



Committed to our future.
Inspired by our past.

Photo – Submitted by
Shannon Tallon,
Dog Days of Summer
(p8)

The Village News



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Hidden Gem (back cover)

Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

As I enter my fourth term as Mayor, I would like to thank the residents of Itasca for entrusting the responsibilities of the office to me and thank the business owners who have chosen to invest their time and money in our community. I do not take this honor lightly and truly believe that I, my fellow Board Members, and village staff will rise to the challenge of exceeding your expectations.

I would also like to thank all of the candidates who ran for office this past election. Running for office is never an easy task, but it is the lifeblood of our democracy. This election reminded us that we all have a part in our Village's past, present, and future and the importance of staying informed on issues facing the Village. I encourage all residents to attend a Village Board meeting or stop by one of the quarterly Coffee with the Mayor events for an informal chat with me on upcoming projects. It is during these types of meetings that the Village Board and I get to hear the stories people share describing their ties to our village. These stories sometimes reflect on the past, others celebrate how we've changed, as well as provide suggestions about how to best shape our future.

Speaking about shaping our future, last year the Village engaged planning firm Lakota Group to facilitate the process of creating a new Downtown Business Plan to serve as a blueprint to guide growth, investment, and development. Recently, the consultant team provided a draft of the State of the Downtown Report to the Plan Commission and Village Board on May 25th. To review this report, please visit: www.thelakotagroup.com/projects/itascadowntownplan/. Residents will have an opportunity to provide their input and ideas at upcoming workshops. More information on the Downtown Plan can be found on page 4. In addition to contracting with a consulting firm, the Village took another major step in revitalizing the downtown area by acquiring an anchor property in the middle of the block of Walnut Street. Itasca's beloved bakery, Kean's, listed its property for sale in January 2021. Because properties in the core of downtown rarely come on the market, the Village entered into an agreement to purchase the property. The Village is committed to attracting a new anchor business and working with Kean's and Daddy O's to stay in business for as long as they want to be here. The Village also continues to remain in contact with the former Starbucks property owner regarding redevelopment of their site.

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Mayor's Message Continued...

The Village's new fiscal year started May 1st, and with it, our capital improvement projects are underway. As in past years, the focus is on our infrastructure, maintaining strong public safety services, and protecting the vitality of our local economy. While the work around the Village can be inconvenient for short periods of time, it is an investment of our tax dollars in the community to ensure quality of life is maintained. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during this time.

Lastly, I want to express my appreciation for the amazing community partners that we have in Itasca. Without the Itasca Park District and Itasca Community Library, we would not have been able to

administer over 3,000 doses of the COVID vaccine. Together we accomplished a major step towards ending the pandemic. For more information, please see page 3 of the newsletter.

While this summer may still look different than summers past, I urge all of you to make the best of it like the Zgela family featured on page 7, the Tallon family featured on page 8, and the Finn family featured on page 12. Enjoy the sunshine and warm weather, play lawn games with the family, grill out, and get to know your neighbors. On behalf of the Village Board, thank you again for your vote of confidence, and we hope to see you out and about patronizing local businesses and restaurants.

Thank You Trustee Mike Latoria

After seventeen years of service as Village Trustee, Trustee Mike Latoria has stepped down from the village board. Trustee Latoria was appointed to the board in July of 2004 to fill the vacancy of Trustee Conidi. During his tenure, Trustee Latoria has represented the interest of the community and has actively assisted in the economic viability of our business areas through such projects as the Bridge Development, Raging Wire, CBS Tower removal, Hamilton Apartments Development, and much more. His affiliation with the Village has resulted in a better organization. The Village sincerely thanks Trustee Latoria for his hard work and dedication over the past seventeen years and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

Welcome New Trustee

On May 4th, Village Board members Trustee Jeff Aiani, Trustee Frank Madaras, Village Clerk Jody Conidi, and Mayor Jeff Pruyn were sworn into office for new four-year terms. Also sworn in was newly elected Village Board Trustee Patrick Powers. Patrick and his wife Mary Pat have been residents of Itasca since 1983. They have three children, Megan (Tom), Shannon (Edward), and Patrick (Melanie), who were born and raised in Itasca. They are also the proud grandparents of two grandchildren, Jack and Ella.



