



Committed to our future.
Inspired by our past.

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Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

This summer, while cicadas filled the air with their song, Itasca buzzed with its own lively rhythm of community events and activities. From concerts in the park to the Fourth of July and ItascaFest, our Village was truly alive with energy and excitement. Thank you to everyone who supported and participated in these events. Your involvement made them unforgettable, and I'm excited to share that there are more events on the horizon.

Right around the corner is a favorite tradition: Oktoberfest! Mark your calendars for Friday, September 6th, and Saturday, September 7th, at Washington Park. This year, we have a fun new way to embrace the Oktoberfest spirit and promote our Village: brand-new Hawaiian Oktoberfest shirts. These shirts are not only a fun addition to your Oktoberfest wardrobe, but they also benefit a worthwhile cause. Just like our Oktoberfest hats, all proceeds from these shirts will go to the Walk-In Ministry and Food Pantry. These organizations provide important services to those in need within our community. Please remember to bring cash, as we won't be accepting credit cards for shirt or hat purchases. For more information on the shirts, go to page 7.

Speaking of generosity, I want to bring attention to one of our local organizations, Center Cup. Located at 400 Walnut, they offer free coffee and tea every day. Just look for the big blue truck! While the coffee and tea are free, donations are appreciated and go a long way in supporting their efforts. I also want to thank Center Cup for hosting Coffee with the Mayor this past August. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with many of you and discuss the future of our village.

In addition to visiting Center Cup, I had the opportunity to explore several other local businesses. In June, Eaglewood Resort kindly hosted us for Coffee with the Mayor. Besides hosting events, Eaglewood is a perfection destination for a staycation or a relaxing spa day. I also toured Ferrara Candy, commonly known as the Willy Wonka Factory. This historic company is a key partner in our Memorial Day parade, and other events. For more details about Ferrara Candy, be sure to check out page 5.

I also got an opportunity to visit with Extra Space Storage, who finished the last of their renovations this past winter. Their facility now offers a top-notch space for all your storage needs. Also in June, MEI Systems invited me to their groundbreaking ceremony, which

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Mayor's Message Continued...

was attended by representatives from their Italian headquarters. MEI Systems specializes in manufacturing machines that produce lenses for sunglasses, for brands like Ray-Ban. Their new building will bring a touch of Italian flair to our community. Mobile Mark, a leader in wireless technology, also asked me to join their 40th-anniversary celebration, marking their journey from early mobile device antennas to modern smartphone technology.

Looking ahead, Holladay Properties is set to break ground this fall on a new 5-story luxury apartment building, which will feature a restaurant on the ground floor. I'm also looking forward to the revitalization of 217-219 Walnut. After a public RFP process, the Board selected a business operator and is now working with them on a development agreement to breathe new life into the old Keans

bakery building.

Supporting our local businesses and each other is fundamental to the strength and unity of our community. When we work together, we build a stronger, more vibrant Itasca. To celebrate this spirit, I'm excited to announce that on Sunday, September 8th, we'll have the opportunity to recognize those who have made a meaningful impact on our village. Join us at Washington Park from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for a special awards ceremony honoring these remarkable individuals.

As the final hot days of summer turn into the cool days of autumn, I hope you find new reasons to fall in love with Itasca. Let's embrace the beauty of this season and continue to build a community we're all proud to call home.

Administrator's Message

I hope you all enjoyed a summer filled with fun and memorable moments. As the excitement from these events settles, I thought it would be a good time to explain how the Village supports these events and others throughout the year.

Itasca's festivals and attractions are primarily funded through a special hotel tax, paid by visitors who spend the night at an Itasca hotel. As a non-home rule community, the State of Illinois limits how Itasca can use these funds. This restriction means we can't apply hotel taxes to other important costs, such as police protection, 9-1-1 service, or roadway maintenance, which could help reduce property taxes. Instead, we must use this revenue for tourism-related activities, such as community events, festivals, and attractions that draw visitors to our village.

Essential services are funded through a combination of sales taxes, property taxes, other taxes and user fees that flow into the Corporate Fund. I'm pleased to report that the Corporate Fund is once again balanced. This achievement reflects the hard work of the Village Board and staff. A balanced budget is more than just a number; it shows Itasca's commitment to effective financial management. It allows the Village to plan for future needs, maintain high-quality services, and continue supporting the programs and events that contribute to our community.

