



Committed to our future.
Inspired by our past.

FALL 2025

Impact Awards
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The Village News



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Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

With the first signs of fall arriving—cooler mornings, changing leaves, and the start of a new school year—this season brings a renewed sense of rhythm for many families in our community. Whether you're adjusting to school schedules, preparing for seasonal yardwork, or looking forward to Oktoberfest, there's something comforting about this time of year in Itasca.

As students return to class, I want to remind drivers to stay alert, especially during morning and afternoon school hours. Please follow posted speed limits, come to complete stops at crosswalks, and take extra care near buses. Small actions behind the wheel help keep our youngest residents safe.

Around the neighborhood, fall also means a shift toward seasonal maintenance. Leaf pickup, street sweeping, and storm drain cleaning are underway. Residents can help prevent flooding by keeping leaves out of the street and away from storm inlets. For yard waste guidelines and pickup schedules, visit the Village website or see page 9 of this newsletter.

This season also brings opportunities to reconnect. Oktoberfest returns September 5th through 7th at Washington Park, offering food, music, and community celebration. On Sunday, September 8th, the Itasca Impact Awards will recognize individuals, businesses, and organizations making a difference. Nominations have closed, but all are welcome to attend. A free lunch will be provided for those who register in advance.

The following weekend, the Walnut Street Market returns to the downtown area on Saturday, September 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event is part of the Village's Only in Itasca program, which was introduced to support special events at local businesses in place of this summer's fireworks celebration. The market will feature vendors, food, and live entertainment. Other events in the program will continue through April, with updates posted on the Village's social media.

While enjoying these events, residents may also notice improvements around town. The Park District Recreation Center is currently being updated, and several public spaces have recently seen upgrades. The Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary and Softball Complex now includes the community's first pedestrian walkway over Springbrook Creek. Benson Park has also received improvements, and the School District completed facility updates to better serve students and families. Additional details are available on page 3. These projects are

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Mayor's Message Continued...

the result of ongoing collaboration and a shared commitment to improving the community for everyone.

With these improvements and activities shaping our village, fall

offers the perfect opportunity to enjoy what we've built together. I encourage everyone to take part in upcoming events, explore our parks, and connect with neighbors. These moments are what bring our village to life.

Administrator's Message

At the end of May, when everyone in town was gearing up to enjoy the summer fun, the Village was busy putting the finishing touches on the budget, which runs from May through April. I am once again happy to report that the Village Board continued its commitment to fiscal responsibility by approving a balanced budget. The budget covers three principal functions:



General Operating Fund

- \$15,274,944 in Expenditures
- Funding sources include: State Shared Sales Tax, Property Tax, Utility Taxes, State Shared Income Tax, and User Fees.
- **Village Property Tax Rate DECREASED 2% due to strong EAV growth.**
- The median Itasca Home, valued at \$375,000, will pay \$424 in Property Taxes to the Village.
- The State of Illinois eliminated the automatic 1% grocery tax for municipal services, but allowed local governments to continue imposing the tax with local approval. The Village opted to continue the collection of the grocery tax, which provides approximately \$30,000 in revenue for general operations. Local convenience stores and gas stations are the primary collectors of this revenue.
- Revenues support day-to-day services that residents rely on, such as 9-1-1, police, emergency management, street maintenance, snow plowing, parkway tree trimming, street lighting, garbage/recycling/yard waste collection, planning and zoning, communications, and more.

Water and Sewer Funds

- \$16,203,329 in Expenditures
- Primary funding source: Utility Billing Revenue
- Beginning May 1st, utility customers experienced their first rate increase since January 2022.
- The typical increase for an average household using 4,000 gallons per month and a 1-inch service line will be \$4 per month – a 2.7% increase.
- Revenues support the operating and capital costs of supplying drinking water and sanitary sewer services to homes and businesses. This includes all aspects of purchasing water from the City of Chicago through the DuPage Water Commission, delivering water to homes, transporting sanitary discharge to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, treating and testing wastewater, and discharging wastewater into Salt Creek.

