

Photo – Submitted by  
Julie Kurzac,  
Winter Wonderland  
(p11)

# The Village News



Gift Big, Shop Local, Shop Itasca (p4)



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## Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

As fall begins to wind down and I pull out my winter jacket, I look forward to the excitement of the upcoming holiday season. Pages 6 and 7 are filled with opportunities for our community to come together to celebrate the holidays. In addition to celebrating, throughout the month of December, scores of residents stop by Village Hall to hang donated hats, mittens, and scarves on the tree in the lobby. Last year, we collected 3 truckloads of toys for the Toys-for-Tots foundation at our drive-thru event. Let's see if we can collect more at this year's event on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

While December is a month of giving, we all know that Itasca doesn't stop caring on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Organizations like Itasca Cares, the Itasca Food Pantry, the Itasca Lions Club, and many more serve those in need in our community throughout the year. I have always said we are a compassionate village that gives and helps where we can. I am blessed to serve as Mayor here.

Looking back at the past year, it has been truly a productive year in the Village. This November, Phase 1 of the Village's storm sewer improvements began on Elm Street. This project includes the installation of a new storm sewer, water mains, and curbs & gutters. Once completed, this will be a significant milestone in providing stormwater relief to the community. In addition to the start of this project, the Village secured funding from the IEPA to help residents replace lead service lines throughout town. On average, the cost to replace a lead service line is estimated to be around \$8,000; however, through the Village's program, 100% of the cost will be paid for by the grant to all eligible households. More information on both projects can be found on page 11.

The Village also continues to make significant strides with its Downtown Itasca Plan. These plans were first developed with input from residents and business owners alike. If you were unable to attend previous workshops, there is still time to share your feedback on the current plans, as another community workshop has been scheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup>. Please help us create the type of community we desire now and for future generations. More information on the Downtown Plan can be found on page 4.

We also saw the conclusion of Haymarket's petition for a Planned Development by Special Use. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Village Board voted 6-0 to deny Haymarket's petition. This was a long

[Continued on page 2 >](#)



## Mayor's Message Continued...

and slow process in which the Village diligently listened to expert testimony, reviewed the evidence, and provided opportunities to hear every voice on the matter. I'd like to take a moment to thank the petitioner, the interested parties, the Plan Commission, staff, and the public for their time, input, and involvement as we worked together on

an issue that matters to all of us. My comments from the night of the vote have been included below.

On behalf of the Village Board, I wish you all the best in the year ahead and hope to see you out shopping locally and at one of our many community events.

## MAYOR JEFF PRUYN'S STATEMENT

Provided at the November 2, 2021 Village Board Meeting

Reasonable - the definition of reasonable is fair, sensible.

That is what the Village of Itasca was asked to consider - if Haymarket, operating in Itasca, is reasonable.

I am a lifelong resident of Itasca, and I've had the privilege of being Village President since 2009. As Village President, with dedicated staff and Village Board members, my number one focus is that we do everything we can for the betterment of our residents.

We are a village that is compassionate - a village that gives - we help where we can.

Itasca is a small town. We represent 1.03% of the total population of DuPage County. Yet, as a small town, we have a big heart.

Our Itasca Cares collaboration is our way of lending a helping hand. Our Outreach Team helps people get back on their feet. No one wants to believe there is a hunger problem in their community, but our Itasca Food Pantry is a necessity. And unfortunately, COVID created a closure to our Itasca Homeless Shelter, but it's what the community needed pre-pandemic.

When we first heard about Haymarket looking to come to Itasca, there are only two words that came to my mind: Itasca Cares.

Others and I were open to the idea of the facility because, make no mistake, treatment facilities are needed in and around DuPage County. We had many discussions and meetings to figure out the size and scope of a potential Haymarket facility and how this would work in one of the smallest villages in Northern Illinois.

My number one concern, as I stated earlier, is our residents - current residents, and future residents - which is what those living at Haymarket would become. They would become Itasca residents.