This year, Itasca will invest \$14 million in several important capital projects. We are completing construction at the intersection of Park/Pierce/Devon to improve traffic flow and safety. We will be designing the next phase of the Northside Infrastructure Program to help reduce flooding. Additional projects include street maintenance, sidewalk extensions, and the replacement of the Ardmore water main. These investments are important for ensuring the continued growth and development of our village.

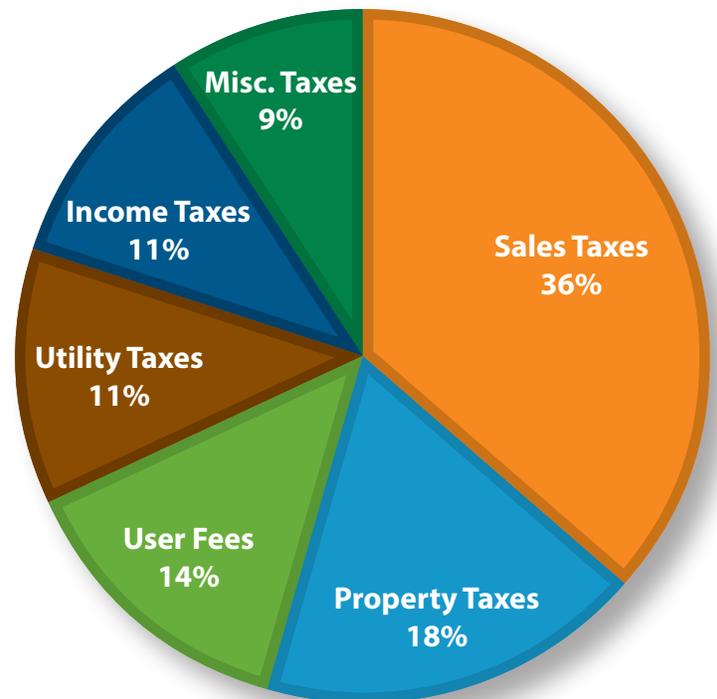
One way we stretch our dollars is through partnerships and grants. In partnership with the Itasca Park District, Itasca has



Carie Anne Ergo

already secured more than \$1.2 million in state grant funding. By working together, we were able to secure funding to connect the Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary trail system to the walking path through Spring Lake Executive Campus, enhance the ball fields, and improve Usher Park. And we are not done yet; we have applied for new funding to preserve and enhance areas in the Springbrook Nature Center. Hopefully, in a future newsletter I'll have more good news to share!

2024-2025 Corporate Fund Revenues



Your Voice, Your Vote



The November 5th Presidential election is just around the corner. Now is a great time to brush up on what you need to know to make your voice heard. Whether you're voting for the first time or you're a seasoned participant, here are some tips to help you along:

Register to Vote

Before heading to the polls, verify your voter registration status at ova.elections.il.gov. If you're not registered or need to update your registration, visit ova.elections.il.gov or dupageco.org/Election. To register, you will need:

- Your Illinois Driver's License or State ID number
- The issue date of the license or ID
- The last four digits of your Social Security number
- Your birth date

For questions or further assistance, contact the DuPage Election Commission at (630) 407-5600.

Find Your Polling Place

To find your polling place and view your sample ballot, visit the DuPage County Election Division's website at dupageco.org/Election. Sample ballots will show the candidates and issues you'll be voting on, helping you make informed decisions.

Vote by Mail

If you prefer to vote by mail, you can request a ballot starting 40 days before the election. Apply online at dupageco.org/Election/votebymail or call the Election Division at (630) 407-5600 for more details.

Early Voting

Want to get your voice heard early? Early voting begins on Thursday, September 26th. You can vote at several locations:

- DuPage County Fairgrounds (Building 5): 2015 W Manchester Rd, Wheaton, IL 60187
- Addison Township Office: 401 N Addison Rd, Addison, IL 60101
- Bartlett Community Center: 700 S Bartlett Rd, Bartlett, IL 60103
- Downers Grove Recreation Center: 4500 Belmont Rd, Downers Grove, IL 60515
- Naperville Municipal Center: 400 S Eagle St, Naperville, IL 60540

These sites are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon) until October 19, 2024. Additional locations will open starting Monday, October 21st. For more details, visit dupageco.org/Election.

Fall Reminders

Fall is here, bringing cooler weather and the perfect conditions for home projects. With the refreshing air prompting open windows, it's important to be mindful of noise levels. For any construction work at home, noisy activities are allowed only between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, and from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays.



It's also time to prepare your boats and recreational vehicles for winter. Boats must be removed from driveways by October 1st and RVs removed by October 31st.

