



Fall 2014

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

Mayor
Jeff Pruyn

Village Clerk
Melody Craven

Trustees
Jeff Aiani
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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

Planes, Trains and Automobiles. I am not thinking of the comedy starring John Candy and Steve Martin, but the noise impacts caused by these modes of transportation on the residents and businesses of Itasca.

These modes of transportation, while important to Itasca's residents and economy also have an effect on our quality of life. Over the past several months, the Village has been working to lessen the impact of noise affecting our residents and businesses.

The Village recently applied for a quiet zone with the Federal Railroad Administration. If the application is approved, train engineers would no longer be required to blow their horns at each railroad crossing as they travel through town. Train engineers are still allowed to blow the horns if they feel it is necessary, but they would no longer be required to do so.

As plans for the Elgin O'Hare Tollway are being developed the Village has been asking the Illinois Toll Highway Authority to install sound walls along the section of the new Elgin O'Hare elevated tollway between Arlington Heights Road and Prospect Avenue. Current plans do not include installing sound walls along this section of the roadway. At a meeting held in July with representatives of the Tollway, the Village Board adamantly told the Tollway they should construct the sound wall at the full expense of the Tollway, in order to address the noise and visual concerns of the residents of Itasca. The Tollway is currently considering the Village's request. A decision should be coming shortly.

In the meantime the Village will continue to vigorously advocate for the construction of this sound wall.

Airplane noise has also dramatically increased in the past few months over Itasca. The reasons for this are twofold. The first was due to the opening of the new runway, 10C, in October, 2013 and the second was the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) new rule eliminating the use of the diagonal runways in April of this year. These two events have increased the number of flights over Itasca, bringing with them increased noise.

In response to this increase in flights and noise the Village sent a letter to all residents asking them to sign a petition asking the FAA to review and discuss approach and departure options and to consider expanding the residential sound insulation programs. The Village received over 1,300 responses. We are in the process of forwarding these petitions to the FAA and to our federal and state representatives.

Additionally, the Village Board approved including two advisory referendum questions regarding noise pollution and "fly quiet" restrictions on the November, 2014 ballot.

In closing, Chief of Police Scott Heher has announced his retirement from the Village of Itasca Police Department, effective September 14th. Scott served the Village for nearly 30 years including 11 years as Chief of Police. During his tenure as Chief of Police, the Village earned the "Safe Communities" designation. We were the first community in Illinois to earn this distinction. Scott was also instrumental in starting our annual award-winning National Night Out. Thank you, Scott, for all your years of dedicated service to the Village, and good luck in your retirement.

Sincerely,
Mayor Jeff Pruyn

Village of Itasca

Melody Craven, Village Clerk

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

3rd Annual Craft Beer Tasting

The Village of Itasca will be hosting its 3rd Annual International Craft Beer Tasting on October 3 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm at the Itasca Holiday Inn. The tastings will hopefully feature over 75 craft beers from more than 20 microbreweries both locally and internationally.



The proceeds from this event will benefit the Itasca Food Pantry and Walk-In Ministry.

Responsibly Limitless Tastings. Tickets are \$35 on line: www.itasca.com/craftbeer, and \$40 at the door.

Oktoberfest 2014

The tents will be up, the beer and music will flow, and a fragrance of German cuisine will be drifting through the air the first Friday and Saturday on September. The 7th Annual Itasca Oktoberfest Celebration officially begins at 5:00 pm on Friday with Mayor Pruyn's tapping of the first keg, continues until 10:30 pm that night, and resumes at 3:00 pm on Saturday.

Join Village residents and visitors on Orchard Street for a celebration of German culture and cuisine. There will be live German music starting at 7:00 pm on Friday and continuing throughout the event.

For "das kinder", there will be a Kid's Korner from 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

on Friday and from 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm on Saturday. We are also providing some kid-friendly food; hot dogs and hamburgers, for those who haven't developed an appreciation for the more traditional spaetzle, red cabbage, roast pig, and some of the best of the wurst.

Free parking is available in several convenient nearby parking lots, including the Village parking lots west of the Seven-Eleven. Metra parking lots by the School District office and the main Irving Park lot will also be open for free parking throughout the celebration. For a map of parking lots or more information about Oktoberfest, please go to www.itasca.com/oktoberfest.