Capital Project Funds

- \$11,353,921 in Expenditures
- These are generally one-time projects or equipment purchases over \$25,000 to improve local roads, stormwater drainage, Village facilities, parks, streetscapes, and more.
- Funding sources include Non-Home Rule Sales Tax, State-shared Motor Fuel Tax, Hotel Tax, and Grant Funds.
- The Village has instituted a non-home rule sales tax rate, which has been increased from 0.5% to 1%. This is expected to generate \$2.4 million for capital projects.
 - This decision comes after the State of Illinois elected to redirect local government income tax revenues to state services, which has resulted in a revenue loss of more than \$10 million to date.
 - In an evaluation of the top 20 sales tax generators in Itasca, only one primarily serves Itasca residents; the other 19 mainly impact people who reside outside of Itasca.
- Major capital project expenditures in the 2026 Budget include:
 - Water System Rehabilitation and Maintenance - \$3.7 million
 - North Side Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements - \$2.4 million
 - Orchard Streetscape and Infrastructure Improvements - \$1.8 million
 - Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation and Maintenance - \$1.7 million
 - Usher Park Improvements - \$1.6 million
 - \$800,000 Hotel Tax, \$600,000 State Grant Funds, \$300,000 Park District Funds

As part of our commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability, anyone can access a detailed record of recent bills, which is included in every regular Village Board meeting packet. Each month, staff also provides a summary financial report in the agenda packet. Finally, full Village Budgets, Annual Audits Reports, Treasurer Reports, Compensation Reports, Appropriation Ordinances, and our Collective Bargaining Agreements are also publicly available through the Financial Reports Portal on the Village website.



Strategic Budget Priorities



Public Safety



Economic Development



Infrastructure



Service Delivery



Technology



Good Governance

Celebrating What's New Around Town

As fall begins, there's a lot to see around town. Parks look different, public spaces have been refreshed, and projects that have been in the works for months are now complete. From school improvements to new development and upgrades across the Village, these changes reflect an ongoing commitment to keeping Itasca a great place to live. The updates below offer a look at some of the progress made possible through strong local partnerships.

Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary & Softball Complex Reopens with Community Celebration

On Wednesday, June 25th, the Park District, Village, and DuPage County came together to celebrate the reopening of the Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary and Softball Complex, along with a new pedestrian bridge over Springbrook Creek. The \$2 million project has transformed the area with better access to nature, upgraded recreation spaces, and improved walking paths. Neighbors, local leaders, and project partners joined the celebration and had a chance to explore the improvements, which include restored boardwalks, resurfaced trails, new interpretive signs, and renovated ball fields. This effort was made possible through a mix of funding and partnership: a \$600,000 OSLAD grant, \$500,000 from the Village, and land easements from the Spring Lake Business Association and Gift of Hope. The Village thanks the Park District for its continued leadership in improving community spaces and also recognizes Representative Jennifer Sanalitra, Senator Seth Lewis, and the Greater O'Hare Economic Development Partnership for their support.



Village officials, Park District Board of Commissioners, and staff cut the ribbon on the new pedestrian bridge, marking the grand reopening of the Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary & Softball Complex.

Benson Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On Tuesday, July 1st, the Park District celebrated the reopening of Benson Park with a ribbon cutting attended by the Park District Board of Commissioners, Executive Director Maryfran Leno, State Representative Jennifer Sanalitra, Mayor Jeff Pruyn, and families from the community.

The event marked the completion of a \$900,000 renovation project, supported in part by a \$400,000 OSLAD grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Guests enjoyed free Kona Ice, lawn games, and a chance to check out the park's new features.

Benson Park now offers updated tennis and pickleball courts, a sand

volleyball court, improved soccer fields, a large picnic pavilion, and accessible playground enhancements. These upgrades reflect the Park District's continued effort to provide high-quality spaces for recreation and community connection.

If you haven't visited recently, stop by Benson Park and see what's new.



Celebrating community and new beginnings at our ribbon cutting with local leaders, Itasca Park District Board, staff, and future generations!

District 10 Gets a Fresh Look

District 10 recently finished a round of summer upgrades to make school spaces more comfortable and inviting for students and staff. At Peacock Middle School, classrooms and hallways now feature new flooring, updated lighting, fresh paint, and new furniture, resulting in a brighter, more modern appearance for the building.

The gymnasium was also upgraded with a new floor, new bleachers, and an HVAC system to maintain a comfortable temperature throughout the year.

Over at Benson Primary School, a redesigned drop-off area now makes arrival and dismissal safer and more efficient for families.

Thanks to the District's Building and Grounds teams for all their hard work, and to the community for supporting these improvements that help make each school day better.

Ribbon Cutting Celebration for Meisystem's New Facility



The Village celebrated a major milestone with the opening of Meisystem's new 60,000-square-foot facility at 200 Pierce Road in Hamilton Lakes Business Park. This North American headquarters represents a significant investment and shows a strong commitment to the local business community.

