

Winter 2016

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

Mayor
Jeff Pruyn

Village Clerk
Melody Craven

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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	773-1004
non-emergency	
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	773-1223
non-emergency	
Emergency	9-1-1

O'Hare Noise Hotline

Complaints 800-435-9569

The Village News

Committed to our future ... inspired by our past

Message from the Mayor



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

I thank all of the Village board members, Village staff, and the residents for their efforts in helping to keep Itasca a great place to live and to operate a business.

For a Village with 9,000 residents we are dealing with several major issues: the Elgin-O'Hare project (IL Rte. 390), the O'Hare Modernization project and its impacts on Itasca, and our capital and fiscal plans for the Water and Sewer Fund.

The IL Rte. 390 project is now completing its third construction year. We have all experienced some inconveniences, but the project remains on schedule to be completed with the construction of an elevated tollway through Itasca by the end of 2017. This very complicated project requires a great deal of attention by the Village as we have millions of dollars of assets involved, including water and sewer mains, streets, street lights, traffic signals, sidewalks, as well as trees and so much more. As a Village Board, we made the decision to expend funds to oversee the tollway contractor's activities to ensure that their work did not leave the Village with any expensive surprises in the future. We decided to monitor the construction, attend construction meetings to be kept informed of upcoming road closures, and to ensure that Itasca's interests are being met. We believe this was a wise decision and very prudent even though its costs are coming out of the Village's reserves.

The ten billion dollar O'Hare Modernization project is designed to change the existing runways to an east-west flow versus diagonals. This past October 15th, the airport opened

the new south runway which flies over the southern tip of Itasca. Since the opening of these new runways and the lengthening of existing runways, Itasca and its neighbors have been experiencing more flights, and flights that have been flying lower than previously occurred. Through the Suburban O'Hare Commission (SOC), we have funded a technically accurate study through a nationally recognized aviation firm to determine what the airport could do to address these issues in a fair and safe manner.

The communities in SOC have been seeking a seat at the table with the City of Chicago, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission and with the FAA to institute these measures. I offered to serve on a committee that is supposed to address these issues but was not selected. However, I, Trustees familiar with these issues and Village staff will still attend these meetings to make sure our voices are heard. We realize that the planes will not go away and that any relief will only come from the use of all the runways (spreading out the planes) and for the airport to adopt flight measures that address the quality of life issues like Fly Quiet procedures, or using runways at night that go over less populated areas.

The third issue deals with the Village's water and sewer operations. The Village operates a system that has over 50 miles of sewer and water mains, two elevated water reservoirs and one at grade reservoir, eleven sewer lift stations, a water treatment plant and miles of storm sewers. We provide clean, safe, and reliable water to roughly 3,000 customers and treat millions of gallons of liquid and solid waste every day.

Unfortunately, our treatment plant project did not go as planned and we are in the midst of suing the

Continued on page 3

Village of Itasca

Melody Craven, Village Clerk

Phone: (630) 773-0835 • e-mail: mcraven@itasca.com

Christmas Tree Collection

The Village of Itasca's waste and recycling collector, Republic Services, will offer curbside Christmas tree pick up during the first two full weeks of January: on Monday, January 4th and Monday, January 11th, 2016. Christmas trees must be free of all decorations, including tinsel. They **cannot** be placed in plastic bags. If you place out a tree that violates these guidelines, Republic will not pick it up.

Itasca Cares

The "Itasca Cares" website is now available for viewing. The four Itasca charities provide help for residents going through difficult times.

Please visit Itascacares.org for a complete list of the member organizations and the assistance they can provide our community.

The Village of Itasca 2016 Dog Licenses are due January 1st

Village of Itasca ordinance requires that all dogs residing within the incorporated limits of Itasca have a valid dog license affixed to their collar.

The fee for this license is \$3.00 and can be obtained at Village Hall – Administration desk located at 550 W. Irving Park Road, beginning December 1st. Proof of rabies vaccination is required. Remember: should your dog become lost, the Village tag worn by your dog will expedite a safe and happy reunion with your lost pet.

Family Christmas Concert

The 24th annual Family Christmas Concert is being held on Saturday, December 5th. The Hanmee Presbyterian Church, located at 1149 W. Bloomingdale Road, is hosting this year's performance.

Doors open at 7:00 pm with the concert starting at 7:30 pm. Following the concert, a reception will be held in the church gym.

The program includes familiar Christmas carols, audience participation, handbell numbers performed by the Hanmee Handbell choir, and children singing "Away in a Manger" with the orchestra.

All proceeds are donated to Itasca charities. Over \$83,000 has been donated to the Itasca Food Pantry, Itasca Walk In Ministry, the Itasca PADS site at the First Presbyterian Church and the Itasca Community Outreach Team.

