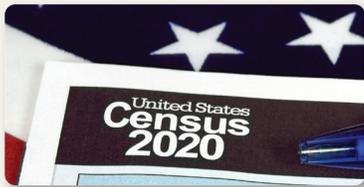




Committed to our future.  
Inspired by our past.

FALL 2020

# The Village News



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## Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

Each fall, I am grateful for the cooling temperatures and the memories that were created over the summer months. Some of my best times are from the days I spent watching my kids splashing around in the pool and the backyard BBQs with family and friends. In each of the scenarios, life was carefree and all I had to worry about was running out of ice cream, which could easily be remedied by picking up more from the store. Unfortunately, those days seem long gone, replaced with worry and stress about the future.

As I write this message, I am keenly aware of the devastating impacts COVID-19 has had on our residents and local businesses. Not only has COVID-19 directly impacted those diagnosed with the virus, every day we are seeing the indirect impacts to our community through business and school closures. Many people have experienced unemployment and other hardships, such as finding reliable childcare or feelings of isolation. In an effort to find meaningful ways to support the community, the Village Board granted me temporary powers to respond to the pandemic. On March 18<sup>th</sup>, I declared a Local State of Emergency, so that ordinances, policies, and programs could quickly be implemented through the issuance of executive orders. Most notable was the suspension of water utility shut-offs, the waiver of late fees for water and sewer payments, as well as the extension of many licenses and permits at no costs. A full list of the executive orders issued since the pandemic is available online at: [www.itasca.com/1972/Village-Response](http://www.itasca.com/1972/Village-Response). Please know if you are experiencing a hardship, there are resources available to help. Please visit our website for more information.

In addition to approving relief measures for residents, the Village Board approved several programs to support the local business community. One of these initiatives was the Itasca Bucks Program, which benefited both residents and businesses alike. Through this program, residents were encouraged to patronize local restaurants through the use of Village subsidized vouchers. Many owners expressed their gratitude for this program and the outpouring of support received from residents. More information on this program and ways in which you can support our local business community can be found on page 8.

Continued on page 2 >

## Mayor's Message Continued...

While temporary closures of many of our businesses, restaurants, and hotels have resulted in a reduction of Village revenue, including sales, income, motor fuel, and hotel/motel taxes; prudent budgeting and financial management over the last several years, has left the Village in a position to absorb some of the financial shock of the pandemic. However, in order to continue to be financially solvent, changes have had to be made and our priorities reassessed. I am proud to report that while the recently approved FY2020-21 budget reflects reductions to revenues and expenditures, it also continues to invest in infrastructure improvements such as roads and water systems, as well as programs designed to assist residents. Over the past several years, the Board has continued to fund programs such as manhole rehabilitation and sewer lining programs, in an attempt to maintain our aging infrastructure. The Board has also created two new programs aimed at offsetting the costs associated with installing flood control measures. I would encourage anyone experiencing drainage issues, to consider applying for assistance through either the Rear Yard Drainage Program or the Overhead Sewer Program. More information on these programs can be found on page 10.

While the pandemic has changed the ways in which we connect with one another, one thing that still remains the same is the Village's commitment to you. Throughout this pandemic, staff continues to report to work to ensure you stay informed and receive essential municipal services such as water and sewer, as well as emergency help. As we navigate through the different phases of this pandemic, you may notice some of the ways we provide services have been modified. For more information on this, please see the Village Administrator's message on page 4.

In speaking of municipal services, I would like to take a moment to personally thank the school district, library, fire district, park district, and the food pantry for their coordinated efforts in protecting the health and safety of our community. As part of its response to COVID, the Village began to immediately meet with its community partners on a weekly basis to discuss the state of the virus, preventative measures, and response plans. And while we always hear "it takes a village to..." it has certainly never been more applicable than during this pandemic. I would also like to give a special thanks to all of the first responders, health care workers, and those working at essential businesses for risking your health for the good of the community. I would also be remiss if I did not thank our business community, who despite difficult times, have generously donated supplies, money, and food to our local organizations.

While we are all doing things a little differently these days, let us continue to care for one another, check in on each other, and share our resources. Together, we will get through this.

## Retirements & New Hires

In March, the Village saw two employees retire: Wayne Mankowski, who served as the Building Maintenance Technician for 15 years and Ross Lentini, who was with the Village for nearly 12 years as a Public Works laborer. In June, Shelley Cirincione retired as the Administrative Assistant with the Community Development Department with nearly 28 years of service. Jeffrey Kindermann also retired with 21 years of service from his position as the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent. We appreciate your dedication to the Village and wish you all well in your next adventures!



