



Committed to our future.
Inspired by our past.

Photo: Michelle Laiche
Sending Warm Wishes
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Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

Spring is almost here. And this year, maybe more than ever, I believe we are all ready to put the long cold winter behind us.

Spring in Itasca is gorgeous. New life abounds in the forest preserves and nature center that insulate our quaint community from the hustle and bustle of big city life. With new life, comes hope for a brighter tomorrow, and there are lots of reasons to believe this year will be better than the last.

We have begun planning for the summer event season, including a Memorial Day Parade, fireworks, and a host of smaller events to bring our community back together safely. While the events will likely be modified to comply with state COVID regulations, we are doing our very best to provide Itasca citizens outdoor options this summer to gather with friends and neighbors.

As an experienced municipal leader, I was asked to serve on a taskforce of Northern Illinois mayors advising the governor on steps the state could take to ease the burden that COVID restrictions have placed on our communities. Working with local mayors from across the region, we were united in recommending the state increase transparency on metrics, mitigation measures, and vaccine progress. The taskforce, with mayors from all political persuasions, was also able to agree on common-sense recommendations to safely ease restrictions on local businesses – many of which have already been adopted by the state.

Similarly, Itasca's District 10 Superintendent Craig Benes, Fire Chief Jim Burke, Park District Director Maryfran Leno, and Village Administrator Carie Anne Ergo have provided their expertise and leadership as the state and county work to educate and distribute vaccine. As a result of their advocacy, Itasca educators and public safety officers were among the first in DuPage County to be vaccinated.

With parents over 65, I have experienced firsthand the frustration many seniors have faced trying to access the vaccine. As I write this in February, the data indicates Illinois has distributed less than 60% of the vaccine it received. At the same time, the State has directed more vaccine to areas that have been harder hit by COVID infections. Thankful, that is

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Mayor's Message Continued...

not Itasca, but this again has left many local seniors searching for a vaccine. That is why Itasca developed an innovated partnership with a regional home health care provider. The partnership gives Itasca residents access to another vaccine administrator. While access is limited, I am encouraged to report that in just over a week, more than two dozen seniors have already been vaccinated. For more information, see page 4.

With experience comes perspective. Having led Itasca through the great recession and the microburst of 2017, I can honestly say the COVID-19 pandemic has, by far, been the most challenging on local resources. Early on, the Village Board acted quickly to mitigate the financial repercussions of plummeting revenues. We aggressively pursued grant funding opportunities and reassessed service delivery. Thanks to these swift actions, the Village has maintained a stable financial position, while still providing much needed relief to struggling residents and businesses.

The Village Board extended its policy to waive late fees and suspend water shut-offs for residents and businesses struggling to pay utility bills. The Itasca Bucks Program generated nearly a half million dollars in sales to Itasca restaurants. The success of our model has been copied by municipalities across the region, ensuring that countless local businesses survive the pandemic.

More recently, the board authorized \$150,000 in grant funds to provide direct financial assistance to restaurants and breweries to defray the cost of outdoor dining supplies and other COVID related expenses. The board also approved a partial fee waiver on 2021 business license renewals for businesses needing additional support.

I am proud to work with a Village Board who fights for the success of local businesses and the vibrancy of our town. Continuing our focus on economic development, the Village Board moved forward with a new Downtown Strategic Action Plan, designed to guide future investment downtown. It's important to me that every Itasca resident has a voice. That's why we've partnered with Lakota Group, who has created a dedicated website where you can provide your feedback.

Despite all the economic challenges of the year, Itasca continues to grow. Last year, we welcomed 23 new businesses of diverse backgrounds to the Village. We are so happy that over 500 businesses continue to invest here, create jobs, and provide important services to our community.

While I pray that we have moved past the roughest of times, we must remember to stay united in our effort to take care of one another. Thank you, Emily (our cover photo), for reminding us of the importance of performing small gestures, such as sending warm wishes to loved ones. I wish you and your families all the best in the year ahead. I hope to see all of you around town very soon.