Additionally, remember that recycling, yard waste, and garbage should not be placed out before 4:00 p.m. on Sundays, and all cans must be removed from the curb by 10:00 p.m. on pick-up day.

Let's work together to keep our community looking its best this fall.

The Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary and Softball Complex Project

A \$2 million project of the Itasca Park District and Village kicked off on August 6th, marking the first pedestrian pathway connecting the North and South sides of Springbrook Creek at Rohlwing Road. The project includes new pathways, boardwalk connections, a nature outlook, interpretive signage, fitness stations, field irrigation, and upgrades to the 38-year-old softball fields. The Village is contributing \$500,000 to enhance community access, complemented by a \$600,000 OSLAD grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. During construction, the softball complex and Bird Sanctuary will be closed, but the Barking Lot Dog Park will remain open.

New Fire District Upgrades

The Itasca Fire Protection District is undergoing a major renovation. Work began this summer on the over 50-year-old fire station, including a new exterior, improved insulation, remodeled sleeping quarters, upgraded bathrooms, new ceiling tiles, and fresh carpeting. The vintage pumper will have a new home in a dedicated historical room. The project is expected to be completed by early 2025.



Due to the construction, this year's Fire District Open House has been postponed. The community will be invited to tour the newly renovated station next year.

Until construction is complete, visitors should use the rear entrance to access the administrative office. For questions or to schedule a Home Safety Visit, contact the Fire District at (630) 773-1223.

Permit the Project

This year, homeowners and businesses in Itasca are undertaking notable property improvements. Investment in the Village is strong, with several key projects in progress. New developments include MEI's manufacturing facility on Pierce Road, NTT Global Data Centers' cloud storage facilities at Hamilton Lakes Corporate Park, and Holladay Properties' Itasca Station—a five-story mixed-use building with 86 apartments in downtown. Biggby Coffee is also preparing to open a new location on Rohlwing Road at Devon. Homeowners are also contributing to the improvements by obtaining permits for fences, roofing, and patios.



With so many updates happening, it's important to remember that most improvements and renovations require a permit, except for simpler projects like painting, new carpet, or trim work. To find out if your project needs a permit, visit itasca.com under Community Development or call (630) 773-5568 for assistance.

Be Aware and Park with Care



Keeping sidewalks clear is important for everyone's ease of movement. Blocked sidewalks can create problems for pedestrians, strollers, bicyclists, and those using wheelchairs or motorized vehicles.

When vehicles are parked across sidewalks, people are forced to move into the street, which can be unsafe.

The Itasca Police Department wants to remind everyone to be considerate and mindful of others by parking in a way that keeps the sidewalks safe and clear for our community members.

Please remember to be aware and park with care!



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 recently received their Zoning Certificates to operate in our town!

Eastern Shipping Worldwide, Inc., One Pierce Place, Suite 460E

Eastern Shipping Worldwide Inc. is a global leader in shipping and logistics, providing international cargo shipping and delivery services. They have a vigorous information tracking system that helps minimize surplus inventory and reduce their customers' overall supply chain costs. Not to mention their 24/7 global care that keeps customers updated on the location of their cargo. To learn more about Eastern Shipping Worldwide Inc. visit their website: easternworldwide.com.

Fluid Aire Dynamics, 225 Spring Lake Drive

Fluid Aire Dynamics is the leading national company for compressed air solutions, headquartered in Itasca. They specialize in the design, maintenance, and repair of industrial compressed air systems. To learn more about Fluid Aire Dynamics visit their website: fluidairedynamics.com.

Sophisticate, LLC, 320 Irving Park Road

Sophisticate, LLC is a kitchen & bath contractor that specializes in remodeling and designing kitchens and bathrooms. Sophisticate, LLC is an authorized and trusted dealer of NatureKast, which is a weatherproof cabinetry company who services Itasca and surrounding areas with their need for indoor and outdoor room projects. To learn more about Sophisticate, LLC, call (847) 400-7663.

Specialty Distribution Group, 1139 Bryn Mawr Avenue

Specialty Distribution Group, also known as Service Partners North, distributes insulation solutions. These solutions include residential fiberglass insulation and other related products like fireplaces, gutters, and spray foam equipment. To learn more about Specialty Distribution Group visit their website: service-partners.com.

The O'Connor Partnership, LLC, One Pierce Place, Suite 225W

The O'Connor Partnership, LLC is a family tax accounting firm providing services to nonprofit clients in Illinois and California. For more information on The O'Connor Partnership, LLC please call (312) 542-8950.