Adolfo Miranda

The Itasca Police Department is pleased to introduce Officer Adolfo Miranda. Officer Miranda joins the Itasca Police Department as an experienced Law Enforcement Officer. Born and raised in Chicago, Officer Miranda began his law enforcement career in 2014 in Dalton, GA. After working for three years on the Dalton force, he moved back to Illinois and continued his career with the Peoria Police Department from 2018-2019.

In December of 2019, Officer Miranda joined the Itasca Police Department. When asked about joining the Itasca PD, Officer Miranda stated, "I am excited to continue my career in Itasca and contribute to this great department."



Jake Sheldon

In addition to welcoming Officer Adolfo Miranda to the Police Department, the Village also welcomed Jake Sheldon as Finance Assistant in May. In this new role, Jake will be handling several day-to-day responsibilities within the Finance Department. Jake recently graduated from Aurora University with a bachelor's degree in finance with a minor in psychology and accounting. Jake has one year of experience in financial services, and a year of financial

consulting experience for other government entities. Outside of work, Jake is an avid soccer fan who also loves to bike on all kinds of trails and is someone who makes the best smoothies! Jake might be a familiar voice for those who have called the Village Hall with questions about their water bills as he had been working as a utility billing clerk since late September. When asked about his new role, Jake stated, "I am very happy to be a part of the Itasca family!"

The Village also welcomed Michael Paparella this past July, as the Building Maintenance Technician. Mike worked for over 10 years as a facilities manager with IKEA and as the Energy Manager for a local school district and has a background in electrical and mechanical repair. Welcome to the team, everyone!

## You Count, I Count, We All Count!



Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States. Getting an accurate total of everyone who lives in Itasca is important to our community, because it shapes the next 10 years for schools, programs that help small businesses, access to health care, better roads and transit service, and funding for the services that keep Itasca safe and prepared.

Residents can respond to the Census through the Census Bureau's website at [www.my2020Census.gov](http://www.my2020Census.gov). Responses can also be taken by phone at (844) 330-2020. If you have misplaced the letter from the Census Bureau you can still respond using the online or phone options with just your address information. The self-response phase has been extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

As a reminder, the Census does not ask for sensitive or financial information such as your social security number, bank accounts, or passwords. The census does not ask about or reference political affiliation and does not request a donation. The census bureau will not contact you by email. If a census taker comes to your door, they will be identified by their badges and equipment. If you have any concerns about the legitimacy of the person at your door, you can call the Census Bureau at (800) 923-8282.

## 2020 General Election Voting Information

Due to COVID-19, the DuPage Election Commission is encouraging all 2020 General Election voters to cast a ballot prior to Election Day on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, either by mail or during early voting.

### Vote by Mail

In August, the DuPage County Clerk's office announced that they would be mailing vote by mail applications to all registered voters in the county, in compliance with emergency legislation to provide a safe choice of voting during COVID. Voters who wish to participate through this means are requested to apply online or to complete the mailed application with their signature and phone number, then drop it the mail as soon as possible. No postage is required. Once received, ballots will begin to be mailed out starting September 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Early Voting

Voters will continue to have the option of casting ballots at early voting facilities. Early voting will be available beginning September 24<sup>th</sup> at DuPage Elections Office, 421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton. Additional voting sites will become available beginning Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. For further information, please visit [www.dupageco.org/earlyvoting/](http://www.dupageco.org/earlyvoting/).

### Register to Vote

To confirm that you're registered to vote in the upcoming election, or to check your registration information, visit the DuPage County Election Commission website at [www.dupageco.org/VoterLookup/](http://www.dupageco.org/VoterLookup/). This is also where you can find the site of your polling place.



## Thank You Itasca

The Itasca Police and Fire Departments want to say "Thank You" to the citizens and business owners for their thoughtful donations to our first responders. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult on all of us, but the outpouring of well wishes and support that we have received from residents and business owners of Itasca has been nothing short of remarkable. This demonstrates what a strong community we truly are, and we thank you for making the Village such a wonderful place to work and live in.

# Navigating COVID Together

As a nation, a state, and a village, we are facing an unprecedented time in our lives. The concern you have is shared by your neighbors and friends, your co-workers, and every person in Itasca. While no one knows how long this will last, there will be a day when we emerge from this crisis as stronger people. Each of the governing bodies are committed to facing this crisis head-on, and will do everything possible to lead Itasca through this extraordinary event. Below are the steps we are taking to keep you safe during these times.