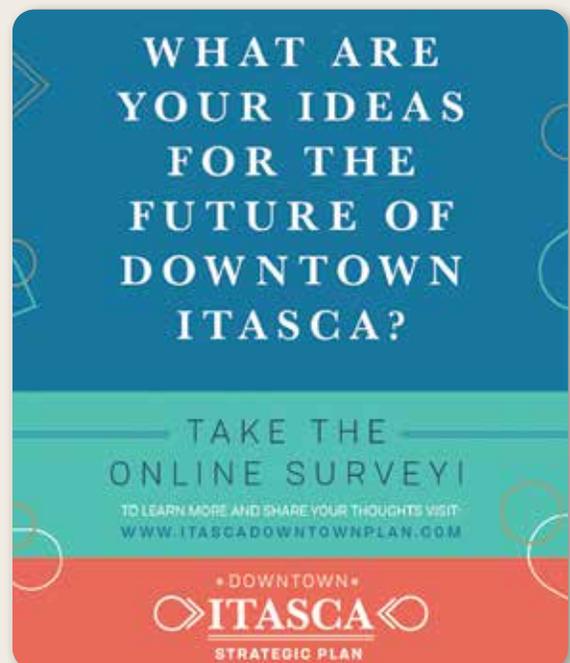
Downtown Strategic Action Plan Update

On January 14, 2021, the Steering Committee for the Downtown Strategic Action Plan held its kickoff meeting. The Steering Committee will help assist the Village and its planning consultant, The Lakota Group, with overseeing the plan creation process and providing direction on the drafting of the plan before it is presented to the Plan Commission and Village Board for review and approval.

The Steering Committee is comprised of residents of the community, as well as business and property owners in the study area. At its first meeting, the Steering Committee provided valuable insight on their vision for Downtown Itasca.

The next steps of the Downtown Strategic Action Plan include stakeholder interviews and finalizing the Existing Conditions Report, which will then be presented to the Steering Committee for review. The Existing Conditions Report among other things will analyze the current uses in the Study Area and conduct a SWOT Analysis, which identifies the potential Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of Downtown Itasca.

Once these initial steps are completed, the second phase of the project will include a community-wide visioning and design workshop to solicit as much feedback as possible. If you are interested in seeing the presentations from the meetings, learning more about the project, or providing your input on your vision for Downtown Itasca in advance of the community workshop, please go to www.itascadowntownplan.com. A survey is live on the front page to capture the preliminary feedback from the public. You may also sign up for project update email alerts.



Administrator's Message

Carie Anne Ergo

Over the summer of 2020, the Village began modernizing its utility bill system. The changes allow residents to review bills online, sign up for automatic payments, and modify payment methods as often as they like. Residents now have the option to continue receiving their water bills through the mail each month or opting to go paperless and get notified by email when their bill is available. To register for paperless billing, please visit the Village's website, go to "I Want To..." and then "Pay," and finally "Water Bill" to sign up!

Your bill covers the cost of delivering clean, drinkable water to your home, and then removing, treating, and returning clean water to local waterways. The Village historically only adjusts water and sewer rates once per year, so the bill differences you see month-to-month are typically 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 or fill swimming pools.

In 2020, many residents saw their usage rise as people were working from home or quarantining. On the other hand, commercial usage dropped significantly as Itasca's hotels, which typically are among the top water users, were shuttered or nearly vacant. The result was an overall drop in water usage putting financial pressure on the system as fixed costs for delivery and treatment remain unchanged.

Every January, Itasca's water and sewer rates automatically increase per local ordinance. By prioritizing small annual increases, the Village avoids large periodic spikes. The annual rate change covers anticipated increased costs of purchasing water through the DuPage Water Commission from Chicago Water Reclamation District, delivering water to homes and treating sewage. Many communities receive separate bills for water and sewer services, while Itasca combines these services on one bill. In 2021, the increase for an average residential home will be 5%, which equals \$1.46 per 1,000 gallons of water used.

Lower Your Water Bill

The average family uses around 100 gallons of water per day. Here are a few simple tips to save water, which can potentially cut your bills by hundreds of dollars each year.

Think at the Sink

By turning off the water during daily activities like washing dishes, brushing your teeth, or shaving, you can save up to 20 gallons of water per person, per week.

Consider the Load

Wash larger loads of laundry or dishes. Doing smaller loads more often, actually uses more water than running your dishwasher or washing machine less often when full.

Control Leaks

Check every faucet and toilet in your home for leaks. A slow leak can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you could save 6,000 gallons a year.

Shorten Shower Time

Reducing your time in the shower by one minute can save hundreds of gallons of water each month.

Small Changes

Installing new low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators can decrease water use by up to 50%.

Invest Wisely

When upgrading or replacing appliances, choose those with the WaterSense label to reduce home water use without sacrificing performance.



Senior Spotlight: COVID Vaccinations



Why is it so hard to find the COVID-19 vaccine?

Challenge #1: Supply Shortages. Illinois is not receiving enough vaccine to keep up with demand. Moreover, the state prioritizes vaccine

supply to communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Itasca does not qualify as a vulnerable community under this criterion.