This is a community supported annual event, with the Itasca Lions providing the outdoor path lighting through their luminaries, and the reception table floral arrangements made by the Itasca Garden Club.

Adult tickets are \$10.00, children 3-12 are \$5.00 and children under 3 may attend for free.

Tickets are available at the Itasca Community Library, local churches and at the door.

For more information call 630-773-8518.

Hat and Mitten Tree

It's that time of the year again ... time for giving thanks and spreading joy.

The Village Hall has a "Hat and Mitten Tree" up in the lobby. Our goal is to collect as many "new" winter hats, gloves, scarves and other cold weather wear (for all ages) and distribute them to those in need.

Please bring in something to hang on our "Hat and Mitten Tree" during business hours (M-F, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm) from November 30th through December 31st, and help to make someone's winter a little warmer and their holidays a little happier.

Fetching Tails Foundation

Fetching Tails Foundation (FTF) is an Illinois based non-breed specific rescue organization based out of Itasca, committed to saving animals regardless of breed, age, or physical ability. We are 100% volunteer staffed and a foster based group, dedicating our time and resources to the needs of the animals. All funds are raised through private and corporate donations, fundraising events and adoptions. These funds are directly applied to animal care, safety, training, and health. It is our mission to serve the homeless pet population and do our part to decrease the number of dogs in shelters both locally and nationwide.

Fetching Tails Foundation promotes the responsible rehoming of local homeless dogs. FTF follows thorough steps in the adoption process, and takes time to consider the needs of both the family and the dog. There are no wrong animals, just wrong fits, and FTF will take as much time as is needed in order to understand what would make a good fit between a dog and adopter.

FTF strongly believes in the importance of spay and neuter of all pets. Spaying and neutering reduces the amount of animals that end up in shelters, and in turn reduces the number of animals that are euthanized by no fault of their own. Regardless of where a person has acquired a pet, FTF volunteers can offer suggestions and resources on how and where to get your pet spayed or neutered.

From the Desk of the Administrator

Fall means a lot of things around the Village of Itasca. First, it means the summer events schedule has come to a close. We hope you enjoyed all of the events sponsored by the various Itasca entities and organizations. Our Craft Beer Show raised over \$3,000 for local charities and our Business Night Tip Jar collected an additional \$678 for the Food Pantry/Walk In Ministry.

Fall also means leaves. Leaves are to be raked, bagged or canned. Please do **not** rake them into the street as they will not be collected and you will just be directed to bag them and place them at your curb. We do suggest just mulching the leaves in place, if possible. Leaves are a great winter nutrient for your lawns.

Fall also means that winter is coming and with it snow and ice. We ask that you shovel the sidewalk in front of your homes as soon as you can as sidewalks are used by school kids to get to the corners for the school buses. We also ask that you be neighborly. If you have an elderly neighbor please look out for them. Help them with shoveling their sidewalks, and check in on them from time to time. Also remember our letter carriers. If they tend to cut through

your yard to get to and from your mailbox, please keep that path shoveled as well.

Just a reminder, sidewalks are not to be obstructed by cars. When sidewalks are obstructed, people tend to go out into the street. This creates potential conflicts with cars which place the pedestrian at risk. So, if you have a driveway and block or obstruct the sidewalk with a vehicle, you can get a ticket.

Over the last couple of months we welcomed three new restaurants to Itasca; Antonio's Italian Restaurant, Bella Amore Cafe and the Fox and Turtle. All have excellent food and service. For those who are not familiar with these three establishments, the Fox and Turtle is in the Itasca Country Club and is open to the public (golf course remains private), Antonio's is where Sergio's used to be and Bella Amore Cafe is where Bread and Butter was located.

The Stanley Cup was in Itasca. The Village would like to thank Joe Podlasek of Trickster Gallery in Schaumburg for bringing the Cup for our residents to get their pictures taken and to Helix Camera for taking professional photos.

This is the second time we have gotten the Cup and I must say it never gets old. Now, if we can only get a certain other Chicago team to win a championship...

Quiet Zone Update: The Village is adding barrier medians at the railroad crossings at both Catalpa Street and Walnut Street. These medians will allow us to qualify for a Quiet Zone from Prospect to Catalpa. As stated many times before, a Quiet Zone does not mean no horns. It means that trains are not required to blow their horns but they will do so if there is safety concern. One such concern is the instance of pedestrians crossing the tracks when the gates are either going down or are down. This is an extremely unsafe condition, especially since there are two tracks. Our work should be completed by the end of November and we look to get the Quiet Zone implemented shortly thereafter.

Happy Holidays

Evan Teich
Itasca Village Administrator

Message from the Mayor, Continued

engineering firm who designed the plant and oversaw its construction. No one expected the project to go the way it has and no one wants to be in a lawsuit. Lawsuits are expensive, time consuming and there are no guarantees even when you believe you are right and believe you have a strong case.