Lady Knights Softball Team Makes World Series

The Lady Knights of Itasca is a 12 and Under Softball Team, with eleven 6th and 7th grade girls from the Itasca area. This team just closed out its best season ever, earning a berth to the 12U Fast Pitch World Series that was held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports in July 2014. The girls competed in two leagues this year and went undefeated in both of them. In addition, they made it to the semi-finals and finals of several tournaments and took home the 2nd place title twice. Their overall record was 39-16.



As a team, they also served the community. They packed seeds for the underserved in Africa, completing enough packs to yield 7,000,000 pounds of food. They also spent a day planting "Brittany's Trees" to benefit the SADS organization and to honor a young girl, Brittany Valene, who passed away due to a congenital heart condition at the age of 8. Each of these experiences allowed these girls to forge stronger relationships and to understand life is much bigger than a sport.

The World Series experience was a once in a lifetime opportunity for most of these girls. They flew to Orlando and stayed on the Disney property together for 8 days! They moved around via bus and had the opportunity to play at the ESPN Wide of World of Sports Complex. They traded pins with girls from across the country and were able to interact with them and understand life and softball from other perspectives. The Lady Knights finished 2nd in pool play and 18th overall out of 50 teams. They played against teams



from Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, South Carolina and Louisiana.

The Lady Knights head coach is Jackie Barbanente, a former Division I catcher and shortstop, and current Itasca resident. She is assisted by Dan Frank, an Itasca native with a tremendous amount of sports experience and a passion for coaching. They work to create a passion for softball but also focus on the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, hard work and dedication.

The Lady Knights would like to thank all those in the community that supported them and encouraged them throughout the year. You truly helped create an experience and memories that will last a lifetime.

From the Desk of the Administrator

Itasca is going through a period of change. We have a new Tollway being built along Thorndale Avenue and new runways to deal with because of our neighbor, O'Hare Airport. But the Tollway and the Airport expansion are just the realization that we live in an environment of expanded commerce and a regional transportation system trying to keep up with the demands of not only that commerce but of the busy lives of the two and three car family. People and commerce need to move. We like to believe that Itasca is different and that we are just this small town of 8,600 residents. Even so, we must come to realize that Itasca is really in the middle of all of this change and literally "being in the middle" places Itasca in an excellent location.

Itasca may have only 8,600 residents but we have 1,115 hotel rooms contained within 5 hotels. That means that on any given day/night with a 75%

occupancy rate our population grows by 10% (assuming single occupancy). We have millions of square feet of industrial and commercial space with a day time population of over 25,000 people. We have two interstates; I-290 and now I-390; that run through our community with the tens of thousands of cars and trucks. We boast the home of Fortune 500 corporate offices and publicly traded companies as well as hundreds of small businesses and we have access to downtown via Metra. Itasca in fact is a larger community disguised as a small town. And the real trick is to maintain the balance of small town charm with the service levels necessary for a larger community.

These larger socio-economic factors mean that we have to continue to balance all these issues of change and to realize that the Village of Itasca does not always control the outcomes. We must balance the desired outcomes

against other concerns such as safety, the environment and other factors. Villages work with other entities like the State of Illinois, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Illinois Tollway Authority, the City of Chicago, the FAA and others who have competing interests. We also work with the business community, resident groups, state and federal legislators and regulators and, through those interactions, we attempt to find that balance.

Our goal is to keep Itasca a great place to raise a family and to do business. We will continue to do this every day even while change happens all around us.

Evan Teich
Itasca Village Administrator

Police Chief Scott Heher Announces His Retirement

After 29 years of service to the Village of Itasca, Chief of Police Scott Heher is retiring in this month.

Chief Heher became an Itasca Police Officer in September 1985. He has held every officer rank in the Police Department, including Detective, Sergeant, and Deputy Chief. Chief Heher is also a graduate of the Southern Police Institute, which provides law enforcement professionals training in leadership and cutting-edge policing.

In 2003 under former Mayor Gigi Gruber, Heher became the Police Chief. During his time as Chief, Heher has guided several initiatives in the Police Department, in the community, and in DuPage County. The Police Department created, adopted, and implemented its first Strategic Plan,

which resulted in many Community Policing activities and the use of emerging technology. He has become a leader in utility Community Policing concepts, and teaches their use to Police Academy classes. In 2009, Chief Heher spearheaded the Village's effort to be designated as Illinois' first "Safe Community America" by the National Safety Council.

