



Committed to our future.  
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Memorial Day (p6) -  
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Itasca Park District



# The Village News



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## Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

Spring is almost here, and I'm looking forward to the warmer weather and the chance to enjoy the beauty of nature. As I spend more time outdoors, I'm reminded of how valuable our parks and public spaces are for appreciating nature, connecting with our neighbors, and creating lasting memories together.

That's why, over the last few years, the Village and Park District have been working side-by-side to enhance our community's outdoor spaces and expand recreational opportunities. In 2021, we completed major renovations to the Springbrook Nature Center's interior and are now focused on updating the exterior property.

Recently, Itasca was awarded a \$600,000 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the State of Illinois to renovate the Nature Center, with additional funding from the Park District and the Village. This grant will help fund several exciting improvements, including a large, multi-use structure for picnicking, educational programming, and special events. A glycol ice rink will also be added to allow ice skating even when temperatures rise to nearly 50 degrees.

The project will also include wetland restoration, upgrades to the bird enclosures, and interpretive signage to help visitors connect more deeply with the natural world around them. We're excited to see how these improvements will transform the space into an even more welcoming part of our community. Be sure to stay tuned for updates as the project progresses!

Additionally, Usher Park is set to receive significant updates over the next several months to enhance its accessibility and overall enjoyment. The planned improvements include new sidewalks around the pond, wider paths, a replacement gazebo, and natural play areas. Funded by a \$600,000 OSLAD grant and contributions from both the Village and Park District, these updates are expected to be completed by fall 2025. For more information on this project and what to expect, check out Administrator Ergo's message on the next page.

Both projects will bring lasting benefits to our outdoor spaces, strengthening their role as community hubs for recreation, connection, and enjoyment. I sincerely thank the Park District for their ongoing collaboration and support in bringing these plans to life. These projects serve as a testament to the power of intergovernmental partnerships and their ability

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## Mayor's Message Continued...

to create positive, long-lasting changes in our community.

Spring is also a time for community gatherings, and I encourage you to join us for some upcoming events. Our Arbor Day celebration will take place on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at Springbrook Nature Center. It's a wonderful opportunity to recognize loved ones, enjoy the outdoors, and connect with others who appreciate nature. Then, on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'll hold our annual Green Day recycling event, which is a great chance to clean out your closets and garages while helping make Itasca a little greener.

## Administrator's Message

Spring is always a season of renewal, and this year, Usher Park will be getting its own fresh start. This cherished space has been the site of countless memories, and I'm excited to share plans to make it more welcoming and accessible for everyone.

One of the most noticeable changes will be the gazebo renovation, which has been a central feature of the park for nearly 40 years. The new, larger gazebo will offer increased flexibility, featuring removable rails that allow it to serve both as a traditional structure and as an open stage for community events. Ramps will also be added to ensure the gazebo is accessible to all visitors. Though the gazebo is undergoing renovation, we are working to make sure that it resembles its iconic style.



Once renovated, Usher Park will feature new sidewalks, paths around the pond, natural play areas, and interpretive



Carie Anne Ergo

gardens showcasing native and pollinator-friendly plants. Game tables, picnic tables, new swinging benches, and a historical-style drinking fountain with a bottle filler will also be added, improving the park's accessibility and overall visitor experience.

While these improvements are exciting, construction work will lead to some temporary disruptions. The park will be closed to the public starting in March, so the gazebo will not be available for graduation and wedding photos this spring and summer. I know how important these moments are, and I encourage families to explore several great photo spots nearby. Just behind Village Hall, the Springbrook Nature Center path offers a beautiful backdrop, complete with a gazebo and bridge. The Historic Depot, also close to Village Hall, provides another wonderful setting, with the added charm of a train car as a backdrop. Both locations offer convenient parking for family and friends to join your photo shoot.

We appreciate your patience and support as we improve this cherished park for everyone to enjoy. While the construction may cause temporary disruption, the transformation will be worth the wait. By this fall, Usher Park will be ready to host even more community events and continue to be a space where memories are made for years to come.

Speaking of making a difference, do you know someone who has positively impacted our community? If so, nominate them for an Itasca Impact Award! Nominations are now open at [itasca.com/impactawards](https://itasca.com/impactawards). Winners will be recognized in September at our second annual Itasca Impact Awards ceremony.

Let's continue nurturing our community as we welcome spring and work together to make Itasca a place where future generations can gather, grow, and celebrate. Thank you for making Itasca your home, and I look forward to seeing you around town!

