



Spring 2014

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

Mayor
Jeff Pruyn

Village Clerk
Melody Craven

Trustees
Jeff Aiani
Marty Hower
Mike Latoria
Ellen Leahy
Frank Madaras
Lucy Santorsola

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

After a long, cold, snowy winter, I for one cannot wait for the warmer weather of spring to take a firm hold on Itasca. It has been several decades since we have experienced a winter like this one and I want to thank our Village employees, especially our Public Works Department, for all they have done to get us all through this tough winter.

To help us all get to work, school or to the grocery store, our dedicated employees plowed and salted more times this year than in the past two winters combined. They also had to repair several water main breaks in sub-zero temperatures. As bad as this winter has been on the Village and all of you, it was made a little easier due to the efforts of these dedicated employees.

The Tollway has begun the construction of the Elgin-O'Hare Expressway along Thorndale Avenue. This construction season, the Illinois Tollway Authority will begin work on the overpass carrying Rohlwing Road over the expressway, and the new Hamilton Lakes Drive in the Chancellory Business Park. They will also begin to stockpile soil along the north side of Thorndale Avenue, which will be used to construct the expressway.

Although construction of this project is underway, Itasca and the neighboring communities are still negotiating with the Tollway on the aesthetics of this project. The Village is requesting that the Tollway upgrade their standard aesthetic treatments and reduce the costs of these upgrades to the communities involved. If successful with our requests, the Village's limited budget can be used to make more improvements

outside of their project, making the Village as aesthetically pleasing as possible.

The Village's fiscal year ends on April 30th, and so we are busy putting the finishing touches to our upcoming fiscal year 2015 budget. We are anticipating that we will increase our spending on public improvements again this year. In addition to our annual road rehabilitation program, the Maple Street Bridge over Springbrook Creek will be replaced. This will require us to close Maple Street, south of Irving Park Road, for several months. We are also looking to pave the paths on the west side of the Nature Center, and to make improvements to the fountain and pavers in our downtown area, to name just a few of our projects.

In other news, this past November the State General Assembly passed legislation reforming several of the State's pension systems. While I applaud the General Assembly for taking this first step, their reform legislation did not include the pensions of public safety officers. These reforms are needed to balance the escalating costs of pensions due to the benefits that the legislature have added over the years. Itasca continues to go to Springfield to lobby for this pension reform as well as for all public employees. The Village is also working with Senator Tom Cullerton on legislation which would allow non-home rule communities such as Itasca the ability to use a portion of our hotel/motel taxes for general corporate purposes. Currently we are allowed to spend these revenues only for tourism.

I hope you can join me and the heads of the other taxing bodies on May 12 for the annual Shape of Itasca Town Meeting at the Holiday Inn.

Sincerely,
Mayor Jeff Pruyn

Itasca Garden Club Plant Sale

Order forms for the Itasca Garden Club Plant Sale will be available at the Itasca Community Library and the Itasca Park District beginning in mid-March.

The Itasca Garden Club Plant Sale offers flats of annuals, hanging baskets, potted annuals and a variety of vegetables. There are various varieties and colors available for flowers that need either sun or shade.

Order forms are due April 22 with the pre-order pick-up on May 17.

On the day of the plant pick-up, there will be hanging baskets and potted plants for sale. To insure your variety and color, it is best to pre-order.

Proceeds provide programming for Itasca Garden Club members. Funds will also allow the Club to participate in community/civic events and activities and continue our tradition of donating books to the Itasca Community Library.

For more information call 630-773-8518.

Bells of Spring Handbell Concert

The third annual Bells of Spring Handbell Concert will be held on Sunday, March 23, at 3:00 pm. The Hanmee Presbyterian Church, 1149 W. Bloomingdale Road, is hosting this year's concert.

Handbell choirs from Hanmee Presbyterian Church, St. Luke Lutheran Church and St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church join together to present individual choir selections, solo numbers, ensemble and mass ringing pieces.

A free will offering is requested for admission. All funds will be donated to the Itasca Food Pantry, Itasca Walk-In Ministry and Itasca PADS.

For more information call 630-773-8518.