The Village Board has directed our attorneys to move forward with the lawsuit and for staff to move forward with plans for fixing what is wrong with the plant, even though the lawsuit has not been resolved. Please bear in mind, the plant is safe and performs its

functions of treating solid waste before it is released to Salt Creek. It just does not do so as designed and is doing so at unsustainably higher costs than originally designed.

Along with having to "fix" the plant we also need to address other major projects that help ensure the safe and efficient transmission of water to your homes and businesses and delivery of solid and liquid waste from them to the plant. These costs, along with the needs of the rest of the system, will result in higher monthly charges to cover these very expensive projects. At the time of

this newsletter the exact rate figures are not known but we do plan to send each address a letter explaining our actions and decisions for the betterment of the community.

Happy holidays and have a healthy and safe New Year.

Sincerely,
Mayor Jeff Pruyn



Follow the Itasca Park District on Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest!

The **Ice Rink** will be open at the Waterpark Parking Lot this winter! Skating is free! It is safe to skate when the green flag is flying. Please call the hotline 630-616-7558 for skating conditions or sign up for text or email notifications at www.itascaparkdistrict.com/notifyme. Ice Rink address: 100 N. Catalpa Street

Free! Santa's Workshop

Fri Dec 11 from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Sat Dec 12 from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Nature Center
Visit with Santa, enjoy cookies, hot chocolate and create fun holiday crafts!

Santa Visits

Sun Dec 13 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Fee: \$25
Your kids will be very excited to see Santa in their very own home! Children can share their holiday wish list. Santa will stay at each home for 15 minutes. Park District Residents only.

Reindeer Rock

Ages: 3 - 7 years
Mon Dec 14 6:00 - 8:00 pm Fee: \$15/\$20
Itasca Rec Center
Are you ready for a fun winter evening of reindeer games, crafts and snacks?

Gingerbread House Decorating

Families are invited to work together.
Tue Dec 15 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Fee: \$20
Itasca Rec Center
Come and decorate a pre-baked gingerbread house! Enjoy juice and cookies while listening to Christmas carols.

Holiday House Decorating contest

Tue Dec 15 6:00 pm
Free entry and prizes awarded!
Itasca Park District and Village of Itasca Residents, show us your best outdoor holiday decorating!

Email your name, address and phone number to Katy at KMcKinnon@itascaparkdistrict.com to register your home.

Ms. Denise is now teaching classes at the Depot Museum!

Check out Holly Jolly Trolley on Tue Dec 15th from 1:00 -2:00 pm for ages 3 - 6 years Cost: \$8

Seniors: Take some trips with us!

Holiday Shopping on Tue Dec 8,
Chicago Auto Show on Feb 18, and
Chicago Flower & Garden Show on
Mar 14! Fees vary per trip.

Supper with Santa

Fri Dec 18 6:00 - 7:30 pm
\$10 per child, \$5 per Adult
Itasca Rec Center
Get ready for some holiday cheer as children enjoy a yummy pasta dinner and special visit with Santa Claus! We'll enjoy holiday music, crafts and hear "Twas the Night Before Christmas".

Holiday Drop & Shop

Ages 3 years+
Sat Dec 19 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Fee: \$25 first child/
\$15 per additional sibling
Itasca Rec Center
Take care of your last-minute Christmas shopping with ease! Drop off your kids for a fun afternoon of lunch, a visit with Santa, Christmas crafts, a candy cane hunt, a holiday movie and more.

Park News

Holiday Gift ideas: give a Fitness Membership, Recreation Gift Certificate or a leaf on the Park District Giving Tree!

Stay fit this Holiday Season with a Personal Trainer, or try our TRX, Indoor Cycling, or Tai Chi Classes at the **Itasca Fitness Center!**

New! Happy Noon Year!

Thu Dec 31 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
\$20 per child, \$10 per adult
Register by Dec 18th
Enjoy this New Year's Celebration with a balloon drop at noon! Families will enjoy games, crafts and snacks.

Stop by for Free Hot Chocolate at the **Depot Museum** in January and February on Tue & Thu from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm and Sat 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Admission is always free. Enjoy the new Exhibit: "Businesses of Itasca".

