceptional services, visit their website at: [www.cclimo.com](http://www.cclimo.com).

### **Global Cold Chain Solutions - 1434 W. Thorndale Ave.**

Global Cold Chain Solutions is a specialist in crafting tailor-made temperature-controlled packing boxes. These boxes are engineered to maintain precise temperature conditions, guaranteeing the secure transport of temperature-sensitive items like pharmaceuticals, biotechnology products, and perishable foods worldwide. Their cold chain logistics expertise enables them to offer dependable solutions that cater to the distinct needs of diverse industries. For more information on their products, visit [www.globalcoldchain.com](http://www.globalcoldchain.com).

### **M Squared Engineering - 500 Park Blvd.**

M Squared Engineering, is a small business civil engineering firm, that has been providing expert services to clients throughout the Midwest since 2003. Recently relocated to Itasca, their team offers comprehensive services, including land development, site planning, transportation engineering, and water resources management. They prioritize safety, sustainability, and innovation to meet clients' needs, budgets, and timelines. For more details, visit [www.msquaredengineering.com](http://www.msquaredengineering.com).

## Itasca Station Approved in the New TIF District

The Downtown North Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District was established in May 2023 to encourage investment and promote redevelopment in downtown Itasca. Encompassing around 36 acres, this TIF District is strategically centered around the METRA Commuter Rail Station and Irving Park Road, a commercial corridor that anchors the Village's activities.



The Village Board approved the first significant project, Itasca Station, on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This impressive 5-story mixed-use building will boast 87 apartment units, a first-floor restaurant, and a second-floor speculative tenant space. Situated in a prime location, Itasca Station will become a dynamic community hub and a popular gathering place for current and future Itasca residents.

Currently, Community Development is collaborating with Holladay Properties to draft a developers agreement and handle permit submittals for the project. This marks a significant step forward in bringing the exciting vision of Itasca Station to life and contributing to the ongoing development of downtown Itasca.

# Celebrate Our Community

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



**Fri., September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Oktoberfest**  
Washington Park  
5:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Celebrate Oktoberfest with us! Enjoy traditional German food, live music, and exciting activities for the whole family. Join the festivities and raise your steins to a fun-filled event! Prost!



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

**Oktoberfest**  
W. Grove Street  
9:00 a.m.

Get into the Oktoberfest spirit by signing up for the Itasca Runners Club annual 5k run, Oktoberfest. If running isn't your thing, your cheers and support along the route are always welcomed.



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

**Oktoberfest**  
Washington Park  
3:00 – 10:30 p.m.

Celebrate Oktoberfest with us! Enjoy traditional German food, live music, and exciting activities for the whole family. Join the festivities and raise your steins to a fun-filled event! Prost!



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

**Family Fun Day**  
Washington Park  
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Join us for a family-style picnic with games and activities for all ages. Make lasting connections at this fun-filled event. Don't miss out!



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

**Blood Drive**  
Library  
2:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Give blood, save lives, and strengthen your community. Ages 17 or older may register to donate.



**Sat., September 16<sup>th</sup>**

**.5K Beer & Donut**  
Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Experience a laid-back style race at the Bird Sanctuary, enjoying donuts and beer from Church Street Brewery while circling the 1/3-mile path. Pre-registration is required through the Park District.



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

**Leslie Goddard Presents:**  
**Julia Child**  
Library  
7:00 p.m.

Actress and scholar Leslie Goddard brings the iconic French Chef to life in this portrayal. Registration is required.



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

**The Science of Sports**  
Library  
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Explore how different sports work through simple physics lessons and activities. For grades 3-6. Registration is required.



**Thurs., September 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

Friends of the Itasca Community Library are hosting BINGO to benefit the Itasca Food Pantry. Registration is required.



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

**Bonfire & Brews**  
Itasca Nature Center  
7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Join the Park District for a night of beer tasting around a bonfire at the Nature Center. The price includes four beer tastings and a s'mores kit. Yard games will be available. 21+ over event.