2

Itasca M.A.R.K.E.T.

Itasca is introducing a new festival this year, called Itasca M.A.R.K.E.T. It will take place on Saturday, June 14th from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm in Usher Park. The M.A.R.K.E.T. will feature Music, Art, Retro Furniture, Kollectibles, Edibles and Tastings!

We are currently looking for gourmet food vendors, artisans, vintage furniture and collectible dealers and wine and beer vendors. The booth fee is only \$50.00. General admission to the M.A.R.K.E.T. is free. We are also looking for volunteers to help out in a variety of areas both before and during the event.

For more information, volunteer opportunities and print out registration form visit www.itasca.com/market or email market@itasca.com for assistance.

Moving Out?

The Village of Itasca requires that a final water reading be reported at least one (1) week before the closing date or move out date. This insures the current homeowner that an accurate reading will be done, and avoids any last minute surprises in your final water bill. It is your responsibility as the seller, renter, or property owner to notify us to avoid additional usage charges. Please provide us with your forwarding address, date of closing or moving out, name of new owner (if available) or the property owner. **Please call Public Works at 630/773-2455 or enter a request using the Service Request System on www.itasca.com.**

Office hours are from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday. If calling during off hours, please leave a message with all the information listed above. If using the on-line system, go to www.itasca.com, click on Departments and scroll to Public Works. At the bottom of the page, you will find the "Service Request" link. Fill in all the requested information. You will be contacted to confirm the final reading.

www.itasca.com



Street Lights

The Itasca Public Works staff appreciates when you report a street light issue; whether it is a light not working properly or one that has been damaged. If you observe a problem with a street light in Itasca, we encourage you to report it so that it can be corrected as promptly as possible. When reporting a street light outage or another issue, please have what type of pole (cement, metal, decorative) and the pole number when calling in. If you can't locate the pole number, please try to get as accurate a description of the location as you can. While the street address helps, many addresses in town have more than one light pole. The specific location will help expedite any repairs that need to be done. If the street light is mounted on a wooden pole, it belongs to ComEd and needs to be reported to them. You can report it directly to them at 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661). **Please call Public Works at 630/773-2455 or report it electronically using the Service Request System. Go to www.itasca.com, click on Departments and scroll to Public Works. At the bottom of the page, you will find the "Service Request" link.** Thank you in helping keep Itasca safe with properly working street lights.

From the Desk of the Village Administrator

2014 will be forever known as a year of construction in Itasca.

State Construction in Itasca:

ROHLWING ROAD- This spring we anticipate the state's contractor to finish the work on Rohlwing Road between Old Thorndale and Bloomingdale Road.

TOLLWAY- Construction has begun on the Elgin O'Hare Western Access (EOWA) project! The Tollway has updated their website (<http://www.illinoisollway.com/construction-and-planning/projects-by-roadway/elgin-o-hare-western-access>) to include a video overview of the project. The video is ten minutes long and is informative. At the two minute mark, they show Itasca. But information about how to contact the Tollway is missing from the video. Currently, there are two ways to contact the Tollway regarding the project: 800-865-5394 (this number may change should they create a dedicated project phone number), and at the top of the screen there is the "contact us" option. If you click on that you are taken to another page where you will see a list of options. Select option "Construction". When you select that, it gives you an e-mail option.

In addition, Village staff is working on updating the information on our web site, as we realize how much this project will impact the lives and daily activities of our residents and businesses. We will attempt to keep our site as up-to-date as possible. Please bear in mind that we get our information from the Tollway and their construction schedule/timing may change due to conditions.

During the 2014 construction season, several local streets and roads will be impacted. They include Devon Avenue, Park Blvd. (on both sides of Thorndale Avenue), Ketter Drive, Pierce Road and, of course, Rohlwing Road.