As Village President, I have to ensure our Village's functionality and financial responsibilities go hand in hand. As many of you know, I'm a certified public accountant. I account for money. Fiscal responsibility is what I do, and it carries over to my role as Village President.

As time went on, we learned more and more about the immense size and scope of Haymarket's plan, and I kept coming back to one question: How could Itasca reasonably handle a facility like this?

During the Plan Commission meetings, one of the biggest items to be discussed was 9-1-1 calls for service. At various times during the meetings, Haymarket presented different forecasted calls for service.

The bottom line is the forecasting is more than what our Fire District can handle now with our one ALS ambulance.

Haymarket suggested they could provide a second ambulance, but that would also require additional staff, maintenance and other costs Itasca just doesn't have. And for the record, I as Village President cannot just reject the offer of an ambulance, as was suggested in testimony. That decision must be made by the Fire District. I do not have that authority.

Itasca is tax capped. According to state law, we do not have the ability to just raise taxes. If we required extra operating funds to pay for the service of a gifted ambulance, we would have to go to our residents to ask for an increase in taxes to help pay for it. That is not reasonable.

Early on, it was clear the potential financial burden of Haymarket would be heavy on Itasca. Representative Deb Conroy suggested the state could provide a grant to help the financial burden, but several things are important to point out: when that offer was made, it was very early in the process and we did not have critical data and information from Haymarket on true potential costs; and, what is promised today is not guaranteed tomorrow. Itasca has been the victim, once before, of being awarded a grant and then suddenly the funding went away. We cannot count on unknown dollars. That does not make good fiscal sense.

It was clear to state elected officials, county elected officials, and local officials that one of the smallest communities was going to have to absorb 100% of the cost, risk, and burden of servicing a facility that would be accepting residents beyond Itasca.

More importantly, it was also clear to Haymarket that costs went beyond Itasca's means. On November 13, 2019, the Plan Commission chairman asked Dr. Lustig, and I quote:

*"So I'm also concerned that our police and fire services may not be available to existing Itasca residents and businesses and those of other communities where we have intergovernmental agreements. My second bottom-line financial question is if the Itasca fire or police department finds it necessary to increase personnel and/or equipment because of an increase in calls caused by Haymarket, would Haymarket be willing to pay for the added personnel and equipment as long as they're being served here?"*

Dr. Lustig's response: "No, it would not."

To the residents of Itasca, I say to you this evening that as Village President, Haymarket's request on our Village is unreasonable.



## New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements



Vijay Gadde

The Village is pleased to announce the hiring of Vijay Gadde, as its new Community Development Director. Vijay was hired on September 1<sup>st</sup> and brings over 25 years of diversified municipal government experience with him. Throughout his career, Vijay has led the drafting of numerous comprehensive plans, downtown framework plans, sub-area, and corridor plans. He is committed to providing timely and responsible community development services to the residents and businesses in Itasca.



Trinidad Macias

We are also pleased to introduce Trinidad Macias as the new Community Service Officer in the Police Department. Trinidad might be a familiar face to you as he has been involved with the Police Department since 2008 when he was a member of C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team). Trinidad has also dedicated countless hours at many of our special events such as Green Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and ItascaFest. Trinidad has lived in Itasca for the past 20 years and is excited for his new position with the Police Department.



Ridgeway Burns

The Itasca Community Library is pleased to welcome new Library Director Ridgeway Burns. Ridgeway has been a librarian for over ten years, working in various communities, most recently Hinsdale. Working closely with schools, businesses, and other local organizations has been a focus of Ridgeway's previous work. He is excited to learn more about Itasca and the people who live here. Ridgeway stated, "I will be working with library staff to continue the stellar work they have been doing to make the library more accessible and appealing. The pandemic has presented many challenges and staff have told me that they have missed making the wonderful connections that happen during library visits. I hope that you'll continue to make the library one of your community

## Administrator's Message

Carie Anne Ergo

I am fortunate to live and work in a caring and inclusive town such as Itasca. As your neighbor, I have personally experienced the generosity and kindness this community provides to one another. As Village Administrator, I am continually impressed by Village staff who strive to provide the best service they can to residents.