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

**Coffee with the Mayor**  
320 W. Irving Park Rd.  
9:00 a.m.

Join the Mayor for a special Coffee with the Mayor event at Cue Billiards. Engage in casual conversation and share your thoughts. Don't miss this unique opportunity!



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

**F.D. Open House**  
Itasca Fire House  
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Come and be a part of the Fire District's free Open House event at 520 W. Irving Park Rd. Join them for demos, station tours, food, a bounce house, and much more. All are welcome to attend!



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

**Paranormal Illinois**  
Library  
7:00 p.m.

Chad Lewis covers the entire spectrum of Illinois' supernatural activity in this eerie presentation. Registration is required.



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

**Itasca Halloween Celebration**  
Washington Park  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join us for Halloween fun! The Itasca Park District and Village of Itasca invite your family to an afternoon of activities. Enjoy free pony rides, a bounce house, games, pumpkin decorating, and more.



**Mon., October 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Gary Kantor Magic Show**  
Library  
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Spend your day off school watching a thrilling and entertaining magic show by Gary Kantor! For all ages. Registration is required.



**Sat., October 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Trick or Treat Trail!**  
Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary  
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Children, along with their parents, can enjoy walking the trail around the Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary while receiving candy and other goodies. This is guaranteed to be scary-free fun!

# Celebrate Our Community



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

## Haunted Trail

Itasca Softball Complex  
6:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Prepare for a spine-chilling experience as your guide leads you through the 1/3-mile loop. Family hour is from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., active scaring is from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Tickets available onsite.



**Sun., October 29<sup>th</sup>**

## Owl-O-Ween

Springbrook Nature Center  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Wings and Talons will be hosting their annual free Owl-o-ween celebration! Meet the resident owls at Springbrook Nature Center and learn how they survive in our local ecosystem.



**Tues., October 31<sup>st</sup>**

## Halloween Hours

Village-wide  
3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Trick-or-treaters, get ready for Halloween fun! Don't miss out on trick-or-treating from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Have a safe and spooktacular time collecting treats!



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

## Pumpkin Smash Event

Public Works Facility  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Don't trash it; smash it. The Village of Itasca will be accepting pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns of all sizes for composting at the Public Works Garage.



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

## Daddy Daughter Dance

Itasca Rec Center  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Dads and daughters will cherish dancing the night away at the Daddy Daughter Dance! Enjoy dancing, desserts, crafts, and more during this magical night. Pre-registration is required.



**Thurs., November 16<sup>th</sup>**

## Young Authors Club

Library  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Are you interested in creative writing? Join the Young Authors Club for tweens/teens in grades 6-12. Registration is required.



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

## Crosstown Exotics Traveling Reptile & Bug Show

Library  
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Watch an amazing hands-on reptile and bug show presented by Crosstown Exotics. For all ages. Registration is required.



**Tues., November 21<sup>st</sup>**

## Drop-In Beaded Bracelets

Library  
9:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Stop by the library to make your own beaded bracelet. For kids/teens of all ages. No registration is needed.



**Sun., November 26<sup>th</sup>**

## Holiday Lighting

Usher Park  
4:00 p.m.

Winter Wonderland will be returning to Usher Park! Celebrate the holidays with themed activities, dazzling lights, and joyful festivities. Start the season right with our annual holiday lighting ceremony at the park.



**Mon., November 27<sup>th</sup>**

## Sonic the Hedgehog Spectacular

Library  
4:15 – 5:15 p.m.

Sonic the Hedgehog fans can come to the library for games, an obstacle course, and more! For grades 2-6. Registration is required.

## Fire District Open House



The Itasca Fire Protection District is excited to host their annual Open House event on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event will be at their firehouse station located at 520 W. Irving Park Road. There will be demonstrations, education opportunities, and tours of the station and vehicles. There will also be food and drinks, blood pressure checks for adults, a bounce house, a Kiddie Kombat Challenge for the children, and much more! This event is free of charge, and all are welcome to attend!