Challenge #2: Decentralized Distribution. The State of Illinois opted to decentralize vaccine distribution through many private providers. This allows medical providers to set their own priorities about who to vaccinate within each phase of distribution. For example, certain medical providers have decided not to administer the vaccine to non-hospitalized patients at this time.

Challenge #3: Technology Trouble. Private vaccine providers, such as pharmacies and hospitals are relying on mobile apps, such as My Chart, and websites to book COVID vaccinations. Some elderly residents do not have access to these tools or have trouble using them.

What can you do?

Solution #1: Sign up with all medical providers, affiliate hospitals and pharmacies. Most area medical providers and pharmacies will be prioritizing seniors aged 65 and older as vaccine becomes available. If you haven't seen a doctor in more than a year, consider making an appointment for an annual check-up, so that your status as a patient remains active.

Solution #2: Ask for help. If technology is frustrating you, consider asking a younger family member or friend to assist you setting up and/or managing medical provider and pharmacy COVID registration through mobile apps and websites.

Solution #3: Call DuPage County Health Department. DuPage County is now taking COVID vaccine registrations over the phone. Simply call (630) 682-7400 during normal business hours to be connected to COVID registration.

Solution #4: Sign up to be notified of vaccination opportunities. As a local government, Itasca does not qualify to become a vaccine administrator. The Village has offered to host a local vaccination clinic and is working closely with the DuPage County Health Department, the Itasca Park District, and various vaccination administrators to notify seniors of opportunities as they become available. Seniors who have celebrated their 65th birthday may enroll through Village Hall to be notified of vaccination opportunities by calling (630) 773-0835, or sign up online at www.itasca.com.

Avoiding COVID Scams

While the vaccine is becoming more widely available, the Itasca Police Department wants residents to be aware of scammers using the COVID-19 pandemic as a tactic to exploit the fear and uncertainty of the disease.

Here are some examples of scams linked to COVID-19:

- Scammers are creating fake shops, websites, social media accounts, and email addresses claiming to sell medical supplies currently in high demand, such as surgical masks. When consumers attempt to purchase supplies through these channels, fraudsters pocket the money and never provide the promised supplies.
- Scammers are contacting people by phone and email, pretending to be doctors and hospitals that have treated a friend or relative for COVID-19 and demanding payment for that treatment.
- Scammers are soliciting donations for individuals, groups, and areas affected by COVID-19.
- Scammers are also creating and manipulating mobile apps designed to track the spread of COVID-19 to insert malware that will compromise users' devices and personal information.

To help protect yourself, follow these tips:

- Don't press any numbers when you get a robocall, just hang up. The recording might say that pressing a number will let you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, but it might lead to more robocalls instead.
- Don't respond to texts, emails, or calls about checks from the government. You don't have to pay to get your stimulus money, and the IRS won't contact you by phone, email, text message, or social media with information about your stimulus payment or to ask you for your Social Security number, bank account, or government benefits debit card account number.
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work.

The Itasca Police Department would like residents to know that they are here for you during these unprecedented times. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to (630) 773-1004 or police@itasca.com.

Laptops and WiFi Hotspots Now Available



Need computer access at home or on the go? Borrow a Windows 10 laptop from Itasca Community Library! Laptops are WiFi enabled and available for a one-week checkout. They can be renewed for an additional week if no one has reserved the device. Patrons must fill out a lending agreement before borrowing. If you need WiFi for your devices, we also have WiFi Hotspots available for checkout. Call the library at (630) 773-1699 for more information.

Business/Development Spotlight

Located at the southeast corner of Rohlwing Rd. and Devon Ave., Bridge Point Itasca replaced the long-standing CBS antenna towers that were easily visible from many parts of town with a mixed-use 48-acre new development including three Class A industrial buildings and commercial outlets along Route 53.



The industrial portion of Bridge Point Itasca is nearing completion and already experienced significant success with signed leases from many well-known companies including Costco Wholesale and Abbott Laboratories, as well as a local Itasca business, Keyence Corporation, which has its North American Headquarters located in the Hamilton Lakes Business Park.

Thus far, Bridge Point Itasca has leased approximately 480,000 ft. of Class A industrial space, which accounts for approximately 58% of the new industrial development. Bridge Point Itasca has partnered with Bluestone Single Tenant Properties, LLC, who are under contract to develop the remaining approximately 7 acres of the commercial frontage with a Ricky Rocket Gas Station that has 24 fueling bays and an 8,400 ft. convenience store, a 93-bed Holiday Inn Express & Suite hotel, with the prime corner site reserved for a multi-tenant restaurant and retail building to follow.

The industrial and commercial development is located at the northwest boundary of the Village and serves as an exciting showcase of what Itasca has to offer for its residents and the business community.