Topco International, 2 Pierce Place

A top private-label procurement company, Topco is a company that provides aggregation, innovation, and knowledge management solutions for its leading food industry member-owners and customers, including grocery retailers, wholesalers and food service companies. To learn more about Topco please visit their website: topco.com.

Unipipe Solutions, LLC, 225 Spring Lake Drive

Unipipe Solutions, LLC is a sister company to Fluid Aire Dynamics. Unipipe Solutions, LLC specializes in delivering aluminum piping systems for various applications like compressed air, vacuums, and multi-fluid applications. Their wide range of sizes and innovative clamp ring technology ensures powerful, leak-proof connections, making them ideal for compressed air, gases, and liquids. To learn more about Unipipe Solutions, LLC product and services visit their website: unipipesolutions.com.

Business Spotlight *Ferrara*

Did you know that some of your favorite childhood candies are produced right here in Itasca? Ferrara Candy Company, located at 1445 Norwood Avenue, creates iconic treats such as Jelly Belly, LemonHead, NERDS, and SweeTARTS. Ferrara's Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) Greg Guidotti shared, "We've been in Chicago since 1908, and from there, we've grown to become the leading confections company in the United States."

Ferrara currently employs over 8,300 people worldwide and operates 17 locations across North America, 12 in Brazil, and one in Thailand. The Itasca plant, established in 1974, is the original home of NERDS candy. This facility employs over 300 people and produces more than 100 million pounds of candy each year.

Mayor Pruyne recently had the opportunity to tour the Ferrara Candy facility. Reflecting on his visit, he remarked, "It's incredible to see the amount of care and craftsmanship that goes into making these beloved candies. The Ferrara team truly has a passion for creating joy. And while I didn't spot any golden eggs, I still had a magical time!"

Apart from being one of the top producers of our favorite Halloween treats, Ferrara is actively involved in the community, participating in various events by donating products to our Memorial Day parade, Fish with the Cops, National Night Out, Itasca Halloween Celebration, and the Park District's free



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



egg hunts. When asked about their community involvement, CMO Guidotti stated, "We strive to be a good neighbor and have a passionate team of dedicated employees who create an inclusive and empowering workplace culture within Ferrara. This values-based approach also drives how we engage the local community." Recently, Ferrara demonstrated this commitment through their membership in the local Chamber of the Great O'Hare Association, by hosting a safety month celebration with the Fire District.

To learn more about Ferrara or explore employment opportunities, visit ferrara.com.

Rail Safety Week



With three rail crossings in the Village, understanding how to stay safe around trains is important. From September 23rd-29th, Rail Safety Week focuses on raising awareness about respecting these crossings. Every three hours, a train hits a person or vehicle in the U.S., underscoring the need for vigilance. As you move through our community, whether walking, jogging, or

biking, knowing the right safety steps at railroad crossings can prevent accidents.

Here's how to stay safe:

- **Stay Alert:** Always assume a train is approaching. Trains move faster than they appear, can run on any track at any time, from either direction, and on varying schedules.
- **Avoid Tracks:** Do not walk, bike, or play on or near train tracks as it is both dangerous and illegal.

- **Use Proper Crossings:** Only cross at designated crossings with crossbucks, flashing lights, or gates. Crossing elsewhere is not permitted.
- **Be Cautious with Wheels:** If crossing on a bike, with a stroller, or in a wheelchair, take extra care. Bikes should cross at a 90-degree angle, and walking across is safer. Wheelchair users might need help.
- **Follow Signals:** Never bypass lowered gates or flashing lights. Wait until the gate is fully raised and the lights stop flashing before crossing.
- **Watch for Multiple Trains:** Multiple tracks can mean more trains. Check both directions before crossing.
- **Avoid Dangerous Areas:** Keep off railroad bridges, trestles, and out of tunnels where there's no space for pedestrians.
- **Don't Climb Trains:** Do not attempt to board or climb any railroad equipment.

By following these tips, you contribute to a safer community and protect yourself around rail crossings. For more details, visit Operation Lifesaver at oli.org.

Celebrate Our Community

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



Fri., September 6th
Oktoberfest
 Washington Park
 5:00 – 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!



Sat., September 7th
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 7th
International Culture Awareness Day
 Springbrook Nature Center
 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate vultures with Wings and Talons! Meet our resident turkey vultures and learn from volunteers about their vital role in maintaining a healthy environment.



Sat., September 7th
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 8th
Itasca Impact Awards
 Washington Park
 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Celebrate excellence at the Itasca Impact Awards! Join us for an afternoon recognizing outstanding contributions and enjoy a free lunch. Simply reserve your spot at itasca.com/impactawards.