Check out our many Easter Events beginning March 17th by visiting: www.itascaparkdistrict.com/Easter

Online Registration is now available at: www.itascaparkdistrict.com

Celebrate Our Community

~ Celebrating History ~

December 1st -31st, 2015



Dec. 1	Dec. 5	Dec. 5	Dec. 7	Dec. 7
<p>Night With Santa</p> <p>Itasca Library 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Polar Express Storytime Train</p> <p>Itasca Train Station Family Event Itasca Park District</p>	<p>Family Christmas Concert</p> <p>Hanmee Presbyterian Church 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at the Itasca Library Contact Linda Aiani at 630-773-8518</p>	<p>Warm up with a Good Book: Children's Book Discussion</p> <p><i>I Survived the Bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941</i> by Lauren Tarshis</p> <p>(Grades 3-5) Itasca Library 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>The Essential Christmas Carol</p> <p>Author William Pack will recreate a Victorian era magic lantern show while reading an abridged version of "A Christmas Carol."</p> <p>Adult Program Itasca Library - 7:00 p.m.</p>
Dec. 8	Dec. 11	Dec. 12	Dec. 13	Dec. 14
<p>Magic School Bus Holiday Special</p> <p>(Grades K-3) Itasca Library 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Santa's Workshop</p> <p>Enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, make crafts and visit with Santa. Free Family Event at the Springbrook Nature Center 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Itasca Park District</p>	<p>Santa's Workshop</p> <p>Enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, make crafts and visit with Santa. Free Family Event at the Springbrook Nature Center 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Itasca Park District</p>	<p>Visits from Santa</p> <p>Fee: \$25.00 Itasca Park District Residents Only 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Youth Winter Reading Club Begins</p> <p>Itasca Library</p>
Dec. 15	Dec. 15	Dec. 15	Dec. 15	Dec. 15
<p>Christmas Storytime</p> <p>(Geared to ages 3-6) Itasca Library 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Teen Cooking Club: Holly Jolly Treats</p> <p>(Grades 6-12) Itasca Library 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</p>		<p>Gingerbread House Decorating</p> <p>Fee: \$20.00 per family Itasca Park District 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>House Decorating Contest</p> <p>Must register to participate</p> <p>Contact: KMckinnon@itascaparkdistrict.com</p>
Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 31
<p>Supper with Santa</p> <p>Fee: \$10 per child / \$5 per adult</p> <p>Itasca Park District 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Holiday Drop & Shop</p> <p>Fee: \$25 for first child / \$15 for additional</p> <p>Itasca Park District 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Santa Calling Free!</p> <p>Sign up by Dec. 17 Itasca Park District 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Morton Arboretum Illumination Trip</p> <p>(Ages 11-15) Fee: \$30 / \$40 Itasca Park District</p>	<p>New Year's Eve Countdown</p> <p>Family Event Itasca Library 11:15 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.</p>
Nov. 23 - Dec. 16	Nov. 30 - Dec. 31	All Month Long	All Month Long	
 <p>Sponsored by Itasca Fire Protection District</p> <p>Collections for new unwrapped toys will be taken at the Itasca Library and Itasca Park District.</p> <p>Itasca Fire Department 630-773-1223</p>	<p>Mitten & Hat Tree</p> <p>Hang winter wear donations for needy children on the Village of Itasca's Mitten and Hat Tree located in the Itasca Village Hall.</p>	<p>Itasca Food Pantry Collection of Food & Household Necessities</p> <p>Itasca Food Pantry 336 W. Center Street, Itasca</p> <p>Drop off items Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Itasca Walk-In Ministry</p> <p>Monetary donations taken to give to people in need within our community.</p> <p>IWIM 630-467-0133</p>	

Most programs listed above require registration. Please call the Library or Park District to register.



Village of Itasca
630-773-0835
www.itasca.com



Itasca Community Library
630-773-1699
www.itascalibrary.org



Itasca Police Department
630-773-1004
www.itascapolice.com



Itasca Park District
630-773-2257
www.itascaparkdistrict.com

OPEN

for Business

Itasca Means Business!

The Village of Itasca is proud of its business community and would like to extend a warm welcome to the following companies which recently received Village Board approval to operate in our town:

- **Spectrum Wireless** at 927 W. Irving Park Rd., (Cell phone, computer, and game console repair and sales)
- **Cycle Logistics** at 730 Baker St., (Transportation and warehouse services)
- **Motherella & Guided Answers Wellness Center** at 810 Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 4, (Holistic and alternative medicine)
- **Abcom Computer Rental** at 1442 Norwood Ave., (Technology rentals)
- **Martin & Martin CPA** at 1001 Hawthorne Dr., (Accounting office)
- **Top-Line Furniture Warehouse** at 1375 W. Thorndale Ave., (Furniture importer, wholesale sales and distribution)
- **Lorig Construction** at 1089 Hawthorne Dr., (Contractor Office)
- **Itasca Brewing Company, Inc.** at 400 E. Orchard St., (Microbrewery)
- **Itasca Tap House, Inc.** at 400 E. Orchard St., (Tavern)
- **Revon Con Technology Group, Inc.** at 1364 Hamilton Parkway, (Parking facility management and installations)

Building Permit Required for Water Heater Replacement

Effectively immediately, the Illinois State Plumbing Code requires a building permit to replace a water heater. The Village of Itasca is charged with enforcing this requirement.

Building Permit applications are available at the Itasca Community Development front counter and on the Village's website: www.itasca.com.