Two things to note. First, a new road is being constructed in Hamilton Lakes. Hamilton Lakes Drive will connect Park Boulevard at Thorndale to Pierce Road. This will make internal navigation within the business park easier and allow locals to go under the Elgin-O'Hare either by car, on foot or by bicycle, and link into the Hamilton Lakes path system or to other major streets like Arlington Heights Road or Devon Avenue. The second item is the renaming of a stretch of Park Blvd on the north side of Thorndale to Clover Ridge Drive. There are no addresses on this stretch that runs from Thorndale

to the Clover Ridge subdivision but it will help to eliminate the confusion of having Park Blvd. on both sides of Thorndale Avenue.

Village Construction Projects:

- Maple Street Bridge replacement
- 2014 annual road rehabilitation program
- Resurfacing the streets in Hamilton Lakes; Park Blvd, Pierce, Ketter, Windsor
- Resurfacing certain Commercial streets west of Rohlwing
- Repair/replace the fountain by the train station
- Repairs at the former Village Hall

Village Budget

The Village's budget process is currently under way, but the final version of the budget will not have been adopted when this newsletter will be mailed. A schedule of meetings to discuss the budget will be presented to the Village Board with adoption of the FY 2014-15 budget expected in late April/early May.

Evan Teich
Village of Itasca Administrator
630-773-0835

Itasca Food Pantry

Located at 336 W. Center Street, the Itasca Food Pantry's doors have been open for over 20 years. The Food Pantry is open on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Clients are assigned two Saturdays a month to come to the Pantry and shop for food items and basic necessities. There is a registration process that must be completed. This registration shows the Northern Illinois Food Depository the need for food in

the Itasca Food Pantry and allows the Pantry more options in obtaining goods. There are food drives throughout the year that help keep the Pantry's shelves stocked. We hope that you can support these efforts. Non-perishable donations can also be placed in the blue collection container outside the fence at 336 W. Center St. during the week or dropped off on Saturday mornings.



Roadway Construction Projects 2014

The Village will experience numerous roadway projects taking place simultaneously in 2014. Just as IDOT completes the Rohlwing Road reconstruction south of Thorndale Avenue, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority will begin construction of a new IL 53 bridge over the Elgin O'Hare Expressway, just north of where IDOT ended its work. The bridge construction, started in late 2013, is expected to take 30 months, with completion expected in mid-2015.

The Tollway will have a total of six separate Elgin O'Hare Western Access (EOWA) construction contracts underway in Itasca during 2014. Also under construction will be the Devon Avenue bridge, flyover ramps at the revamped I-290 interchange, construction of the partial interchange and ramps at Park Boulevard, noise wall construction and frontage road improvements at Clover Ridge subdivision and the Hamilton Lakes Business Park, and roadway reconfiguration of Ketter Drive, Park Boulevard and Pierce Drive to facilitate future interchange improvements at Arlington Heights Road and Prospect Avenue. Two traffic lanes in each direction along Thorndale Avenue are expected to remain open throughout the project. Construction of the EOWA within Itasca is expected to last through 2017. Regular updates on construction activities can be found at www.itasca.com.

Several local streets in the Central Manufacturing District along IL 53 will also receive street upgrades. Approximately \$1.1 million in roadway patching, structure repairs, curb replacement and resurfacing is planned to take place in these areas during the second half of the summer. These projects will be funded by remaining maintenance funds from prior Special Service Area assessments funded by occupants of the CMD Industrial Park.

Additional Special Service Area roadway improvements are scheduled in the Hamilton Lakes Business Park beginning in May. This will involve roadway repairs, resurfacing and street light replacement along Park Boulevard, Pierce Road and Windsor Avenue. This \$3 million project is being funded completely by the occupants of the business park, at no cost to Itasca residents. This project will occur simultaneously with Tollway projects on the Devon Avenue bridge, Ketter/Park/Pierce, and the Elgin-O'Hare expressway along the Thorndale Avenue corridor. All work within the Hamilton Lakes local streets is expected to be completed in 2014.

Finally, the Village's annual \$750,000 street resurfacing program will also begin in May. Approximately two miles of local streets throughout the Village are scheduled for resurfacing work, which will involve temporary impacts during construction; but no road closures or major alterations are expected. This project will be similar to prior annual street resurfacing programs, and is expected to be completed within 90 days.