Patrick Powers

Patrick attended the University of Illinois (C-U) and obtained a degree in Accounting along with his CPA, and later obtained an MBA in Finance from Roosevelt University. Patrick was a member of the Itasca District 10 School Board for eight years and served as its Vice President and President during his term. He was also very involved in coaching and organizing Itasca youth athletics (softball, baseball, and basketball) as his children were growing up. Patrick is currently the Vice President of Finance, Treasurer, and Corporate Controller (39 years) for Itasca-based business, Fellowes, Inc.

"Itasca has been the ideal place to raise our children from both an educational and community perspective. I am very excited to be a part of the continued growth and development of our Village, while at the same time, preserving the "community" feel that has made Itasca such a special place to live. I feel my background and experience will serve me well as a Village Trustee and I am anxious to get started!"

Please join us in wishing all of them success in their upcoming terms.

Help Protect Basic Services in Our Community

Itasca has joined 275 municipalities throughout the area in urging Springfield to restore local revenue payments.

The Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) is generated from income taxes paid by local residents and businesses and collected by the State before it gets redistributed back to municipalities.

LGDF accounts for a sizeable portion of a town's operating budget – in some cases between 10 to 20 percent – which can amount to millions of dollars annually. LGDF funds essential services, such as police and fire, road repairs and maintenance, garbage collection, and flood prevention. The State promised 10 percent of total income tax collections to municipalities on a per capita basis through the fund in lieu of a local income tax. But in recent years, the State has reduced the LGDF share from 10 to 6.06 percent.

Now, Springfield is considering taking additional money from LGDF this year, which would make local governments even more reliant on property taxes when they are challenged to balance their own budgets and maintain essential services.

We encourage you to contact your State Senator and Representative and let them know that you: 1) oppose further LGDF cuts; and 2) support restoring LGDF payments to the full 10 percent level that had been promised. Find your representative at www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/DistrictLocator/AddressFinder.aspx.

Restoring LGDF dollars to our community will help relieve the property tax burden and help ensure that basic services remain in place moving forward.

Administrator's Message

Carie Anne Ergo

Last year, festivals, BBQs, graduation parties, and family gatherings were all canceled due to the pandemic, so many in our community, including families with children under 12, wondered how the new normal would impact their summer plans this year. Many of us breathed a collective sigh of relief when the Center for Disease Control updated its mask recommendations for vaccinated people and eased the restrictions on gatherings.

While the pandemic is still not over, there are many reasons to be optimistic about a return to normal and our community's ability to address today's challenges, as well as adapt to tomorrow's needs. The Village and its partners at the Park District, Library, and Lions Club have creatively adapted this summer's events, so everyone can participate.

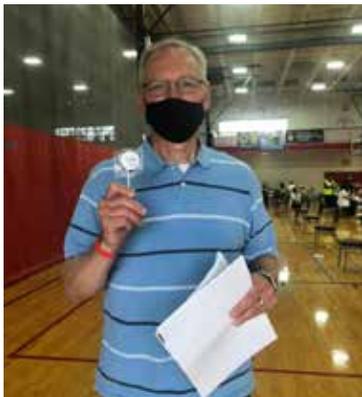
The Memorial Day Parade route was lengthened to increase the distance between attending families. In February, the Village Board contracted for "high sky" fireworks for this year's 4th of July celebration. So, while we won't be gathering at Hamilton Lakes this year, residents and businesses within 2-3 miles should have a good view of the fireworks from their home or a nearby park. ItascaFest is being moved to Usher Park where residents can enjoy two weekends of entertainment in July and August! And, we've added more concerts

to the summer concert series and several outdoor movie nights to encourage our community to gather together.

Knowing that vaccine availability was the key to this gradual return to normal, the Village of Itasca, Itasca Park District, the Itasca Community Library, and Itasca School District 10 came together to vaccinate Itasca residents. While many towns struggled to offer one public vaccination clinic in their community, Itasca hosted 10 clinics at the Itasca Park District Recreation Center, vaccinating over 3,000 people. Hosted in partnership with Jewel-Osco, these clinics have been a powerful display of our community's nimbleness.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to Itasca Park District President Linda Aiani, the Itasca Park District board, and Executive Director Maryfran Leno, for their leadership in hosting several safe and successful vaccination events. I would also like to thank the Itasca Community Library Board and their staff, Village staff, the Itasca Police Department, Jewel-Osco pharmacy, and all the volunteers who ensured that the clinics ran smoothly. Now, let's get out and enjoy the summer! To stay informed with all the goings on in the Village of Itasca, visit www.itasca.com and sign up to receive targeted news items delivered directly to your email. And don't forget to follow us on Facebook.

COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution Event



Business/Development Spotlight

Ion Exhibits located at 700 District Dr. is celebrating its 30th Anniversary in business in 2021! Ion Exhibits designs, manufactures, and installs trade show exhibits and corporate brand spaces. Owner Kevin Fett sees Itasca as an ideal location to run their business due to the short drive from various convention centers including McCormick Place and Rosemont Convention Center. The proximity to O'Hare Airport makes it easy to ship exhibits to convention centers across the country.



During the pandemic, Ion Exhibits has been a great and valuable community partner to the Village, donating much-needed protective personal equipment during our COVID-19 vaccination clinics, as well as supplies to the Itasca Community Library, Itasca Food Bank, the Village of Itasca, and the Itasca Police Department.

Please join us in supporting this long-standing business by referring any businesses looking for corporate interior exhibits and/or trade show exhibits to Ion. They are also a great source for yard signs, warehouse banners, and any other large format printing needs. For more information on ION, please visit www.ionexhibits.com or call (844) 212-9545.

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 Bucks Program Extended

The Village of Itasca has extended the redemption date on all Itasca Bucks to December 31, 2021. Mayor Pruyn explained the decision to extend the expiration date, "Itasca restaurant and brewery businesses continue to struggle under COVID-19 restrictions. Plus, some families are just getting back on their feet, and I want every single household to have an opportunity to use their Itasca Bucks to support our businesses in town."



To find restaurants you can redeem your Itasca Bucks at, please visit: www.itasca.com/1978/Itasca-Bucks-Program.



Downtown Plan Update

The Village of Itasca has partnered with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to create a Strategic Action Plan for its downtown. The purpose of this plan is to create a vision for downtown Itasca and the surrounding area that leverages existing transportation facilities and infrastructure, real estate development opportunities, and community involvement to create a downtown that is welcoming and an active meeting place for residents and visitors.

Phase 1 of the project is currently winding down. The consultant team recently held a series of focus group meetings with a

variety of local stakeholders, agency representatives, residents, and business owners. A summary of the results can be found at www.ItascaDowntownPlan.com under the draft "State of the Downtown Report." The Steering Committee will continue to be involved and meet with the Lakota team in early June. The second part of the process, Phase 2: Visioning, will commence and occur over the summer months. We will have further engagement activities, including a public visioning workshop, so please check with the project website for further updates.



**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:

Roadside Protect –

1000 W. Irving Park Rd. Suite 150

Roadside Protect is a full-service roadside assistance administrator focused on delivering superior cost-effective service to your customers. Since 2002 Roadside Protect has managed more than 2,000,000 dispatches and served clients in the following markets: automotive & transportation, financial & membership, insurance, travel, and employer. To learn more about how Roadside Protect can help you to improve the quality of your roadside assistance services and enhance your customer's experience go to www.roadsideprotect.com.

NTT Global Data Center –

255 Pierce Rd.

NTT Global Data Center is the third-largest data center provider, whose reach extends to over 20 countries and regions and represents over 160 carrier and cloud-neutral data centers with a total of 500,000 square meters of server space. NTT provides tailored, localized expertise through our regions in the Americas (RagingWire). To learn more about their data center solutions, go to datacenter.hello.global.ntt/en.

Ajinomoto Health & Nutrition –

250 E. Devon Ave.

Headquartered in Itasca, IL, Ajinomoto's North American Division is made up of a family of affiliated companies that provide innovative solutions to meet various needs of North American consumers with better taste, nutrition, health, and wellness. Each affiliate of the Ajinomoto Group brings a passionate integration of local culture, but also an unwavering commitment to the leading technologies, science, and innovation that Ajinomoto was founded on. More information on their services can be found at www.ajihealthandnutrition.com/.

Hustle Strength & Performance –

419 W. Irving Park Rd.

Hustle Strength & Performance provides one-on-one and small-group fitness classes. They make it easy by knocking out the confusion and frustration you have with traditional gyms and HIIT studios. No overcrowded classes you get lost in, no high-impact training that hurts your joints, no more showing up and not knowing what to do. You have nothing to worry about. Just show up and they will take care of the rest. To learn more about their services, please visit <https://hustlestrength.com/> or call (630) 369-9080.