## Family Fun Day

Mark your calendars and gather the whole family for a memorable Family Fun Day at Washington Park on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Join us for a relaxed day of fun, food, and games. All residents are invited to attend this event to meet the Mayor and the other community partners. The Village of Itasca, Itasca Park District, Itasca Community Library, Itasca Fire District, and Itasca Parent Teacher Organization District 10 are proudly sponsoring this event. See you there!

## Oktoberfest



Join us for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Itasca Oktoberfest event at Washington Park on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>! This family-friendly event offers FREE admission and parking, ensuring a fun-filled time for everyone. Check out the schedule below for more details:

### Event Schedule:

- Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
  - Witness the exciting Tapping of the first keg with Mayor Pruyn.
  - Enjoy the lively tunes of Euro Express from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
  - Delight in the musical performances of Happy Wanderers Band from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  - Experience the energetic vibes of Alpine Thunder from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

### Indulge in Authentic German Food:

Renate's German Restaurant will be preparing a mouthwatering selection of traditional German dishes, including:

- Spaetzle
- Schnitzel
- Wurst
- Pork Roast
- Sauerkraut

### Support a Worthy Cause:

Contribute to the community by purchasing German Hats for \$3.00 each. All proceeds support the Itasca Walk-In Ministry and Food Pantry.



## Halloween Hours

Witches, ghosts, and goblins are preparing to haunt Itasca this Halloween. To join in the spooky fun, trick-or-treaters are advised to hit the streets between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Safety is a priority, so the Village recommends the following guidelines to ensure a spooktacular and safe Halloween for all:



### For Trick-or-Treaters:

- *Keep those hands clean:* Before and after trick-or-treating, wash your hands, and bring hand sanitizer for use during the outing.
- *Healthy habits:* Stay home if you're feeling under the weather to protect yourself and others.
- *Shining bright:* Make costumes and treat bags stand out with reflective tape or stickers, and opt for light colors if possible.
- *Stay connected and vigilant:* Carry a cell phone or partner up with someone who has one for easy communication.
- *Plan your path:* Choose a safe route, avoiding alleys, unlit areas, and backyards.
- *Be cautious of vehicles turning or backing up as you navigate the streets.* Always remember to establish eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.

### For Homeowners:

- *Eerie etiquette:* If participating in trick-or-treating, illuminate your home by turning ON the front porch/outdoor lights. Conversely, turn OFF lights if you won't be handing out candy.
- *Health first:* Refrain from handing out treats if you feel unwell.
- *Clear the way:* Remove any objects that could cause trips or slips from walkways and patios.



## Outdoor Courts Update

In the midst of ongoing road work, the Park District is also actively enhancing our town. Franzen Park has undergone recent renovations, adding two pickleball courts and a tennis court that are now ready for action. Meanwhile, Benson Park is currently undergoing construction of their courts. Come witness the transformation firsthand and fully enjoy our community's improved recreational areas!



## Pumpkin Smash Event

Join us for a memorable and eco-friendly celebration at the Itasca Pumpkin Smash Event on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>! The fun-filled event will be held at the Itasca Public Works complex located at 411 N. Prospect Ave., from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### **What is the Pumpkin Smash?**

The Pumpkin Smash is not your average post-Halloween gathering; it's a community-driven initiative with a mission. Our goal is to responsibly return nutrients to the earth by diverting pumpkins from landfills. Instead of tossing away those jack-o-lanterns, we provide a convenient drop-off location for residents to compost them. This eco-friendly spectacle unfolds each year on the Saturday following Halloween, bringing together the community for a day of eco-conscious fun.