Wed., September 11th
Financial Literacy
 Library
 7:00 p.m.

Brad Arnold from Edward Jones will come and give the basics on financial literacy and how you can best manage your money. Program is tailored to 20-30-year-olds, but anyone can benefit from attending!



Mon., September 16th
Family Storytime
 Library
 10:00 a.m.

Drop in for stories and more every Monday through November 4th. Geared to ages 6 & under.



Sat., September 21st
.5K Beer & Donut & Milk
 Springbrook Nature Center
 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Enjoy a laid-back race with donuts and beer from Church Street Brewery. Kids can join the Milk Mustache Donut Dash. Whether you run or walk, there's fun for everyone! Fees apply. Pre-registration required.



Thurs., September 26th
Chat with the Chiefs
 Police Department
 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Join us at Village Hall to discuss public safety and share your concerns with the Police Department. Engage directly with law enforcement and get your questions answered.



Sat., September 28th
Bonfire & Brews
 Springbrook Nature Center
 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

The Park District invites those 21 and older to a bonfire beer tasting at the Nature Center. For \$30, enjoy four tastings, a s'mores kit, and yard games. Pre-registration required.



Mon., September 30th
How to Make Hot Sauce at Home
 Library
 6:00 p.m.

Take home your own bottle of hot sauce home after learning how to make your own from pepper grower and hot sauce expert Kristen Lovett.



Sat., October 5th
Itasca Halloween Celebration
 Washington Park
 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of free Halloween fun! Enjoy a bounce house, games, pumpkin decorating, and more. No registration required.



Mon., October 14th
Mammals & More Animal Show
 Library
 2:00 p.m.

Flying Fox Conservation Fund is bringing the zoo to the library! Learn about and meet some of the world's most unique creatures at this fun and free program for the whole family.



Sat., October 19th
Trick or Treat Trail!
 Springbrook Nature Center
 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Children, along with their parents, can enjoy walking the trail around the Springbrook Nature Center while receiving candy and other goodies. This is guaranteed to be scary-free fun! No registration required.



Sat., October 19th
Haunted Trail
 Springbrook Nature Center
 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Experience the terrifying 1/3 mile nightmare trail at Springbrook Nature Center. Family hour 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., active scaring 7:15 – 9:30 p.m. Tickets available at Itasca Waterpark on event day.



Fri., October 25th
Pumpkin Patch Family Carving Fest
 Park District Rec Center
 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Get ready to bring your creativity and carving skills as the Park District offers a night of pumpkin fun. They'll provide the pumpkins and carving tools; you bring creativity! Fees apply. Pre-registration required.

Celebrate Our Community



Sat., October 26th

Owl-O-Ween

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

Celebrate Owl-O-Ween with Wings and Talons at Springbrook Nature Center! Discover how resident owls adapt and thrive in our ecosystem. This event is free and open to everyone.



Mon., October 28th

Drop-In Trick-or-Treating

Library
10:30 a.m.

Wear your Halloween costume and drop by the library to decorate a Halloween bag and trick-or-treat until 2:00 p.m. Geared to children 6 & under.



Thurs., October 31st

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 2nd

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 2nd

True Tales and Evidence from a Paranormal Team

Library
1:00 p.m.

Curious about paranormal investigations? Join the West Suburban Paranormal Investigations team for a behind-the-scenes look at their methods, gear, and evidence from past investigations.



Sat., November 2nd

Daddy Daughter Dance

Itasca Rec Center
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Dads or other father figures will love dancing the night away at the Daddy Daughter Dance! Participants will enjoy dancing, desserts, crafts, and more on this magical night. Fees apply. Pre-registration required.



Sun., December 1st

Save the Date

Holiday Park Lighting
Usher Park

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.



Oktoberfest

Event Schedule:

Friday, September 6th

from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Tapping of the first keg with Mayor Pruyn at 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy the lively tunes of *Bratweurst Brothers* from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 7th

from 3:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Experience the sounds of the *Alpine Thunder Band* from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Then, immerse yourself in the energetic rhythms of *Euro Express* from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Support a Worthy Cause:

Support the community by buying German Hats for \$5.00 each or our new Oktoberfest Hawaiian Shirts for \$15.00 each (featured to the left). Cash only, please. All proceeds will benefit the Itasca Walk-In Ministry and Food Pantry.