## Village Hall Response

*from Village Administrator Carie Anne Ergo*

Over the past several months, we have all faced an unexpected and unprecedented challenge, the Coronavirus. Despite the difficulties of living with this virus, I have seen our community come together and respond to the challenges brought upon us. And Village staff has been no different in their response.



Throughout this pandemic, the Village has continued to provide essential municipal services to our residents and businesses. During this time, the Police Department has remained fully staffed in order to respond to all

emergency calls. Crews at Public Works have staggered their shifts in order to manage the Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as provide general services such as pothole and water main repairs. Construction projects continued to be reviewed and inspected by the Community Development Department, which also conducted outreach to struggling businesses. Both the Administration and Finance Departments have been available to respond to resident concerns, as well as process payments, finalize the budget, and develop emergency protocols. So, while you may not always see our faces, I want to reassure you that despite COVID, the Village has and will continue to move forward, no matter the challenges that lay ahead.

The health and safety of residents and employees continues to be a priority of the Village, which is why several new measures have been implemented at our facilities. When walking into Village Hall, you may notice the lobby has been reconfigured to accommodate social distancing requirements. Six-foot separation markings have been applied to the floor and signs posted to remind visitors to keep a physical distance from one another. We've also installed glass partitions at the Administrative and Community Development counters, to allow for safe interactions between employees and customers.

We are also requiring all visitors to wear face masks when entering our buildings and encouraging everyone to utilize hand sanitizer before and after touching any surface. Several hand sanitizing stations have been setup through Village Hall.

While safety measures are in place, residents and business owners are encouraged to utilize our convenient online services for such things as utility payments, applying and paying for building permits,

overnight parking requests, and much more. For more information, please visit [www.itsasca.com/1972/Village-Response](http://www.itsasca.com/1972/Village-Response).

I want to thank all of you for your efforts in keeping our community healthy and safe. Please continue to protect our community by following the state's mandates and take all necessary precautions to protect yourself.



## Park District Response

*from Executive Director Maryfran Leno*

Throughout Illinois Shelter in Place, the Itasca Park District trails and parks have remained open for patrons and residents to visit. The Itasca Park District offered its very first social distancing event, Spring Fling Distancing Deliveries, that was co-sponsored by the Itasca Community Library and Itasca Cares. For the Memorial Day weekend, the Itasca Park District, along with the Itasca Boy Scouts and Itasca Community Library, placed American Flags at every house in Itasca and Usher Park. The Itasca Park District offered virtual events that consisted of the Great Camp Out at Home, Family Trivia, Senior Bingo, and Breakout Challenge. There were a variety of classes offered virtually, including preschool, athletics, fitness, dance, and nature center programs.

While the Rec Center was closed, maintenance staff deep cleaned the entire facility, updated 130 gymnasium and fitness center lights to LEDs, moved the Fitness Center welcome desk and created a second-floor lobby which includes a dance program waiting area.

During Phase 3, the Park District opened its tennis courts, started outdoor fitness classes, fitness equipment rentals, Summer Camp, and continued virtual programs and events. The Park District along with the Village of Itasca began free drive-in concerts at the Rec Center.

Now in Phase 4, the Park District opened the Itasca Fitness Center to members, as well as the Itasca Waterpark and playgrounds. Summer camp, gymnastics, and dance classes are now taking place at the Rec Center. The Itasca Park District is following all guidelines put in place by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Park District Risk Management Agency. We have enjoyed seeing our residents and patrons back at the fitness center, playgrounds and waterpark. We look forward to continuing to serve the Itasca Park District residents and patrons throughout 2020. The fall brochure will be online only starting Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and registration begins Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Stay connected with us and all our happenings online at [www.itscaparkdistrict.com](http://www.itscaparkdistrict.com) and on social media.



## Fire District Response

*from Chief James Burke, Jr.*

With the continued concern related to COVID-19, the Itasca Fire Protection District would like to update some information with you. As was outlined on our website on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we have had to make some changes in the way we operate on a daily basis. These changes will not impact in any way how we serve our community, nor will it delay the speed of emergency medical care to those in need.

### CALLING 9-1-1

If you call 9-1-1 for an ambulance, the call takers might ask you additional questions to see if you have any flu-like symptoms. If you do report flu-like symptoms, our dispatchers relay that information to inform our personnel as they are responding to your location.