To continue the delivery of high-quality service, the Village has begun to modernize its financial software system. Our current system has been in place since the 1990s, and although it has been updated over the years, it no longer meets the needs of the Village. This important project will be implemented over the next year and result in more efficient operations and improved online services for residents. New features like a village app, paperless billing, payment by phone or text, bill reminders, and electronic service requests will be rolled out over the next year. Stay tuned for new updates on the Village's website. While there is always more to do, I am proud of our collective efforts in making Itasca the best place to live and work.

### New Water Bill Account Numbers

As part of the software upgrade, the Village has issued new account numbers for water bills. These new numbers will go into effect starting in December, so please make sure to update any online banking payments with this information. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us for assistance at (630) 773-0835.

destinations – we have a lot to offer you. Please feel free to stop by the library and introduce yourself. I'd be delighted to hear about your connection to Itasca and the library."



Kyle Zalewski

The Fire District would like to congratulate Firemedic Kyle Zalewski for completing his year of probation. Kyle was sworn in as a full member of the Itasca Fire District on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Please also join the Itasca Fire District in welcoming six new candidates to their team. Firemedics Carbonara, Herrera, Klatt, Letheby, Magoon, and Skelley will complete a year of probation and training at the Fire District before being officially sworn in as members. Good luck to all, and have a great year!

## Itasca Cares

The holiday season is the time of year that can bring us all closer and help us understand the importance of community. We are fortunate to have a strong outreach program through Itasca Cares, which helps those experiencing hardships or who are in need of a helping hand. To donate or volunteer this holiday season, contact Itasca Cares at (630) 200-3978 or visit [www.itascacares.org](http://www.itascacares.org). The Village will also



**ITASCA CARES**  
Lending a Local Hand

be continuing its tradition of collecting hats, mittens, scarves, and socks for the Itasca Food Pantry this holiday season. You may drop off your donation to Village Hall until December 31<sup>st</sup>.



# Downtown Plan Update

Phase 2 of the Downtown Plan Update has been completed by the Village, culminating with a community workshop this past September at Village Hall. The workshop allowed the public to share their thoughts and feedback on the initial planning ideas, concepts, and general direction of the Downtown Strategic Plan provided by village staff and their consulting team, Lakota Group.

Phase 3 now kicks off, in which we will now “IMPLEMENT” the planning ideas and concepts the community has shared with the Village. In the “IMPLEMENT” Phase, the Downtown Itasca Strategic Action Plan and implementation strategy will be drafted, refined, and adopted with feedback from staff, residents, Steering Committee, the Plan Commission, and the Village Board.

The public can continue to share their thoughts on initial planning ideas

and concepts for the Downtown Strategic Action Plan by visiting the project website at [www.ItascaDowntownPlan.com](http://www.ItascaDowntownPlan.com). Additional materials related to the Downtown Strategic Action Plan are also on the project website, including the State of the Downtown Report, materials presented to the Village Board and Steering Committee, and materials shown at the community workshop.

A second community workshop has been planned for the week of January 10<sup>th</sup> to allow the public to share their thoughts and ideas on the Draft Final Plan. Stay up to date with the Downtown Plan Update at [www.ItascaDowntownPlan.com](http://www.ItascaDowntownPlan.com).

Questions regarding the Downtown Plan Update may be directed to Village Planner Mo Khan at [mkhan@itasca.com](mailto:mkhan@itasca.com).



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

The Village of Itasca is proud to be a premier destination for all types of businesses and would like to extend a warm welcome to the following companies who recently received Village Board approval to operate in our town:

**Hair Goddess – 213 N. Catalpa Ave.**

Hair Goddess is a hair salon offering hair products and services for men, women, and children. Call (630) 817-2630 to schedule an appointment.