Driving through many areas of Itasca, particularly in the northwest area of the Village near I-290, will be challenging. The Village encourages all motorists to exercise caution in construction zones, reminding everyone of the statewide hands-free cell phone law that went into effect on January 1, 2014.



Maple Street Bridge

The Maple Street Bridge over Springbrook Creek is scheduled for reconstruction in 2014. The Village applied for and received an 80% federal grant for the project, with the remaining 20% to be paid by the Village. This \$ 1.2 million project will start at the beginning of May, 2014, with completion in mid-September, 2014, weather permitting. The bridge will be completely removed and the water and sewer utilities relocated. A new bridge structure will be placed, along with new wing walls, decorative brick facing and decorative fencing. The new bridge deck will be large enough to accommodate vehicle and pedestrian traffic safely. South Maple Street and Gigi Gruber Lane will be closed for a minimum of three months while the construction takes place; Walnut Street will be the detour. Advanced informational signage will be placed to help traffic flows. Access to "Wine with Me" will be through the alley off of Grove Street or from Walnut Street. Chew Chew Doggie Day Daycare and Kwik-Print will have access from Irving Park Road and Maple Street.

We apologize for any inconvenience the project may cause, but we are confident that once construction is completed the new bridge will be structurally sound for years to come, and fit in with the beauty of the Riverwalk and the surrounding area. If you would like further information, please contact Ross Hitchcock, Director of Public Works at 630-773-5571 or Todd Destred, Project Manager at 815-509-9307.

Surface Transportation Program Funding

Each year, the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) provides state and local governments with funds that may be used for maintaining and improving their urban transportation networks. These funds are distributed locally to the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) who in turn distribute them to municipalities. In order to receive funding, a municipality must apply for the funds with a specific project and meet certain criteria.

Highway funds are used for projects that involve resurfacing or rebuilding roadways and make up 70% of the annual STP allotment. Transportation Control Measure (TCM) funds are used for projects that decrease congestion and vehicle emissions and make up 30% of the annual STP allotment.

This year, DMMC received 29 Highway project applications totaling \$16,860,960 and 7 TCM project applications totaling \$5,303,627. With \$10,692,881 available to fund highway project and \$4,869,520 available to fund TCM projects, DMMC was able to fully fund 18 new highway projects and six TCM projects and partially fund one additional highway and TCM project.

Itasca was awarded \$ 1,032,711 in funding for work on Bloomingdale Road. Other projects in the county include:

Municipal Highway Projects			
Project Sponsor	Project	Project Limits	STP Funding
Bensenville	Church Rd Reconstruction	Grove St to Jefferson St	\$1,624,210
Bloomingtondale	Butterfield Dr Resurfacing	Springfield Dr to Army Trail Rd	\$296,423
Bloomingtondale	Springfield Dr Resurfacing	Schick Rd to Lake St	\$374,421
Burr Ridge	79th St Resurfacing	Madison St to County Line Rd	\$316,302
Carol Stream	Lies Rd Resurfacing	Fair Oaks Rd to County Farm Rd	\$319,000
Downers Grove	Main St Resurfacing	Ogden Ave to Rogers St	\$630,000
DuPage County	55th Street Resurfacing	Dunham Rd to Cass Ave	\$801,500
DuPage County	31st St Intersection Improvements	Il-83 to Jorie Blvd	\$1,341,340
Elmhurst	S York St Resurfacing	Harvard St to Butterfield Rd	\$552,300
Elmhurst	Poplar Ave Resurfacing	Park Ave to Vallette St	\$508,900
Itasca	Bloomingtondale Rd Reconstruction	Rohwling Rd to Irving Park Rd	\$1,032,711
Naperville	87th St Resurfacing	Il-59 to Book Rd	\$396,500
Naperville	Wehrli Rd Resurfacing	75 th St to Lisson Rd	\$408,100
Oak Brook	York Rd Resurfacing	I-88 Ramp to Oak Brook Rd	\$571,240
Villa Park	High Ridge Resurfacing	Ardmore Ave to Westmore-Meyers Rd	\$171,302
Woodridge	71st St Resurfacing	IL-53 to Roberts Dr	\$96,980
Woodridge	Internationale Pkwy Resurfacing	Beaudin Blvd to Woodward Ave	\$655,010
Woodridge	Woodridge Dr Resurfacing	75 th Street to Center Dr	\$367,263
Woodridge/Dairen	83rd St Resurfacing	Janes Ave to Lemont Rd	\$229,379
Total			\$10,692,881



Eggstreme Teen Night

Thursday, April 10, 8:00 pm, Free!