### ONCE THE PARAMEDICS ARRIVE

Do not be alarmed if you have flu-like symptoms and our paramedics greet you wearing a mask over their mouth and nose along with goggles and a gown. This is for your protection as well as our personnel. If you call for an ambulance, our paramedics will ask you some questions when they get to your location to determine if you have any flu-like symptoms, and this will be done using social distancing of around 6 feet away. They may also place a mask on you as a precaution. None of these precautions will delay your care.

On many calls, a fire truck and police officers respond with the ambulance to help. Do not be surprised if some of these additional helpers wait outside your home until the paramedics assess you for the symptoms of the flu. All of these situations discussed above are common sense approaches that are normally done and have always been done when encountering somebody with flu-like symptoms.

### IMPACT ON OUR PERSONNEL

At the four-month mark in our nation's pandemic, our personnel have fared extremely well. The Fire District implemented temperature and symptom checks every morning for all our personnel arriving for work. We have had one positive case with one employee in late March. He was quarantined for the necessary timeframe and has since returned to work after being cleared by our department physician. Our crews have been extremely vigilant in wearing the proper personal protective equipment. There are currently over 200 confirmed, positive cases of COVID-19 in Itasca. If you would like to see the current statistics for DuPage County, you can visit the DuPage County Health Department COVID-19 dashboard at [www.dupagehealth.org/610/DuPage-County-COVID-19-Dashboard](http://www.dupagehealth.org/610/DuPage-County-COVID-19-Dashboard).

The Fire District has also developed a plan with our neighboring towns that would allow sharing of resources such as personnel, equipment, and fire stations should the need arise. Please feel free to call or email Chief Burke with any questions or concerns you may have at **(630) 773-1223** or [jburke@itasca.com](mailto:jburke@itasca.com).



## Library Response

*from Library Director Frank Murray*

Let me begin by saying that I hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy and doing well. With the world facing a public health crisis, there is much uncertainty and fluidity affecting our everyday lives. However, there is one thing we can rely on, and that is that we live and work in an amazing and supportive community. Itasca prides itself on lending a helping hand and looking out for our neighbors, and that has been evident in the efforts of our first responders, Park District, School District, Village, Food Pantry, and the kindness and generosity of all our Itasca residents.

Itasca Community Library has been hard at work ensuring all your informational and educational needs are met during this time. At the beginning of the pandemic, the library began by increasing accessibility to digital resources and research databases; producing fun, informative videos via our social media platforms; creating a virtual Summer Reading Club for all ages; and offering a digital library card option. We have also extended due dates on physical items and waived fines for items checked out prior to the COVID-19 closure. Plus, don't forget about the new, robust series of virtual events for all ages. Please visit the library's online calendar for all upcoming programs or give us a call.



Books waiting for curbside pickup.

Today, the library building is open for limited services. At the time of this writing, we are allowing visits for one hour per day per person. Patrons can browse the collection, check out items, and use computers. Masks are required for entry, so please have one ready; we also have extras on hand. If you haven't already, try the new Book Bundles service to get a bundle of books selected just for you. The library is also offering curbside pickup and home delivery services, so please let us know if you would like to take advantage of these options.

Currently, the library is exploring ways to safely resume more of its services. To stay up to date on all the latest library news, please sign up for our e-newsletter at [www.itascalibrary.org](http://www.itascalibrary.org) and follow us on social media. Please do not hesitate to contact us at **(630) 773-1699** or [itascal@itascalibrary.org](mailto:itascal@itascalibrary.org); we are here to help. We hope that one day soon we will be able to operate without any restrictions and welcome everyone back with arms wide open. Until then we will continue to do our best to serve our amazing community. And remember, the Library is more than just a place with books, so please explore us online.

## Enjoying Itasca

Fall in Itasca is always a special and exciting time for us, with a multitude of activities to do around town. Although COVID has changed the way we celebrate fall this year, there are still plenty of things to do and see in Itasca. For example, you could take a jog around Spring Brook, like this newsletter photo cover submitter Greg McDonald did. Greg took this picture while crossing the portion of bridge that is dedicated to recently retired village employee Fred Maier. Greg stated that he “loved the brilliance of the rising sun over the heavy morning dew blanketing the slough.”

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](mailto:deputyclerk@itasca.com), along with details of who/what the photograph is of, when it was taken, and why you love it.