**Marketplace Brands – 1055 W. Devon Ave.**

Marketplace Brands manufactures gift baskets of all types, including birthdays, holidays, anniversaries, and all other special occasions. Their gift baskets combine premium gourmet foods with quality ceramics, glassware, cookware, or family entertainment goods. To learn more about Marketplace Brands or to place an order, visit [www.marketplacebrands.com/](http://www.marketplacebrands.com/).

**Jeet, Inc. – 30 W. Irving Park Rd. Suite C**

Jeet, Inc. offers professional cleaning services for both residential and commercial properties, including both indoor and outdoors. To learn more about the services they offer, visit [www.jeetinc.com/](http://www.jeetinc.com/).

**Metro Office Equipment – 1220 W. Thorndale Ave.**

Metro Office Equipment specializes in transporting office equipment and can assist with copier lease rental, disposal, store, hard drive replacement, office-to-office transport, and off-lease copier transport. For more information, visit [www.moetrans.com/about/](http://www.moetrans.com/about/).

**S&S Systems of America – 1131 N. Prospect Ave.**

S&S Systems of America, Inc. installs fire, security, CCTV, and building/door access systems for commercial and residential properties. Using the newest technology in the industry, they install fire alarm systems, video surveillance/analytics, intercom and telephone entry, access control systems, structured cabling,

and intrusion systems. To learn more or request a free quote, visit [www.sandsamerica.com/](http://www.sandsamerica.com/).

**Bandai Namco Amusement of America – 1550 Glenlake Ave.**

Bandai Namco Amusement America manufactures coin-operated and ticket redemption arcade games, such as Pac-Man, Ms. Pac-Man, and Galaga. To learn more about Bandai Namco, visit [www.bandainamco-am.com/](http://www.bandainamco-am.com/).

**AMS Oil, Inc. – 1155 W. Devon Ave. Suite 400**

AMSOIL, Inc. is a wholesale distributor of synthetic oils used in the automotive, powersports, industrial, and many other industries. AMS Oil, Inc. will be one of many businesses occupying the new and successful Bridge Point Itasca Development at the northwest part of the Village. As a retail sales tax generator, they will support the economic vibrancy of the community. To learn more about the company, go to [www.amsoil.com/](http://www.amsoil.com/).

## Gift Big, Shop Small, Shop Itasca

As you write your wish list for gifts and presents this holiday season, think about how you can support your small businesses in town and make a big impact by shopping locally. The Village of Itasca would like you to think of “Gift Big, Shop Small, Shop Itasca!” this holiday season, especially for those stocking stuffers and experience gifts. Consider a gift card or certificate to one of our many individually-owned restaurants or one of our many hair salons for the perfect haircut before heading to a family dinner. If you have a sports-minded or an active family member, consider a gift to one of our many indoor recreational and workout facilities.

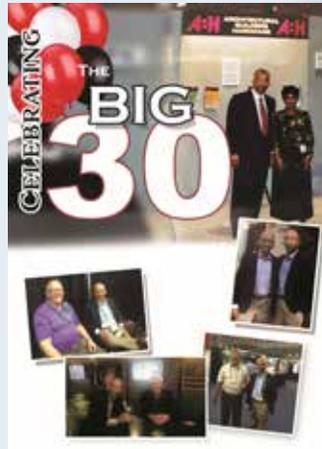
To see a listing of businesses, please visit [www.itasca.com/giftbig](http://www.itasca.com/giftbig).