The Building Permit fee to replace a water heater is \$85. A final inspection must be scheduled upon completion of work. A \$75 fee is charged in advance of a re-inspection, should the work fail to meet Code at the initial inspection.

The work should be performed by a plumbing contractor. The contractor must provide the Village with a copy of his/her State Plumber's License and a letter of intent written on the licensed plumber of record's business stationery with the license holder's signature. If the license holder is incorporated, the license holder's corporate seal is also required. If the license holder is not incorporated, the letter must be notarized. A copy of the signed proposal must also be submitted.

In emergency situations (weekends, holidays, off-hours, etc.) a water heater may be installed by qualified person without first obtaining a building permit. In such cases a building permit shall be secured as soon as possible thereafter, and the arrangements for an inspection shall be made by the owner/contractor.

Federal Grant Helps with Flooding Conditions

Residents on Grove Street and Forest Avenues have noticed that there is one less house in the area. The Village of Itasca was awarded a federal grant, administered by the State of Illinois, to acquire and demolish a floodprone property at 200 Forest Avenue.

The purpose of the grant was to obtain properties in the 100 year floodplain that had a history of significant floods and to demolition them to create open space, thereby improving conditions in the floodplain. The property at 200 Forest Avenue met the grant criteria, as it had sustained flooding numerous times with major damage from rain events in August 1987, September 2008, and July 2010. The property owners were willing sellers and the Village applied for and was awarded the grant.

"The availability of such grants is limited, and the Village of Itasca is fortunate to have had its application selected," said Community Development Director Nancy Hill.

The single-family home was demolished last August. The demolition removed a repetitive loss structure from the 100 year floodplain. The property adjoins the Village-owned Springbrook Nature Center. The Village of Itasca is required to permanently maintain the property as open space, and it will become part of the Nature Center. This open space will increase the amount of permeable surface area in the floodplain and help reduce the severity of flooding along Springbrook Creek.

Village of Itasca

Tuki Sathaye, Library Director

Phone: (630) 773-1699 • e-mail: tsathaye@itascalibrary.org



The following is a list of some of the youth programs offered later in the day. Registration is required where noted; register at itascalibrary.org or by calling the library at 630-773-1699.

Drop-In Family Storytime

(geared to ages 2-6 years)

Thursdays, December 10, January 14 & 28, and February 11 & 25, 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Drop-In Little Learners

(geared to ages 2-6 years)

Tuesdays, January 12 through February 2, 9:30 am - 8:00 pm

Join us for a hands-on, interactive learning experience where adults help children develop early math and science skills through play. Drop in anytime between 9:30 am and 8:00 pm, and stay as long as you wish!

Frozen Storytime

(geared to ages 3-7 years)

Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 - 7:15 pm

If you are a fan of Elsa and Anna, you won't want to miss this special storytime dedicated to *Frozen*. Stories and activities will be geared to ages 3-7, but all ages are welcome. Registration is required.



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to those who completed the Library's community survey and participated in a focus group. We are using your feedback to help improve your library experience. We have added new time slots in the evening hours for our children's programs to make it more convenient for patrons to attend.

Also, with the increasing interest in downloadable materials, we have enhanced our collection and accessibility to **free** books, music, and movies. Interested? If you need help downloading to your computer, tablet or smart phone, contact the Library for personal guidance through the process.

Curiosity Club

(Grades K-3)

1st Wednesday of the month: December 2, January 6, and February 3, 4:30 - 5:15 pm

This fun monthly program includes books, games, crafts, and activities on a different topic each month. A separate registration is required for each month.

Warm up with a Good Book: Children's Book Discussions

Join us for a new twist on our book discussions. We'll warm up with hot chocolate and dessert as we discuss that month's title and participate in other activities related to each book. Books are available at Patron Services one month prior to the discussion. A separate registration for each book discussion is required.

***I Survived the Bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941** by Lauren Tarshis - Monday, December 7, 6:30 - 7:15 pm (Grades 3-5)*

***Rabbit & Robot** by Cece Bell - Thursday, January 21, 6:30 - 7:15 pm (Grades 1-3)*

***Bad News for Outlaws** by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson - Tuesday, February 2, 6:30 - 7:15 pm (Grades 3-5)*

Animanga Club

(Grades 6-12)

*Monday, January 18, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Tuesdays, December 22 & February 23, 6:30 - 8:30 pm*

Want to watch the latest in anime releases or chat about the coolest new manga? Come share your artwork and join us in the Animanga Club! Help plan new events, suggest purchases, and enjoy a variety of amazing anime-related snacks. A separate registration is required for each meeting.