Meisystem, an Italian company, is a global leader in manufacturing lens cutting machines for eyeglass and sunglass production. The state-of-the-art facility includes space for customer training, product demonstrations, and equipment repairs, positioning the company for continued growth in the region. This expansion marks an important step in Itasca's development as a hub for innovative businesses.

Business Spotlight

When it comes to updating kitchens and bathrooms, finding the right design partner can make all the difference. Sophisticate, a boutique showroom at 320 W. Irving Park Road, brings personalized, hands-on design services to Itasca residents looking to create spaces that fit their style and needs.

Owned by Josh Bordenave, who has 25 years of experience in kitchen and bath design across Chicagoland, Sophisticate offers more than just products—it offers a tailored experience. From large-scale showroom projects to efficient home designs, Josh's work spans a wide range of styles and sizes, including local projects like the cabinetry in the Member Lounge at the Itasca Country Club.

At Sophisticate, the process begins with a conversation to understand your vision. Josh provides complimentary initial design drafts and uses advanced rendering software to show you detailed plans and visuals of your future space. With six cabinet lines ranging from budget-friendly to luxury and a weatherproof outdoor collection, there's something for every style and need.

Josh handles each project personally, serving as your single point

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



of contact to make sure the details are right from start to finish.

Whether you're just starting to explore ideas or ready to begin, Sophisticate is open "By Appointment or Coincidence." Contact Josh at (847) 400-7663 to learn more

Help Shape the Future of Downtown Itasca

Itasca is updating its Zoning Code to help shape the future of downtown and the area around the Metra station. This isn't just about rules—it's about creating a vibrant, welcoming place where people want to live, work, and spend time. The update will look at things like building heights, parking, bike paths, walkability, housing options, outdoor gathering spots, and how arts and culture fit into the community.



What's important to you? Do you want easier ways to get around, no matter your age or ability? Would more connected sidewalks and trails make a difference? How about spaces to eat outside, meet friends, or enjoy local art like murals? What types of homes and businesses do you want downtown? Starter homes? Rentals? Shops, restaurants, or offices?

Your ideas will help guide these changes. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/itasca-tod-zoning> or scan the QR code to take a quick survey and share your thoughts on an interactive map. This is your chance to shape downtown's future—don't miss it!

Questions? Contact Kurtis Pozsgay at kpozsgay@itasca.com or (630) 773-5568.



Business License Reminder

The Village values the diverse businesses that make our community unique—from storefronts to home-based ventures. To keep things running smoothly, all businesses need to register for a license each year.

Business licenses are valid from January 1st through December 31st. You can find registration and renewal packets anytime on the Village website under the "Business" tab by selecting "Opening a Business in Itasca" or "Business License Renewal." Keeping your license current helps avoid late fees and keeps your business in good standing.

If you have questions or need assistance, the Community Development team is here to help at (630) 773-5568.



Usher Park Updates

Usher Park has been under construction this summer, and like many large-scale improvement projects, a few unexpected challenges have come up. Issues with grading caused some delays, but the project is now back on track.

Sidewalk installation is currently underway, and visible progress is being made across the site. As work continues this fall, residents will begin to see more of the park take shape. We appreciate the community's continued patience and look forward to delivering an improved park experience once construction is complete.



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 approval for their Zoning Certificates.

PulsarLube - 1170 Ardmore Ave.

Pulsarlube® provides the most innovative and reliable Automatic Single Point Lubricator on the market. Backed by years of research and development, PULSARLUBE offers a wide range of superior products to meet the needs of its customers. To learn more, visit pulsarlube.com.

Glam Studio LLC - 221 N Walnut St.

Glam Studio is a hair salon offering expert haircuts, color treatments, and modern styling tailored to each client. With a welcoming atmosphere and a team of skilled stylists, it's the perfect spot for a personalized beauty experience. For more information, call (630) 350-9810.

Geskoci Transport LLC - 249 Bay Dr.

Geskoci Transport LLC is an active interstate freight carrier based out of Itasca. They manage the transportation of refrigerated foods, fresh produce, and meat. To learn more, email Dispatch@geskocitransport.com.

Help Make Itasca More Accessible: Take the ADA Transition Plan Survey

The Village is developing an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan to improve accessibility in public buildings and community spaces. This plan will review Village facilities, streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, and programs to identify barriers and create safer, easier access for everyone.