Chief Heher has recently completed his service as the President of the DuPage County Chiefs of Police Association, where he was actively involved in working with other area police chiefs and the DuPage County Coroner, Health Department, and Sheriff's offices to initiate the use of Narcan by trained police officers to persons suffering from opioid overdose.

Starting in 2014, Itasca Police Officers and police departments across DuPage County implemented the Narcan program, and this work has already directly resulted in preventing several heroin-related deaths.

"Chief Heher's retirement is bittersweet. We are sad to see him leave – he's been a great leader for this community. At the same time, we are happy to know that he will enjoy his retirement", said Mayor Jeff Pruyn.

At the September 9, 2014 Village Board meeting, the Village will recognize Chief Heher for his service and dedication to Itasca. Please join us that evening in wishing him a fond farewell. Refreshments will be served.

Village of Itasca

Ross Hitchcock, Director of Public Works

Phone: (630) 773-2455 • e-mail: rhitchcock@itasca.com

Elgin O'Hare Western Expressway has Ramped Up

After more than seven years of planning by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (Tollway) that included considerable input from the Village of Itasca and neighboring communities along the Thorndale Avenue corridor, the Elgin O'Hare Western Access project is well under way.

There will be a total of eleven (11) individual contracts that will be let within the Village of Itasca corporate boundaries. There are currently four major segments (contracts) under construction. Below is a brief description of the status of the four of the major contracts now under construction:

1. Rohlwing Road Interchange: Rohlwing Road traffic will be directed onto the new bridge in the autumn of 2014.
2. Devon Ave Bridge: Traffic moved over to the new bridge deck in mid-August 2014 with completion in late autumn of 2014.
3. Addition of lanes west of Rohlwing Road: The construction of additional lanes west of Rohlwing Road is ongoing and will be complete in 2015.
4. I-290 interchange improvements: Flyover ramps at I-290 / Thorndale interchange which will include sound barriers along Park Boulevard south to shield residential properties from noise. This work is also ongoing.

Final design engineering is underway and is in various stages on the remaining segments. Currently, the Tollway contractors plan to have the remaining segments constructed between this construction season and 2018. These projects will also constitute an estimated \$750 million of construction activity within our Village boundaries over this period.

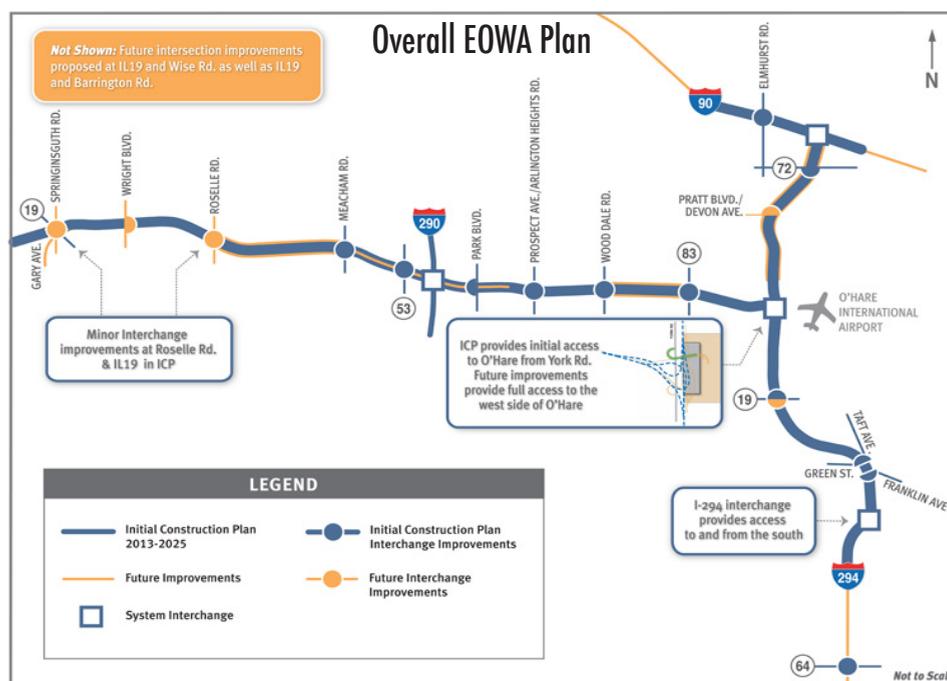


Many residents have approached the Village Board asking for a sound wall to be built along the south side of the Elgin O'Hare between Arlington Heights Road and Prospect Avenue. The Village has engaged in conversations with the Tollway on this issue and is actively working to make this a reality. At the time of this writing, the Tollway is evaluating options and cost estimates. Watch for additional information on the Village's website at: <http://www.itasca.com/index.aspx?nid=1532>.