Child Safety Seat Inspections

Did you know that child safety seats can reduce fatal injury by seventy one percent for infants and by fifty four percent for toddlers (ages 1-4)? Did you know that over ninety percent of the car seats checked at the Itasca Police Department were installed incorrectly? According to the National Highway Traffic Administration some of the common installation mistakes are:

- Not using the right child safety seat for a child's size and age;
- Not placing the child safety seat in the correct direction;
- Incorrect installation of the child safety seat in relation to the vehicle's air bags;
- Incorrect installation and tightness of the child safety seat's harness straps;
- Improper use of locking clips for certain vehicle safety belts;
- Not making sure the vehicle's seat belts fit properly across the child when using a booster seat;
- Using a defective or broken child safety seat.

The Itasca Police Department has certified technicians that are trained to install child safety seats. The Itasca Police Department will check your child safety seat **free of charge by appointment only**. Please contact the Itasca Police Department at 630-773-1004 to schedule an appointment. The Itasca Police Department will be conducting a Child Safety Seat Check in the parking lot of the Itasca Police Department in the spring of 2016. Please check the Itasca Police Department website for the exact date.

Coffee with the Chief

On Saturday, December 5, 2015, Chief Robert O'Connor extends an invitation to discuss community issues or matters involving law enforcement that are important to you.

All community members are invited to attend. The event will be from 8:30 am until 10:00 am at the Itasca Village Hall, 550 W. Irving Park Road, with coffee provided.

Chief O'Connor is providing this opportunity for community members to ask questions, bring any concerns they may have, and to simply learn more about the department's work in Itasca.

Chief O'Connor stated: "I want any member of the community to feel comfortable asking questions of their police department as these interactions are the foundation of building community partnerships."

Itasca Police Department Volunteers

The Itasca Police Department currently has approximately twenty volunteers that assist the Police Department in various ways. The volunteer program has donated more than 1,300 hours of time in training, patrolling, and assisting at special events within the Village. The Itasca Police Department has a "Volunteers in Police Service" (VIPS) program. VIPS program members are volunteers who help the Itasca Police Department at special events. The VIPS program volunteers assist by staffing booths, promoting the Village of Itasca, and collecting items. Volunteers assist at the following events: Chicago Auto Show, Green Day Recycling Program, Memorial Day Parade, Highland Games, Fourth of July, Itasca Fest, National Night Out, and Oktoberfest.

Another volunteer program that helps assist the Itasca Police Department is the Citizens On Patrol (COP) Program. The Citizens On Patrol Program consists of volunteers using a designated, marked volunteer "COP" car to patrol the Village. The volunteers patrol the Village and report suspicious activity to the Police Department to investigate. Volunteers are trained to address lock-outs to motor vehicles, assist with disabled vehicles, conduct vacation watches, assist with traffic control, and conduct taxi inspections. Having the volunteers completing these services allows the police officers to focus on law enforcement issues within the community.

A way to learn more about the volunteer opportunities and the Itasca Police Department is through the Itasca Police Department Citizen Police Academy. The Itasca Citizen Police Academy was established in 2003. It is an eight week program designed to give participants a working knowledge of the Itasca Police Department. Over 120 graduates have completed the program since its inception. It consists of a series of classes and discussions held once a week. The classes are approximately three hours long, and provide an in-depth view into various areas of law enforcement. It is an educational and informative program that allows citizens the opportunity to learn about the issues that affect law enforcement efforts in the Village of Itasca, and how to develop partnerships with the police department. Topics covered during the academy include an overview of the police department, telecommunications, the booking process, crash reconstruction, DUI enforcement, tours of the DuPage County Jail and Coroner's Office, criminal investigations, crime scene processing, crime prevention, DARE, the Volunteer Programs, use of force, rapid response training and live fire exercise. The Police Department plans on starting a Citizen Police Academy in early 2016. Anyone wanting additional information regarding the Volunteer Programs or the Citizen Police Academy, please contact Sergeant Mike Shrader at 630-773-1004.

Village of Itasca

Robert O'Connor, Chief of Police

Phone: (630) 773-1004 • e-mail: roconnor@itasca.com

Phone Scams

Very often, the Itasca Police Department is being contacted by concerned residents who have received urgent phone calls from persons claiming to be with the IRS or other government agencies. The caller demands money on the spot for unpaid taxes, bills or visa requirements to stay in the country. The victims are threatened with arrest, asset seizures and/or deportation. The callers are very aggressive and convincing. They may have information about you and your finances. Before some realize it is a scam, they find themselves complying with the demands and are permanently out the money they have sent.

Phone scams come in all forms and seem to evolve constantly. There are too many for us to list and explain, but all generally have the same traits. The most common call reported to the Itasca Police Department is one claiming to be from the IRS. The caller ID may show a Washington DC number and the caller claiming to be an IRS agent may have information about you.

A report done by CNN suggests over 15 million dollars has been reported lost over the past two years from the IRS phone scam alone. Another report estimates U.S. loses to all phones scams to be over 8 billion dollars over the same time frame. The scams often originate from overseas, with some offenders in the US to facilitate the transfer of money out of the country. The callers are very versed in what they do. They know the answers to the questions you may ask and they know what to say to make it sound real.