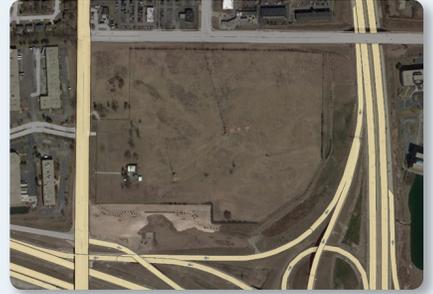
Accessibility benefits all residents, visitors, and employees—whether it means adding ramps to public entrances, improving sidewalk conditions, or ensuring clear and easy-to-read signage in municipal buildings. The plan will serve as a roadmap for short- and long-term improvements, helping the Village meet ADA standards while making daily life more inclusive.

If you or someone you know has faced challenges entering public buildings, navigating sidewalks, crossing streets, or participating in Village programs, the Village wants to hear from you. Feedback from residents, caregivers, business owners, and visitors will help determine priorities for improvements such as smoother pathways, accessible restrooms, automatic doors, and inclusive recreational opportunities.

The Itasca ADA Transition Plan Public Survey is a simple way to share your experiences and ideas. In just a few minutes, you can highlight locations that are difficult to access, share what ADA resources would be most helpful, and suggest how updates should

Revitalizing the Former CBS Tower Site

The Village continues to grow, and one of the biggest transformations is at the site that once housed the CBS Tower at Rohlwing Road and Devon Avenue. This nearly 48-acre property has been reshaped with new industrial buildings and commercial spaces, bringing fresh energy to the area.



Since 2018, three modern industrial buildings have been built, attracting businesses like AMSOIL Distribution Center, Costco Logistics, Concordia International, and Abbott Warehouse. These companies contribute to the local economy and create new jobs for the community.



Commercial development is also picking up nearby. In 2022, Ricky Rockets Fuel Center opened at 1221 N Rohlwing Road, and it's more than just a gas station — inside you'll find Joe's Donuts, a favorite local spot known for its delicious treats. This combination

has made Ricky Rockets a convenient stop for both residents and visitors alike.

Following that, a 10,000-square-foot retail strip center opened in 2023, and Biggby Coffee will be opening its doors at 1241 N Rohlwing Rd. There's still 6,500 square feet of retail space available, plus a 2.6-acre parcel ready for future development.



What was once a single-purpose property has evolved into a well-rounded destination that blends industrial activity with retail access, contributing to the area's continued growth.

be communicated.

Your input will guide the Village's efforts to create a welcoming community where everyone can participate fully.

Take the survey at itasca.com/adasurvey or scan the QR code to share your ideas today.



Celebrate Our Community

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



Scan the QR code to access our event page.



Fri., September 5th
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 6th
Oktoberfest 5K
W. Grove St Start
9:00 a.m.

Get into the Oktoberfest spirit by signing up for the Itasca Runners Club's 15th annual 5k. Runners, walkers, and an enthusiastic crowd support along the route are always welcome!



Sat., September 6th
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 7th
Impact Awards
Washington Park
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

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



Thurs., September 11th
Understanding Medicare
Library
6:30 p.m.

Join the Illinois Department on Aging for a free presentation on Medicare. Learn what Medicare covers, what it doesn't, and your potential out-of-pocket expenses.



Sat., September 13th
Walnut Street Market
Downtown Itasca
10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The Walnut St. Market is a curated outdoor event featuring local, vintage, and handmade vendors. Enjoy shopping, live music, and delicious food in a vibrant community atmosphere. Don't miss it!



Fri., September 19th
0.5K Beer & Donut Run
Springbrook Nature Center
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Ready for the laziest race ever? Join the 0.5K Beer & Donut Run—just a sweet loop with snacks, drinks, and goats cheering you on. Fun, fresh air, and zero pressure!



Sat., October 4th
Itasca Halloween Celebration
Springbrook Nature Center
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join the Village and Park District for an afternoon of Halloween fun! Enjoy free games, a bounce house, pumpkin decorating, and more. Bring canned goods for the Itasca Food Pantry.



Wed., October 8th
Pumpkin Patch Family Carving Fest
Park District Rec Center
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Bring your creativity for a night of pumpkin fun with the Park District! Pumpkins and tools provided—you bring the ideas. Fees apply. Pre-registration is required for this festive carving event.



Thurs., October 9th
Castles of Europe
Library
7:00 p.m.

Join avid traveler and librarian Faye Levin-O'Leary for an exploration of the castles that they not only visited but also worked and lived in.



Sat., October 11th
Howl-O-Ween Bash
Itasca Riverwalk
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bring your pup and join us for Howl-o-ween—a tail-wagging fundraiser featuring food trucks, fun activities, and furry friends! Proceeds benefit the Fetching Tails Foundation.



Mon., October 13th
Ralph's World Family Concert
Library
10:00 a.m.