## Shape of Itasca

Mark your calendars for the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Shape of Itasca! This important community event brings together leaders from Itasca's public organizations—the Village, Park District, Fire District, School District, and Library—for a conversation about their achievements over the past year and plans for the future. It's a chance for residents and business owners to ask questions, share comments, and learn about the community's future direction. Don't miss out—join us on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall for this engaging and informative session!

## New Online Payment Website

The Village is pleased to announce the launch of our brand-new online payment website for utility bills and electronic payments! If you've shared your email, watch for a message from [noreply@municipalonlinepayments.com](mailto:noreply@municipalonlinepayments.com) and be sure to add it to your safe sender list. Through the portal, you can now easily make payments, view your payment history, track water usage, and access bills from as far back as 2019 — all in one place! Get started today at: [itascail.municipalonlinepayments.com/itascail](https://itascail.municipalonlinepayments.com/itascail).

## New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements



Michael Kusles

Public Works is proud to announce the promotion of Michael Kusles to Category III Lead Worker in late October 2024. Michael has been an integral part of the Village since 2011, previously serving as a Category II Worker. His dedication, expertise, and years of experience make him a valuable leader in his new role, where he will continue to support the department's success. "I grew up in Itasca and it has been a pleasure to work here. It's nice to be a part of our growing community and I am honored to be given this promotion."



Shelly Holmes

The Village is excited to welcome Shelly Holmes as our new Communications Specialist, hired in mid-October 2024. Shelly brings fresh energy and valuable experience in special events planning to her role, where she will oversee communications efforts to connect the Village with the community. This is her first position with Itasca, and we look forward to her contributions in promoting Village initiatives. Shelly said "I'm so excited to be part of this amazing team! I can't wait to help our communications shine and make a positive impact on our staff and community!"



Melody Craven

The Village bid farewell to Melody Craven, who retired on January 24, 2025, after an incredible 29-year career of dedication and service. Melody joined the Village on December 5, 1995, as a part-time file clerk and quickly advanced to roles including receptionist, administrative assistant, deputy clerk, and customer service representative. Her warm demeanor and work ethic stood out in every position.

## Hiring for Seasonal Jobs

Looking for a meaningful way for teens and young adults to spend their summer? The Village of Itasca and the Park District offer seasonal jobs that help local youth build responsibility, master time management, and develop skills for college and beyond—all while contributing to the community. From lifeguards to camp counselors, these roles provide more than just a paycheck—they create a foundation for future success. Encourage the teens in your life to apply today at [itsasca.com](https://www.itsasca.com) for Village positions or [itscainc.com](https://www.itscainc.com) for Park District opportunities!



In 2009, Melody was elected Village Clerk, where she was responsible for maintaining village records, taking minutes at Village Board meetings, and ensuring compliance with the Open Meetings Act. She also managed local elections and issued liquor licenses during her eight years in office.

Melody said "While it is bittersweet to say goodbye after 29 years, I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work for the town that my husband and I have called home for almost 70 years. Serving Itasca residents and businesses has been a very rewarding experience, and I have made countless friends and acquaintances along the way. As I begin this new chapter in my life, I look forward to traveling to see our children and grandchildren who live out of state, as well as continuing to see everyone in and around Itasca, a place we hope to call home for many years to come."

As she begins her retirement, we thank Melody for her remarkable contributions and wish her happiness and relaxation in this next chapter.

To listen to Melody's Proclamation, please scan the QR code or visit our FB page.



Do you have a favorite local spot where you'd like to join the Mayor for coffee? We want to hear from you! Coffee with the Mayor is a relaxed, informal chance to meet the Mayor, ask questions, and hear directly about what's happening in the community. Whether you're interested in local events or curious about future plans, this is the perfect chance to get the inside scoop.



Coffee with the Mayor at Redco Foodservice

Scan the QR code with your phone to learn more about the event and fill out our quick Coffee with the Mayor input form. We hope to see you at the next one!



## Year of Growth and Development

In 2024, Itasca's economic and community landscape experienced significant transformations, laying the foundation for continued growth and success. With several key milestones achieved and new businesses underway, the Village is continuing to foster economic growth, where progress is evident in our expanding commercial and recreational developments.

These developments are not only shaping our town today but are also paving the way for long-term opportunities and a stronger sense of community for years to come.

### **New Beginnings:**

In 2024, Itasca welcomed 45 new businesses to town! Itasca continues to grow with a diverse mix of new businesses, including new dining options, wellness centers, and specialty retailers. Residents can also benefit from expanded financial services, self-storage facilities, and convenient auto sales. Additionally, the community is seeing growth in logistics, manufacturing, and corporate offices, contributing to a stronger local economy.