The best way to avoid becoming a victim of any phone scam is to know phone scams exist, understand that ANYONE can become a victim and be alert when receiving calls from unknown numbers. These scammers prey on those who are unaware or too naïve to think it can happen to them.

One victim quoted in the CNN report said people could not understand how a person with a PhD could fall victim to this, but he explained he was the perfect victim because he had never experienced a problem with the IRS or the police and did not know how they went about enforcement and arrests.

Below are some Red Flags which suggest a phone call is a scam:

- Notification of unpaid tax debt or other debt you did not know about and a demand you pay it while on the phone.
- Notification of a prize from a contest you don't recall signing up for or "administration fees" you have to pay in order to claim a prize.
- Callers who refuse to let you hang up and insist you have a very short time frame to comply.
- Unsolicited Callers demanding credit card information or Paypal information over the phone.
- Any request from a caller to go to a store such as Walgreens or Walmart and purchase Green Dot cards or other instant money transfer cards.
- If you receive a call displaying any of these red flags, HANG UP. Don't give them the chance to deceive you.

Please contact the Itasca Police Department for further information regarding phone scams or questions concerning a suspicious call you received.

Village of Itasca Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Monday:	Plan Commission Review – 6:30 pm preceding the third Wednesday of the month, as needed	Thursday:	1st Thursday – Historical Commission (as needed) – 7:00 pm 3rd Thursday – Historical Commission 7:00 pm
Tuesday:	1 st Tuesday – Board of Trustees – 7:00 pm, followed by Committee of the Whole. 3 rd Tuesday – Board of Trustees – 7:00 pm, followed by Committee of the Whole.	Friday:	No Meetings Scheduled
Wednesday:	2nd Wednesday – School District #10 – 7:00 pm 3rd Wednesday – Plan Commission – 7:00 pm 3rd Wednesday – Peer Jury – as Scheduled		

Keep Your Holidays From Going Up in Flames!

For most of us, the holiday season represents a time for family festivities and good cheer. What few of us consider is that the holiday season is a time when there is an increased risk of home fires. According to The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), many households engage in holiday activities that serve as some of the leading causes of U.S. home fires. Holiday cooking, Christmas trees, candle usage and holiday decorations all significantly contribute to the seasonal causes of home fires. Add to that the hectic nature of the holidays, when people are trying to accomplish multiple tasks at one time, and the chance for home fires grows even more.

As everyone gets busier during the holidays, we often become rushed, distracted or tired, that's when home fires are more likely to occur.

Fortunately, with a little added awareness and some minor adjustments to holiday cooking and decorating, the season can remain festive *and* safe for everybody. By taking some preventive steps and following simple rules of thumb, most home fires can be prevented.

With unattended cooking as the leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire injuries, the Itasca Fire District recommends that you stay in the kitchen while you're frying, grilling or broiling food. Most cooking fires involve the stovetop, so keep anything that can catch fire away from it, and turn off the stove when you leave the kitchen, even if it's for a short period of time. If you're simmering, boiling, baking or roasting food, check it regularly and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking. The Itasca Fire District also suggests creating a "kid-free zone" of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food and drinks are prepared or carried.

Candles are widely used in homes throughout the holidays, and December

is the peak month for home candle fires. The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) statistics show that two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles. The Itasca Fire District encourages its residents to consider using flameless candles, which look and smell like real candles. However, if you do use traditional candles, keep them at least 12" away from anything that can burn, and remember to blow them out when you leave the room or go to bed. Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over and are placed on uncluttered surfaces. Avoid using candles in the bedroom where one-third of U.S. candle fires begin or other areas where people may fall asleep. Lastly, never leave a child or pet alone in a room with a burning candle.

According to NFPA, U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 230 home structure fires caused by Christmas trees per year. One of every three of them is caused by electrical problems, and one in six results from a heat source that's too close to the tree.

The Itasca Fire District offers the following advice for picking, placing and lighting the tree:

If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.

If you choose a fresh tree, make sure the green needles don't fall off when touched; before placing it in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk. Add water to the tree stand, and be sure to water it daily.

Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit, and is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles and heat vents or lights.

Use lights that have the

label of a recognized testing laboratory, and make sure you know whether they are designed for indoor or outdoor use.

Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. (See Holiday light recycling program article for an environmental disposal option.) Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.