The Village has been told by the

Tollway that in spite of adverse weather conditions, the overall project is still anticipated to be completed on-time and within budget. However this is subject to weather, and ground conditions.

For regular construction and road closure information from the Village on the Elgin O'Hare project, sign up to receive regular updates via text message or email at www.itasca.com. Click on "Notify Me" on the left side of the page to register.



Fire Department

James Burke, Fire Chief

Phone: (630) 773-1223 • e-mail: fire@itasca.com

From the Itasca Fire Protection District

As most residents are aware, the start of the Elgin/O'Hare construction project has created some traffic issues for those that live and work in the community. The Itasca Fire District has been involved from the initial planning stage to make sure certain items are contained in the construction blueprint that allow us to respond accordingly. The Village of Itasca has graciously allowed us use of the consulting firm they hired to help insure that all our needs were met during the planning phase.

Some of these items include: vehicle turning radius dimensions, vehicle turnaround areas, traffic pre-emption

and, probably one of the biggest items, signage that marks the nearest available water source. There are no fire hydrants along any of the area expressways and available water can be a real concern in certain situations.

Along with the expressway construction, future projected development of the expressway corridor must also be considered by the District as it relates to response times. There was some concern that response times to the north end of the District may necessitate the development of a second station somewhere north of the Elgin/O'Hare expressway. In early 2014 the Itasca Fire District along with

the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association conducted a study to review response times to all parts of our District. Optimal response times are between four and six minutes. The study found that based on our current running procedures and use of automatic aid with our neighboring towns our response times currently are within the four to six minute window.

The question moving forward is how will the construction of the expressway and the development of the expressway corridor impact future response times. This issue is one that the District will continue to monitor and reevaluate.

Back to School Safety

The month of August marks the return to school for area students. This also means that school busses, motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists will return to our neighborhood streets in and around our schools. While this time of year is met with great anticipation for many, it is also a perfect time to reacquaint ourselves with some back to school safety information.

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. For a list of

safety tips for walkers, bikers, bus-riders and anyone driving in or around school neighborhoods, please visit www.itasca.com.

In January 2014, Illinois banned the use of all hand-held devices while driving in Illinois. Only hands-free technology such as speakerphones, bluetooth, and headsets are permitted. **In addition, all cell phone use is prohibited while driving in a school zone.** All cell phone use is prohibited while driving in a highway construction zone and all cell phone use is prohibited if you are a novice driver.

All Illinois drivers are also prohibited from texting.

The Itasca Police Department will be conducting periodic selective enforcement efforts in and around our schools to ensure compliance with the no cell phones in school zones law. The Police Department appreciates your cooperation in helping keep our children and our roadways safe.

More back to school safety information can be found by visiting the Itasca based National Safety Council's website at www.nsc.org. Additional information on the Illinois Rules of the Road can be found at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.



Village of Itasca Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Monday: Plan Commission Review – 6:30 pm preceding the third Wednesday of the month

Tuesday: 1st Tuesday – Board of Trustees – 7:00 pm
2nd Tuesday – Committee of the Whole – 7:00 pm
3rd Tuesday – Board of Trustees – 7:00 pm
4th Tuesday – Committee of the Whole – 7:00 pm

Wednesday: 2nd Wednesday – School District #10 – 7:00 pm
3rd Wednesday – Plan Commission – 7:00 pm
3rd Wednesday – Peer Jury – as Scheduled

Thursday: 1st Thursday – Historical Commission (as needed) – 7:00 pm
3rd Thursday – Historical Commission 7:00 pm

Friday: No Meetings Scheduled



The Itasca Park District celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a Birthday Bash on Friday, July 25th. Free Waterpark Admission,

great giveaways, hourly games and raffles were just part of the fun! Current and past Board Members were in attendance including an original Board Member from 1964, Donald Oberg. Thank you Itasca for supporting the Itasca Park District for 50 years!