For more information on the project go to www.bridgepointitasca.com.



If you are a small business owner in town and would like to be featured in our next edition, please contact commdev@itasca.com with your information.

Itasca Means Business – Follow us on Twitter: @ItascaMeans and on Facebook: Itasca Means Business

The Village of Itasca is proud of its business community and being a premier destination for all types of businesses and would like to extend a warm welcome to the following companies which received Village Board approval to operate in our town:

Discovery Health Partners – 2 Pierce Rd., Suite 1900

Discovery Health Partners (Launch Point Ventures) is an industry leader in helping healthcare payers solve payment integrity challenges to improve financial and member outcomes. For more information go to www.discoveryhealthpartners.com/.

Kiddie Academy of Itasca – 1133 N. Prospect Ave.

Kiddie Academy offers an educational curriculum for children up to 12 years old and childcare for infants as young as 6 weeks old. Learn more about what Kiddie Academy can offer you and your family and take a virtual tour of the Itasca facility at www.kiddieacademy.com/academies/itasca/look-inside/.

Allirosa Boutique – 1220 W. Irving Park Rd., Unit A

Allirosa Boutique is a women's boutique store selling clothing, outerwear, jewelry, and accessories. For more information go to www.allirosa.com/ or check out their Instagram @ShopAllirosa.

Option Care – 870 N. Arlington Heights Rd. Suites 101 & 102

Option Care, a former subsidiary of Walgreens, is a Home Infusion Pharmacy Service. They will be occupying the newly constructed Office/Flex-Tech/Warehouse Space at 870 N. Arlington Heights Road just off of South Thorndale Avenue. For more information go to www.optioncarehealth.com.

E&G Group – 700 N. Rohlwing Rd.

E&G Group is a transportation and logistics company providing its clients with solutions for transporting their product over the road.

RoadOne Intermodalogistics – 1475 E. North Thorndale Ave., Unit F

RoadOne Intermodalogistics (RTS Holdings) is a warehousing and transportation firm providing over the road general freight transportation.

Chicagoland Deli Provisions – 1475 E. North Thorndale Ave., Unit D

Chicagoland Deli Provisions (Delicatessen Services) is a food warehousing business that transports deli products to local grocery stores for sale.

Diverzify+ – 865 W. Irving Park Rd.

Diverzify+, formerly Mr. David's Flooring, is a flooring business offering a wide variety of flooring type solutions for commercial uses and projects. For more information go to www.diverzify.com/services/.

Itasca Real Estate Partners – 115 W. Orchard St., 2nd Floor

Itasca Real Estate Partners is a leading real estate office. If you need a realtor, reach out to Itasca Real Estate Partners and find what service they have available for your needs. Call them at (630) 250-9020 or visit them in Downtown Itasca.

Fates, Bodily, Parker, PLLC – 115 W. Orchard St., 2nd Floor

Fates, Bodily, Parker, PLLC is a certified public accounting firm. They offer a wide variety of services including CFO services, tax planning and prep, attestation services, wealth management, and IRS services. For more information go to www.fbpcpa.com/.

Celebrate Our Community

Registration is required for all Library and Park District events. To register for a Library event, please call (630) 773-1699 or visit www.itascalibrary.org. To register for a Park District event, please visit www.itascaparkdistrict.com.



Tues., March 2nd

Excel 101

Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m.

Learn the fundamentals of creating and editing an Excel spreadsheet.



Thurs., March 4th

National Oreo Cookie Day

Itasca Community Library
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Celebrate National Oreo Cookie Day with a trivia contest and a recipe using Oreo cookies that we will make together over Zoom. **For grades 3-8.**



Fri., March 5th

Knit & Craft Night

Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m.

Join the library for a virtual knitting and craft meeting on Zoom. Additional Friday dates are available. Please visit the library's website for more information.



Tues., March 9th

Cook Up a Good Book

Itasca Community Library
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Join the library for a virtual storytime and cooking class. Geared to ages 4-8 with an adult. Additional Tuesday dates are available. Please visit the library's website for more information.



Tues., March 9th

**Faith Ringgold:
Every Painting Tells a Story**

Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m.

Art historian Jeff Mishur discusses artist and award-winning author Faith Ringgold.



Wed., March 10th

**Attracting Hummingbirds to
Your Yard**

Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m.

DuPage County Birding Club will share tips and tricks to keep hummingbirds coming to your yard all season.



Thurs., March 11th

How to Catch a Leprechaun

Itasca Community Library
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

You'll build a trap, read a story or two, and make a craft at this virtual program. **For grades K-2.**



Thurs., March 11th

Virtual Trivia Night

Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m.