### **Why Keep Pumpkins Out of the Landfill?**

Let's uncover the compelling reasons why pumpkins deserve better than landfills:

- *Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions:* Landfills can be notorious greenhouse gas factories, with methane being a significant culprit. By composting pumpkins, we're taking a stand against these harmful emissions and contributing to a healthier, cleaner environment.
- *Creating Nutrient-Dense Soil:* The magic of composting turns pumpkins into a valuable soil amendment, rich in nutrients. Our nutrient-dense compost will work wonders for local gardens and green spaces, ensuring a bountiful and thriving landscape.



- *Preserving Resources:* Pumpkins are a treasure trove of water, comprising approximately 90% of their weight. Rather than wasting this valuable resource in landfills, composting allows us to return it to the earth, nurturing the soil for future growth and prosperity.

To participate in this program, please clean your pumpkins and remove any candles, yarn, stickers, or other decorations before dropping them off.

If you would like to contribute even more, consider volunteering by contacting Public Works Superintendent Brian Yarbrough at [bryarbrough@itasca.com](mailto:bryarbrough@itasca.com).

## Road Construction Update

Although the weather is turning cooler, road construction remains in full swing, with three major road construction projects currently underway:

### **Roadway and Infrastructure Improvements – Phase 2:**

The Village's contractor, John Neri Construction Company, Inc., has been making remarkable progress, taking advantage of favorable weather conditions. All underground improvements have been completed, including approximately 1.1 miles of new water main, 1.5 miles of new storm sewer, and upgrades to certain sanitary sewers in the project area. Many streets in the project area now boast new curbs and gutters and have an asphalt binder course in place. Additionally, Peacock School received some notable enhancements, including a new drop-off lane, front entrance sidewalk, and repaired lighting, leading to a more efficient and controlled drop-off experience. The final stages of construction are in progress, with substantial completion expected by mid-November, with finishing touches wrapping up by mid-December.

### **2023 Street Maintenance Program:**

In July, the Village awarded its 2023 Street Maintenance program to Schroeder Asphalt Services, Inc. This year's maintenance efforts focus on Village-wide pavement patching and crack sealing, along with resurfacing specific streets such as S. Walnut Street, Line

Street, Bloomingdale Road (near Irving Park Road), and S. Oak Street. The project is in full swing, with completion anticipated by the end of October. Our commitment to ongoing maintenance ensures the longevity of our roadways while minimizing the need for full reconstructions.

### **Devon/Park/Pierce Intersection Improvements:**

Significant improvements are also occurring at the Devon/Park/Pierce intersections. The contractor, A-Lamp Concrete Construction, Inc., has initiated construction on increased turn lanes along Park Boulevard and Devon Avenue, along with traffic signal modernization. A multi-use path will also be installed along Park Boulevard from Pierce Road to Devon Avenue and along Devon Avenue from Park Boulevard to the bridge over I-290. These improvements will significantly benefit the Hamilton Lakes Business complex, with a future plan to extend the multi-use path from Park Boulevard to Hamilton Lakes Drive along the north side of Pierce Road.

We appreciate your understanding and patience during the temporary inconveniences caused by road construction, as we know these disruptions can be frustrating. However, rest assured that the improvements will be well worth the temporary inconvenience in the long run.

## School Zone Safety

As we approach the start of the new school year, the Police Department reminds everyone to exercise extra caution while driving near school zones. After enjoying a three-month break, it is important for students, parents, and drivers to relearn procedures for safely dropping off and picking up students.



To ensure the safety of children and vehicles, crossing guards will be stationed to direct traffic and pedestrians. Your cooperation in following the guard's signals is appreciated, as they play a vital role in ensuring the well-being of all.

Additionally, the Village has placed "no parking during school hours" signs on Catalpa and Bryn Mawr near Franzen and on Washington and Elm near Benson School. These signs are meant to provide school buses with the necessary space to make turns and navigate the roadways in those areas. Please respect the signs, as they help keep the buses moving and enable students to get home quickly.

Together, let's work towards creating a safe and smooth commute for everyone involved as the new school year begins.