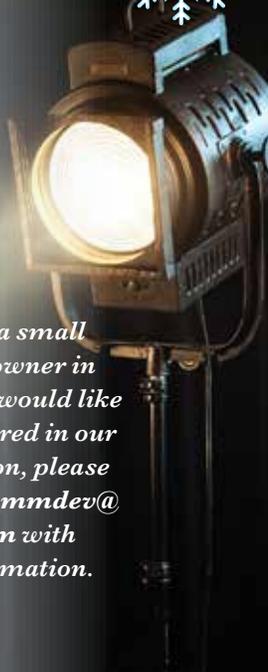
# Business Spotlight

## ABH Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Business Anniversary

Architectural Builders Hardware (ABH) Manufacturing is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and its 17<sup>th</sup> year in Itasca. ABH Manufacturing currently occupies approximately 95,000 square feet of industrial space between two facilities in Itasca and produces high-quality security products at their state-of-the-art facility. By implementing robotics, automation, and lean manufacturing techniques, ABH Manufacturing has efficiently manufactured products in the United States to the highest standards. They specialize in door holders and stops, push-pull latches, electromagnetic door holders/releases, and applied stops. ABH's products are used to construct medical/hospital, educational, and sports facilities, including Wembley Stadium in London, England. To learn more about their company, visit [www.abhmfg.com/](http://www.abhmfg.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](mailto:commdev@itasca.com) with your information.*



## Small Cell Wireless Facilities

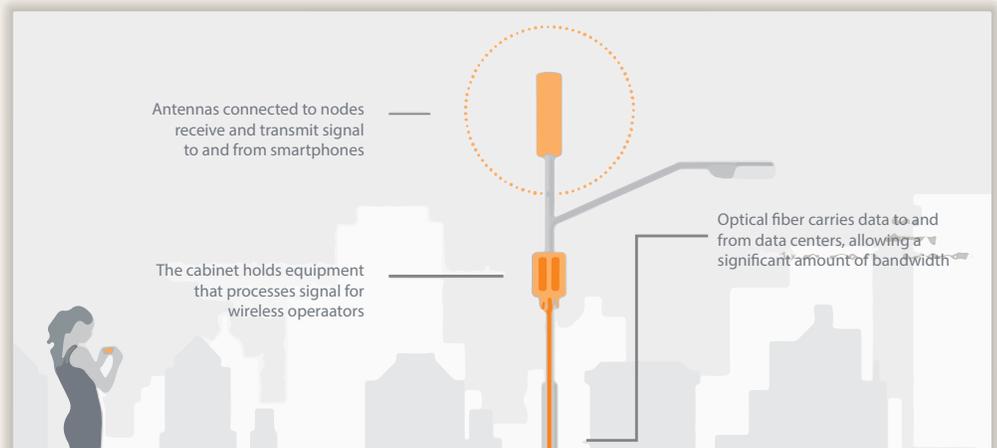
We now live in a day and age where virtually everyone depends on cellular use in their daily lives. 5G is an advanced wireless technology that began wide deployment in 2019 and has quickly changed cellular infrastructure. Wireless providers use small cells to fill weak signal transmission or reception spots in areas of high cellular service use.

The Illinois Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, 50 ILCS 840/1, et seq., was passed by state legislators to control the deployment of small cell facilities. The Act governs how local governments must license or permit the erection of small wireless facilities within their jurisdiction and grants wireless carriers the right to place small wireless facilities in the rights-of-way. Administrative review and issuance of local building permits are allowed.

Under the Act, municipalities are not permitted to pass any ordinance preventing permit applications from being reviewed or issued. The Act does, however, allow delayed action by a municipality on permit applications in limited circumstances, including local, state, or federal disaster declarations, including circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

### What the Village Can Do

- Under the Act, the Village can require that small wireless facilities do not interfere with the frequencies used by a public safety agency for public safety communications.



- The Village can require that wireless providers comply with applicable spacing requirements in applicable codes and ordinances concerning the location of ground-mounted equipment in the right-of-way.

### What the Village Can't Do

- Require that the applicant place small wireless facilities on any specific utility or category of utility poles.
- Regulate the level of acceptable radio frequency emissions. However, small wireless facilities must comply with *Federal Communications Commission (FCC)* rules and regulations regarding radio frequency emissions.
- Refuse outright or pass a moratorium on applications for the installation of small wireless facilities

If you have further questions on the Small Cell Wireless Facilities, contact Vijay Gadde, Community Development Director, at [vgadde@itasca.com](mailto:vgadde@itasca.com).