Join the library on Zoom for a night of fun and fascinating trivia! Additional Thursday dates are available. Please visit the library's website for more information.



Fri., March 12th

Meet Mae West

Itasca Community Library
2:00 p.m.

Martina Mathisen is Mae West in this lively historical presentation.



Tues., March 16th

Paper Plane Party

Itasca Community Library
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Pick up a kit at the library with supplies to make your own fleet of paper airplanes and join us on Zoom to put them together and race against other kids! **For grades 1-5.**



Wed., March 17th

Lucky's Flashlight Hunt

Itasca Park District
7:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Lucky, Itasca's Leprechaun, is helping celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Flashlight Hunt at Washington Park! **This event is for ages 1-14 years old. \$8 per child.**



Thurs., March 18th

**Hell Hath No Fury: The
Wicked, Wild, and Wonderful
Women of the Windy City**

Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m.

Clarence Goodman returns with a program on the women who helped shape Chicago.



Sat., March 20th

Hoppy Visits

Itasca Park District
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Itasca Bunny is hopping around town and visiting residents. **This event is for ages 1-14 years old. \$25 for the first child and \$15 for any additional children.**



Mon., March 22nd

Teen Cooking Club

Itasca Community Library
6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Join us for a recipe or two over Zoom. **Geared to grades 6-12.**



Mon., March 22nd

Flashlight Egg Hunt

Itasca Park District
7:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Grab your flashlights and head to the field at Washington Park for an Egg Hunt in the dark! **This event is for ages 1-14 years old. \$10 per child.**



Tues., March 23rd

Family Scavenger Hunt

Itasca Community Library
6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Win prizes at this scavenger hunt through your house using Zoom. **Geared to grades K-6 with an adult.**

Celebrate Our Community



Wed., March 24th

Senior Scramble Egg Hunt
Itasca Park District
7:00 p.m.

Itasca seniors, come out and remember what it is like to be a kid!
This event is free for ages 60+ years old.

Thurs., March 25th

Mercy Watson's Pig-a-Palooza
Itasca Community Library
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Enjoy activities and crafts for fans of the Mercy Watson book series.
For grades K-3.

Thurs., March 25th

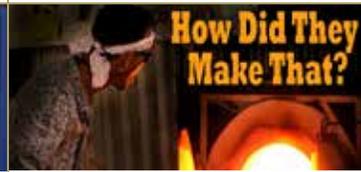
Adult Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt
Itasca Park District
7:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Egg hunts are not just for kids!
This event is free for ages 18+ years old.

Fri., March 26th

Eggstreme Teen Night Egg Hunt
Washington Park
7:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Free! Tweens and Teens "eggcellent" egg hunt!
This event is for ages 10-15 years old.



Fri., March 26th

Spring Fling at Home
Itasca Park District

The Itasca Bunny's helpers are hopping around town and dropping of Spring Fling Egg Hunts on the front yards of residents.
\$20 residents and \$25 non-residents.

Sat., March 27th

Spring Fling Event
Itasca Park District
9:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

The Itasca Bunny will be hiding eggs at Washington Park this year! After the egg hunt, each family will have an opportunity to take a picture with the Itasca Bunny!
This event is free.

Wed., March 31st

How Did They Make THAT?
Itasca Community Library
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Learn how things are made and make a creation of your own with supplies you can pick up from the library.
For grades 2-5.

Thurs., April 15th

You Are Smarter than Google
Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m.

Become a Google power user by learning search tips and tricks.



Thurs., April 29th

Kids Cooking Club
Itasca Community Library
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Join us for a recipe or two over Zoom.
Geared to grades 3-5.

Thurs., April 29th

Lincoln on Slavery, Emancipation, and Equality
Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m.

Mr. Lincoln, portrayed by Kevin Wood, shares his perspectives on slavery, emancipation, and equality.

Thurs., May 6th

Women for All Seasons: Six Chicago Women Who Changed the World
Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m.

Clarence Goodman presents the uplifting stories of amazing women from Chicago who influenced history.

Thurs., May 13th

Lewis and Clark
Itasca Community Library
7:00 p.m.

Terry Lynch returns as Meriwether Lewis, one of the leaders of the Corps of Discovery Expedition.

Itasca Library's Youth-to-Go

The Itasca Community Library offers several activities for children that can be picked up at the library and taken home to enjoy. All to-go kits are available while supplies last. If you have any questions, call the library at (630) 773-1699.



Take & Make Crafts for Kids

A new craft will be available to pick up at the library each Monday.