### **Development in Action:**

In 2024, the Village issued 724 building permits, reflecting strong confidence in our community's growth and vitality. This level of investment demonstrates that residents and businesses alike see Itasca as a place worth building in—whether through new commercial developments, home improvements, or business expansions. An advancing local economy benefits everyone, bringing enhanced amenities, new opportunities, and a strengthened sense of community.

### **Downtown Redevelopment:**

The Village remains committed to growth and revitalization, with significant progress continuing into 2024. One of the latest developments is Holladay Properties' Itasca Station project, a five-story apartment building with first-floor commercial space at Orchard and Maple. Groundbreaking took place in October 2024, marking the start of a transformative addition to the community. Construction will continue through 2025. More information on this project can be found in the following Holladay Properties article.

### **Funding the Future:**

In January 2024, Itasca was awarded a \$600,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to revitalize Usher Park, bringing new amenities and enhancements to the community.

Additionally, the Village received a second \$600,000 OSLAD grant in December, to support a \$1.2 million transformation of the beloved Springbrook Nature Center. This project will create spaces that seamlessly integrate nature, education, and recreation, enriching the experience for residents and visitors alike.

Both of these exciting projects are the result of a strong partnership between the Village and the Itasca Park District. "This is a testament to the power of intergovernmental cooperation and what we can achieve when we work together for the betterment of our community," said Mayor Prunyn.

## Plan Ahead for Spring Home Improvements

Spring is the perfect time for home improvements, but many projects require a permit to meet safety and zoning standards. Permits are needed for various projects, including but not limited to, kitchen and bathroom remodels, roofing, fences, sidewalk repairs, driveways, decks, patios, sheds, pools, and sprinkler systems.

If you are unsure whether your project requires a permit, check with the Community Development Department at (630) 773-5568, before starting. Permit forms and guidelines are available on the Village website under the "Community Development" tab at [itasca.com](https://www.itsasca.com).

## Itasca Station Development Begins



Big things are happening in downtown! The Itasca Station project, developed by Holladay Properties, is officially underway at the corner of Orchard and Maple. Following the groundbreaking in October 2024, excavation and site work are now in progress as crews prepare the area for a new five-story building. Once complete, this development will offer 87 luxury apartments and commercial space on the first floor, providing more housing options and business opportunities to downtown Itasca.

The Itasca Station development is part of the Village's efforts to fulfill the vision outlined in the Downtown Plan. The plan was developed through a public process in which residents shared their input on what they wanted to see in downtown, including more businesses and activities, as well as housing options for those looking to downsize while remaining in the community. This project will meet those needs by providing new living spaces and commercial opportunities in the heart of downtown.

Construction is expected to take about a year, with work progressing in phases. Roadways around the site will remain open, though there may be occasional closures. Updates on any changes that could affect traffic or access will be provided throughout the project.

Stay tuned for more updates as construction moves forward.

# Business Spotlight



For decades, John Giannini has been part of the Itasca community, building a successful construction business and forming lasting connections. After years of hard work, he decided to give back to the place that shaped his life. Inspired by local Italian favorites like DeMarco's and Antonio's, he opened Buon Johnny on Walnut Street.

John grew up surrounded by the rich traditions of Italian cooking, where meals brought family and friends together. With that same spirit, he wanted to create a place where people could gather over great food and conversation.

These days, he spends weekends in the kitchen, carefully preparing dishes with the same dedication he brought to his career. For him, semi-retirement isn't about slowing down, it's about connection with the community in new ways. With a deep appreciation for his heritage and traditional recipes, he has crafted a menu that reflects his passion for hearty, authentic meals.

*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.*



"I've always loved this town, and after years of building, I wanted to create something that brought people together," John shared. He sees Buon Johnny as more than just a restaurant—it's a gathering place where friends, neighbors, and colleagues can enjoy great food and good company.

Whether celebrating a milestone or simply sharing a meal with loved ones, Buon Johnny offers both dine-in and catering options. Come see why Buon Johnny is a place where food, friendship, and community come together in the heart of Itasca.

Visit Buon Johnny at 216 Walnut Street or learn more at [buonjohnny.com](http://buonjohnny.com).



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!

## **John's Sparking Fresh Cleaning Service – 1015 E. Irving Park Rd.**

John's Sparking Cleaning Service is a home-based business providing reliable and professional cleaning services for various spaces. For more information, call (630) 439-4292.

## **Roadside Protect - 1 Pierce Pl., Suite 510W**

Roadside Protect has been a trusted provider of roadside assistance for stranded motorists, ensuring help is always within reach. Successfully operating in Itasca with its first location on Irving Park Road, the company has expanded to add another location in town. For more information, visit [roadsideprotect.com](http://roadsideprotect.com).