Lace Up for Oktoberfest

Get ready for a fun-filled day at the Oktoberfest race! Whether you want to walk, run, or cheer on participants, everyone is welcome. Registration is available through race day, so you can still join in the excitement.

Be aware that road closures will be in effect on the south side of town during the event. A map of the race route can be found on the event website, itascaoktoberfest5k.org, as well as on the Village's website.



New Oktoberfest Shirts

16th Annual Itasca Oktoberfest

Prost to the 16th Annual Itasca Oktoberfest at Washington Park on Friday, September 6th, and Saturday, September 7th! Come celebrate with us at this festive event, featuring FREE admission and parking. Experience an authentic Oktoberfest atmosphere with traditional music, delicious German fare, and the true spirit of the season. Don't miss out on this exciting celebration!

Enjoy Authentic German Food:

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

- *Spaetzle* • *Schnitzel* • *Wurst*
- *Pork Roast* • *Sauerkraut*

Get Ready for a Spooktacular Halloween

Get ready for Halloween! Trick-or-treating will take place on Thursday, October 31st, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Here are some tips to keep the neighborhood safe and ensure a frightfully fun night for everyone!



Trick-or-Treating Tips for Little Monsters:

- **Plan a Route:** Map out your trick-or-treat route and establish a meeting place in case you get separated. Make sure children know their home address and phone number.
- **Costume Safety:** Ensure costumes are visible in the dark by adding reflective tape or glow sticks. Avoid costumes that could be a trip hazard or prevent children from seeing or hearing properly.
- **Street Safety:** Teach children to never run into the street. Always cross at intersections and avoid playing between parked cars.
- **Candy Stops:** Only approach places with their porch lights on or a “Trick-or-Treaters Welcome” sign.
- **Candy Inspection:** Always have an adult inspect treats before diving in. Ensure packaging is intact and avoid homemade goodies from strangers.

Homeowners' Halloween Checklist:

- **Brighten Up:** Keep your porch light on to let trick-or-treaters know to approach. Clear your walkway of obstacles to ensure safe passage for trick-or-treaters.
- **Safe Jack-o'-Lanterns:** Place lit jack-o'-lanterns away from drapes, decorations, or areas where children will be standing or walking.
- **Safe Spaces:** If you have pets, keep them in a secure area away from the door to avoid any Halloween scares.

Spooky Safe Driving Tips

- **Creepy Crossings:** Slow down at intersections and crosswalks where children may be crossing unexpectedly.
- **Haunted Head Checks:** Always check mirrors and blind spots before making turns or lane changes, as little ones might appear suddenly.
- **Trick-or-Treat Traffic:** Anticipate increased pedestrian traffic and be prepared for sudden stops. Expect more cars parked along the streets and driveways.
- **Shine Your Lantern:** Turn on your headlights early, even before dusk, to light up the way for yourself and wandering trick-or-treaters.

Happy Haunting!

Join Us for Annual Pumpkin Smash Event



Wrap up the Halloween season with the Itasca Pumpkin Smash Event on Saturday, November 2nd! The event will be held at the Itasca Public Works complex, 411 N. Prospect Ave., from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

What is Pumpkin Smash?

The Pumpkin Smash is a community event focused on eco-friendly practices. Instead of throwing away your Halloween pumpkins, bring them to our drop-off location for composting. This event helps us reduce waste and return valuable nutrients to the soil, uniting our community in a green effort.

Why Compost Pumpkins?

Here's why composting pumpkins is beneficial:

- **Reducing Greenhouse Gases:** Composting prevents methane emissions from landfills, supporting a healthier environment.
- **Enhancing Soil:** Pumpkins turn into nutrient-rich compost, benefiting local gardens and green spaces.
- **Conserving Water:** Composting recycles the water content of pumpkins, aiding soil health and future plant growth.

Please clean your pumpkins and remove any decorations before dropping them off.

Interested in volunteering like the Lake Park students featured on the cover? Contact Public Works Superintendent Brian Yarbrough at bryarbrough@itasca.com.

Say Goodbye to Clogged Drains

Public Works is now a permanent cooking oil collection site in DuPage County, thanks to a partnership with Scare. Proper disposal of cooking oil is essential to preventing clogged drains and protecting our water systems. The program is free and operates Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at 411 N. Prospect Avenue. Just bring your used cooking oil in a container, and we'll take care of the rest. Join us in keeping our community and environment clean.

Chat with the Chiefs

Join the Itasca Police Department for Chat with the Chiefs on Thursday, September 26th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room. This event offers a relaxed setting to connect with staff, ask questions, and discuss any concerns about public safety and law enforcement in Itasca.