Tweens and Teens come to Washington Park for an “eggcellent” Easter Egg Hunt! Hundreds of eggs will be hidden throughout the park and will contain candy, a coupon or a ticket for a grand prize!

Don't miss the new Homemade Drive-In Theater

Friday, April 11, 6:00-8:00 pm
Nature Center.

Make a cardboard box car, then line them up and watch the movie “Cars” drive-in style! \$14/\$16

Adult Eggstravaganza

Friday, April 11, 8:00 pm
Washington Park

Don't miss this free adult egg hunt! Hidden eggs will contain coupons to local businesses, park district services and candy! We have free babysitting too!

Spring Fling

Saturday, April 12 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Springbrook Nature Center

Enjoy a free Candy Hunt at 11:00 am, pictures with the Easter Bunny, snacks, crafts and more! Free!

Breakfast with the Bunny

Saturday, April 12, 9:00-10:15 am
Itasca Rec Center

Enjoy breakfast, crafts, activities; and bring a camera to capture a picture with the Easter Bunny! \$15/child, \$10/adult

Waterpark Passes are on sale beginning April 1!

Four new interactive pieces were added in 2013!



Register for Summer Day Camps, Sports & Nature Camps now!

Don't miss one of Itasca's biggest events of the year, the Itasca Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 26, beginning at 9:30 am.

A Memorial Service provided by V.F.W. Post #5167 will follow the parade at Usher Park. Parade awards will also be announced.

The Historical Depot Museum is now hosting many classes including Movies at the Museum, Train Time, trips and more! Choo-Choo Birthday Parties available! Register for all programs at the Itasca Rec Center.

Remember a special celebration or special person with a Leaf, Acorn, or Stone on the **Itasca Park District Giving Tree**. Visit: www.itasca.com/givingtree.

Hold your celebration at the Itasca Rec Center, Nature Center or Waterpark.

Visit: www.itasca.com/rentals.

For information on these and other events, please visit: www.itscaparkdistrict.com



Village of Itasca

Tuki Sathaye, Library Director

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



The Itasca Community Library is offering many unique and interesting programs this spring. For information and registration call the Library at 630-773-1699 or visit www.itascalibrary.org.

Play to Learn with DuPage Children's Museum

(geared to ages 2-6 years with a parent or caregiver)

Saturday, March 1, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, or 12:00 pm (Play)

Wednesday, March 26, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, or 12:00 pm (Math)

Thursday, April 10, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, or 7:00 pm (Science)

Wednesday, May 14, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, or 12:00 pm (Play)

The DuPage Children's Museum is taking their exhibits on the road! We've teamed up with the Museum to offer a unique program that focuses on play and learning. Children will engage in storytime while adults learn how to share math, art, and science concepts with preschoolers in a fun and easy way. Together, children and caregivers will enjoy portable exhibits as well as hands-on projects that can be done right in the home. Registration is required.

Paging Through History

This new quarterly book discussion will read non-fiction historical books. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, April 16, 7:00 pm. The first selection is *The Making of the President, 1960* by Theodore H. White. Skokie librarian Ron Oberman and our resident historian Michael Stachnik will be leading this discussion. History buffs, this is for you!

Simply Gardening: For the Love of It!

Saturday, May 24, 10:00 am-2:00 pm

The Itasca Community Library, in collaboration with the Itasca Garden Club, will be hosting our first **Garden Fest**. Stroll through the library's "indoor garden path" and see what's new in the gardening world. There will be family fun for all with children's activities, crafts, plants, prizes, and more! Check the library website for more information as we get closer to the event.