## Fire Pit/Place Safety Reminders

Fall means gathering around a warm fire pit or fireplace. Next time you're huddled around the fire, stay cozy and safe with these tips:



- Be sure you are at least 25 feet away from structures or anything else that can burn before building a fire. Choose an open, level location and clear away any dry leaves, sticks, overhanging branches, and shrubs.
- Never use gasoline, kerosene, or any other flammable liquid to start a fire. Instead, use a match or lighter to ignite tinder (small twigs and dry leaves); add pieces of dry hardwood.
- Keep the fire small and controlled, and never leave it unattended. Fire pits must be enclosed/covered.
- Do not stand too close to the fire or play around it, and do not attempt to jump over it. Keep an eye on children and pets so they don't get too close to the flames.

## Daylight Savings

As we approach the end of daylight savings time on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, don't forget to set your clocks back one hour. Along with adjusting your clocks, it's important to remember to check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Smoke alarms play a significant role in reducing fire deaths and injuries, as highlighted by the National Fire Protection Association.

## Preventing Turkey Fryer Fires

The holiday season is a time for bringing families together over delicious food, such as turkey. While deep-frying turkey has become a popular cooking method, it also comes with potential fire hazards. To ensure that you and your loved ones enjoy a safe and enjoyable holiday feast, the Fire District recommends the following tips to prevent frying accidents:



- *Outdoor Use Only:* Always operate the turkey fryer outdoors, away from structures or flammable materials. Set it up on a flat, stable surface, ensuring a minimum distance of ten feet from buildings or overhanging structures.
- *Thaw Completely:* Ensure your turkey is fully thawed and dried before frying. Ice or water that comes into contact with hot oil can cause dangerous splattering and potential flare-ups.
- *Monitor Oil Temperature:* Use a reliable thermometer to maintain the oil temperature at 350°F (175°C) during the frying process. Overheated oil can lead to spills and increase the risk of ignition.
- *Avoid Overfilling:* Never fill the fryer pot with over two-thirds of oil to prevent spills. Overfilling can cause oil to overflow, leading to dangerous oil fires.
- *Stay Attentive:* Never leave the turkey fryer unattended while it's in use. Keep a close eye on the cooking process and be prepared to respond quickly to any emergencies.

Remember, practicing safe turkey fryer use will ensure a delicious holiday season, free from accidents and fires.

## Klub House - New Before & After School Care Program

Looking for before or after-school care for your child? The Itasca Park District offers a flexible program that is much more than just childcare. Participants will enjoy indoor gym and outdoor play time, and receive help with



homework. Busing is available to and from Benson and Franzen schools. For more information, visit [itascaparkdistrict.com](http://itascaparkdistrict.com).

Statistics show that three out of every five home fire deaths occur in homes without smoke alarms or with non-functional ones. In the event of a fire, smoke can spread rapidly, and a working smoke alarm will provide you with valuable time to evacuate safely.

By taking this opportunity to ensure that your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are in proper working condition, you are prioritizing the safety of yourself and your loved ones.

## New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements



Kris Helzing

Please join the Village in warmly welcoming Kris Helzing, the latest addition to the Itasca Police Department. Kris has taken on the position of our new Records Clerk in April, bringing with her an impressive history of law enforcement experience. Prior to joining our team, Kris began her career as a dispatcher in Roselle and has since worked across various dispatch and Records Departments. She recently spent 15½ years at the Shorewood Records Department, showcasing her dedication and expertise in the field.

Kris lives in Joliet with her husband of 22 years, who happens to be a fire captain at IFPD, along with their two dogs and two cats. In her leisure time, Kris enjoys traveling and is an active member of the all-women's motorcycle group called Stiletto on Steel.

When asked about her new position, Kris shared her enthusiasm, saying, "I am glad I came to Itasca to finish out my career. It has been nothing but a positive experience since I got here."