You will also gain insights into the daily workings of our police force, their community policing strategies, and efforts to keep Itasca safe. It's a chance to strengthen community ties and engage directly with those who serve and protect us.

We look forward to seeing you there and discussing how we can work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our community.

Klub House - Before & After School Care Program is back!



The Klub House is back by popular demand. The Itasca Park District has partnered with School District 10 to offer before and after school care for students. The Klub House offers a flexible program that is much more than just childcare. Last year over 40 participants enjoyed indoor gym and outdoor play as well as help with homework. Busing to and from Benson and Franzen schools is available. For more information, visit itasparkdistrict.com.

Community Wide Survey

The Itasca Park District will conduct a community-wide survey in early fall, managed by an independent consulting firm. This survey aims to gather residents' feedback and input on potential new projects, providing an opportunity for the community to voice their opinions and help shape future developments. Survey participants will be selected at random to fill out an electronic survey. Those who prefer to complete the survey by hand can obtain a paper copy at the Itasca Recreation Center's front desk.

Enjoying Outdoor Fire Pits



As the crisp autumn air settles in, gathering around fire pits becomes a favorite activity. Here are some safety tips to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience:

- **Location:** Place your fire pit at least 10 feet away from structures, trees, or flammable materials. Ensure it is on a stable, non-combustible surface like concrete or gravel.
- **Weather Check:** Avoid using the fire pit on windy days to prevent embers from igniting nearby objects.
- **Fire Control:** Keep a bucket of water, garden hose, or fire extinguisher nearby for quick access in case of emergencies.
- **Wood Selection:** Burn only dry, seasoned wood to minimize excessive smoke and sparks. Avoid using accelerants like gasoline or lighter fluid.
- **Supervision:** Maintain a safe distance from the fire pit and keep a close eye on children and pets. Establish a clear boundary around the fire pit and teach the importance of fire safety.
- **Extinguishing the Fire:** Allow the wood to burn completely to ash if possible. Pour water over the remaining embers, stirring until completely cooled. Never leave a fire unattended until it is fully extinguished.

Spot Fall Raptors

While most of us are familiar with migrating birds arriving back at their breeding grounds in the spring, fall is one of the best times to see migrating birds of prey. Many birds prefer not to fly over



large bodies of water so they skirt around Lake Michigan. The best way to support our resident and migrating species is providing a healthy habitat. Utilize native species that support a wide range of wildlife and keep your habitat poison free by reducing the usage of pesticides near your home. Visit Springbrook Nature Center to meet some migratory raptor species.

Free Yard Waste Program

As the leaves start to fall, it's the perfect time to take advantage of the Village's FREE brush and yard waste program. This complimentary service makes it easy and cost-effective for residents to keep their properties clean and safe throughout the autumn months. When clearing seasonal brush, keep these 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 until December 2nd. For disposal at other times, contact a landscaper for removal.
- Bundle brush with biodegradable twine, with each bundle not exceeding 50 pounds. Arrange 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. Remove these items from the curb by 10:00 p.m. on the designated pick-up day.

Residents can also dispose of yard waste by:

- Starting a compost pile or adding leaves to an existing one. Composted leaves and other organic materials are excellent for fertilizing your garden during the summer.
- Using a mulching mower to chop leaves into smaller pieces that decompose directly on lawns. These leaf pieces can also be spread around flowerbeds and shrubs as mulch.
- Bringing leaves to DuPage Yard Waste (1195 W. Washington St., West Chicago) for a fee if on-site recycling is not feasible.

Remember, the last day for collection is Monday, December 2nd. Collection will resume in April.

Drive Carefully This Fall

Fall brings changing weather and shorter daylight hours, which can make driving tricky. Here are some tips to help you stay safe on the road:

- **Watch for Wet Leaves:** Fallen leaves can be slippery, especially when wet. Drive slowly and avoid sudden stops or sharp turns.
- **Be Aware of Deer:** Fall is deer mating season, so more deer may cross roads. Stay alert, especially at dawn and dusk.
- **Adjust for Sun Glare:** The angle of the sun in fall can cause glare, making it hard to see. Keep sunglasses handy and use your sun visor.

No Leaves in Streets

Raking leaves into the street can lead to several issues. When leaves wash into storm drains and waterways, they decompose and cause pollution, leading to algae blooms and reduced oxygen levels for aquatic life. Additionally, they can block drainage systems, resulting in localized flooding. Large piles of leaves can also obstruct street parking, making it difficult for residents and visitors to find a place to park.