For more information visit:
www.itascaparkdistrict.com.

Springbrook Celebration!

Sat Sept 20 3:30-6:00 pm

Celebrate all that Springbrook has to offer! Enjoy music, nature walks, creek walks, crafts, games, wine and beer tasting, s'mores and more!

A Duck Race in the creek will be held for a prize package including a 2015 Family Season Pool Pass, One-Year Fitness Membership (Individual or Couple) and more.

Cost: \$10 per Duck, or 3 for \$25.

This is a fundraising event for Friends of Springbrook Nature Center.

Pre-Reg. fee: \$15 adults/\$10 children,

Day of fee: \$18 adults/\$12 children

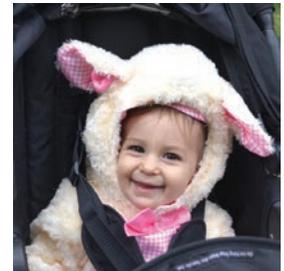


The Itasca Park District was awarded a **\$335,000 IDNR Museum Capital Grant for the Springbrook Nature Center!** The project will replace 3 climate control units, the water heater, replace siding, renew insulation, upgrade ADA accessibility, replace the 2 living exhibits with beautiful built-in exhibits and improve outdoor signage. This project will cost \$490,000. The Village of Itasca has pledged \$100,000 to the project, the Park District will contribute \$50,000, the Friends of Springbrook and Itasca Lions Club are each donating \$2,500. Construction is expected to be completed by summer 2015.

Itasca Halloween Celebration

Sat Oct 25 1:00 -3:00 pm at the Nature Center (Rain Location: Itasca Rec Center)

Free pumpkin decorating, bounce house, and pony rides are some of the fun events we have planned.



Screech Cinema

Sat Oct 25 6:30-8:30 pm

Bring the family out for a fun Halloween movie at the Nature Center. We'll watch Hotel Transylvania starting at 7:00 pm. Enjoy a fire at the campfire ring with hot chocolate and marshmallows - all free!

1830's History Event

Sat Sept 27 12:00-5:00 pm

Experience history, including weaponry, pioneer crafts, music, games and stories shared by the Living Historians Guild. This time period includes the Black Hawk War. Don't miss this free event at the Depot Museum!



Check out these new programs at the Itasca Fitness

Center: Tai Chi Class, Ageless Grace Chair Exercise, and Zumbini for kids 6-months to three years with a parent! Visit: www.itasca.com/fitness for more details!

Village of Itasca

Tuki Sathaye, Library Director

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



Itasca Community Library Fall Programs

The library will be offering many of your favorite programs this fall along with some new weekly and monthly activities. Check out the library's website for a full list of programs. Some of the new weekly and monthly programs are listed below. Most of these programs are drop-in and do not need registration. Registration is required where noted.

Drop-In Little Learners (geared to ages 2-6 years)

Saturdays, September 27 through October 18, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Join us for a hands-on, interactive learning experience where adults help children develop early reading, writing, math, and science skills through play. Drop in anytime between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm, and stay as long as you wish!

Makerspace Mondays (Grades 5-9)

Mondays, September 8 through September 29, 4:00-5:00 pm

If you love to learn, create, and explore, join us each week at Makerspace Mondays, a hands-on program based on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) concepts. A separate registration is required for each week.

Tech Office Hours

Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 pm

Our drop-in tech help will be available every Tuesday. Please note the new hours. Bring your device, cords, and passwords and we'll do our best to assist you.

English Conversation Group

Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm

Join us to practice and improve your English in a friendly setting. We'll have discussions and learn idioms, new vocabulary, and more.

Adult Chess Club

Thursdays, 10:30 am-12:00 pm, starting September 4.

Drop in to play chess with other adults in a casual atmosphere. We'll provide the chess sets and free coffee in our West Meeting Room.

Title Talk

Tuesdays, September 9, October 7, and November 11, 4:00-4:45 pm

This is NOT a book discussion! It is a discussion about books. If you love to read but don't want to join a book discussion, check out this group. We will share the books we are reading and get ideas on what to read next. The Youth Department has its Magic School Bus program for kids in grades K-2 at the same time; drop off the kids at that program, and then come to Title Talk. A separate registration is required for each month.