Thank You! Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Thank you to all who participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service at the library on January 20. Approximately 150 people attended and completed service projects at eight different stations organized by the Itasca Garden Club, Merry Quilters, Quilting Bee at the Library, SCARCE, Walk-In Ministry, Itasca Food Pantry, VFW, and a local group of Itasca families. The event wouldn't have been possible without the additional donations from Westin Chicago Northwest, Eaglewood Resort & Spa, Itasca Runners Club, Prairie Yoga, Roselle Dental, Cross Creek Dental, and several local families.

If you missed this event, be sure to mark it on your calendar for next year! We would love to have other groups participate by having a station for your non-profit organization or by making a donation. Please contact Beth McCloskey, Youth Services Librarian, at bmccloskey@itascalibrary.org for more information.



Illinois' New Firearm Conceal Carry Act

The Illinois Firearm Conceal Carry Act became law in Illinois on July 9, 2013. The Illinois State Police is responsible for the implementation of licensing procedures under this new law. According to the State Police, we should expect to see individuals with conceal and carry permits begin to appear in March or April of 2014.

The new law allows licensees to carry a concealed handgun in public places with a few specific exceptions. A "concealed firearm" means a loaded or unloaded handgun (not rifle or shotgun) carried on or about a person completely or mostly concealed from view of the public or on or about a person within a vehicle. The law does not allow persons to open carry.

The law also prohibits carrying of a concealed handgun in certain places. These places include:

- Any building, real property, and parking area under the control of a public or private elementary or secondary school.
- Any building, real property, and parking area under the control of a pre-school or child care facility, including any room or portion of a building under the control of a pre-school or child care facility. Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the operator of a child care facility in a family home from owning or possessing a firearm in the home or license under this Act, if no child under child care at the home is present in the home, or the firearm in the home is stored in a locked container when a child under child care at the home is present in the home.
- Any building or portion of a building under the control of a unit of local government.
- Any building, real property, and parking area under the control of a public or private hospital or hospital affiliate, mental health facility, or nursing home.
- Any bus, train, or form of transportation paid for in whole or in part with public funds, and any building, real property, and parking area under the control of a public transportation facility paid for in whole or in part with public funds.
- Any public gathering or special event conducted on property open to the public that requires the issuance of a permit from the unit of local government, provided this prohibition shall not apply to a licensee who must walk through a public gathering in order to access his or her residence, place of business, or vehicle.
- Any building or real property that has been issued a Special Event Retailer's license during the time designated for the sale of alcohol by the Special Event Retailer's license.
- Any public playground.
- Any public park, athletic area, or athletic facility under the control of a municipality or park district. A licensee is not prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm while on a trail or bikeway if only a portion of the trail or bikeway includes a public park.
- Any building, real property, or parking area under the control of a public library.
- Any building, real property, or parking area under the control of a zoo or museum.
- Any area where firearms are prohibited under federal law.

The owner of private real property of any type may prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms on the property under his or her control. The owner must post a sign in accordance with the statute indicating that firearms are



prohibited on the property, unless the property is a private residence.

Signs stating that the carrying of firearms is prohibited shall be clearly and conspicuously posted at the entrance of a building, premises, or real property specified in this Section as a prohibited area, unless the building or premises is a private residence. The signs shall be of a uniform design and shall be 4 inches by 6 inches in size.

The law does contain certain exceptions to the prohibitions. Any licensee prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm into the parking area of a prohibited location shall be permitted to carry a concealed firearm on or about his or her person within a vehicle into the parking area and may store a firearm or ammunition concealed in a case within a locked vehicle or locked container out of plain view within the vehicle in the parking area. A licensee may carry a concealed firearm in the immediate area surrounding his or her vehicle within a prohibited parking lot area only for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving a firearm within the vehicle's trunk, provided the licensee ensures the concealed firearm is unloaded prior to exiting the vehicle. For purposes of this subsection, "case" includes a glove compartment or console that completely encloses the concealed firearm or ammunition, the trunk of the vehicle, or a firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container.

Continued on page 9

Fire Department

James Burke, Fire Chief

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

The Itasca Fire Protection District

Most Fire Departments throughout the State of Illinois have been hit with reduced budgets and lost revenues since 2009. One of the ways the Itasca Fire District has tried to offset some of this revenue loss is through the grant application process.