To prevent these problems, use the Village's FREE pick-up service by placing leaves in biodegradable bags or reusable cans. Leaf piles placed in the street will not be picked up by the street cleaner.

Help maintain a clean environment, prevent flooding, and keep the streets attractive by bagging your leaves this season.

Caring for Trees After the Fall

Enjoying the vibrant fall colors from your yard's trees is a treat, but maintaining their health is key even after the leaves have fallen. Here are some tips to help your trees stay healthy as they enter dormancy:



1. **Watering:** Trees need sufficient water to prepare for winter. Aim for about an inch of water per week, especially during dry spells. Use a sprinkler to water under the entire tree canopy, as roots can extend as far as the tree is tall.
2. **Mulching:** Apply a 2–3 inch layer of mulch under the tree canopy. Mulch helps retain soil moisture, insulate the roots, and reduce weed growth. Keep mulch level with the ground and avoid piling it against the trunk.
3. **Fertilizing:** Fall is a good time for fertilizing, but it's best to do so by early September. If missed, wait until the tree is dormant in late November to avoid encouraging new growth that may not survive freezing temperatures.
4. **Inspection and Pruning:** Check your trees for any signs of insect damage or necessary pruning. While most pests are active earlier in the year, fall is a good time to address any lingering issues. Remove dead or broken limbs to improve tree health and reduce the risk of pests and diseases.

If you're unsure about pruning or tree care, consider hiring a professional to ensure the job is done safely and effectively.

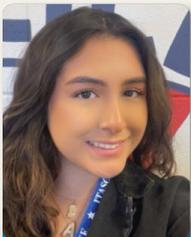
New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements

The Police Department is pleased to introduce its two newest team members: Officer Marisa Ciccola and Records Clerk Anahi Silva.



Marisa Ciccola

Officer Ciccola started with the department on December 11, 2023. After attending the Suburban Law Enforcement Police Academy and graduating on April 26th, she is now undergoing intensive Field Training before achieving solo patrol status. Outside of work, Marisa enjoys spending time outdoors with her dogs. She shared, “I am honored and thrilled to start my lifelong dream career with such a great department and look forward to serving the people of Itasca and establishing relationships throughout the community.”



Anahi Silva

Records Clerk Anahi Silva began her role with the Police Department on May 30th and brings three years of records experience from the St. Charles Police Department. Anahi said, “I have a passion for helping others, and I’m thrilled to be part of the Itasca community and grow within the Itasca Police Department.”

Please join us in welcoming them to the team!

Thank You for Your Support!



The Itasca Police Department would like to give a big thank you to the Itasca and Wood Dale communities for their incredible support during the Cop on Top event on May 17th. Held at Dunkin’ Donuts in Wood Dale, this event successfully raised \$2,400 for Special Olympics Illinois. This adds to the \$8.7 million raised over the years through the Dunkin’ and Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run partnership.

Cop on Top is a fun and effective way to support athletes with intellectual disabilities. Officer Sanchez, Itasca PD’s Special Olympics liaison, expressed that “Special Olympics holds a special place in my heart because of my family’s connection to intellectual disabilities. Working with them brings me joy.”

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition for individuals with intellectual disabilities, helping them achieve physical fitness, courage, and joy. Learn more about their mission at specialolympics.org.

School Bus Safety

With the start of the school year, it’s important to be aware of how to properly stop for school buses. Illinois law requires drivers to come to a complete stop if a school bus displays any visual signals, such as flashing lights or an extended stop sign.

On a two-lane road, all vehicles in both directions must stop when the bus is picking up or dropping off students. On roads with three or more lanes, or those divided by a turn lane or median, only vehicles traveling in the same direction as the bus need to stop. Vehicles moving in the opposite direction can proceed with caution.

The Itasca Police Department urges everyone to stay vigilant. The area within 10 feet of a school bus is the most hazardous for children, so be sure to stop well back to ensure students can enter and exit safely.



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY: KNOW WHEN TO STOP



Daylight Savings

As we approach the end of daylight savings time on Sunday, November 3rd, 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. 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.

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

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**Congratulations
Olympian Zach Ziemek**

This summer, Itasca was excited to watch Zach Ziemek, a former resident, compete in the Paris Olympics decathlon. Zach's journey in the sport began in middle school and continued at Lake Park High School, where he won four state titles.

This was Zach's third Olympic decathlon, making history as the first American to achieve this milestone. We are proud to see someone from our town reach such heights and make a mark on the global stage. Congratulations, Zach, on your outstanding success!

**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