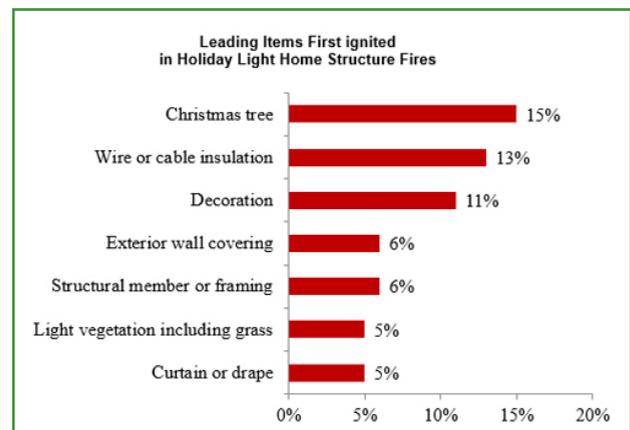
Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed.

After Christmas, get rid of the tree. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside the home. (See Christmas Tree Collection article on page 2 for more information.)

By following these fire prevention tips and measures, you can greatly reduce the risk of fire in your home, and enjoy a safe holiday season. The holidays can quickly turn from joyful to tragic when a fire occurs. By taking simple precautions, people can avoid potential fire hazards, and make this time of year a healthy and happy one.

This information courtesy of NFPA website www.nfpa.org/holiday.



Report a Street Light Issue

To report that a street light is out on a *METAL* or *CONCRETE* or *ANTIQUUE* pole, please note the pole number (a letter and number) and the location (address, intersection) to expedite repair. Contact Public Works at 630-773-2455, or enter in a service request at www.itasca.com. To report that a street light is out on a wood pole, contact ComEd at 1-800-EDISON1 (1-800-334-7661).

Moving Information – Transfer of Water Service

It is the resident's responsibility (home owner / renter) to notify the Village of Itasca at least 1 week in advance to moving. Please have the following information when you call:

- Forwarding address
- Date of closing / end of lease
- New owner's name (if known) or property owner's name (renter)

Call Public Works at 630-773-2455 (7:00 am to 3:30 pm) to schedule a final water meter reading or enter a service request on www.itasca.com. Failure to notify the Village of Itasca can result in you being liable for the water bill after you move out.

Yard Waste

Yard waste pick up ends the last Monday in November 2015 (24th) and will resume the first Monday in April, April 4th.

Frozen Pipes

As the weather begins to change and the temperatures drop, special attention should be given to water pipes and meters that are directly or indirectly exposed to cold temperatures. Pipes and meters can break if they are in an unheated crawlspace, located on an outside wall or in unheated closets or cabinets. Below is a list of recommendations that may prevent cold weather issues.

- Check for open air vents in crawl spaces.
- Make sure your water meter is in an area that will receive circulated heat by opening cabinets, closets, or access panel doors to allow room heat to circulate.
- Insulate around water pipes and water meters if located in an unventilated area.
- Avoid turning off or lowering your heat in your home below 55 degrees if you are leaving for extended periods of time. If you do plan on vacating your home for an extended period of time, it is recommended that you winterize your home.
- If you have experienced problems in the past with a frozen service line and the weather forecast contains multiple days of sub-zero temperatures, you should consider leaving a faucet trickle. Flowing water is less likely to freeze than still water. The flow of water should be about the size of a pencil lead or about an 1/8 of an inch.

How do you know that you have a frozen pipe?

When you open your faucet and only a small trickle comes out and slows to a complete loss of water, you may have a frozen pipe. You can isolate the location by opening the other faucets in your home and observing the flow at each faucet. If every faucet is the same, you most likely have a frozen water service line. Call Public Works at 630-773-2455 during normal business hours of 7:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday thru Friday. During off hours call the police non-emergency number at 630-773-1004.

Itasca's Holiday Lights Recycling Drive

The Village of Itasca has partnered with Elgin Recycling for their 5th Annual Holiday Lights Recycling Program. The recycling program will run from Monday, November 30, 2015 until Friday, January 29, 2016 and will have the drop-off collection box in front of the Itasca Police Station at 540 W. Irving Park Road. Residents can drop off their old holiday lights at anytime in the labeled receptacles in front of the Police Department. Lights that will be accepted for this program are: Mini-lights (or Italian lights), C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights, extension cords, etc.

Year after year, residents find themselves testing bulbs and replacing fuses; when that doesn't work the strings of lights often end up in the garbage. With this program, Itasca can now divert all holiday lights that would normally end up in a landfill as recycled goods. One strand of lights here and there may seem as though it doesn't help, but these small contributions helped the previous year be extremely successful.

For more information about The Holiday Lights Recycling Program please visit www.itasca.com or track Itasca's progress at www.elginrecycling.com.



We would like to hear from you!

As a resident of Itasca, my comment or question is ...

Please drop off or mail to:

Village of Itasca, 550 W. Irving Park Rd., Itasca, IL 60143

Please include your name, address, and telephone number if you require a response.

or e-mail us at feedback@itasca.com

Winter 2016



Village of Itasca
550 W. Irving Park Rd.
Itasca, IL 60143
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www.itasca.com

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