Nite Owl Packaging –

1141 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Nite Owl Packaging provides small to mid-run packaging projects which must move quickly from concept to market. Nite Owl's

commitment is to provide unmatched flexibility from design through production. The ability to offer individualized attention and service to each client, on a wide variety of packaging needs, differentiates them from the large packaging manufacturers throughout the country. Find more about their services at www.niteowlpackagingchicago.com.

Gokul Wholesale –

1141 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Gokul Wholesale sells a wholesale of various products including general merchandise, plastic goods, medicine, and lighters. Contact them for your wholesale needs at info@gokulwholesales.com or at (630) 540-9910.

Abbott Rubber –

1311 N. Meacham Rd.

Abbott Rubber is an industry leader in the fabrication and distribution of rubber, plastic, and flexible metal hose and assemblies. Abbott Rubber has served the OEM and distributor marketplaces since 1951, they have become a leading source, for a broad range of customers. To learn more about their services, please visit www.abbottrubber.com.

GN Group –

1515 Industrial Dr.

GN Group, Inc. is a truck dispatching company for product transportation. To see how they can help with your transportation and logistics needs, email them at office@gngroupinc.com.

Evergreen Supply –

1400 W. Ardmore Ave.

At Evergreen Electric Supply, they have comprehensive solutions for your projects in the areas of Public Sector, Infrastructure, Tenant Improvement, and Maintenance Repair Operations. Their talented team of experts will work closely with you on-site and off to make sure they find you the best solutions at the best price. To learn more about how they can assist your project, please visit www.evergreensupply.com.

Senator International –

915 Hawthorn Dr.

Senator International provides comprehensive international freight, shipping, logistics, warehousing, and distribution services to customers located throughout the world. Their decades of expertise ensure that your shipments are transported on schedule, clear customs without delays, and reach their destination on time, every time. Find more information about their services at www.senator-international.com.

Celebrate Our Community

To register for a Library Virtual event, please call (630) 773-1699 or visit www.itascalibrary.org. To register for a Park District event, please call (630) 773-2257 or visit www.itascaparkdistrict.com.



Tues., June 1st

Cook Up a Good Book

4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Library Virtual Event

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



Wed., June 2nd

Zoom Tales

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Library Virtual Event

The library will share stories and songs virtually. Geared to ages 6 & under. More Wednesday dates are available; check the library's website for more information.



Fri., June 4th

Knit & Craft Night

7:00 p.m.

Library Virtual Event

Join the library for a virtual knitting and craft meeting on Zoom. More Friday dates are available; check the library's website for more information.



Sat., June 5th

Flock Party

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Springbrook Nature Center

Come to the Nature Center and see for yourself how our magnificent raptors are making Itasca a popular destination for visitors.



Mon., June 7th

Outdoor Family Storytime

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Library East Lawn

More Monday dates are available; check the library's website for more information.



Tues., June 8th

Color My World: The History of the Band Chicago

7:00 p.m.

Library Virtual Event

Using performance and interview clips, Gary Wenstrup will trace the arc of the band's career.



Wed., June 9th

Itasca Outdoor Concert Series

Join us for free outdoor family concerts this summer. Check out

www.itascaparkdistrict.com for more information on times and location.



Thurs., June 10th

Trivia Night

7:00 p.m.

Library Virtual Event

Join the library on Zoom for a night of fun and fascinating trivia! More Thursday dates available. Check the library's website for more information.



Sat., June 12th

Paper Shredding Event

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Public Works

The Village and Itasca Bank will be hosting a paper shredding event at the Public Works facility.



Tues., June 15th

Curious Kids: Color Wheel

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Library Virtual Event

Explore the color wheel and art with virtual activities. For grades 1-4.



Tues., June 22nd

Introduction to the Colorful World of Tea

7:00 p.m.

Library Virtual Event

Certified tea specialist Judy Duncan presents a brief history of tea.



Wed., June 23rd

Itasca Outdoor Concert Series

Join us for free outdoor family concerts this summer. Check out

www.itascaparkdistrict.com for more information on times and location.



Sun., June 27th

Fish with a Cop

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Happy Acres off of Bryn Mawr

Bring your fishing pole and bait to fish with members of the Itasca Police Department. Even if you don't catch anything, the police officers will have plenty of hot dogs and soda available.