## **Steiner Electric - 1 Pierce Pl., Suite 300E**

Steiner is a full-line electrical and metalworking distributor that serves the commercial construction, industrial and OEM markets in the greater Chicago area. For more information, visit [steinerelectric.com](http://steinerelectric.com).

## **PremiStar - 700 District Dr.**

PremiStar is a leading provider of HVAC, plumbing, and building automation services, operating across 16 states. By partnering with top regional owner-operators and focusing on customer-centric

solutions, PremiStar delivers exceptional results. Their commitment to safety, integrity, and sustainability ensures cost-effective, energy-efficient, and healthy environments for clients. For more information, visit [premistar.com/il/](http://premistar.com/il/).

New businesses are encouraged to contact the Community Development Department at (630) 773-5568, to learn more about getting started and the available resources.



Building Safety Month, held each May, raises awareness about the importance of updated building codes in creating safe, sustainable structures. Led by the International Code Council, this campaign unites industry professionals and agencies to promote strong building practices that protect communities from hazards.

Safe, well-built homes and public spaces ensure durability and resilience, reducing risks from fire, severe weather, and structural wear. Sustainability also plays a key role, with energy-efficient buildings lowering costs and environmental impact through eco-friendly materials and waste reduction.

You can help by learning about local building codes, supporting policy updates, and making home safety improvements. This year's theme, "GAME ON!" encourages everyone to get involved in building a safer, more sustainable future.

For more information, visit [iccsafe.org](http://iccsafe.org).

# Celebrate Our Community

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



Scan the QR code to access our event page.



**Mon., March 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**The History & Sounds of Bagpipes**  
Library  
6:30 p.m.

Learn the rich history of bagpipes, one of the world's oldest currently played musical instruments.



**Sat., March 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Teen Book Boxes**  
Library

Teens can register by the 8<sup>th</sup> of each month to get a customized box with a book, candy, and other fun stuff!



**Mon., March 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Family Storytime**  
Library  
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Drop in for stories and more every Monday from March 10<sup>th</sup> through May 5<sup>th</sup>. Geared to ages 6 & under. No registration needed.



**Thu., March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Lucky's Flashlight Hunt**  
Itasca Park District  
8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Join Lucky the Leprechaun at Washington Park for a St. Patrick's Day Flashlight Hunt filled with green and gold coins, treats, prizes, and a themed goody bag! Ages 1-14. Registration is required, visit [itascaparkdistrict.com](http://itascaparkdistrict.com) for more information.



**Wed., March 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Water Egg Hunt**  
Itasca Park District  
6:00 - 6:30 p.m. & 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Dive into the pool at Hamilton Lakes in Itasca for a fun water Egg Hunt! Ages birth-14. Families can swim after the hunt. Registration required—visit [itascaparkdistrict.com](http://itascaparkdistrict.com) for details.



**Fri., March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Eggstravaganza**  
Itasca Park District  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Egg Hunts are not just for kids! Get your running shoes on and be ready for an intense egg hunt for ages 18 and up. Check your eggs for candy and various prizes! Registration is required, visit [itascaparkdistrict.com](http://itascaparkdistrict.com) for more information.



**Sun., March 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Hoppy Visits**  
Itasca Park District  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Itasca Bunny is visiting residents for a 5-minute driveway visit and bunny basket! Ages 1-14. First child: \$25, additional children: \$15. Registration required—visit [itascaparkdistrict.com](http://itascaparkdistrict.com) for details.



**Tue., April 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Tween/Teen Eggstreme Egg Hunt**  
Itasca Park District  
8:00 p.m.

Tweens and Teens (ages 10-15), join us at Washington Park for an "eggcellent" Easter Egg Hunt with hundreds of eggs to find. Don't forget your flashlights! Free event.



**Sat., April 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Spring Fling**  
Itasca Park District  
11:00 a.m.

This is the ultimate Easter event for Itasca families! Meet the Easter Bunny, take a picture with him and find the hidden treats and prizes. This is a free event held at Washington Park. Please bring your own camera.



**Sat., April 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**DuPage River Sweep 2025**  
Springbrook Nature Center  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Make a difference! Help clean up local waterways or join restoration projects at Springbrook Nature Center. Supplies and snacks provided. Register at [conservationfoundation.org/sweep](http://conservationfoundation.org/sweep).



**Mon., April 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Kentucky Derby: History & Traditions**  
Library  
7:00 p.m.