# Celebrate Our Community

To register for a library event, please call (630) 773-1699 or visit [www.itascalibrary.org](http://www.itascalibrary.org). To register for a Park District event, please call (630) 773-2257 or visit [www.itasparkdistrict.com](http://www.itasparkdistrict.com).



**Wed., December 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Holiday Drive-Thru Event**  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
Downtown Itasca

Pack up the family for a special drive-thru event through downtown Itasca. There will be music, gifts bags, and cookies for the whole family.



**Sat., December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Luminaria Pick-Up**  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Itasca Village Hall

Join in the holiday spirit by picking up your Luminaria from the Lions at Village Hall. Luminarias should be lit at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve (rain date Christmas Day).



**Mon., December 6<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Drop-In Family Storytime**  
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
Library

Join the library for stories, songs, and more at this in-person storytime on Mondays. Geared to ages 6 & under. No registration is needed.



**Tues., December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Holiday House Decorating Contest**  
6:00 p.m.  
Itasca Park District

Decorate your house with holiday spirit. Please register with [amoraca@itasparkdistrict.com](mailto:amoraca@itasparkdistrict.com).



**Wed., December 8<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Virtual Zoom Tales**  
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.  
Library

Join the library for a weekly virtual storytime over Zoom on Wednesdays. Geared to ages 6 & under. Registration is required.



**Fri., December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Santa's Workshop**  
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Springbrook Nature Center

Visit Santa, enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, and make crafts. Free family event!



**Sat., December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Luminaria Pick-Up**  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Itasca Village Hall

Join in the holiday spirit by picking up your Luminaria from the Lions at Village Hall. Luminarias should be lit at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve (rain date Christmas Day).



**Sat., December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Santa's Workshop**  
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Springbrook Nature Center

Visit Santa, enjoy cookies, hot chocolate, and make crafts. Free family event!



**Sun., December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Breakfast with Mrs. Claus**  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Itasca Recreation Center

Get ready for some holiday cheer. Enjoy a yummy breakfast and a special visit with Mrs. Claus. Registration is required. \$10 per person.



**Thurs., December 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Virtual Kids Cooking Club**  
4:00 – 4:45 p.m.  
Library

Make a holiday recipe with the library in your own kitchen on Zoom. Grades 3 - 5. Registration is required.



**Thurs., December 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Unwind @ the Library**  
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Library

Take a break from school and finals with games, snacks, and music at the library. Grades 6 – 12. Registration is required.



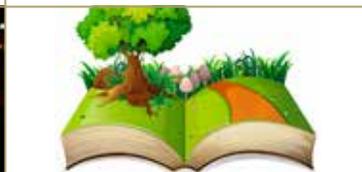
**Mon., December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt**  
6:00 - 6:30 p.m.  
Washington Park

Bundle up, grab a flashlight, and join the Park District at Washington Park for a candy cane hunt! Pre-registration is required. For ages 1-14 years old; \$8 per child.



**Fri., December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Light Your Luminaria**  
5:00 p.m.  
Itasca Lions Club

Please light your candles at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> (the rain date is 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Day).



**Thurs., December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Picture Book Art Club**  
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Library

Make your own masterpiece based on a picture book at the library. Ages 4 – 8. Registration is required.



**Tues., January 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Diary of a Wimpy Kid Party**  
4:00 - 4:45 p.m.  
Library

Join the library for *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* activities, a craft, and more. Grades 2 – 8. Registration is required.



**Mon., January 10<sup>th</sup> - February 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Drop-In Family Storytime**  
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
Library

Join the library for stories, songs, and more at this in-person storytime on Mondays. Geared to ages 6 & under. No registration is needed.



# Celebrate Our Community



**Mon., January 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Jump into Genealogy**  
7:00 p.m.  
Library

Discover how to find your ancestors' stories at the library. Registration is required.



**Wed., January 12<sup>th</sup> - March 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Virtual Zoom Tales**  
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.  
Library

Join the library for a weekly virtual storytime over Zoom on Wednesdays. Ages 6 & under. Registration is required.