Quilting Bee at the Library

Tuesdays, September 16, October 21, and November 18, 7:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to join this fun sewing group. Come share tips and tricks with other quilting enthusiasts. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced quilter, come enjoy this casual quilting bee.

Writing Group: The Itasca Inkwell

3rd Sunday of the month, 3:00-5:00 pm, starting September 21

Interested in the creative practice of writing and want to share with a small group to make your storytelling even better? Whether you've never written before, are working on a writing project, or have been published, you are welcome. Join this independent group that meets at the library.

Crafty Crew at the Library

Tuesdays, September 30, October 28, and November 25, 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Calling all craft enthusiasts! This new drop-in group is for anyone who wants to spend creative time with like-minded people. Bring your own project to work on or learn something new from others. Teens are welcome!

On the Same Page

The Itasca Community Library is partnering with the Bloomingdale and Roselle libraries to bring you the 4th annual community read program, **On the Same Page**. Join us as all three communities read together and participate in programs based on the chosen books. Our titles this year are *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman for adults, and *Gifts from the Sea* by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock for children.

For a list of programs being held at all three libraries in conjunction with **On the Same Page**, please go to the library's website at www.itascalibrary.org, or call the library at 630-773-1699.

On the Same Page is made possible by generous donations from Itasca Bank & Trust, Friends of the Itasca Community Library, Friends of the Bloomingdale Public Library, Rotary Club of Bloomingdale-Roselle, and Salerno's Rosedale Funeral Chapel.

New Itasca Police Department Subaru

In June, Subaru of America provided the Itasca Police Department with another sleek 2015 Impreza WRX STI. This marks the fourth, no cost vehicle lease provided to the Itasca Police Department by Subaru. With the input from Village employees, this year's vehicle has been emblazoned with our "Stop Bullying Now" theme in support of the nationwide campaign to raise public awareness and emphasize the importance of bullying awareness and prevention throughout our community.

Bullying can have serious consequences for everyone—those who are bullied, those who bully, and those who witness bullying. Bullying has been linked to many negative outcomes including impacts on mental health, substance use, school violence and suicide. It is important to talk to our children to determine whether bullying—or something else—is a concern.

"With its Great Lakes Regional headquarters in Itasca, Subaru of America has been a tremendous community partner and a valued corporate citizen for years. The Itasca Police Department's community outreach efforts are further illustrated through its partnership with Subaru of America and this vehicle provides us with an excellent opportunity to communicate our important "Stop Bullying Now" message," said Chief Scott Heher.

The Impreza WRX STI is an eye-catching vehicle and appeals to drivers of all ages. Each Impreza has been a tremendous hit and has earned many awards at local car shows. It continues to be among the most photographed vehicles at the Chicago Auto Show held at McCormick Place every February.



Village of Itasca Submits its "Notice of Intent to Create a Quiet Zone"

In July, the Village of Itasca submitted its "Notice of Intent" to create a quiet zone within the Village. The six county Chicagoland area is home to the largest rail system in the nation with over 1,625 highway-rail crossings. As a result, residents have to endure train horns at all hours of the day and night.

As you may recall, the Village attempted to create a quiet zone corridor with its neighboring community partners several years ago. However, those efforts did not come to fruition due to a number of factors beyond control of the Village. With the completion of road improvements to the Rohlwing Road and Prospect Avenue rail crossings, the Village feels now that it is able to meet the requirements for the establishment of a quiet zone throughout the Village to help reduce train noise levels, improving the quality of life for our residents and maintain pedestrian and automobile safety in the Village.

To provide some background information on the train horn rules, Congress passed a law in 1994 requiring the use of locomotive horns at all public grade crossings. Congress concluded it would be safer to have trains sound their

horns at grade crossings than it would be if they didn't sound their horns.

Later, an amendment to the law recognized the need for procedures for the establishment of new quiet zones where locomotives that currently sound their horn at highway rail grade crossings could be made quiet.

Generally speaking, the Federal Railway Administration has determined that if train horns are not sounded at a crossing, the risk index (a numerical measure for the risk of accidents) for those crossings increases by 66.8%. In order to create new quiet zones, municipalities must offset that increased risk by improving safety at each crossing.