Storytime-to-Go Bags

These DIY storytime kits include a book, craft, and links to other storytime activities based on a new theme each month. These are geared toward ages 6 years and under. A new bag will be available to pick up on the first Monday of the month.



STEM-to-Go Kits

These kits include an activity for ages 3-6 years that focuses on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). A new kit will be available to pick up on the fourth Monday of the month.



Button Making-to-Go

Want to wear your own art? Pick up a template at the Youth Desk or download one from our website at www.itascalibrary.org/youth-to-go, and we'll make your designs into buttons you can pick up at the library! All ages can participate.

Itasca Park District Early Childhood Programs



This spring the Park District will kick off the season with their Early Childhood Education Program Registration for the 2021-2022 school year! The Park District is now accepting registration for their 2-year-old Tiny Tikes

Program, 3-year-old Preschool Program, and 4-year-old Junior Kindergarten Program. For more information, please visit: www.itascaparkdistrict.com.

Itasca Park District Summer Camp Programs

Summer camp registration will begin Monday, March 1st. While camp might look a little different this year, the Park District is still planning many activities that their campers are used to experiencing, such as arts & crafts, non-contact sports, water games, wellness and nature-based activities, and in-house special events! Summer camps are available for children ages 3 to 14 years old and include preschool, sports, teen, and nature camp! Check out all their camps online at www.itascaparkdistrict.com.



Itasca Park District Youth & Adult Sports



The start of spring also means time for youth sports and adult athletic leagues! Itasca Baseball and Softball League registration deadline is Monday, March 8th. Inter-Village Soccer Registration deadline takes place Monday, March 22nd, and

the league begins Tuesday, April 6th. Calling all Adult Softball & Kickball Teams! Join the fun at the Itasca Softball Complex by joining in their Spring Softball Leagues and Summer Cup in Hand Kickball League: registration is now open! Spring Softball begins April 27th and Cup in Hand Kickball begins June 11th. Register your team online at www.itascaparkdistrict.com or at the Rec. Center.

Raptors in Itasca



Did you know that Itasca is one of the very few places in Illinois where you can see and learn about raptors? Springbrook Nature Center houses Wings and Talons, a non-profit organization run by local volunteers who take care of the 9 wild birds of prey that reside in Itasca 365 days a year. They include a pair of Red-tailed Hawks, a Broad-winged Hawk, a Barn Owl, a Barred Owl, a Great Horned Owl, a Screech Owl, a Turkey Vulture, and a Gyrfalcon.

The raptors at the Nature Center are popular with local residents and draw visitors from all over Chicagoland who come in specifically to see these birds. On average, a dozen people visit per hour, allowing us to reach over 100 visitors many days. People are rediscovering the joys of getting in touch with the environment and nature, particularly in these times. They find that visiting the birds at the Nature Center is a wonderful way to do that, and also a great activity to experience with family and friends. The birds are visible in their enclosures as you walk around the Nature Center grounds, and volunteers are often available to bring out the raptors and answer any questions. Volunteers even frequently provide flight demonstrations with these majestic creatures.

Come to the Nature Center and see for yourself how our magnificent raptors are making Itasca a popular destination for visitors. Schedule your visit or email info@WingsAndTalons.org for more information.

License Plate Renewal Service



The Itasca Community Library now offers a renewal service for Illinois license plate stickers. Illinois residents will be able to renew and leave with their license plate sticker the same day.

To renew your sticker, you will need to bring your Illinois vehicle registration renewal notice or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), driver's license number, and license plate number. The library will not be able to renew your license plate sticker if your vehicle needs to pass an emissions test.

The license plate sticker renewal service is available during regular library hours. We are excited to be able to offer this new service to the community. Please see www.itascalibrary.org/license-plate-sticker-renewal-service for more details. If you have any additional questions, please contact us at (630) 773-1699 or by email at itascal@itascalibrary.org.

Green Day Event

The Village of Itasca will be hosting a Green Day recycling event this year, with additional sponsorship by the Itasca Bank & Trust Co. The event will be held on Saturday, May 8th (8:00 a.m. to noon) at the Itasca Metra Lot located on Irving Park Road. While we will be accepting electronic wastes again this year, we will be limiting the number of tube (CRT) televisions/computer monitors to one per car, only 32" and smaller, and no projection screen TVs.



We will also be accepting paper documents for shredding on site. Please note, this offer is for Itasca residents, Itasca Bank & Trust Co. customers and their associates, and in-home businesses only. Please limit shredding services to five (5) "copy paper sized" boxes. Boxes will not be disposed of and will be returned to each individual. Additionally, documents must be removed from 3-ring binders. We will not accept 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.