In this lively illustrated lecture, historian Leslie Goddard traces the history of the Kentucky Derby, looking especially at the traditions that make it so beloved.



**Sat., April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Arbor Day Celebration**  
Springbrook Nature Center  
10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Arbor Day with the Mayor's proclamation, tree dedications, crafts, wildflower planting, a tree-climbing demo, free seedlings, and a Birds of Prey exhibit by Wings & Talons!



**Sat., May 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Green Day Recycling Event**  
Public Works  
8:00 a.m. - Noon

Get rid of old and unwanted electronics at the Village's annual Green Day event. More information on this event can be found on page 8.



**Mon., May 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Shape of Itasca**  
Village of Itasca  
7:00 p.m.

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



**Mon., May 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Discover DuPage on a Budget**  
Library  
7:00 p.m.

Learn about deals, activities, and free options for all ages and interests in DuPage County.



**Mon., May 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**2025 Memorial Day Parade**  
Peacock Park  
9:30 a.m.

Join us for the Annual Memorial Day Parade on a new North-side route! The step-off location is at Bryn Mawr & Catalpa, heading East. A Memorial Service follows at Peacock Park. Register by Fri., April 25th at [itascaparkdistrict.com](http://itascaparkdistrict.com).

## Community Garden Plots

Wish you could grow your own produce but don't have the space at home? Community garden plots are available through the Itasca Park District at Benson School and St. Matthews, offering the perfect opportunity to cultivate your own garden. Starting Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, residents can reserve a garden plot for \$40. Itasca senior citizens may reserve a plot at no cost. Non-residents can begin reserving their plots on April 7<sup>th</sup> for \$45 each, though please note that senior discounts are not available for non-residents. There is a limit of one plot per household, and plots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Planting can begin in mid-May, with the growing season lasting through October 15<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. To secure your plot, visit the Itasca Park District Recreation Center and be sure to provide proof of residency, age, and photo I.D.



## REAL ID

Starting May 7<sup>th</sup>, a REAL ID will be required for domestic air travel. If you plan to fly, make sure your identification meets federal security standards. A REAL ID, or a valid U.S. passport, will be needed to board flights.

To get your REAL ID, simply visit your local DMV. You'll need to provide proof of identity, your Social Security number, and proof of residency. Avoid last-minute stress by starting the process early, so you're ready to travel without hassle when the new requirement goes into effect.

You **DO NOT** need a **REAL ID** if:

- You have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; or
- You do not use airplanes to travel domestically; or
- You do not visit military bases; or
- You do not visit secure federal facilities.

For more information, please visit [realid.ilsos.gov](http://realid.ilsos.gov).

## Springbrook Nature Center Awarded \$600K OSLAD Grant



The Itasca Park District and Village of Itasca are thrilled to announce a \$600,000 OSLAD grant from the State of Illinois, funding a \$1.2 million transformation at Springbrook Nature Center. Planned upgrades include a multi-use pavilion, glycol ice rink, restored outdoor classroom, habitat enhancements, and more. These improvements aim to enrich the community by blending nature, recreation, and education. Stay tuned for updates as this exciting project unfolds!

## Spring Nesting

For many of our native bird species, Spring begins the annual cycle of nest building and egg hatching. Most of us are familiar with nests built from sticks. However, numerous species use different nest sites such as tree cavities or even on the ground! It's important to leave the nests undisturbed so that young birds have the best chance to grow up in the wild. When birds, like several of the resident hawks and owls at Springbrook Nature Center, become too accustomed to humans at a young age, they can't be safely returned to the wild. Several of the resident hawks and owls at Springbrook Nature Center became too acclimated to humans at a young age and cannot be returned to the wild. Visit the raptors at Springbrook Nature Center and talk with one of our volunteers to learn more.



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

## Live Fire Training in Itasca

In December, the Itasca Fire Protection District hosted a two-week live fire training event to improve the skills of local firefighters in realistic, high-pressure situations. The training involved 800 firefighters from 22 departments



and seven MABAS divisions. It included classroom sessions on firefighting tactics followed by live fire training in a building, where participants practiced extinguishing fires and conducting search-and-rescue operations under smoke conditions.

The Itasca Fire Protection District, along with DuPage Emergency Management, the Addison Consolidated Dispatch Center (ACDC), and the Illinois Fire Service Institute, worked together to provide first responders with critical, hands-on experience. These partnerships ensure firefighters are well-prepared to protect the community during emergencies. This training is another example of how intergovernmental partnerships are improving Itasca.