Sun., July 4th

Fourth of July Fireworks

Save the Date

This year, enjoy the best firework show in Illinois from the comfort of your backyard. The fireworks display will be a sky show only and will be visible around town.



Wed., July 7th

Itasca Outdoor Concert Series

Join us for free outdoor family concerts this summer. Check out

www.itascaparkdistrict.com for more information on times and location.



Thurs., July 8th

Globe-Trotters: Art Around the World

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Library Virtual Event

Explore art from many countries around the world. For grades 3-6.

Celebrate Our Community



Fri., July 9th & 10th

ItascaFest
7:00 p.m.
Usher Park

Join the Lions Club for a free concert, along with kids' activities, car show, and a flea market.



Wed., July 14th

Ice Cream with Cops & Firefighters
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Usher Park

Enjoy ice cream, fun, and games with the Itasca Police Officers and Firefighters. Free ice cream provided by the Itasca Bank & Trust.



Fri., July 16th

Bonfire & Brews
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Springbrook Nature Center

Come enjoy a night of beer tasting around a bonfire at the Nature Center. Price is \$25 per person and may be purchased at www.itascaparkdistrict.com. No kids permitted.



Wed., July 21st

Itasca Outdoor Concert Series
Join us for free outdoor family concerts this summer. Check out www.itascaparkdistrict.com for more information on times and location.



Wed., August 4th

Itasca Outdoor Concert Series
Join us for free outdoor family concerts this summer. Check out www.itascaparkdistrict.com for more information on times and location.



Fri., August 6th & 7th

ItascaFest
7:00 p.m.
Usher Park

Join the Lions Club for a free concert, along with kids' activities, car show, and a flea market.



Tues., August 24th

STEM for Adults
7:00 p.m.
Library Virtual Event
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) isn't just for kids!



Tues., August 31st

Before the Mother Road
7:00 p.m.
Library Virtual Event
Historian David Clark presents a fascinating program on historic Route 66.

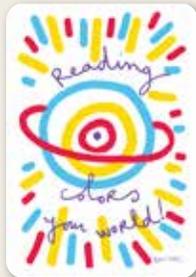
Laptops and WiFi Hotspots Now Available

Need computer access at home or on the go in order to keep up with all the community events in town? Borrow a Windows 10 laptop from Itasca Community Library! Laptops are WiFi-enabled and are 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 other devices, we also have WiFi Hotspots available for checkout. Call the library at (630) 773-1699 for more information.

Reading Colors Your World Summer Reading Clubs

June 1st – July 31st

Join one of the Itasca Community Library's *Reading Colors Your World* Summer Reading Clubs to earn prizes! There is a club for all ages – youth, teens, and adults. You have the option of participating in person or virtually. In addition to earning prizes for reaching the reading goal, there will be a weekly drawing for children and teens who visit the library each week. Adults who participate will be able to enter drawings of their choice after reading three books and earn additional entries after each book read. Drawing prizes for adults include gift cards to Church Street Brewery, Naxos: A Greek Island Restaurant, and more! Prizes are generously donated by Friends of the Itasca Community Library. For more information, call the library at (630) 773-1699 or go to www.itascalibrary.org/src



Enjoying Itasca

There's something special about Itasca in the summer. It's hard to beat the beauty of our natural areas and tree-lined neighborhoods and the hometown feel of our local festivals. Thank you to the Zgela family for their submittal of adventures around town. Here is what they had to say: "Anthony and I were raised in Itasca, so we knew Itasca would be the best place to raise our family! We love family bike rides around town, picnics in Usher Park, and long walks through the nature center."



Summer Concerts and ItascaFest

While things still may not be back to normal, our appreciation for music continues. This summer the Park District, Lions Club, and the Village have several concerts scheduled for your enjoyment. The summer schedule kicks off with the Park District's annual outdoor concert series, which begins Wednesday, June 9th and carries through until August 4th. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Lions Club reimagined ItascaFest on Friday, July 9th and Saturday, July 10th. This year not only will there be music and kids' activities, but also a car show and flea market. Since two days just isn't enough to celebrate our annual tradition, the Lions Club will also be hosting this event on Friday, August 6th and Saturday, August 7th. More information on ItascaFest will be posted on the Village's website as it becomes available.