In lieu of cancelled events, consider these alternative activities:

- Enjoy a nice evening dining al fresco at a local restaurant
- Walk the Riverwalk Path
- Visit the Springbrook Nature Center
- Participate in a virtual program through the library
- Attend a Park District Special Event



## The End of Daylight Savings

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**

The end of Daylight Savings Time is Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember to change your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries while changing your clocks. Smoke alarms

save lives. According to the National Fire Protection Association, properly installed and maintained smoke alarms play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Three of every five home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads quickly and a working smoke alarm will give you time to get out.



## Birds of Prey at Springbrook

Have you ever wanted to see an owl up close? What about a vulture? Springbrook Nature Center is home

to several species of raptors many of which are native to this portion of Illinois. All of the birds are non-releasable back into the wild due to injuries or habituation to people.

These birds are cared for by Wings and Talons, a 501(c)(3) non-profit comprised entirely of volunteers. Care of the birds is funded by donations from the public. For more information, visit Wings and Talons at [www.wingsandtalons.org](http://www.wingsandtalons.org) or find them on Facebook and Instagram.

## Yard Waste & Bulk Brush Collection Ends November 30<sup>th</sup>

As a reminder, the Brush and Yard Waste program is ending for the season on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Collection will not resume until the first Monday in April. When clearing out seasonal brush, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- 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.
- Brush is picked up every Monday - any homeowner who needs brush disposal at any other time must contact a landscaper for disposal of materials.
- Brush must be bundled 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. Larger branches and tree trunks must be handled by homeowners.
- The Village of Itasca does not provide pick-up for unbundled brush piles.
- Please note: Refuse, recycling, and brush/yard waste may not be placed out at the curb before 4:00 p.m. on the Sunday prior to trash pick-up.
- All empty refuse containers must be removed from the curb by 10:00 p.m. on the day of pick-up.
- Should you miss the last collection, residents are encouraged to mulch their yard waste or compost it.

# Itasca Library Upcoming Virtual Programs



## Points of View Writers Group Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Facilitated by library staff, the group will focus on producing and critiquing fiction and nonfiction prose in a supportive and encouraging atmosphere.



## Points of View Writers Group Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Facilitated by library staff, the group will focus on producing and critiquing fiction and nonfiction prose in a supportive and encouraging atmosphere.



## Fleetwood Mac Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Using interview and performance video, we'll trace the band's career with a focus on their blockbuster album Rumours.



## Morning Book Discussion

*Al Capone and the 1933 World's Fair*  
by William Hazelgrove

Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 a.m.



## Trivia Night on Facebook Live Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.



## Al Capone and the 1933 World's Fair: The End of the Gangster Era in Chicago

Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

William Elliot Hazelgrove discusses the exciting history behind the 1933 World's Fair.



## Beyond the Library Book Discussion

*This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel

Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.



## Evening Book Discussion

*Voices* by Arnaldur Indridason

Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.



## Diverse Voices Book Discussion

*Motherhood So White* by Nefertiti Austin

Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.



## Winston Churchill: The British Bulldog

Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Join Terry Lynch as he tells the story of one of the most influential people of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Save the Date Park District Events

Halloween Celebration	Saturday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Haunted Trails	Friday, October 16 <sup>th</sup>
Screech Cinema	Saturday, October 17 <sup>th</sup>
Trick or Treat Trial	Saturday, October 17 <sup>th</sup>
Halloween Hoorah	Monday, October 26 <sup>th</sup>
Daddy Daughter Dance	Saturday, November 14 <sup>th</sup>



## 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:

### **Ramboll US Corporation - 701 District Drive**

Ramboll US Corporation specializes in engineering, design, and environmental consulting. Learn more at [www.ramboll.com](http://www.ramboll.com).

### **Gokul Wholesale Inc. - 925 Hilltop Drive**

Gokul specializes in general merchandise and plastic bag distribution. Contact them at (630) 540-9910.

### **Creative Resources Unlimited - 1270 W. Ardmore Avenue**

Creative Resources Unlimited produces digital print and promotional products. Learn more at [www.crui.biz](http://www.crui.biz).

### **Platinum Auto Exchange - 1431 Harmony Court**

Platinum Auto Exchange is an online car sales business. Learn more at [www.platinumautoexchangeonline.com](http://www.platinumautoexchangeonline.com).

### **T-Network - 104 S. Walnut Street, Unit 1A**

T-Network is a logistics and international freight forwarding company. Learn more at [www.tnetworkinc.com](http://www.tnetworkinc.com).