Along with electronics and paper, we will also be accepting fabric, used bicycles, American Flags, eyeglasses, 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, and cooking oil. We will accept the cooking oil in the containers, or the containers can be dumped out so that you can take the containers back home.

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 147 Front Street in Wood Dale.

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 byarbrough@itasca.com with any specific questions.

Good Things Happen When You Pedal



Last year, as COVID prevented us from doing our "normal" activities, many people gained a new appreciation for outdoor activities. Take for example two of our younger residents, Alex and Emma Stefanowicz, who enjoyed riding dirt bikes in the Nature Center. Biking is a healthy, cost-effective, and low-polluting way to travel around and enjoy our beautiful village. This May, join us

in celebrating National Bike Month. For more information, please visit: www.bikeleague.org/bikemonth.

Win a Gift Card at the Library in April

In April, the library celebrates National Library Week and Money Smart Week. As a reminder that the library is a good investment for people of all ages, they are hosting a gift card drawing! During the month of April, every eligible patron who signs up for a new library card or renews their card will be entered into a drawing for a gift card for a local business. Call the library at (630) 773-1699 for more information.

Yard Waste



The Village appreciates our residents' efforts to maintain their property and recognize that disposing of tree debris and yard waste may be difficult. In order to assist residents in these efforts, the Village offers free Yard Waste and Brush Collection between the 1st Monday of April, through the last Monday in November.

To ensure your material is picked up by Republic Services, please follow the guidelines below:

Yard Waste Collection

- Place in biodegradable paper bags or reusable containers marked "Yard Waste"
- Maximum reusable container size – 34 gallons
- Maximum bag or reusable container weight – 50 pounds

Brush Collection

- Bundle brush with biodegradable twine
- Stack bundles in the parkway in neat manageable piles with the cut ends facing street
- Maximum bundle weight – 50 pounds
- Maximum branch diameter – 6 inches
- Maximum branch length – 4 feet

For yard waste or brush pick up questions, contact: Republic Services Itasca Customer Service at (847) 981-0091.



Sending Warm Wishes

This edition's cover photo was submitted by resident Michelle Laiche, who took this photo of her daughter Emily as she sent a message to her grandparents in Minnesota. Emily loves writing messages and can't wait to see her loved ones around town. If you, like Michelle, have a great photo of what life is like in 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.

Lead Service Line Replacement

As part of its initiative to sustain the Village's water infrastructure, the Village is pursuing grant funding to update some of its older lines. Recently, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has offered a new debt forgiveness program (free funding) to replace lead water service lines within a community. A service line is the small (3/4" to 1-1/2") pipe that delivers water to your home from the water main in the street and is the most significant source of elevated lead in drinking water. The Village is in the process of pursuing this funding to further safeguard the residents of our community. All lead services lines within the Village are planned to be replaced with copper pipes in conjunction with this funding opportunity. This work has an approximate value of \$9,000 per home and will be provided at no cost to the Village or residents.

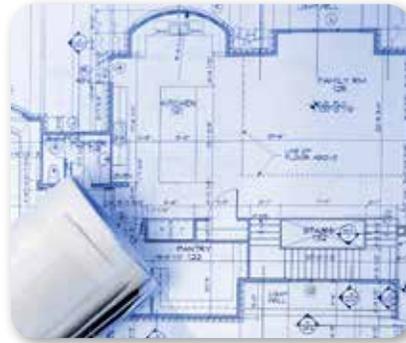
All water customers in the Village should have received a mailing from our partners at Backflow Solutions Incorporated (BSI). The mailing included information on how to properly identify and report your service line material type to the Village. This important information will assist the Village in properly planning for residential lead service replacement programs in upcoming years, so we ask that you submit this information in a timely manner.

The planned construction will take place in two phases. Assuming funding is approved, the first phase of the project is tentatively scheduled for late 2021 and will last into the middle of 2023. Depending on funding, the second phase will be slightly shorter in duration. For more information, please visit the Village's website or contact Public Works at (630) 773-2455.

Rear Yard Drainage Program

The Rear Yard Drainage Assistance Program (RYDAP) allows Village residents the opportunity to participate in a cost-sharing program to improve the drainage conditions of their property. Qualified residents that participate through RYDAP will receive reimbursement of 50% of the eligible costs up to \$3,000. This program is valid for a number of projects that include installation of a rear yard drain and connection to an existing storm sewer; regrading of the property to provide positive drainage to storm sewer or yard drain; installation of a dry well, rain garden, infiltration trench, or bioretention area. Program requirements, eligibility, and application can be found on the Village's website at www.itasca.com/944/Rear-Yard-Drainage-Assistance-Program. Participation in this program is based on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited based on the amount of funding approved by the Village Board for this program. For more information regarding this program please contact Public Works at (630) 773-2455.