Dog Days of Summer

This year's summer cover photo was submitted by resident Shannon Tallon who said, "I always get a happy face after a walk through the trails of our beautiful nature center. It is just one of many amazing amenities we have access to in Itasca that makes it the best place to live!" Thank you to Shannon and Steve for sharing their picture of Bernie and Karma. If you, like Shannon, 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.



Wings and Talons Flock Party

You are invited to the first annual Wings and Talons Flock Party on Saturday, June 5th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.! Flock Party is an open house event to meet the birds living at Springbrook Nature Center up close and personal. Volunteers will be on hand working with the raptors, answering questions, and hosting some activities. Keep an eye on the Wings and Talons Facebook page for more details. www.facebook.com/WingsAndTalons.



Springbrook Nature Center Remodeled

The Springbrook Nature Center facility was recently remodeled this spring to include new exhibits and updated classroom space. All of this was done through Museum Grant, which the park district received. Be sure to stop in and visit the Springbrook Nature Center facility to see all the wonderful upgrades.



Summer Camp Registration

The Itasca Park District is looking forward to having a blast with friends and enjoying a summer full of fun! While camp might look a little different this year, they are still planning many activities that their campers are used to experiencing, such as visits to the Itasca Waterpark, nature-based activities, and in-house special events! Summer camps are available for children ages 3 to 14 years. Register your child today online or at the Itasca Rec Center.



Summer Safety Tips

- Use propane, charcoal, and wood pellet barbecue grills outdoors only. Indoor use can cause a fire or carbon monoxide poisoning! Place your grill well away from siding and deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Do not store or use a grill on a porch or balcony.
- If you want to see fireworks, watch a public show put on by experts (like the Itasca show)! Remember to always supervise children around any type of firework. Even sparklers can reach 1,200° F and cause third-degree burns.
- Use chimineas, outdoor fireplaces, and fire pits outdoors only and at least 10 feet away from your home or anything that can burn.
- Adults need to stay with children when they are around water, and even adults should never swim alone.
- Always wear a bike helmet and bright clothes when cycling, so people can see you. Put reflectors on your bike.
- Drive carefully through residential neighborhoods, school is out, and children will be playing.
- For more information and free resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.



Itasca Waterpark



On Saturday, June 12th the Itasca Waterpark will be open for the summer along with the unveiling of the Waterpark Bathhouse. The new 1,200 square foot bathhouse will include a year-round multi-purpose room, two family restrooms, updated locker rooms, offices, concessions,

and more! This summer the Waterpark will have modified hours for open swim, swim team, and swim lessons. Make sure to check out www.itascaparkdistrict.com starting June 1st for all the latest information on the pool opening.

How to Reduce Mosquitoes This Summer

To make time outside more enjoyable, there are some steps you can take to reduce pesky mosquitoes. First, think like a mosquito. The biggest draw for the mosquitoes is standing water, so look around your yard. Work to be sure that standing water is eliminated or well-managed. Birdbaths, ponds, small pools, and even puddles, all look like resorts to mosquitoes. It only takes seven to ten days for mosquitoes to breed, hatch, and mature into adults, and they can do so in as little as one-fourth inch of standing water. So, avoid creating those potential habitats by turning watering cans, empty flowerpots, wheelbarrows, buckets, etc. upside down when not in use.

Have a rain barrel? Make sure it's covered. Empty or exchange water weekly in birdbaths and kiddie pools. If you're going to be gone for an extended period, empty them completely.

Landscape ponds have different mosquito control solutions. They can be treated with floating dunks that contain BTI, a strain of bacteria that controls mosquito larvae without being harmful to fish or wildlife. Fountains also work because mosquitoes won't lay eggs in moving water.

If you get standing water in your yard or garden, either from heavy rains or irrigation, take steps to drain the area, plant a rain garden, or adjust irrigation, respectively.

An easy step to remember: take a weekly walk around your yard. A walk around the yard once a week looking for all these potential mosquito invitations should do the trick.



Is there a best time to be outside?

As much as we try, we aren't going to get rid of these pests completely. So we can be smart about when we're outside. Most mosquito species prefer to be active in dawn/early morning hours and again at dusk into the evening. There are container breeding species (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*) that have daytime activity.

Are there plants that can fend off mosquitoes?