Patrick Shields

The Itasca Fire District is also pleased to introduce Patrick Shields, their newest candidate firefighter/paramedic. He began his year-long probationary period with the district on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Throughout this phase, Patrick will undergo comprehensive testing and drilling to hone his skills.

Join us in extending a warm welcome to Kris and Patrick. We are excited to have them on board and look forward to seeing their contributions to our community.

## Safeguarding Against Grandparent Scams



In today's interconnected world, staying informed about scams and frauds that target vulnerable individuals is crucial. One prevalent scheme involves scammers preying on grandparents' love and concern for their grandkids.

These scammers frequently use calls or social media networking sites to deceive people, pretending to be distressed grandchildren in need of urgent financial assistance. They often request wired money for bail or car repairs, preying on the caring nature of grandparents and extracting their personal information through emotional manipulation.

To protect against this scam, the Police Department advises caution when receiving calls from distant family members or unfamiliar numbers. Remember, scammers excel at deception, so assess the situation carefully and verify information before proceeding. To confirm the caller's identity or ensure that the loved one isn't home, reach out to another relative or dial the family member's regular phone number. Additionally, advise grandparents to avoid hasty actions like wiring money or revealing personal details when they receive a phone call. Staying vigilant is key to protecting both ourselves and our senior citizens from falling prey to scammers.

## Home Safety Visits

Is your household ready for an emergency? Allow the Itasca Fire District to put your mind at ease by performing a complimentary home safety visit to ensure you are ready!

Year-round, the Itasca Fire Protection District offers home safety visits to Itasca residents to help them follow the three P's:

- **Prepare** by testing your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and changing the batteries at least once a year.
- **Prevent** by inspecting your home for any possible hazards.
- **Practice** by developing a fire escape plan and a meeting place.

If interested in this free service, please call (630) 773-1223 or go to [Itascafd.org](http://Itascafd.org) and click on the Home Safety Visit button to fill out a form and set up a home safety visit today.



## Police Department Implements Body-Worn Camera



The Itasca Police Department is taking significant strides to enhance transparency and accountability within the department. Recently, they equipped every sworn police officer with an Axon body-worn camera, meeting the State's compliance deadline for the Safe-T Bill two years ahead of schedule.

During the recent budget process, the Village Board unanimously approved the purchase of the comprehensive body-worn camera system from Axon Enterprise, with additional support from two grants obtained by the Police Department. The system includes cloud storage, software applications like **Evidence.com**, tasers, in-car cameras, and the necessary licensing agreement.

To ensure proper utilization and integration of all components, the department has established an interdepartmental general order, providing clear guidelines for officers on the appropriate use and management of body-worn cameras and related equipment.

Expressing his thoughts on this milestone, Director of Police Robert O'Connor stated, "The members of the Police Department welcome transparency as we conduct our daily mission of serving and protecting the residents and businesses of Itasca." This sentiment underscores the department's commitment to upholding public trust and fostering a safe community.

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

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Jeff Pruyn

**Village Clerk**

Jody Conidi

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Carie Anne Ergo

**Village Departments  
and Taxing Districts**

**Village Administrator**

773-0835

**Village Clerk's Office**

773-0835

**Community Development**

773-5568

**Public Works**

773-2455

**Wastewater Treatment Plant**

773-5571

**Police Department Non-Emergency**

773-1004

**Police Department Emergency**

9-1-1

**Itasca Chamber of Commerce**

773-2949

**Springbrook Nature Center**

773-5572

**Library**

773-1699

**School District #10**

773-1232

**Park District**

773-2257

**Fire District Non-Emergency**

773-1223

**Fire District Emergency**

9-1-1

**O'Hare Noise Hotline Complaints**

(800) 435-9569



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



**Schedule of Monthly Meetings**

**Monday:**

No Meetings Scheduled

**Tuesday:**

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

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

**Wednesday:**

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

**Thursday:**

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

**Friday:**

No Meetings Scheduled

\*Committee of the Whole immediately after