The Itasca Fire Protection District appreciates the continued support from the IFPD Board of Trustees, the Village of Itasca, Public Works, Battalion Chief Ryan Rasche, and Captain Brooks Nicewarner in making this training possible.

# Go Green Itasca

## Celebrate Arbor Day on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

Did you know trees can thrive for centuries, offering shade, clean air, and a haven for wildlife? This year, dedicate a tree to someone special through the Village's website or by contacting arborist Kevin Farley at [kfarley@itasca.com](mailto:kfarley@itasca.com). It's a heartfelt way to celebrate life and nature.



On Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, join the Village and Park District's annual Arbor Day celebration starting at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Pruyn will kick off the event by reading the Arbor Day proclamation, followed by a day full of exciting activities.

Get your hands in the dirt as you plant native wildflowers to help our local ecosystem thrive. Watch the Davey Tree Expert Company's tree climbing demonstration, and don't forget to take home a free seedling to grow in your own yard! Wings & Talons will also be there, showcasing their incredible Birds of Prey—an experience you won't want to miss.

Let's come together to honor the vital role of trees in our community. Bring your friends and family to this fun, enriching event as we celebrate Arbor Day and the lasting gifts of nature!

## Itasca's Annual Green Day Recycling Event on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Join us for Itasca's annual Green Day Recycling Event on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Public Works facility (411 N. Prospect Avenue), sponsored by Itasca Bank & Trust Co. This event provides a convenient way to responsibly dispose of electronic waste, paper, and more.

### Electronic Waste Disposal

The event will accept a variety of electronic waste, with specific restrictions for tube (CRT) televisions and computer monitors. Only one CRT per car, with a maximum size of 32", will be allowed. Projection screen TVs will not be accepted.



### Paper Shredding

On-site document shredding will be available for Itasca residents, Itasca Bank & Trust Co. customers, associates, and in-home businesses. Shredding is limited to five "copy paper sized" boxes, which will be returned to participants. Please ensure documents are removed from 3-ring binders. Books, catalogs, magazines, newspapers, and hazardous materials will not be accepted.

### Additional Recycling Items

In addition to electronics and paper, items such as fabric, used bicycles, American Flags, eyeglasses, prescription medications, used motor oil, automotive batteries, scrap metal, and more will

be accepted. Cooking oil can be presented in containers, or the oil can be disposed of with the container returned.

### Giveaways

Participants will also have a chance to win personal paper shredders from Fellowes, Inc. Random giveaways will occur throughout the event.

For more details, visit [itasca.com](http://itasca.com) or email Brian Yarbrough at [byarbrough@itasca.com](mailto:byarbrough@itasca.com).

## Join the DuPage County River Sweep on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>

Make a difference in your community this spring by participating in the annual DuPage County River Sweep, scheduled for Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. This wonderful tradition invites local residents to improve the health of their waterways by participating in a community cleanup event focused on removing debris and litter from streams, ponds, and creeks throughout the area.



The River Sweep is a great opportunity for all ages, especially school-aged kids in need of volunteer hours, to come together and support environmental conservation. Volunteers will help clear waterways of trash and litter, ensuring a cleaner, healthier habitat for local wildlife. If you are interested in a more hands-on restoration experience, alternative restoration projects will also be available at several cleanup sites.

Springbrook Nature Center is one of the featured sites for this year's River Sweep. Volunteers will assist in cleaning up the creek located near the nature center, making a visible and lasting impact on the environment.

### What's Provided:

- Supplies such as gloves, trash bags, and safety gear
- Technical support and guidance
- Snacks and water to keep you refreshed throughout the event
- Trash pokers to make the cleanup process safer and more efficient

Registration for the event is now open, and participants can sign up by visiting [conservationfoundation.org/sweep](http://conservationfoundation.org/sweep). Volunteers will gather at various locations, and the event promises to be a fun and rewarding way to give back to the environment.

For more information or to get involved, contact Amy Phillips at [aphillips@theconservationfoundation.org](mailto:aphillips@theconservationfoundation.org) or call (630)428-4500 x113.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to make a positive impact on DuPage County's local waterways and join in the tradition of the River Sweep!

## Simple Steps for an Eco-Friendly Home

Going green starts at home! Small changes can make a big impact. Start by swapping single-use plastics for reusable items like stainless

steel water bottles or cloth grocery bags. Replace traditional light bulbs with energy-efficient LEDs to save money and reduce energy consumption. Compost kitchen scraps to reduce landfill waste while creating nutrient-rich soil for gardening. Consider using eco-friendly cleaning products or DIY cleaners made with vinegar, baking soda, and lemon. Finally, remember to unplug electronics when not in use to minimize phantom energy consumption.