### **Woofers Electronics Distribution - 1377 Industrial Drive**

Woofers is a distributor of consumer electronics products. Learn more at [www.woofered.com](http://www.woofered.com).

### **Green Associates, Inc. - 1437 Harmony Court**

Green Associates is an architectural design firm. Learn more at [www.greenassociates.com](http://www.greenassociates.com).

Check out our Twitter [@ItascaMeans](https://twitter.com/ItascaMeans).

## Downtown Planning Grant Update



You may recall that the Village was recently awarded a planning grant by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Community Planning Program and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Local Technical Assistance Program in order to update the Village's 2003 Downtown Strategic Action Plan. The plan is intended to guide future development while building on downtown Itasca's unique character and access to transit.

Over the last several months, the RTA has been hard at work, collaborating with Village staff to prepare a scope of services and solicit proposals from qualified planning firms. We are pleased to announce that Lakota Group has been awarded the RTA contract to facilitate the planning process alongside Itasca's residents and business community!

Lakota Group is an award-winning firm specializing in partnering with communities to create achievable visions for key community areas. Lakota understands the Village's desire for a meaningful public engagement process and has the experience to ensure that everyone's voices are heard in the visioning process for downtown Itasca.

Learn more about the Lakota Group at [www.thelakotagroup.com](http://www.thelakotagroup.com) and stay tuned to the Village website in coming months for opportunities to participate!

## Support Itasca Restaurants During Challenging Times

Since the pandemic was declared earlier this year, COVID-19 has changed everyday aspects of life in significant ways. These are challenging and uncertain times for many.

In recognition of the impact of Coronavirus on household budgets and local businesses, the Village enacted the "Itasca Bucks" program this past May to provide spending power and financial support to residents and food and beverage businesses that help create the heartbeat of our community.

"Itasca Bucks" vouchers with a total value of \$50 were mailed to each residential address of record within incorporated Itasca this spring and were valid through July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Due to overwhelming positive feedback from the community, on July 21<sup>st</sup>, the Village Board voted to approve a second round of economic development assistance by issuing a new set of "Itasca Bucks" to each incorporated residential address.

The next set of vouchers were mailed out to residents early August and have an expiration date of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Keep an eye on your mailbox, and be sure to check [www.itasca.com/1978/Itasca-Bucks-Program](http://www.itasca.com/1978/Itasca-Bucks-Program) for a current list of participating businesses!

While the Village is proud to be providing direct economic assistance to our restaurants, your support is still critical in helping them succeed. Here's what you can do:

- Order carry-out and delivery, or dine in when available
- Check out a local store in person, online, or contact them about curbside pickup
- Leave a positive review online or share a recommendation on social media
- Buy gift cards to use later or give as gifts



## 15 Apps Parents Should Look Out For On Their Kids' Phones

With children spending more and more time online, the Itasca Police Department wants to make sure everyone stays safe as the community moves forward in this transitional time for students and parents. Parents are encouraged to be aware of the following social media apps which have been known to expose children to such things as bullying, talking to strangers, location tracking, hidden files or photos, dating apps, cyberbullying, and adult content.

**'MeetMe'** is an app where teens can easily be in contact with users much older than themselves, with an emphasis on dating.

**'WhatsApp and SnapChat'** are for messaging, but what you should know is teens can send unlimited messages, have video chats and even share their live location with other users, including people they may not even know.

**'Skout'** is a flirting app that is used to meet and chat with new people. Teens and adults are in different groups, but ages are not verified.

**'TikTok'** is used for sharing user created videos that can contain profanity and adult content.

**'Badoo and Bumble'** are dating apps for adults, but teens can still find ways to join.

**'Grindr'** is geared towards the LGBTQ community. It allows users to share photos and meet up based on a phone's GPS location.

**'Kik'** is specifically for kids, but anyone can join and anyone can contact or direct message your child.

**'LiveMe'** is a live streaming app, but you don't know who's watching and your child's location is revealed.

**'Holla'** is all about connecting strangers around the world through video chat. Enough said.

**'Whisper'** is a social confessional where kids can remain anonymous, but still share their feelings. It can also reveal your child's location for a meet up.