Home Improvement Permits



It's that time of year when you might be thinking about spring and summer home improvement projects! Homeowners are reminded to obtain permits for certain 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 their 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, 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.

Interim Drainage Improvements

Throughout 2020, the Village of Itasca performed several right-of-way improvements to help improve the drainage throughout the community. Through a large effort from Public Works, the Village was able to identify some repetitive problem areas and provide cost-effective solutions to improve the drainage conditions. These projects are considered interim drainage improvements that were able to be constructed internally by the Public Works Department. Some of the interim drainage improvements included the installation of trench drains along the curb line where stormwater runoff previously traveled down driveways toward the homes; regrading of alleyways to direct stormwater overflow towards the streets and away from the homes; extension of storm sewer within Village-owned right-of-way and alleys to improve drainage; installation of additional storm sewer inlets to allow the additional collection of stormwater runoff; installation of check valves to prevent Village storm sewer from backing up into privately owned drainage systems; and corrections of sidewalks that have had repetitive ponding issues. The Village will continue to review and investigate additional solutions and remedies for the overarching drainage issues throughout the Village. Should you have questions regarding these improvements or are experiencing a drainage issue, please contact Public Works at (630) 773-2455.

Retirements & New Hires

This past February, the Village said farewell to its Public Works Director, Ross Hitchcock. Ross began his career in Itasca in 1981 and progressively advanced through Public Works, holding such positions as foreman, general foreman, and finally, Director of Public Works. After 40 years of dedicated service, Ross is leaving the village in a much better place than it was. His years of experience and contagious laughter will be truly missed.

Local resident Mike Subers has been promoted to Director of Public Works. Mike began his Itasca career as a seasonal employee in 1996. Most recently, served as Utilities Superintendent in charge of the water system, wastewater collection system, and stormwater collection system. Mike holds BA in Management from Benedictine University, a Class B water operator license, and a Class 1 wastewater license. He has also served as president of Mid-Central Waterworks which is a regional professional organization consisting of local municipalities, engineers, and suppliers.



Roy Kressman

The Village is pleased to welcome Roy Kressman as its new Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent. Roy brings more than 40 years of experience in the wastewater industry and holds a Class 1 wastewater license.

The Village is also pleased to welcome Tony Caldieraro as its new Maintenance Operator. Tony is bringing 30 years of construction and trade skill experience to maintaining the Village facilities.



Tony Caldieraro

The Police Department is pleased to announce the promotion of Tim Mace to Deputy Chief. Deputy Chief Mace started his career with the IPD in March 2001. As a patrol officer, Mace served as a Field Training Officer, Evidence Technician and Detective, also serving on the DuPage County Major Crimes Task Force. In 2016, he was promoted to Sergeant and

later to Watch Commander. Deputy Chief Mace is a graduate of the Illinois State Police Academy and University of Louisville's Southern Police Institute.

Additionally, Daniel Kaltenbach was promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Kaltenbach joined IPD in 2008 after serving as a patrol officer in another community. Kaltenbach has served as firearms instructor and currently heads up the program. In 2016, Kaltenbach was promoted to the position of detective where he was assigned to the Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigation Team for DuPage County. Sergeant

Kaltenbach has been in the U.S. Coast Guard for over 8 years and is currently a Maritime Enforcement Specialist, Petty Officer Second Class.

The Itasca Fire Protection District also said farewell to one of their long-term staff members. The IFPD would like to recognize and thank Deputy Chief John Radzinski for his dedicated 33 years of service to the residents of Itasca.

Decluttering Your Home Helps First Responders



When responding to emergency calls, first responders often need access to your home. Generally, a decluttered area will allow them to do their jobs as quickly as possible when seconds often matter. Consider donating unwanted clothes and/or furniture to donation sites like Goodwill. Shred old mail and documents and consider going green, by moving your bills to electronic formats.

While most of us have items that we want to get rid of, some people may have a condition where they have persistent difficulty discarding personal possessions, known as hoarding. Large amounts of possessions fill the home and prevent the normal use of the space. Hoarding includes both emotional and physical concerns. If you or someone you know is dealing with hoarding and would like to get help, please contact NAMI DuPage (National Alliance on Mental Illness) at (630) 752-0066 or visit www.namidupage.org.

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

Mayor

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



Village of Itasca

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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:

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

Thursday:

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

Friday:

No Meetings Scheduled

*Committee of the Whole immediately after