Since 2006, the Itasca Fire Protection District has been fortunate to receive \$500,000 in grant money through various agencies. Most of these grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and generally have rules on how the monies may be spent. Many of them are offered for equipment that qualifies as "safety" equipment for our personnel. This can be things such as firefighter clothing, heat or gas detection monitors and hydraulic stretchers, to name a few.

In 2011, the Itasca Fire Protection District applied for and received a Federal Assistance for Firefighters Grant

for \$80,000 to replace and upgrade all of our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, or SCBA as it is known in the business. This grant allowed us to replace all of our SCBA with the most current state-of-the-art units that provide critical protection for our personnel in many situations. In late 2013, the Itasca Fire Protection District applied for and received a Federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant for \$294,000. This grant will be used to restore two positions that were frozen by the District in 2010. The grant covers all salaries and benefits for a two year period. The Itasca Fire District will remain committed to researching and applying for any available grants that help offset the burden to our taxpayers.

The Village of Itasca 2014 Dog Licenses were 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. 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. Dogs without tags cannot be easily identified, and may be held in a kennel for one or more days before being returned to the family. A \$3.00 investment is a small price to pay to help secure your dog's safety.

Also remember that the Village of Itasca requires all dogs to be kept on leash when in public areas, including parks and Nature Center grounds. Dog owners are also required to pick up any dog droppings left by their pet.

Illinois' New Firearm Conceal Carry Act

Continued from page 8

Furthermore, a conceal carry licensee shall not be in violation while he or she is traveling along a public right of way that touches or crosses any of the premises if the concealed firearm is carried on his or her person in accordance with the provisions of this Act or is being transported in a vehicle by the licensee in accordance with all other applicable provisions of law.

The new conceal and carry law is lengthy and complex. Conceal and carry permit holders have the responsibility to fully understand and abide by the law. The full text of the statute can be found at: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/98/098-0063.htm>

For more information, please visit the Illinois State Police website at <https://ccl4illinois.com/ccw/public/home.aspx>

As a public safety initiative, the Itasca Police Department will provide **free** gun locks to our residents. Free gun locks are available at the Itasca Police Department 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Chief Scott Heher



Home Improvement Permits

As spring approaches, many homeowners begin to think about and prepare for home improvement projects.

Homeowners are reminded to obtain permits for certain interior remodeling and building projects, including kitchen and bathroom renovations, roofs, fences, driveways, decks, patios, sheds, swimming pools, and lawn sprinkler systems to name a few. If you are unsure that a home improvement project may need a permit, please call our office. A brief phone call can confirm whether you will need a permit or not.

Please contact the Community Development Department at 630-773-5568, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, for additional information. Building Permit information, forms and contractor requirements are available on the Village's website at www.itasca.com under the "Community Development" tab.



Coyote Sightings in the Suburbs

Urban coyotes are frequently sighted in the suburbs, and sadly, sometimes with reports of domestic pets being lost to the natural instinct of this wildlife predator. Itasca residents are encouraged to take proactive measures to prevent coyotes' attraction to residential backyards by keeping the ground clear of pet and wild animal feed and not leaving small pets unattended outside. If you are seeing coyotes in your area on a regular basis, the Village of Itasca offers the following tips to discourage them:

- Do not feed any wild animals such as squirrels or deer, as feeding them inadvertently encourages coyotes as well. While coyotes are seen in the area, remove bird feeders and outside pet food containers, since coyotes will prey upon small mammals that are attracted to birdseed and pet food.
- Store garbage in secure containers and in areas where wild animals cannot access it.
- Clear away wood piles, brush piles, and other potential cover for coyotes and other wild animals. Keep yards clean of refuse and brush.
- Do not leave pets, particularly small dogs, outside unattended. Keep cats indoors at all times.
- Walk dogs on a leash, especially at night. Have a whistle with you to blow should coyotes appear.
- Reinforce coyotes' natural fear of humans by displaying aggressive behavior, turning on outside lights and making loud noises.
- Encourage neighbors to follow these same guidelines.