**'ASKfm'** encourages people to allow anonymous users to ask them questions, which opens the door for online bullying.

**'Hot or Not'** rates users on attractiveness. There is no age verification and users can send each other messages.

**'Calculator%'** apps are several secret apps that allow kids to hide their photos, videos, and even browser history.

### Here's what you can do to help protect your children:

- Talk with your kids about phone use, apps, and social media
- Approve every app on your kid's phone
- Check privacy settings
- Set limits for downtime from devices, and charge devices at bedtime in areas away from children's reach

## Maintaining Water Quality

Fall is a time for football, cooler days and changing leaves. However, with the fall season also comes the inevitable need for yard cleanup.

All DuPage County residents live in a watershed, meaning most everything entering storm drains eventually runs into rivers or streams. In autumn, leaves are oftentimes blown or swept into storm drains and waterways and can become a source of water pollution. Once they reach waterways, leaves decompose and release phosphorous into the water, which can result in algae blooms and decreased oxygen for fish.

However, pollutants are not the only problem. Leaves can also build up along curbs, gutters and storm drains, which blocks stormwater runoff from entering this drainage infrastructure. Should a major weather event occur, this can lead to localized flooding.

Itasca residents can help to keep excess leaves out of storm sewers and waterways by engaging in a number of activities:

- Start a compost pile or add leaves to an existing one. While the organic debris is not ideal for aquatic life, composted leaves and other organic materials are an excellent resource for fertilizing your garden in the summer months. It provides necessary nutrients, while also reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Leaves can be chopped into small pieces using a mulching mower, which will decompose directly on lawns. The leaf pieces can also be collected and spread around flowerbeds and shrubs as mulch.
- If recycling leaves is not an option, residents may bring leaves to DuPage Yard Waste (1195 W. Washington St., West Chicago) for a fee. To transport, collect leaves in a secure and properly sealed paper bag to ensure they do not blow into storm sewers or streams.

For more information on Stormwater Management, visit [www.dupageco.org/swm/](http://www.dupageco.org/swm/).

## Rear Yard Drainage Incentive Program Reimburses Residents for Stormwater Management Installations

Considering installing a drywell or rain garden this year? The Village's Rear Yard Drainage Program can cover part of the cost! The program is designed to encourage Itasca property owners to implement improvements that sustainably manage stormwater runoff on their property. Incentives are one-time disbursements for 50% (up to \$3,000) of the construction cost for eligible stormwater management improvements. Any property owner is eligible to apply for a stormwater incentive, with incentives awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Learn more about the program at: [www.itasca.com/944/Rear-Yard-Drainage-Assistance-Program](http://www.itasca.com/944/Rear-Yard-Drainage-Assistance-Program).



## Sanitary Sewer Backflow Prevention Cost Sharing Program

The Village is pleased to announce a program to assist single-family homeowners with the cost of plumbing improvements to address sanitary sewer related backups. While no sewer is immune to backup, the most reliable method for protecting against them, is through the installation of overhead sewers and/or external flood control systems.

However, the Village recognizes, that installing such systems can be expensive, which may discourage homeowners from making these necessary improvements. In order to assist residents, the Village is offering a first-come, first-served reimbursement program. Property owners may qualify for reimbursement of 50%, up to \$5,000, for costs associated with the installation of external flood control systems such as lift stations with check valves and overhead sewer systems. Homeowners interested in this program, should visit [www.itasca.com/1907/Backflow-Preventers](http://www.itasca.com/1907/Backflow-Preventers).



## Electrical Aggregation

In 2012, residents approved a referendum to allow the Village to competitively bid electric supply rates on their behalf. This program has allowed Itasca residents and businesses to access lower electricity rates through the Village's bulk purchasing power.

This year when the Village went to bid, we received rates similar to that of ComEd. In light of this, the Village Board opted to contract with MC Squared (MC2) to provide Itasca electric aggregation customers a guaranteed supply price equal to ComEd's rate for a twelve-month term. In addition, MC2 will provide the Village with an annual civic contribution at zero added cost to residents. The Village Board has set aside this contribution for assistance in offsetting costs for future burial of overhead utility lines along Irving Park Road.

Notices of the program will be mailed in the beginning of September. You are not required to do anything to participate in the Village's Electric Aggregation Program. MC2 will automatically process your enrollment unless you have previously switched to another alternative supplier or choose to opt out of the program. You will still continue to be billed by ComEd, the only change will be in the "Supply" section of your bill, which will designate "MC Squared Energy Services" as your supplier. Any questions about this program should be directed to MC2 at **(888) 423-1398** or [Itasca@mc2energyservices.com](mailto:Itasca@mc2energyservices.com).