Put your dancing shoes on for this solo acoustic show presented by Grammy-nominated indie rocker and songwriter, Ralph Covert.



Sat., October 18th
Trick or Treat Trail
Springbrook Nature Center
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Children and their parents can enjoy a walk around the Springbrook Nature Center trail while collecting candy and goodies. This fun, scare-free event requires no registration—just come and enjoy!



Sat., October 18th
Haunted Trail
Springbrook Nature Center
4:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Dare to enter the terrifying 1/3-mile Nightmare Trail at Springbrook Nature Center. Family hour is 4:30–5:30, with full scares from 6:30–9:30. Weather permitting. Cash only. Advance tickets are available.



Wed., October 22nd
Pumpkin Splash
Hamilton Lakes Athletic Club
6:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Jump into the Pumpkin Splash! Kids get a pumpkin to decorate, plus accessories and a goodie bag. Swim time included. An adult must accompany children. Pre-registration is required.



Thurs., October 23rd
Haunted Birdhouses
Library
6:30 p.m.

We'll provide the birdhouse and the materials like paint, spider webbing, and creepy extras; you supply the creativity needed to decorate your haunted birdhouse. For teens in grades 6-12.

Celebrate Our Community



Fri., 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!



Thurs., November 6th
A Tough Act to Follow: The History of Vaudeville
 Library
 7:00 p.m.

Discover how Vaudeville transformed entertainment, bringing together a diverse array of performances, from comedians, singers, and dancers to magicians and acrobats on a single stage.



Sat., November 8th
Pumpkin Smash Event
 Public Works Facility
 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Don't just 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.



Thurs., November 13th
Tween Game Night
 Library
 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of fun board games at the library. For kids in grades 3-6.

Prost to the 17th Annual Itasca Oktoberfest!



Join us at Washington Park on Friday, September 5th, and Saturday, September 6th, for a weekend full of festive fun at the 17th Annual Itasca Oktoberfest! Enjoy FREE admission and parking as you soak in the sights, sounds, and flavors of a true Oktoberfest celebration—complete with live traditional

music, steins raised high, and plenty of authentic German food! It's the perfect way to kick off fall in Itasca!

Renate's German Restaurant will be serving up classic favorites like:

- Spaetzle
- Schnitzel
- Wurst
- Pork Roast
- Sauerkraut



Oktoberfest Hours

Friday, September 5th from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

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

Enjoy the lively tunes of Alpine Thunder Band from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 6th from 3:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Experience the sounds of Euro Express Band from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Then, immerse yourself in the energetic rhythms of Johnny Wagner Band 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 Oktoberfest Hawaiian Shirts for \$15.00 each. Cash only, please. All proceeds will benefit the Itasca Walk-In Ministry and Food Pantry.

Itasca Impact Awards



2024 Itasca Impact Award Recipients

Every day, people in Itasca step up—neighbors lending a hand, students leading projects, businesses giving back, and volunteers making things happen. The Itasca Impact Awards shine a spotlight on these unsung heroes and the organizations that keep our community strong.

This year's celebration will take place on Sunday, September 7th, and is open to the public. Stop by Washington Park from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. to enjoy refreshments, connect with neighbors, and help honor this year's award recipients.

Awards will be presented in:

- Business Brilliance
- Citizen of the Year
- Civic Excellence
- Community Builder
- Guiding Light
- Hometown Hero
- Neighborhood Gem
- Rising Star

Join us to celebrate these changemakers, hear their stories, and find ways you can contribute to our community's future.

Oktoberfest Turns 15: Celebrate and Sign Up for the Race



This year's Oktoberfest 5K is more than just a race, it's a celebration. The Itasca Runners Club is marking 15 years of hosting the community run and 20 years as a club, and they're inviting everyone to be part of the fun.

What began as a small group of local runners in 2009 has evolved into a

well-loved community event, welcoming over 500 participants from across the region, including Elk Grove, Arlington Heights, Glen Ellyn, and even Chicago.

Since its inception, the Itasca Runners Club has donated more than \$160,000 in race proceeds to organizations such as the Itasca Walk-In Ministry, Itasca Food Pantry, District 10, and Itasca Cares.

Join the Itasca Runners Club on Saturday, September 6th, for this milestone year! Whether you run, walk, or cheer from the sidelines, the Oktoberfest 5K is a fun way to kick off the fall season. Then stick around, as all participants are invited to enjoy the post-race celebration.

As the club reflects on its impact close to home, its members have also been reaching new heights abroad. Last year, ten runners from the Itasca Runners Club traveled to Iceland to participate in the Reykjavik Marathon and Half Marathon. With cool temperatures and low winds, conditions were ideal for racing. Patrick Laughlin led the group, finishing the marathon in a remarkable 3 hours and 28 minutes.