By adopting these habits, you'll not only help the environment but also create a healthier, more sustainable household.

### Green Transportation Tips



Transportation is a significant contributor to carbon emissions, but greener options are easy to incorporate. Opt for public transportation, carpooling, or biking whenever possible to reduce your carbon footprint. For shorter trips, consider walking—it's good for your health and the planet.

If driving is necessary, keep your vehicle well-maintained with regular oil changes and properly inflated tires for better fuel efficiency. Switching to an electric or hybrid vehicle is another excellent long-term investment for eco-conscious drivers.

Supporting ride-sharing programs or advocating for bike lanes and public transit improvements in your community can also make a difference. A small change in how you travel can lead to significant environmental benefits.

### Sustainable Shopping Choices

Making mindful shopping choices is an effective way to live more sustainably. Start by choosing products with minimal or recyclable packaging. Support local farmers' markets for fresh, seasonal produce with a smaller carbon footprint.



When buying clothes, opt for secondhand items or invest in quality pieces that will last longer. Look for brands that prioritize ethical practices and sustainable materials. For household goods, consider repairing or repurposing items instead of buying new ones.

Finally, think before you buy: ask yourself if the item is truly necessary or if there's a more sustainable alternative. Thoughtful purchasing habits not only reduce waste but also encourage businesses to adopt greener practices.

### Eco-Friendly Habits for Families

Living sustainably is easier when the whole family is involved! Start by encouraging kids to participate in eco-friendly activities like recycling, composting, or planting a garden. Teaching them the importance of conserving water and electricity—such as turning off lights or fixing leaks—instills lifelong habits.



Make eco-conscious choices fun by hosting “no waste” challenge days, where the family focuses on creating as little trash as possible. Swap disposable products like paper towels and plastic baggies for reusable alternatives such as cloth napkins and silicone storage bags.

Even meal times can go green—try cooking with locally sourced ingredients or having a “meatless Monday” to reduce your environmental impact. By working together, families can create meaningful habits that benefit both the planet and future generations.

### Recycling Do's and Don'ts

#### Do's:

- Clean recyclables: Rinse containers to avoid contamination.
- Check local rules: Follow your area's recycling guidelines.
- Recycle paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, and metal: These are widely accepted.
- Flatten cardboard: Save space and make recycling easier.

#### Don'ts:

- No greasy items: Grease-stained boxes can't be recycled.
- Avoid plastic bags: They can jam sorting machines.

Don't mix trash with recyclables: Contaminated items can ruin the batch.

### What can I recycle?

**YES**

Plastic containers

Paper & cardboard

Aluminum cans

Glass jars

---

**NO**

Plastic bags or trash bags

Greasy or dirty items

Styrofoam

Food or drink

## Yard Waste & Brush Collection

Spring is here, and it's time to refresh your yard! Starting April 7<sup>th</sup>, free yard waste and brush collection will be available to help keep your outdoor spaces neat and clean.



- **Yard Waste:**

Place in biodegradable paper bags or labeled containers (max 34 gallons, 50 lbs).

- **Brush:**

Bundle with biodegradable twine, with cut ends facing the street (max 50 lbs, 6-inch diameter, 4-foot length).

- **Holiday Schedule Change**

For Memorial Day (May 26), pick-up will be delayed until Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. For more details, visit [itasca.com](http://itasca.com) or call Republic Services at (847) 981-0091.

## Spring Property Maintenance Guidelines

Maintaining your property is important for keeping our town beautiful, ensuring safety, and preserving home values. Below are some important reminders to help keep your yard in top shape for spring:



### Grass Maintenance

- Grass should be kept trimmed and must not exceed 12 inches in height.

### Garbage Cans

- Garbage cans may be placed by the street after 4:00 p.m. on the day before collection.
- Cans must be removed by 10:00 p.m. on garbage day.
- When not in use, garbage containers should not be stored in front of the residence.

### Weed Control

- All properties must be free of weeds or plant growth exceeding 10 inches.
- All noxious weeds must be removed.

### Recreational Vehicles and Boats

- A recreational vehicle or single boat (on or off a trailer) is permitted on a hard surface driveway from May to October.
- Ensure the vehicle or boat does not encroach on sidewalks, parkways, or public spaces.

By adhering to these guidelines, we can work together to maintain the beauty and harmony of our community.

## Spring Yard Prep: Tips for a Healthy Lawn & Garden

As the weather warms up, now is the perfect time to start prepping your yard for a lush, healthy spring season. Here are some tips from Village Forester Kevin Farley to get your landscape in top shape for spring.



### Spring Lawn & Garden Care

- **Clear Out Leaves:** Leftover fall leaves or debris blown in from winter winds can smother and damage your grass. Rake them up to allow new growth.
- **Fix Compacted Soil:** If certain areas of your lawn show little to no growth, compacted soil may be the issue. Aerating your lawn (creating small holes in the soil) can improve air and water flow, making it easier for grass to grow.
- **Trim Back Perennials:** If you left perennials up for winter aesthetics, now's the time to cut back last year's growth. This encourages fresh spring growth and more blooms.
- **Don't Forget to Fertilize:** While many remember to fertilize their lawn, perennials and bushes need attention too! A spring starter fertilizer can give them a boost for healthier foliage and flowers.

### When to Start Planting

A few warm days in March might give you Spring Fever and make you eager to start planting but be cautious—hard frosts can still occur. In our area, mid-April is a safer time to begin planting perennials, trees, and shrubs. Annual flowers, however, may need even warmer conditions before they're ready for the outdoors.

### Caring for Newly Planted Trees

Newly planted trees take time to establish their root systems. A good rule of thumb is that for every inch of trunk diameter, the tree needs about that many years to fully recover from transplanting. For example, a 2-inch caliper tree will need 2 years to recover from transplanting.

Be sure to water young trees regularly, especially during hot and dry months.

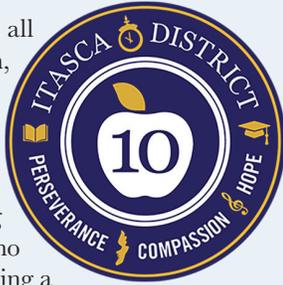
### Should You Replace a Plant?

There are a wide variety of plants that can grow well in our area. Some plants can start growing surprisingly early in the year, others can be very late. A good measure of a plant needing replacement is if a plant isn't showing signs of life by Mother's Day, it will need to be replaced.

With a little preparation, your yard will be thriving in no time! Happy gardening!

## All D10 Schools Receive the Highest Exemplary Designation Rating by the Illinois State Report Card

District 10 is excited to announce that all three district schools—Benson, Franzen, and Peacock—have achieved the prestigious “Exemplary” rating, the highest recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). This rating is reserved for schools performing in the top 10% across the state, with no underperforming student groups, marking a significant accomplishment in academic excellence for D10!



- In DuPage County, only 22% of elementary and middle schools have been distinguished with this honor, highlighting the exceptional achievement of our district.
- At the state level, it is exceedingly rare for an entire school district to receive this designation for all its schools.

Congratulations to everyone involved in reaching this remarkable achievement! Our students, educators, and community are truly best in class.

## Shaping the Future: Students in Action

At the beginning of the school year, District 10 launched a Youth Advisory aimed at bringing together community leaders and students to enhance engagement and collaboration. This initiative has created new opportunities for young people to have a voice in community projects while fostering a stronger connection between students and local government.



As a result of this partnership, the Village has been actively working with the district on projects that encourage student involvement. A notable recent initiative was the painting of the downtown windows on Walnut Street, where students contributed their creativity to

brighten the community during the holiday season. To learn more about this project, please see the next article.

We are excited to continue working with District 10 to create meaningful opportunities for student participation in community projects. By engaging students, we are fostering a stronger sense of community and inspiring the next generation to take an active role in shaping Itasca’s future.



## Peacock Middle School Paints Window Display

During the holiday season, a group of talented students from Peacock Middle School brought festive cheer to Walnut Street with their artistic skills. These students dedicated time before the holidays to create a vibrant winter display for the town at the old Kean’s Bakery building, showcasing beloved holiday characters like the Grinch and Snoopy. Their creative efforts transformed the street into a magical, festive space for the community to enjoy.

This project was made possible thanks to the generosity of local resident and business owner Chris McAllister of McAllister Real Estate, who kindly sponsored the art supplies. To learn more about Chris McAllister’s business, visit [christophermcallister.com](http://christophermcallister.com).

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved for making the holiday season extra special for all.

*You can view a video about the window displays by scanning the QR code provided.*



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

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**Village Clerk**

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Carie Anne Ergo

**Village Departments  
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**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**

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**Vote in the  
April 1, 2025,  
Election**



The next consolidated election will take place on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

There are no primaries for Village offices, as the Village of Itasca elects its officials through independent, at-large elections.

This is an opportunity to contribute to the future of our community by casting your vote. Make a plan to participate. For more information, visit [itasca.com/2012/April-1-2025-Consolidated-Election](https://www.itasca.com/2012/April-1-2025-Consolidated-Election).

**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