Yes. You can incorporate plants into your garden that repel mosquitoes. Herbs such as basil, rosemary, lemongrass, garlic, lemon thyme, and mint are natural mosquito repellents, as well as many other types of plants. You can easily use them throughout the yard and garden as functional edible accents and aesthetic interest! Many of these repellent plants grow well in pots, too, perfect for your deck, patio, balcony, or porch.

Annual Street Resurfacing



The 2021 Annual Street Resurfacing project is estimated to begin near mid-to-late May and should be completed by mid-July. The contract was awarded to Brothers Asphalt, who will be resurfacing approximately 6,800 feet of roadway along the corridors identified in the attached exhibit. For additional information please visit the Village website or contact Public Works at (630) 773-2455

Cleared Storm Drains Are Happy Storm Drains



During the spring and summer months, we get some pretty heavy storms and a lot of rain at times. Storm drains are our first defense against flooding. If they are blocked by debris, they can back up and flood areas, such as your home. Taking a few moments to clear drains regularly, could save you and your neighbors time and money when a storm hits.

Safety Services Offered in Town



The Itasca Police Department offers many programs that help improve the safety and overall quality of life for the citizens and businesses of Itasca. Visit the police department's page on the village website to learn more about these programs.

Speed Trailer Requests

If you live in Itasca and feel that you have a problem with speeding vehicles in your neighborhood, you are encouraged to request the speed trailer be scheduled in your area by calling the Police Department at (630) 773-1004.

Fingerprinting Services

The Itasca Police Department Records Division offers fingerprinting services for licensing or employment purposes. This service is available at no cost to Itasca residents or individuals employed within the Village of Itasca. The IPD Records Division is open Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Requirements: Current state-issued identification card or driver's license and employer furnished fingerprint card, if applicable.

Surveillance Camera Registration



The Itasca Police Department has implemented a new, voluntary program to partner with Village residents or businesses that have surveillance. Determining if an offender may have been caught on nearby cameras while leaving the scene of a crime can cost officers a great deal of time. With camera systems becoming more and more prevalent, we are asking Itasca residents and

businesses to help expedite investigations and catch criminals by registering their surveillance systems on the Police Department's webpage.

Unwanted Prescription Depository



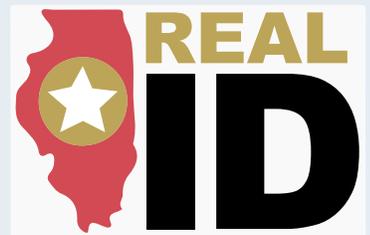
A galvanized steel depository and collection storage unit for unwanted prescription medications is located outside the Itasca Police Department.

Below are additional programs offered to our residents and businesses. Details about these programs can be found on www.itasca.com/police.

- Report a Crime Tip via website form
- Child Safety Seat program – Contact Officers Knoll or Lawson to arrange for this service at (630) 773-1004
- Code Red notification
- Smart 9-1-1 notification
- Special Needs/Premise Alert Application
- Vacation Watch form

Real ID Deadline Extended

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently announced that the deadline for obtaining the federal Real ID has been changed from October 2021 to May 3rd, 2023 due to the ongoing



pandemic. The Real ID is a driver's license or state ID that is compliant with the Real ID Act that Congress passed in 2005, at the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission.

You only need to obtain the Real ID if:

- You do not have a valid U.S. passport or passport card; AND
- You use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation; or
- You visit military bases or secure federal facilities.

You do not need a Real ID to drive, vote, open a bank account, apply for or receive federal benefits, or visit a hospital. For additional information on obtaining a Real ID please call (833) 503-4074 or visit www.Realid.ilsos.gov.

New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements

The Village is happy to announce the promotions of Brandon Hanson, Brian Yarborough, and Kevin Farley. This past February, Brandon Hanson was promoted to Superintendent of Utilities. The Superintendent of Utilities manages water distribution, water meters, sanitary and storm sewer collection.



Lisa Bahry

Brian Yarborough was promoted to General Operations Superintendent from the position of mechanic. As superintendent of general operations, Brian will oversee the maintenance of our streets, signs, lighting, plowing, buildings, and facilities.

The Village would also like to congratulate Kevin Farley on his new role as Village Forester. The Village Forester inspects parkway and other Village-owned trees for disease, insects, pruning needs, and potential removals.

The Fire District would also like to congratulate fire medic Ryan Rasche on his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant.