New quiet zones can be created by installing supplemental safety measures at each highway rail crossing, reducing the average risk for the crossing within the proposed quiet zone below the Nationwide Significant Risk Threshold and/or implementing Supplemental Safety Measures to reduce the average risk for the crossings in the quiet zone to a level at or below the nationwide risk threshold.

The Village worked with the Illinois Department of Transportation on the



Rohlwing Road improvements. One of the improvements was the installation of barrier medians on Rohlwing Road at the rail crossing. Furthermore, the Village funded the barrier median improvements at the Prospect Avenue rail crossing. According to our calculations, these improvements should reduce our quiet zone risk index below the threshold necessary to establish a new quiet zone in Itasca.

In the near future, the Village of Itasca will assemble its diagnostic team. The purpose of the diagnostic team is to physically review and inventory each grade crossing to make determinations or recommendations for safety improvements. Additionally, updated traffic studies, including average daily vehicle counts, will need to be conducted on Rohlwing Road and on Prospect Avenue.

Once the crossing inventories and traffic studies have been completed, the Village will submit its formal application to the Federal Railway Administration (FRA) for consideration. It is anticipated this will occur by the end of 2014.



Fair Allocation in Runways (FAiR) Coalition

This Spring, the Village joined a citizens group called FAiR as part of our commitment to address the issue of increased airplane traffic and noise related to the expansion and modernization of O'Hare Airport. Here is a little background on why their mission aligns with ours:

The O'Hare Modernization Project (OMP) includes Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) changes to landing and take-off patterns that took effect on October 17, 2013. The OMP drastically increases air traffic over both northwest (NW) Chicago and the near NW suburbs (Itasca) by shifting current airplane traffic, now arriving from many directions, into landings and take offs from only two directions, east and west, directly over the NW side of Chicago and near NW suburbs (Itasca).

This shift in airplane traffic puts the burden of noise almost solely on the residents of the Northwest side of Chicago and the near NW suburbs.

The Fair Allocation in Runways (FAiR) Coalition (www.fairchicago.org) proposes the following solutions:

1. Immediate halt to the October 2013 takeoff and landing plan. Devise, instead, a neighborhood-based plan, working with community groups, businesses, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission and the FAA, for *fair* allocation of air traffic between existing and new runways and day and night air traffic.
2. That a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) be conducted

to verify what the actual, 2013 environmental impacts will be from this new plan. Significant changes have occurred since the original EIS was done in 2005 and this has to be addressed.

3. Continue to utilize all existing and new runways.
4. Expand noise monitoring and abatement programs to ensure specific communities are not unduly burdened.
5. Make "Fly Quiet" the official mandatory policy for O'Hare.

If you would like to learn more about this effort, you can go to their website www.fairchicago.org. The Village plans to work with this group and other groups whose mission is to see a fair use of all runways and to address the noise issues surrounding one of the world's busiest airports.

Safe Use of Portable Generators

Portable generators are useful during power outages or when remote power is needed, but they can also be dangerous. To remain safe, be aware of the inherent hazards associated with the use of portable generators, including carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, fire, burns, and noise and vibration hazards.

Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide within minutes if used in confined spaces. Carbon monoxide cannot be seen or smelled. Even if you do not smell exhaust fumes, you may still be exposed to CO. Do not operate the generator indoors or within five feet of any door, window or other opening into the building. Make sure the generator has three to four feet of clear space on all sides and above to ensure proper ventilation. If you or others exhibit symptoms of CO poisoning, such as headache, dizziness, nausea, or tiredness, get fresh air immediately and seek medical help. Do not re-enter the area until trained

personnel have determined that it is safe.

Generators pose a risk of shock and electrocution, especially if they are operated in wet conditions. If you must use a generator when it is wet outside, protect the generator from moisture by operating it under a canopy-like structure that is open on four sides, and on a dry surface where water cannot reach it. Never manipulate a generator's electrical components if you are wet or standing in water.

Never attach a generator directly to a structure's electrical system unless a qualified electrician has properly installed a transfer switch. Always plug electrical appliances directly into the generator using the cords supplied by the manufacturer or other grounded (i.e. three-pronged), heavy-duty cords. Never use frayed or damaged extension cords.