Support Local business,
join the Itasca Chamber.

www.itscachamber.com

630-773-2949



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

Arbor Day 2014

The Village of Itasca will be celebrating Arbor Day on Saturday, April 26th at the Itasca Village Hall. Ceremonies will be held in the Village Board Room, beginning at 1:00 pm and will include the dedication of memorial and commemorative trees. Following the ceremonies, attendees will be able to view the trees in the arboretum, located to the south and west of the Village Hall.

To have an existing tree in the Village's arboretum dedicated to commemorate a special event (ex. birth, anniversary) or to honor the memory of a departed loved one, please contact Mr. Fred Maier (fmaier@itasca.com) no later than April 11th. An existing tree in the Village's arboretum can be dedicated for \$250.00, which covers the cost of installing the plaque and post on the south side of the tree. Each tree is identified with a plaque set on a post to the south side of the tree, identifying the tree species, who or what the tree is dedicated for, and who dedicated it. You will also receive a certificate acknowledging the tree dedication that will include all the information found on the plaque.

For more information or to download a tree dedication order form, please visit the Village website: <http://www.itasca.com/index.aspx?nid=1151>.



Village Yard Watering Regulations

In the Village of Itasca, yard watering regulations are in effect from May 15 through September 15. Watering is allowed from Midnight to Noon and 6:00 pm - Midnight. Even numbered addresses may water on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday. Odd numbered addresses may water on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. (During an extreme water shortage, as determined by the Village mayor, no water from the Village mains shall be used for any purpose outside a residence, business or other building. Use of water from rain barrels would still be allowed.)

Please consider the following smart watering practice tips throughout the spring and summer:

- Improper or over-watering can pollute streams, waste water and lead to a low-quality lawn with weeds, insects or disease. Proper watering and healthy lawn practices reduce these problems and limit the need for pesticides and fertilizers.
- You can save on your water bill by letting your lawn go naturally dormant in summer. If it gets 1/4- to 1/2-inch of water or rain every two to four weeks, it will green up in cooler weather.
- If you don't let your lawn go dormant, it only needs 1 inch of water or rain per week.
- Watering early in the day helps reduce lawn diseases and reduces loss of water to evaporation.
- Keeping water on the lawn and off pavement saves water and money.
- You can conserve water, protect the environment, reduce pesticide use and save money by watering wisely and practicing natural lawn care.
- Consider the use of rain barrels to provide a free source for yard watering.

GREEN Day 2014

The Village of Itasca will host a GREEN Day recycling event this year on Saturday, May 3rd at the METRA Parking Lot on Irving Park Road in Itasca from 8:00 am until noon. Along with accepting a wide range of electronic wastes, we will be accepting paper, including documents for shredding, fabric, used bicycles, American Flags, eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription medications, used motor oil, used antifreeze, automotive batteries, scrap metal, fire extinguishers, books, school & office supplies, cell phones, ink jet cartridges, keys, clothing buttons & safety pins. We will also be accepting cooking oil this year. The oil will be dumped into a receptacle and you will take your emptied cooking oil containers home with you.

We will NOT accept hazardous household wastes or paint.

Each year, Fellowes, Inc. has provided personal paper shredders for a few lucky attendees. These will be distributed to random participants throughout the day.

For more information, please visit the Village website at www.itasca.com, or e-mail fmaier@itasca.com with any specific questions.

Earth Hour

Earth Hour is a world-wide event, bringing together 152 countries and a digital reach of over 200 million. Join others around the world by turning off you lights, television, computer and all non-essential electrical devices for one hour on March 29 at 8:30 pm.

Earth Hour is bigger than just an hour of lights off. It is continuous movement that is driving actions, big and small, that are changing the world we live in. Check out earthhour.org to see what an impact this organization is making on our environment.

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

Spring 2014



Village of Itasca
550 W. Irving Park Rd.
Itasca, IL 60143
630-773-0835
www.itasca.com

CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT

PRESORT
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ITASCA, IL
PERMIT NO. 14

**ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER**