



Committed to our future.
Inspired by our past.

SPRING 2020

Photo: Greg McDonald
Picture Perfect (p2)



The Village News



Itasca Garden Plant Sale (p5)



Calendar of Events (p6 & p7)



Count Us In - 2020 Census (p9)

Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

Nothing says spring in Itasca like the emergence of green blades of grass, leaves sprouting on trees, and the arrival of newly born swans. I would like to thank resident Greg McDonald for submitting the cover photo. More information on this photo can be found on page 2.

While this edition of the newsletter isn't as action packed as our summer and winter ones are, it is still my favorite one to write, as it gives me an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments that we achieved this past year and share with you our goals for the upcoming year.

As I reflect on 2019, I am thankful for the progress our community has made, while still honoring our Itasca identity. One of the most noticeable changes was an update to our logo, which illustrates our desirable location and is a nod to our conservation efforts. This classic and timeless logo can be viewed on the Village's website, as well as on our newly repaired and repainted water towers. In addition to our rebranding efforts, the Village has been working with DuPage County to erect a gateway monument sign to make Itasca more visible on I-390.

[Continued on page 2 >](#)

Mayor's Message Continued...

The Community Development Department has been hard at work attracting developers into town. This past year, the Village Board approved development projects with Bridge Development Partners, Raging Wire, and Quadrangle. Recently, the RTA selected Itasca to receive a planning grant, which will be used to aide us in strengthening the downtown business environment, guiding development and redevelopment, and enhancing our transit programs. Residential meetings will be held in the upcoming months in order to obtain input on how you would like to see the downtown area grow and change.

The Village Board has also made significant strides this past year, in reducing flooding problems that occur as a result of heavy rainfall. Each year, the Village continues to invest in manhole rehabilitation and sewer lining programs in order to maintain our aging infrastructure.

In August, the Board revised its Rear Yard Assistance Program to expand the type of eligible projects that residents can implement to alleviate their rear yard drainage issues. More information on this program is available on page 11. The Board also created a Sanitary Sewer Backflow Preventive Program, which will assist residents with the cost associated with the installation of a backflow prevention system. This construction season, the Village will install two new main storm sewers between North Street and Orchard Street, in order to improve area drainage. With this project, the Board renewed its commitment to urbanize roadways in Itasca, which will reduce lot flooding, and increase property values. More information on this project can be found on page 8.

Each spring, the Board and staff undertake a most important and crucial responsibility to our residents – the annual budget, where we appropriate funds to operate the Village for the next fiscal year, which begins May 1st. The long-term sustainability of the Village's budget has been a key focus area for the Village Board and staff the last several years. As in past years, the focus will be on continuing capital investments to maintain infrastructure, preserving public safety services, and protecting the vitality of local economy. Our budget workshops are open to the public and provide a chance to see and hear what the Village is planning for the coming year. Meeting notices will be posted on the Village's website, under the Agenda Center.

While we look to the future, I would like to take a moment to thank those who have helped us get here. I am grateful to the Board of Trustees, who work extremely hard in passing policies and procedures to maintain our quality of life; all of the commission members who have dedicated their evenings each month (and sometimes weekly) to hear cases; our amazing staff who consistently improve our Village on a daily basis; and most of all, to the residents of Itasca. We have a wonderfully engaged population who educate and involve themselves on the happenings of our town. I count myself lucky to live in a village where so many people are passionate about making Itasca a wonderful place to work and live! I look forward to seeing you this spring and catching up at one of the many great community events that we have planned!

Congratulations Sergeant Mace



On November 7, 2019, Sergeant Tim Mace graduated from the prestigious Southern Police Institute's 142nd Administrative Officers Course. Sergeant Mace completed the demanding 12-week graduate level course and received the Dean's Scholar Award for academic excellence. The Southern Police Institute (SPI) is a division of the Department of Justice Administration, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Louisville. It is an advanced education and training institute whose mission is to enhance the professional development of law enforcement practitioners. SPI is consistently ranked among the top law enforcement educational and professional development schools in the nation.

The Administrative Officers Course is a challenging, accredited college level educational program. The course curriculum is designed to develop informed, effective, ethically and technically competent law enforcement managers, who can assume positions of leadership in their agencies. Sergeant Mace completed course work in Managing Organizational Performance, Criminal Justice Leadership, Law Enforcement Administration, and Legal Aspects of Criminal Justice Management.

Director of Police Robert O'Connor stated, "I am proud of Sergeant Mace's distinguished accomplishment and look forward to him applying the knowledge learned to the Itasca Police Department."

Picture Perfect

This year's cover photo was submitted by resident Greg McDonald, who took this photo last June while walking with his three granddaughters Kyla, Kelsey, and Kennedy, in Usher Park. It features our resident swans proudly showing off their newly born cygnets to a new duck friend. Be sure to stop by the pond this spring and say hello to the proud parents.

If you, like Greg, have a great photo of Itasca and would like to have it considered for our newsletter, please submit it to deputyclerk@itasca.com, along with details of who/what the photograph is of, when it was taken, and its meaning.

Administrator's Message

Shortly after moving into town this past summer, a neighbor invited me to attend our neighborhood book club. Walking into a room of strangers is never easy, but I'm so glad I pushed out of my comfort zone. Not only have I finished a couple of really good books, but these women have gone out of their way to help my family feel more at home in our new neighborhood – and I am forever grateful.

At our last book club, the ladies wanted to know what the deal is with Itasca's water bills. One neighbor lamented that it seems to go up every month. Given that annual water rate increases will be in effect on your March bill, I thought it would be a good time to share some positive news about rates and your bill.

This spring, the Village is modernizing its utility bill system. The changes will make it easier for customers to understand their paper bills, as well as add new options to receive, pay, and review your bills online.

In December, the Village Board voted to reduce the 2020 annual water rate increase by 50%. Next year's increase of 2.5%, is roughly equivalent to the projected cost increase from Chicago for filtering and treating our drinking water. As a result, beginning

in March the average homeowner will see his or her bill increase \$3.46 per month.*

The Village Board historically only adjusts water and sewer rates once per year, so the bill differences you see month to month are a result of how much water you actually use in any given month. Usage tends to rise over the summer, when people water lawns and gardens, and during the holidays as people host family and friends.

A typical Itasca household uses about 5,000 gallons of water each month. Your bill covers the cost of delivering clean, drinkable water to your home, and then removing, treating, and returning clean water to local waterways.

Did you know that in 2018, Americans spent nearly \$31 billion on bottled water, and 64% of those bottles contain filtered municipal tap water?

This year, consider ditching the bottled water habit. If you prefer the taste of filtered water, you can attach any number of highly rated water filters to your home's faucet for about \$10 and presto chango, you have filtered water!

**Based on 5,000 gallons.*



1

Medium Latte
(16 oz)



6

Bottles of Water
(96 oz)



12

Cans of Soda
(144 oz)



1

Gallon of Milk
(128 oz)



137

Gallons of Tap Water*
(17,600 oz)

Shop with a Cop Event

On Saturday, December 7th, members of the Itasca and Roselle Police Departments were fortunate to take some very deserving children to Meijer, so that they could “Shop with a Cop.” Eight Itasca children were treated to picking gifts at Meijer for themselves or family members. Afterwards, they were treated to a pizza lunch complete with festive treats and a visit from Santa.

The Itasca PD had a great time making the holidays a little brighter for some area kids. A fun time was had by all, by sharing the joys of the holidays.



Get Fit and Feel Great

Try group fitness classes including Iron & Oar, Pilates, Boot Camp, Seniors in Motion, and more at the Itasca Park District Rec. Center! Walk the track, use the treadmills with internet access, or try the workout area.

Rather get fit outdoors? Visit the Barking Lot and Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary on Rohlwing Road. Both have access to a dog park, an ADA accessible 1/3-mile boardwalk, nature-based play area, shelter, grill, and habitat restoration!

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:

Mid-City Plumbing – 1425 Industrial Drive

Mid-City Plumbing is a plumbing contractor/service business. They offer a variety of plumbing services for both commercial and residential clients. Contact them at **(630) 860-1501**.

Risicato Designs – 1507 Industrial Drive Unit B

Risicato Designs is an apparel company offering apparel printing, screen printing, digital printing and embroidery services. For all of your ordering needs, please call **(847) 250-2274**.

Be sure to check out the Village’s Twitter account **@ItascaMeans**.

Mother’s Day Gift

Looking for a Mother’s Day gift or a way to remember someone special? Give a gift of a Leaf, Acorn, or Stone on the Itasca Park District Giving Tree. Visit: **www.itascaparkdistrict.com/givingtree** for more information.



Nature Center Welcomes Newest Member

Stop by the Springbrook Nature Center and visit the year-round resident raptors, outside in their mews. The newest addition is the black and white gyrfalcon! While there, be sure to check out the new way-finding signage.

Flag Sale

The Itasca Lions will be selling U.S. flag kits to promote, educate, and reintroduce the U.S. flag to our community. The kit will include a flag, that is made in the USA and is of a high-quality material, as well as a 5’ pole and attachment pieces. A list of flag holidays and etiquette will also be included with your purchase. Each kit costs \$50.00 and will be available for order until March 17th.



Payment either can be made via the mail to the Itasca Lions, P.O. Box 14, Itasca, IL, 60143 or online through PayPal at **www.PayPal.com** by clicking on “Send”. The Itasca Lions Club email for PayPal is: **lionspp@outlook.com**. If you have any questions, please contact Olga at **cruick1@sbcglobal.net** subject line: Itasca Lions Flag. We hope to see our community flying their flags high starting with Memorial Day 2020.

Itasca Historical Depot Museum

Be sure to visit the Historical Depot Museum this spring. The museum is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. with free admission. Kids ages 7 - 10, are invited to attend the new Breakout Challenge on Saturday, May 9th from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. The museum has just been robbed. Help the police go through the evidence and unlock the locks before time runs out! Registration is required through the Park District.

Itasca Garden Club Plant Sale

Mark your calendars! The Itasca Garden Club Plant Sale will be Saturday, May 16th. Be sure to stop by the Itasca Community Library or the Itasca Park District to pick up your order form. Order forms will be available at the end of a March and must be returned by April 27th. Preordering assures color and variety choice.



This year, there will be a wide selection of annuals such as petunias, impatiens, geraniums, zinnias, snapdragons, and various other plants available for preordering. In addition, there will be numerous hanging baskets and favorite vegetables to consider.

Plants will be available for pick-up on May 16th at Orchard Church on George Street in Itasca. Should you forget to preorder, plants will be available for sale on pick-up day. For more information, please call **(630) 773-8518**. All plants come from Murphy's in Itasca.

Tree Dedication Program

Each year at the end of April, the Village of Itasca dedicates trees in the Village Arboretum to the memories of loved ones, and in commemoration of special events. The dedication program is available to all Itasca residents, former and current.

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 loved one, please contact David Sloan (**dsloan@itasca.com**) no later than April 3rd. An existing tree in the Village's arboretum can be dedicated for \$250.00, which covers the cost of installing a plaque set on a post. The plaque will identify 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 and all the information found on the plaque.

The formal ceremony for the tree dedications will take place on Saturday, April 25th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Itasca Village Hall. For more information or to download a tree dedication order form, please visit the Village's website at **www.itasca.com/1151/Tree-Dedication-Program**.

GREEN Day 2020



This year, the Village of Itasca has partnered with Itasca Bank & Trust Co., to host a GREEN Day recycling event on Saturday, May 2nd. The event will run from 8:00 a.m. to noon in the Metra Parking Lot located on Irving Park Road. While we will be accepting electronic waste this year, we will only be accepting 32" or smaller tube (CRT) televisions/computer monitors (limit one per car), and no projection screen TVs.

We will also be accepting paper documents for shredding on site, limit 5 banker sized boxes per attendee. Please note, this is offered only to Itasca residents and in-home businesses, and Itasca Bank & Trust Co. customer and their associates. Boxes will not be disposed of and will be returned to each individual. We will not accept any documents in 3-ring binders, nor any books, catalogs, magazines, or newspapers. If you have large volumes of paper documents that need to be destroyed, please contact International Paper, located here in Itasca at **(630) 250-1300**. Each year, Fellowes, Inc. has provided personal paper shredders for a few lucky attendees. These will be distributed at random to participants throughout the day.

Along with electronics and paper, we will also be accepting fabrics, used bicycles, America flags, eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription medications, used motor oil, used antifreeze, automotive batteries, scrap metal, fire extinguishers, school & office supplies, cell phones, ink jet cartridges, keys, clothing buttons, safety pins, and cooking oil.

We will NOT accept hazardous household wastes or paint. If you have paint that you need to dispose of, please contact Earth Paint, located at 365 E. Irving Park Road in Wood Dale.

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

New at the Itasca Community Library: Preschool Pop-In

The Itasca Community Library will offer a new hands-on, interactive learning experience, where adults help children develop early reading, writing, math, and science skills through play. Drop in any Monday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. from March 16th through May 4th. Each week will feature a different theme. Activities will be geared to ages 3-6 years, but all are welcome. No registration is needed.

Celebrate Our Community



Sat., March 7th

Passport Open House

Itasca Community Library
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Drop in to apply for a passport, pick up forms, or just get your questions answered. No appointment necessary. First-come, first-served.



Mon., March 9th

Meet the New Library Director

Itasca Community Library
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Stop in and say hello to the new director of the Itasca Community Library, Frank Murray, at one of the library's meet & greet sessions.



Sat., March 21st

Meet the New Library Director

Itasca Community Library
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Stop in and say hello to the new director of the Itasca Community Library, Frank Murray, at one of the library's meet & greet sessions.



Wed., March 25th

Water Egg Hunt

Eaglewood Pool
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Get ready to jump in the pool and gather up some of the floating Easter eggs in this super-fun Egg Hunt! Please register with the Itasca Park District. **Cost \$8 per child, ages: birth - 14yrs.**



Wed., March 25th

Meet the New Library Director

Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Stop in and say hello to the new director of the Itasca Community Library, Frank Murray, at one of the library's meet & greet sessions.



Sat., March 28th

Bunny Tea Party

Itasca Park District
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Build your very own stuffed bunny, play games, decorate cupcakes, and visit with the bunny! **Ages 2-10 Fee: \$25/\$35.** Children must be accompanied by an adult at no charge.



Sat., March 28th

**Shark Tank Junior:
Craft Sale for Kids and Teens**

Itasca Community Library
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Come support our local young entrepreneurs. Shop homemade jewelry, artwork, and other craft items.



Mon., March 30th

Kids Day Off Program

Itasca Park District
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Kids ages 5-11 years will have a blast when school is out March 30th - April 3rd. **\$45/\$55 per day.** Extended care 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., **\$15 per day.** There will be field trips on some days.

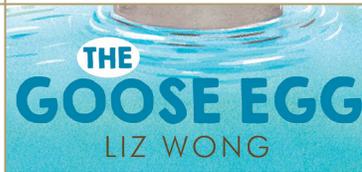


Tues., March 31st

Storytime with Elsa

Itasca Community Library
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join Elsa for storytime, along with a one-on-one photo op for each child in attendance. Registration is required.



Wed., April 1st

The Goose Egg StoryWalk®

Springbrook Nature Center
Itasca Community Library
1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Take a walk as you read a book at this storytime at the Springbrook Nature Center! Registration is required. **(Geared to ages 3-6 years)**



Mon., April 6th

Senior Scramble

Itasca Rec Center Gym
Itasca Park District
7:00 p.m.

Come out and remember what it was like to be a kid! This free prize and egg hunt will have gift cards, candy, and prizes. **Age 60+**



Tues., April 7th

Adult Eggstravaganza

Washington Park
Itasca Park District
8:00 p.m.

Free adult egg hunt with the Park District at Washington Park! Hidden eggs will contain prizes to local businesses, as well as candy! Free babysitting included!



Wed., April 8th

Cut the Cable Cord

Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m.

Have you been considering canceling your cable package but are not sure how to access your favorite content without it? Join the library as they provide an overview of some of the most popular and user-friendly cable alternatives.



Wed., April 8th

Eggstreme Teen Night

Washington Park
Itasca Park District
8:00 p.m.

Free! Tweens and Teens "eggcellent" Easter Egg Hunt! Hundreds of eggs will be hidden throughout the park with gift cards, candy, or a ticket for a grand prize!



Sat., April 18th

Dog Obedience

Barking Lot Dog Park
Itasca Park District
Two times: 9:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m

New! Dog Obedience on Saturdays: April 18th - May 23rd at the Barking Lot Dog Park on Rohlwing Road. **\$99/\$109 for ages 18 & up.**



Wed., April 22nd

Earth Day Birthday

Itasca Community Library
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day with a new game called Planets to Planets, and learn Earth science through activities and games. Registration is required. **For kids in grades 3-6.**

Celebrate Our Community



Sat., May 2nd

Coffee with the Mayor
Village Hall
9:00 a.m.

Come enjoy a cup of coffee with the Mayor and learn about the happenings of our town.



Sat., May 2nd

Friends of the Library
Rummage Sale
Itasca Community Library
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Friends of the Library are having a one-day rummage sale! From furniture and household items to tools and outdoor equipment, there is something for everyone.



Tuesday, May 5th

Job Fair
Itasca Community Library
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Goodwill Workforce Connection Center and local businesses will be in the library taking applications and speaking with prospective employees.



Sat., May 9th

Breakout Challenge
Depot Museum
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The museum has been robbed. Help police go through the evidence and unlock the locks before time runs out! Ages 7-10. Register with the Park District. **Fee: \$15**



Thur., May 14th

Drop-In Spin the
Wheel LEGO Challenge
Itasca Community Library
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

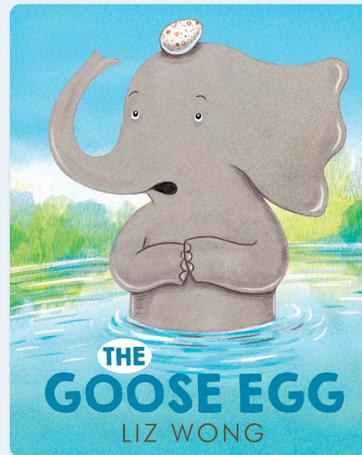
Spin the wheel, receive your LEGO building challenge, and build an awesome creation. No registration is needed. For families.



Mon., May 25th

Memorial Day Parade
9:30 a.m.

Join us for the Itasca Memorial Day Parade! Step-off location will be at Bryn Mawr and Catalpa at 9:30 a.m. A memorial service will be provided by V.F.W. Post #5167 and a picnic will follow the parade at Usher Park. Parade awards will also be announced.



The Goose Egg
StoryWalk®

(geared to ages 3-6 years)

Wednesday, April 1st

1:00-1:45 p.m.

Take a walk as you read a book at this storytime at the Springbrook Nature Center! After we take a StoryWalk® together outside, we'll have other fun stories and activities

to share. Please meet at the Springbrook Nature Center at 12:55 p.m. Registration is required. Register at www.itascalibrary.org or by calling (630) 773-1699.

Take a StoryWalk® this Spring!

The Itasca Community Library has teamed up with the Itasca Park District this spring to present a StoryWalk®, a fun way to combine reading and exercising. A StoryWalk® is a series of signs featuring spreads from a children's picture book. Those signs or pages are spread throughout indoor or outdoor spaces in all seasons, allowing a reader to follow along with a story by walking.

The StoryWalk® this spring will feature Liz Wong's picture book, *The Goose Egg*, and it will be at the loop right next to the Springbrook Nature Center starting in late March. This project is sponsored by the library, the Itasca Park District, the Friends of the Itasca Community Library, and the Friends of Springbrook Nature Center of Itasca. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

Coffee with the Mayor

The Village of Itasca is hosting Coffee with the Mayor on Saturday, May 2nd at 9:00 a.m. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and get an update on upcoming projects. Reservations are not necessary; this is an opportunity to ask questions one-on-one and share your thoughts and ideas.

Shark Tank Junior: Craft Sale for Kids and Teens

Young entrepreneurs (in grades 1-8) are invited to bring their business to the library and sell homemade jewelry, sewing projects, artwork, or any other craft items. An application must be submitted along with your registration by March 20th. Everyone is invited to come and shop at the event on Saturday, March 28th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the library.

March Madness Bracket Challenge

Are you a basketball fan? Enter the March Madness Bracket Challenge at the Itasca Community Library for a chance to win great prizes! Email itascal@itascalibrary.org to receive the link to complete your bracket online. Submit up to three entries per person. The deadline to submit is Wednesday, March 18th.

Fine Forgiveness in April

National Library Week is April 19th - 25th. To celebrate, the Itasca Community Library will be reducing overdue fines to \$1.00 for Itasca cardholders throughout the whole month of April. This does not apply to lost or damaged items or fines for items borrowed from other libraries. We hope to welcome back patrons whose access has been impeded by overdue fines. If you don't already have a library card, sign up for one in April to be entered into a drawing. There will also be a separate drawing for those who renew their library cards throughout April.



Elm Street Storm Sewer

As part of the Village's ongoing effort to improve the stormwater drainage throughout the community, new storm sewer will be installed on portions of Elm Street and Walnut

Street between Orchard and North Street this summer. Portions of North Street, Division Street, Center Street and Walnut are also likely to be affected by construction.

The \$3 million improvement includes adding curbs and gutters to affected roadways in order to more effectively contain and convey stormwater runoff. Several area roads will also be resurfaced. The Village's Engineer is currently finalizing construction plans with the intention of construction beginning in late spring. The final project boundaries will be posted on the Village's website once approved.

The Village plans for construction to be substantially completed by the end of 2020, depending on weather and other factors outside of Village control. Final restoration of parkways and roadways could extend into 2021. Intermittent lane closures will be necessary during construction. Detours will be posted, and adjacent property owners notified prior to closure.

Construction of this improvement was fast-tracked when the Village became aware that an unrecorded drain pipe running through several area properties was severely deteriorated. The existing clay drain pipe was most likely constructed to irrigate area farm fields prior to development of the land. Construction of the new storm sewer will ensure that area homeowners have an alternative drainage option should the field tile collapse. Property owners impacted by the field tile have been contacted directly.

Should you have questions regarding the project please contact the Director of Public Works, Ross Hitchcock at **(630) 773-2455**.

Get Ready for Summer with the Park District



Let's get ready for summer! Waterpark passes are on sale beginning April 1st! Get in early for the best rate! Don't forget to register for Summer Day, Sports & Nature Camps! Early Bird rates end April 30th. Register online at **www.itascaparkdistrict.com/register**.

The Park District also has many trips available for both adults and seniors. Visit **www.itascaparkdistrict.com/trips** for details.



Building Safety Month

Building Safety Month is an international campaign that raises awareness about building safety and the importance of having sustainable structures. This year's theme is Safer Buildings, Safer Communities, Safer World. For more information **www.iccsafe.org/about-icc/building-safety-month/2020-building-safety-month/**.

Home Improvement Permits

Now that winter is coming to a close, you may be thinking about spring and summer 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, just to name a few.

A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications. The Village of Itasca encourages homeowners to discuss your plans with the Community Development Department before beginning construction to determine whether a permit is required.

Please contact the Community Development Department at **(630) 773-5568**, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, to discuss your construction plans, building permit application, and submittal requirements, and the review process. Building permit information, forms, and contractor requirements are available on the Village's website at **www.itasca.com** under the "Community Development" tab.

The Recreational Cannabis Act and What It Means for You



On January 1st, the use of recreational marijuana and/or cannabis-infused products became legal for individuals 21 years of age, through House Bill 1438, also known as the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (CRTA).

The new law, allows all Illinois adults age 21 and older, to possess up to the following:

- 30 grams of raw plant material/cannabis
- Cannabis-infused edible products containing up to 500 milligrams of THC
- 5 grams of cannabis concentrate

While no unit of local government may prohibit the use of cannabis within their boundaries, residents should be aware of local and state regulations regarding consumption of cannabis base products. No person under the age of 21 can purchase, use, possess, transport, grow, or consume cannabis, except where authorized by the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act. Additionally, consuming cannabis in the presence of a person under 21 years of age, is prohibited.

The only lawful place to consume cannabis base products is in your private residence, or on your personal property outside of public view or public places (“public” means any place where a person could reasonably be expected to be observed by others). This includes restaurants, bars, parking lots, and parks, as outlined in the Smoke-Free Illinois Act. The Village Board voted against allowing the establishment of retail recreational dispensaries, indoor cultivation centers, and manufacturing facilities.

The Itasca Police Department would also like to take this opportunity to remind those individuals who wish to consume cannabis, to make smart decisions and not drive impaired. It is illegal to use cannabis or a cannabis-infused product in a motorized vehicle. It is also illegal to transport cannabis within a motor vehicle, unless it is in a sealed, odor-proof, and child resistant container, that is inaccessible during transport.

For further information pertaining to the state bill, please visit www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/101/PDF/101-0027.pdf.

Voter Registration

Don't forget that the library can help you register to vote! Bring in two forms of ID, one of which must have your current address. Stop in today and make sure you're ready to vote in the big elections of 2020! Residents also may register to vote online by visiting the DuPage County Elections website at www.dupageco.org/Election/Voting/.



Count Us In - 2020 Census

Once a decade, America comes together to participate in a national census. It is an important function of our government, as it decides how many seats Illinois gets in Congress, how much of \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to Illinois, DuPage County, and Itasca; impacts future plans for community services, schools, and roads; and decides how boundaries are drawn for congressional, state legislative, and school districts. While most residents will receive their invitation to respond to the census by mail, a small number of residents, will have their invitation delivered by a census worker.

The Police Department would like to take this opportunity to remind residents to always be wary of inviting people into their homes who may be posing as census workers or as village employees. All workers, whether it be a census worker, utility worker, or village employee will be able to show an ID badge that contains their photograph, name, and the department they work for. Most employees will also wear clothing with their company logo or drive a marked service vehicle. Always be suspicious if someone refuses to show you identification or requests that you share financial information with them. Village, utility, and census workers will never ask you for your social security number, bank information, passwords, or for any type of payment. To report a suspicious person, please call the Itasca Police Department at **(630) 773-1004**.

Call or Click Before You Dig

Planting a tree? Planning a building improvement? Installing a fence? Here's what you need to know first: Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling **JULIE at 8-1-1** or visiting www.illinois1call.com before each job. JULIE is the Joint Utility Locate Information Exchange which notifies utilities in the area where digging will be done. The utility workers then locate any of their lines which may interfere with the digging. You must call at least two working days before you dig!

Changing Seasons Means Changing Hazards

It's spring, when the days get longer and warmer, and people come out to enjoy the weather. We know after a long Chicago winter most people cannot wait to shed their winter coats and head outdoors.

But when the seasons change, risks change too. The arrival of spring means shifting attention to hazards that emerge like new buds on the trees.

Prepare for Changing Weather

Spring brings changing weather conditions, and thunderstorms, tornadoes, and floods can arrive with little warning. Preparation for weather events can be critical for your own safety. By building an emergency kit, developing a response plan for different kinds of severe weather, and gathering necessary health and contact information, you can be prepared for weather that may come in like a lion, but doesn't always go out like a lamb.

Tornado Preparedness

Not one state in the continental U.S. has escaped the wrath of tornadoes. Tornadoes can strike at any time of the year. If a tornado is spotted:

- Seek shelter immediately.
- If you're away from home, seek out a basement, interior corridor, tunnel, underground parking lot, or subway.
- Avoid auditoriums, upper floors of buildings, trailers, and parked vehicles.
- Stay away from windows and cover yourself with a rug for protection against flying glass and debris.
- Always protect your head. Crouch as low as possible to the floor, face down, and cover your head with your arms.
- If you're out in the open, lie flat in a ditch or other low-lying area and protect your head; stay away from poles or overhead lines.
- If you're driving, drive at right angles to the tornado's path; if you can't escape it, get out of the vehicle and seek a low-lying area.
- If you're at home, head for the basement and take cover under a heavy table or workbench; if you don't have a basement, go into a windowless room in the center of the house.
- Know the difference between a watch (conditions are favorable for a tornado to form) and a warning (a tornado has been spotted in your area and you should take shelter immediately).



Driving Challenges Increase as the Thermostat Climbs

If you live in colder climates, the changing weather may affect driving conditions. You might encounter cold, wet conditions that leave a thin sheet of ice beneath your tires. And, as the temperature climbs, more people will be out and about. The Governors Highway Safety Association, based on preliminary data, projects a 10% increase in pedestrians killed in traffic crashes from winter to spring, so be cautious. You need to be ready to share the roads with people on bikes and scooters, and with pedestrians.

Look for Winter Damage to Playground Equipment

Improved weather means you also will be spending more time outside, so make certain that any outdoor play areas are safe. Cold weather and heavy snow can damage swing sets and affect the ground beneath them. You'll want to examine the structures to make sure they are in good condition while also confirming that the surfaces beneath them – whether grass, wood chips or rubber mats – will be a safe landing area.



Check Smoke Detectors

Three out of every five home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Test your smoke alarms every month and replace the battery at least once a year. If the alarm makes a "chirping" sound, replace the battery immediately.

Smoke alarms should be in every bedroom and in the common areas on each floor of a home. Mount them at least 10 feet from the stove to reduce false alarms, less than 12 inches from the ceiling, and away from windows, doors, and ducts.

Smoke alarms can be interconnected wirelessly. That means, when one sounds, they all sound. A Consumer Product Safety Commission survey found this is the best way to notify everyone in a home if there is a fire. Be sure to purchase smoke alarms with the label of a reputable testing agency, like Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

**** Residents that do not have smoke detectors in place are encouraged to contact the Itasca Fire Protection District for assistance. ****

Information obtained from the National Safety Council and portions of this article obtained from a 2016 article by Deborah Hersman, president and CEO of the National Safety Council

Think 'Native' When Planting This Spring



Consider asking a nursery about making native plants part of your garden or landscaping. Native plants and wildflowers are essential to birds and beneficial insects. Additionally, they resist common pests and hold up in tough environmental conditions, such as harsh winters and droughts, because of their deep root systems. Low-maintenance native perennials include coneflower, black-eyed susans, milkweed, goldenrod,

spiderwort, allium, aster, and switchgrass. Adding native plants to your landscape can be done simply. Plant them between other plants in your garden, along a fence, or next to a garage. To get more tips and advice, or to share your love of gardening, join the Itasca Garden Club. Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month from Sept. – Nov. and Jan. – May, at the Itasca Recreation Center. Guests are always welcomed to attend.

Rear Yard Drainage Assistance

This past September, the Village Board modified its Rear Yard Drainage Program to expand the type of eligible project that residents could implement to alleviate their rear yard flooding issues. Such projects include the installation of dry wells, rain gardens, infiltration trenches, and swales. Preapproval is required before the commencement of any project. To get more information or apply for this program, please visit the Village's website at www.itasca.com/944/Rear-Yard-Drainage-Assistance-Program.

Attention Dog Owners

As the nicer weather comes upon us, it is natural for us to become more active outdoors, especially with our four-legged friends! Just a reminder, when enjoying the outdoors with your dog, please make sure they are on a leash. Besides being required by law, walking your dog on a leash protects them from traffic, unrestrained animals, and provides a way for your dog to be properly introduced to people or children that you may encounter. Please also remember to pick up after your dog. Did you know that dog waste can contribute to stormwater pollution? It is said to be the 3rd or 4th largest contributor to pollution of urban watersheds. A small effort, such as carrying around a bag, can make a big difference to the environment and to your neighbors!

Yard Waste and Brush Collection

Brush Collection and Yard Waste pickup will begin April 6th and continue through the last Monday in November. In order to participate in Brush Collection, residents must:

- Bundle all brush with biodegradable twine, with a maximum weight of 50 pounds.
- Each bundle must be in neat manageable piles, with cut ends facing the street, placed on the parkway.
- Branches and limbs can be up to 6 inches in diameter and no longer than 4 feet.

Yard Waste must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or a reusable container no larger than 34 gallons clearly marked "Yard Waste" weighing a maximum of 50 pounds.

Maintaining Itasca's Beauty

April showers bring May flowers and a whole lot of growing. Please help maintain the beauty and accessibility of our neighborhoods, by properly trimming back any excessive landscape growth abutting public sidewalks, so that sidewalks aren't blocked by bushes, shrubs and trees. Weeds and grass may not grow taller than 12 inches.

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

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Jeff Pruyn

Village Clerk
Jody Conidi

Trustees
Jeff Aiani
Dino Gavanis
Mike Latoria
Ellen Leahy
Kathy Linsner
Frank Madaras

Village Administrator
Carie Anne Ergo

Village Departments and Taxing Districts

Village Administrator
773-0835

Village Clerk's Office
773-0835

Community Development
773-5568

Public Works
773-2455

Wastewater Treatment Plant
773-5571

Police Department non-emergency
773-1004

Police Department Emergency
9-1-1

Itasca Chamber of Commerce
773-2949

Springbrook Nature Center
773-5572

Library
773-1699

School District #10
773-1232

Park District
773-2257

Fire District - Non-emergency
773-1223

Fire District Emergency
9-1-1

O'Hare Noise Hotline Complaints
800-435-9569



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



Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Monday:

No Meetings Scheduled

Tuesday:

1st Tuesday - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.*

3rd Tuesday - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.*

Wednesday:

2nd Wednesday - School District #10 - 7:00 p.m.

3rd Wednesday - Plan Commission - 7:00 p.m.

3rd Wednesday - Peer Jury as Scheduled

Thursday:

3rd Thursday - Historical Commission - 7:00 p.m.

Friday:

No Meetings Scheduled

*Committee of the Whole immediately after