Generators get hot while in use and remain hot for long periods after use. Fuels can ignite when spilled on hot engine parts. Before refueling, shut

down the generator and allow it to cool. Store and transport gasoline or other fuels only in approved containers that are labeled according to the contents. Keep fuel containers away from flame-producing and heat generating devices, such as the generator itself, water heaters, cigarettes, lighters and matches. Never smoke near fuel containers. Vapors can travel long distances to ignition sources.

The excessive noise and vibration produced by a generator can cause hearing loss and fatigue. Keep portable generators as far away as possible from work and gathering areas. Wear hearing protection if this is not possible.

When using a portable generator during a power outage, it is important to remember that generators can be dangerous if used incorrectly and to utilize these safety steps.

If you decide to purchase a permanent generator, contact the Village of Itasca Community Development Department for a permit and a list of conditions.

Adopt a Storm Drain

This fall, we are once again asking Itasca residents to consider adopting a storm drain. Storm drains are the open grates found along the edges of our streets and in some of our local parkways. These storm drains are designed to collect storm water and direct it to underground storm sewers. The storm sewers then direct the storm water to local retention and detention ponds, or local streams. Any pollution or debris that goes down a storm drain winds up entering these same waterways. Please do **not** use these drains to dispose of any unwanted materials.



If there is a storm drain near your home, consider helping take care of it through the fall and winter. Keep it free from debris. Leaves and garbage (and later in the year – snow and ice) can quickly clog the storm drain, preventing water from entering. This causes local flooding, which creates problems for you and your neighbors. Help clear away materials that may clog the storm water intake. Keep the curb area in front of your house free of debris that could be washed down toward the storm drain.

If everyone can help keep one or two storm drains cleared this fall and winter, our streets will stay drier and safer through the fall and winter seasons.

Disposal of Ash Wood and Tree Leaves

With the emerald ash borer well established throughout northern Illinois, most ash trees in our area are dying. The Village of Itasca has a management program that is working to preserve a number of ash trees growing in our parks and parkways, but many ash trees on both public and private property are dying or will die in the next few years. Concerned citizens are asking what they can do with the wood.

If you cut down an ash tree, or have a tree cut down by professionals, the best method of disposal is burning the wood in an above-ground fire pit in your yard. If you don't have a fire pit, feel free to share the wood with a neighbor who does. Do not transport the wood great distances as this may relocate borers to an area that is currently borer-free.

If the tree is being removed by professionals, they should be licensed to dispose of the wood properly and safely. There is usually a disposal fee involved, but if you don't have a fire pit or room for one in your yard, this is also an option.

Please be aware that fire pits CANNOT be used to burn leaves. Burning large volumes of leaves produces large amounts of smoke and particulates which pollute the air and create serious health risks to people

with breathing issues. Do not put the leaves out into the street; the Village does not have this style of leaf collection program. If you put your leaves out into the street, you will be ticketed.

There are several approved methods for disposing of your leaves. You can bag them and put them at the curb for pick up. You can grind them up with a mulching mower or leaf shredder. If you have large amounts of leaves, shredding them before bagging allows you to fit more into each bag. Make sure that the filled bags are not too heavy. When bagging shredded leaves, filling the bags about three quarters full still gets more into each bag than whole leaves, and should keep them light enough to move around safely. Leaf pick-up continues through the last Monday in November.

Another leaf disposal option is composting. You can build a compost pile, buy a composter or compost pile frame, or layer your leaves down in your garden beds to do sheet composting. Shredding the leaves will speed their decomposition. If you have large amounts of dry leaves, you should also add some nitrate rich material (ex. grass clippings, nitrogen fertilizer, kitchen scraps) in layers with the leaves to help them break down more quickly.

Maple Street Bridge Update

As of mid-August, all of the water and sewer relocations are complete. The Maple Street Bridge box culvert is in place and the contractor is setting the pilings for the wing walls. The process of forming and pouring the wing walls should take about two weeks. Once this step is completed, the coffer dam can be removed, allowing Springbrook Creek to flow without restriction. The contractor will begin building the deck, removing pavement, aggregate sub base, and installing storm sewers. The bridge walls and decorative guard railing will come next. The form liner and color treatment will be installed once the walls have had time to cure. Curb, sidewalk, and pavement installation will follow, allowing the bridge to be open for traffic. Even with several rain delays, this project is on time and within budget. Weather permitting, the bridge is scheduled to reopen the last week of September 2014.

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

Fall 2014



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