In addition to these promotions, the Village welcomed three new employees to its team. In February, Lisa Bahry was hired as a part-time Human Resources Generalist/Payroll Specialist. Lisa comes to the Village of Itasca with over 17 years of public sector Human Resources experience.

Matt Olson was hired in March as the Village's mechanic. Previously Matt worked for Lund Industries as a vehicle technician. He also works as an Auxiliary Officer with the Village of Rosemont.

The Village is also pleased to welcome Kevin Vitols as our new Utilities Operator. For the last several years, Kevin has worked for the Village as a seasonal worker. Kevin grew up in Itasca and is looking forward to serving the community.

The Fire District is also pleased to announce that Candidate Anthony DiCostanzo has finished his year of probation and is ready to serve the residents of Itasca.



Kevin Vitols



Anthony DiCostanzo

Lastly, the Village and Fire District would like to congratulate two employees who recently retired. In April, the Village said goodbye to Utilities Operator John Jackson after 39 years of service. The Itasca Fire District also said goodbye to Lieutenant Roy Dahl after 28 years of services to the District. Please join us in extending a heartfelt thank you to both John and Roy for their years of dedicated service.

In Remembrance

It is with deep sadness the Village announces the unexpected passing of recently retired Public Works Director Ross Hitchcock. Ross provided nearly 40 years of service to the Village and maintained a regular presence at the Public Works facility even after retirement in February. His guidance, laughter, and storytelling will be intensely missed by those who knew him and had the honor to call him a friend.



Resident Recognition

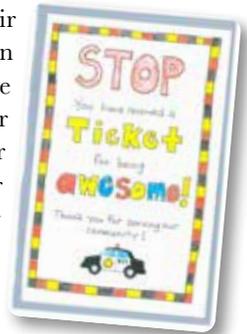
During the winter months, garbage seems to accumulate unnoticed until the spring thaw. During the spring, summer, and fall months, debris is picked up by lawn maintenance crews as grass-cutting resumes. Unfortunately, until these crews resume service, it is difficult for Public Works staff to immediately respond to the many locations that debris is reported.

To help out, a handful of residents have stepped up and assisted with the spring cleanup prior to our lawn maintenance contracts resuming. Lu Semenzin adopted a portion of I-290 through IDOT and has also picked up debris in other locations around Itasca. Jay Manguba championed a cleanup event in the Clover Ridge area that collected debris in the detention basin and other common areas. Kathryn Barwacz, from Flint Group Digital, also joined in to keep Itasca looking clean at various locations around town.

The Fire District also wants to recognize a few of the scouts in town that took it upon themselves to shovel out some of the hydrants in our District, buried by snow. Scouts Kendra and Alexis cleared a dozen hydrants during the big snows we had.

The Itasca Police Department also would like to extend their appreciation to Daisy Troop 56042 for their kind gesture in providing the men and women of the department with cards and a Police Survival Kit basket. Director O'Connor stated, "The department is truly grateful for the encouragement and inspiration that our community gives to our officers on a regular basis. It is the actions of residents and local businesses that help remind officers why they entered this profession and the importance of their duty. Thank you again for all the support."

All these residents are wonderful examples of our community and we thank them for their hard work and kind actions. If you know of a resident who should be recognized for their community efforts, please contact deputyclerk@itasca.com.



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

Mayor
Jeff Pruyn

Village Clerk
Jody Conidi

Trustees
Jeff Aiani
Dino Gavanis
Ellen Leahy
Kathy Linsner
Frank Madaras
Patrick Powers

Village Administrator
Carie Anne Ergo

Village Departments and Taxing Districts

Village Administrator
773-0835

Village Clerk's Office
773-0835

Community Development
773-5568

Public Works
773-2455

Wastewater Treatment Plant
773-5571

Police Department Non-Emergency
773-1004

Police Department Emergency
9-1-1

Itasca Chamber of Commerce
773-2949

Springbrook Nature Center
773-5572

Library
773-1699

School District #10
773-1232

Park District
773-2257

Fire District Non-Emergency
773-1223

Fire District Emergency
9-1-1

O'Hare Noise Hotline Complaints
(800) 435-9569



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Hidden Gem

Thank you to the Finn family for their photo submittal of our hidden gem, Happy Acres Park. Jessica submitted the photo of her son, Buddy, because according to her, "It's a little spot that is peaceful and where you can see nature. Itasca has great areas like this all over town that you can check out and explore with your kids."

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