Beyond the finish line, the runners experienced some unforgettable moments—witnessing a volcanic eruption near the Blue Lagoon and catching a glimpse of the northern lights.

Whether you're logging miles in Iceland or running through the streets of Itasca, the spirit of the Itasca Runners Club is all about community, connection, and doing what you love.

To be a part of it—sign up for the Oktoberfest 5K and help celebrate 15 years of running.

Register or learn more at itascaoktoberfest5k.org.

Howl-O-Ween Bash Returns This October



Calling all dog lovers! The 2025 Howl-O-Ween Bash hosted by Fetching Tails and the Village is set for Saturday, October 11th, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Itasca Riverwalk (100 N. Walnut Street).

All residents and their canine companions are invited to enjoy a fun afternoon of costumes, community, and support for a great cause. Dress your pup in their most creative costume and join the festive doggy parade around the Riverwalk for a chance to win fun prizes.

Event highlights include:

- Doggy costume parade
- Food trucks
- Local vendors
- Exciting raffles
- Free kids admission

Admission is \$25 per person, which includes a Howl-O-Ween t-shirt, goodie bag, and five raffle entries. All proceeds go directly to the Fetching Tails Foundation. Pre-registration is preferred, and spots fill fast—don't miss out!

For more information and to register, visit fetchingtailsfoundation.org.

Pumpkin Smash Event



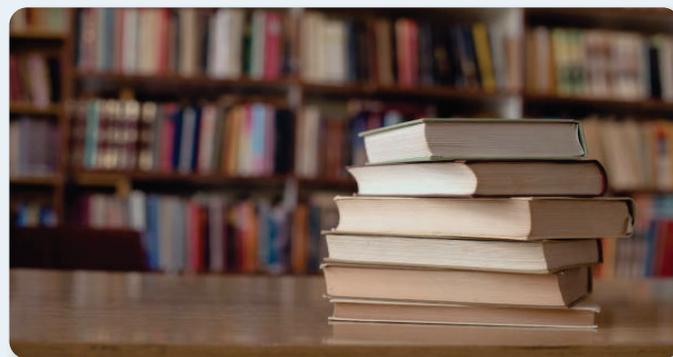
Not sure what to do with your jack-o'-lanterns after Halloween? Bring them to the Itasca Pumpkin Smash hosted by Public Works and SCARCE. Stop by on Saturday, November 8th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Itasca Public Works Facility (411 N. Prospect Ave.).

This annual event provides a fun and eco-friendly way to bid farewell to your pumpkins. Instead of ending up in the landfill, composted pumpkins return nutrients to the soil and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To participate, make sure your pumpkins are free of paint, stickers, candles, and decorations, then come ready to toss, drop, or smash them into the compost zone.

On the Same Page

This October, Bloomingdale, Roselle, and Itasca Public Libraries are coming together again for *On the Same Page*, the annual community reading event. This year's selection is *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson, a heartfelt novel about family, secrets, and the stories that shape us. Each library will host special events exploring the book's themes of food, culture, identity, and connection. Pick up your copy, join the conversation, and see the full schedule of programs on the library website. For more information, visit the Itasca Community Library's website at itascalibrary.org.



Fall Reminders

With cooler days ahead and leaves starting to fall, it's a good time to check in on a few seasonal reminders:



- **Leaf Burning:** Burning leaves or other yard waste is not allowed in the Village.
- **Leaf Collection:** Leaves should not be placed or blown into the street, as they can block storm drains and cause backups. The street sweeper will skip any areas where piles remain in the road.
- **Garbage & Recycling:** Items should be placed at the curb no earlier than 4:00 p.m. on Sundays, and containers must be brought in by 10:00 p.m. on collection day.
- **Seasonal Storage:** Boats must be removed from driveways by October 1st, and recreational vehicles by October 31st.

Free Yard Waste Collection



To assist with fall cleanup, the Village provides free unlimited yard waste pickup. Yard waste and brush collection will continue through Monday, December 8th, and will resume the following year in April.

Yard waste must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or reusable containers no larger than 34 gallons. Brush should be neatly bundled with biodegradable twine and placed on the parkway with the cut ends facing the street. Branches and limbs must not exceed 4 feet in length or 6 inches in diameter.

The Village does not collect unbundled brush or large tree trunks; these must be removed by a private landscaper. Yard waste and brush may be placed at the curb after 4:00 p.m. on Sundays and must be removed by 10:00 p.m. on Monday.

Halloween Safety & Reminders

Ghosts, goblins, and ghouls—oh my! Halloween is coming, and the Village is gearing up for a night full of costumes, candy, and fun. Trick-or-treating will be on Friday, October 31st, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.



Whether you're planning your candy route, picking out a costume, or getting your porch ready for visitors, we've got some simple tips to keep everyone safe and smiling.

Get ready for a fang-tastic night!

Trick-or-Treating Tips for Families:

- Stick to the magic hours. Please limit trick-or-treating to the 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. timeframe.
- Glow like a ghost. Use light-colored costumes, reflective materials, or flashlights, especially after sunset.
- Haunt the streets together. Young children should trick-or-treat with an adult or responsible older sibling.
- Check your loot for tricks. Check all candy and items before eating. Avoid anything that is unwrapped or suspicious.

Tips for Residents Handing Out Treats

- Light your lair. A porch light signals you're ready for visitors.
- Clear the cobwebs. Make sure walkways are free of cords, decorations, or other tripping hazards.
- Tuck away your familiars. With the door swinging open all night, keep pets somewhere safe so they don't make a surprise escape.

Safety Tips for Drivers

- Fly your broomstick slowly. Watch for increased foot traffic and slow down through neighborhoods.
- Watch the shadows closely. Be on the lookout for children crossing streets or stepping out between parked cars.

Convenient Ways to Recycle Electronics

Recycling your old electronics is easier than ever with multiple convenient options available to Itasca residents. Whether you prefer the simplicity of curbside pickup, attending community recycling events like Green Day, or using nearby drop-off locations, there are ways to responsibly recycle your TVs, computers, printers, and more throughout the year. Learn about all the programs designed to help you keep electronics out of the landfill and protect the environment.

Curbside Electronics Recycling Now Available

Itasca residents can now recycle electronics curbside.

Place up to five devices (max 1 TV/monitor) out on your second-monthly collection day. Schedule service at least one day ahead by calling Republic Services at **847.981.0091** and pay \$45. Keep electronics separate from other curbside items.



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Sustainability in Action

Annual Green Day

The Village of Itasca proudly hosts an annual Green Day event, where sustainability meets community each year in May, on the first Saturday of the month. This event is a chance to responsibly dispose of unwanted electronics, securely shred paper, and declutter your space of other items you no longer need. Watch for more details on next year's event and learn more, at itasca.com/greenday.

Addison Township Drop-Off

Addison Township also hosts three recycling events annually. Their final event of 2025 is Saturday, November 22nd, from 8 a.m. to noon at 411 W. Potter, Wood Dale. Most electronics, as well as paper and textiles, are accepted for free. Fees apply only for CRT, flat-screen, and projection TVs and monitors. For more information, visit addisontownship.com/recycling-program.

Free Smoke Detector Installations Available for Itasca Residents

As the weather cools and the season changes, it's a good time to check your home's fire safety. The Itasca Fire Protection District is offering free smoke detector installations to residents, helping keep families safer and more prepared.



Earlier this year, firefighters launched their first installation blitz in the 300- to 600-block of Catalpa Avenue. In just one morning, crews installed 35 smoke detectors, nine carbon monoxide detectors, and seven combination detectors for natural gas and carbon monoxide. During these visits, firefighters discovered one home without any smoke detectors and another with a unit from 1994. Along with installations, they shared home safety tips and reviewed common fire hazards with residents.



This free service is available to all Itasca residents thanks to a FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety grant. Whether your detectors are missing, expired, or outdated, the Fire Protection District is ready to help ensure your home is protected.

The U.S. Fire Administration recommends smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home—including the basement. Illinois law requires replacing smoke detectors older than 10 years with models featuring a sealed 10-year battery. Homes with hardwired detectors are exempt.

More neighborhood visits are planned this fall. To schedule a free Home Safety Visit, contact Joan Koriath at jkoriath@itascafd.org or call (630) 773-1223 ext. 301.

Thanksgiving Cooking? Don't Pour Grease Down the Drain!

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, many of us will be cooking up a feast, and that means lots of leftover cooking oil and grease. Remember, pouring fats, oils, or grease down your sink can clog your household pipes, damage the sewer system, and harm the environment.



Instead of dumping used cooking oil, recycle it! The Village offers a convenient, year-round drop-off location at the Public Works Facility (411 N. Prospect Ave.). Simply pour your vegetable-based cooking oil into a sealed container and place it in the designated collection bins by the entrance doors. The bins are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, making it easy to dispose of oil properly at any time.