Customers who choose to opt out of the Village aggregation program are automatically enrolled in an electricity generation program provided by ComEd, unless they select a provider on the open market. No one from MC2, ComEd, or the Village will ever visit your home or call you to enroll. Never reveal your ComEd account number or allow a solicitor to view your ComEd bill unless you are certain you wish to enroll with that supplier and have read all terms and conditions. More information on electricity aggregation, ComEd basic service rates, and approved alternative suppliers are posted online at [www.pluginillinois.org](http://www.pluginillinois.org).

## Clogged Pipes and Increased Disinfectant Use



To combat COVID-19, people are increasingly using more disinfecting products to keep themselves healthy and safe. However, proper disposal of cleaning items is crucial to maintaining our infrastructure. All disinfecting wipes and other items should be properly disposed of in the trash, not in the toilet, since these products do not break apart or degrade in the sanitary sewer system like toilet paper does.

In addition to being non-degradable, disinfecting wipes are often loaded with all kinds of chemicals, that can end up leaching into the water stream. When we think of water pollution, we think of leaking oil tankers or companies releasing toxic waste into rivers or the sea. But water pollution also stems from personal use of everyday products, such as household cleaning product. Products that can kill bacteria and viruses in your home can also kill the bacteria we rely on to process waste at treatment facilities. So please avoid flushing any unnecessary chemicals down your sink or toilet.



## IPD is Ready to Assist

*from Director of Police Robert O'Connor*

The Village of Itasca has seen unprecedented times in 2020. The Itasca Police Department wants to assure those who live and work in our Village that the IPD has taken steps to be prepared in moments such as these.

Since 2016, the Itasca PD has been designated an Illinois Law Enforcement Accredited Police agency and is one of only 37 departments in the State of Illinois to have achieved this recognition.

As an accredited police agency, the IPD provides each Itasca officer approximately forty hours of continuous training each year in various disciplines of Law Enforcement. This is in addition to the mandated training required by the State of Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB). Every Itasca officer has received training in De-escalation Techniques, Bias Based Policing, Mental Health Training, Verbal Judo, Constitution Law, and other best practices training in an effort to reduce a physical encounter.

In March 2020, plans began to be put in place with several local police agencies to allow for additional manpower should an individual police department sustain a severe officer shortage due to COVID-19 or civil unrest. During recent times officers from the Itasca Police Department have assisted the Addison, Roselle, Wood Dale, and Bensenville Police Departments with civil protests in their towns. Fortunately, Itasca PD did not have to utilize this agreement at any time.

In addition to this local agreement of shared manpower, the Itasca Police Department is a member of the Illinois Law Enforcement

Alarm System (ILEAS). ILEAS was formed in 2002 in response to the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. As a joint venture of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), ILEAS has a vast array of personnel and equipment available to assist local departments with a matter that is too large for one agency.

In July of 2019, every police department in DuPage County joined together to form a response unit of experienced and educated police officers to assist an individual police department with a major event. This unit, the Metropolitan Emergency Response Investigative Team (MERIT), is much like ILEAS but operates on a County scale. MERIT provides assistance in the areas of Major Crimes, SWAT, Public Integrity, Digital Forensics, K-9 Response and Crisis Negotiations amongst other services.

As part of the Itasca Police Department's continuing effort to prepare itself for unprecedented times, we embrace the doctrines set forth for 21<sup>st</sup> century policing. In January of 2019, I signed a document that is displayed in the police department's lobby entitled "Ten Shared Principles." The foundation of the document is an affirmation of the IPD to work together and stand together with other agencies in our communities and at the state level to implement certain values and principles. By signing this document, we as a department will strive to replace mistrust with mutual trust wherever, whenever, and however we can.

It is my intention as Director of the Itasca Police Department to continue to lead an agency that is prepared and stands ready to assist you in any situation.

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

**Mayor**

Jeff Pruyn

**Village Clerk**

Jody Conidi

**Trustees**

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Dino Gavanis

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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



Village of Itasca

550 W. Irving Park Rd.

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



**Schedule of Monthly Meetings**

**Monday:**

No Meetings Scheduled

**Tuesday:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday** - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.\*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.\*

**Wednesday:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday** - School District #10 - 7:00 p.m.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** - Plan Commission - 7:00 p.m.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** - Peer Jury as Scheduled

**Thursday:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** - Historical Commission - 7:00 p.m.

**Friday:**

No Meetings Scheduled

\*Committee of the Whole immediately after