Have questions? Call Public Works at (630) 773-2455.

New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements



The Village recently welcomed Natalie Crown as its new Community Development Planner. She will work on zoning, land use, and planning projects that help guide the Village's growth and development.

Natalie has a bachelor's and master's degree in urban planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and experience working with local governments.

"I am happy to be joining the Village of Itasca's Community Development team," she said. "I look forward to supporting the Itasca community's everyday planning and development needs, as well as furthering community goals through some very exciting projects."

Please join us in welcoming her to the Village.

Thank You for Supporting Special Olympics Illinois

The Itasca Police Department extends a heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported this year's Cop on a Rooftop event on May 16th at Dunkin' Donuts in Itasca. Thanks to the generosity of our community, the event raised \$2,822.69 for Special Olympics Illinois.



This annual event is part of a statewide effort by law enforcement to support Special Olympics athletes. In total, departments across Illinois helped raise more than \$1.2 million this year.

A special thank you goes out to Tony's Finer Foods and Woofer Electronics for their generous donations that helped make the day such a success.

Special Olympics Illinois provides year-round sports training and competitions for individuals with intellectual disabilities, helping them achieve physical fitness, courage, and joy.

To learn more about their mission, visit specialolympics.org.

Itasca Police Department Car Seat Installation Event

Installing a car seat correctly can be harder than it looks, and getting it right is essential for keeping kids safe on the road. The Itasca Police Department is here to help.

On Saturday, September 13th, members of the department will be available at Village Hall to check car seats, answer questions, and ensure everything is safely secured. This free event is open exclusively to Itasca residents and runs from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Whether you're a new parent or just need peace of mind that your child's seat is properly installed, we encourage you to stop by. No appointments are necessary.

For more information, contact the Itasca Police Department at (630) 773-1004.



Prepared to Protect: Itasca Police Department Readiness Plan



From major events to everyday calls, the Itasca Police Department works behind the scenes to ensure our Village is prepared for anything that may come our way.

Since becoming an Illinois Law Enforcement Accredited Agency in 2016, the Itasca Police Department has continued to raise the bar. This prestigious designation, held by only about 60 departments in the state, recognizes the department's commitment to best practices, transparency, and public trust.

Behind that badge is a culture of constant training. Each Itasca officer completes approximately 80 hours of continuing education every year, which exceeds the training required by the State of Illinois. Officers are trained in de-escalation, mental health response, impartial policing, verbal communication strategies, and constitutional law. Every officer wears a body camera, each squad car is equipped with a dashcam, and every interaction is guided by fairness and accountability.

In 2025, the department implemented Lexipol, a nationally recognized policy management system reviewed by legal experts. Lexipol ensures that department policies meet or exceed federal, state, and industry standards, helping officers respond with clarity and consistency.

The department also maintains strong regional partnerships. As a member of ILEAS, NIPAS, and the countywide MERIT team, the Itasca Police Department has access to specialized support in areas such as major crimes, SWAT, K-9 response, drone operations, and crisis negotiation. Several of our officers serve as active members of these teams.

In 2019, Director Robert O'Connor signed the "Ten Shared Principles," a public pledge to promote fairness, build mutual trust, and support modern community policing. This signed document is proudly displayed in the department lobby.

"Our goal is simple," said Director O'Connor. "To be prepared, professional, and ready to serve the Village no matter what comes our way."

If you're interested in learning more about how the Police Department serves the community, consider joining the Citizen Police Academy, which offers hands-on experiences and insight into police work. Keep an eye on the Village website and social media for announcements about upcoming academy sessions.

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

Mayor

Jeff Pruyn

Village Clerk

Jody Conidi

Trustees

Jeff Aiani

Melissa Christensen

Brendan Daly

Dino Gavanis

Ellen Leahy

Patrick Powers

Village Administrator

Carie Anne Ergo

**Village Departments
and Taxing Districts**

Village Administrator

773-0835

Village Clerk's Office

773-0835

Community Development

773-5568

Public Works

773-2455

Wastewater Treatment Plant

773-5571

Police Department Non-Emergency

773-1004

Police Department Emergency

9-1-1

Itasca Chamber of Commerce

773-2949

Springbrook Nature Center

773-5572

Library

773-1699

School District #10

773-1232

Park District

773-2257

Fire District Non-Emergency

773-1223

Fire District Emergency

9-1-1

O'Hare Noise Hotline Complaints

(800) 435-9569



Village of Itasca

550 W. Irving Park Rd.

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



Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Monday:

No Meetings Scheduled

Tuesday:

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