**Wed., January 12<sup>th</sup> & February 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Teen Craft Club**  
4:00-4:45 p.m.  
Library

Join in the creative fun at the library at this monthly club for teens. Geared towards grades 6 - 12. Registration is required.



**Mon., January 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wills and Trusts**  
7:00 p.m.  
Library

Attorneys from Knauf Law PC will share information at the library on the importance of wills and trusts. Registration is required.



**Thurs., January 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Picture Book Art Club**  
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Library

Make your own masterpiece based on a picture book at the library. Ages 4 - 8. Registration is required.



**Thurs., January 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Financial Planning**  
7:00 p.m.  
Library

Shawn Block of Briggs Financial, Inc. will be at the library to discuss financial planning to build a better 2022. Registration is required.



**Sat., January 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Disney Characters on Ice**  
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
Itasca Park District Ice Rink

Skate alongside Elsa and Anna! Giggle with Olaf! Pre-registration is required. \$8 for residents and \$10 for non-residents.



**Mon., January 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Food for Thought Recipe Club**  
7:00 p.m.  
Library

Make a recipe on the theme from a cookbook at the library, and then share your experience with fellow cooks. Registration is required.



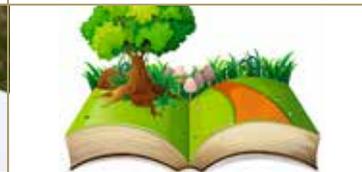
**Tues., January 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Virtual Teen Cooking Club**  
6:30 - 7:15 p.m.  
Library

Make a recipe with the library in your own kitchen on Zoom. Grades 6 - 12. Registration is required.



**Mon., February 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**DIY Self-Care Spa**  
7:00 p.m.  
Library

Treat yourself to a night of self-care at the library. Registration is required.



**Thurs., February 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Picture Book Art Club**  
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Library

Make your own masterpiece based on a picture book at the library. Ages 4 - 8. Registration is required.



**Tues., March 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Organizing 101: Spring Cleaning**  
7:00 p.m.  
Library

Professional organizer Jennifer Barnes will be at the library to share basic organizing principles. Registration is required.

## Itasca Holiday Drive-Thru Tree Lighting Celebration

Start the holiday season with the Village and the Park District with our 2<sup>nd</sup> drive-thru Holiday Tree Lighting celebration on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Holiday music, gift bags for the kids, cookies for the family, Santa, and a special mystery attraction will be along this holiday celebration route.

Please help Santa's elves collect new and unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots Foundation. Last year, the Park District donated three full truckloads of toys. Let's see if we can deliver more this year! The celebration route begins at the intersection of Center and Maple Streets, then proceeds south on Maple, through SD10/Metra Parking Lot, east on Orchard, and north on Walnut. As this is a drive-thru only event, please remember the following guidelines:

- Please remain in your vehicle; no walk-ups will be permitted.
- Display # of kids in the vehicle on the driver's side.
- Wear face coverings when interacting with Santa's helpers.





## Itasca Park District Ice Rink

The Itasca Park District outdoor ice rink will be returning this winter. The rink will be located at the Itasca Softball Complex at 704 N. Rohlwing Road. The ice rink will be open daily from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. for free. Please check the flagpole and display board outside the softball complex for skating conditions. Skating conditions will also be made available on the Itasca Park District hotline at (630) 616-7558 and online at [www.itascaparkdistrict.com](http://www.itascaparkdistrict.com).

## Itasca Lions Club Christmas Luminaria

The Itasca Lions are proud to continue the tradition of the Christmas Luminaria, which started in Itasca back in 1960 by Boyd and Barbara Hindman. Luminaria have their origin in Mexico, and it was the Hindmans who lit the first Christmas Eve Luminaria in the area. The tradition of candle-lit bags lining the walkways and streets on Christmas Eve is symbolic of the “Lighting of the Christ Child’s” way home.

The Lions will distribute the Luminaria at the Itasca Village Hall parking lot on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please light your candles at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> (rain date is 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Day). In 2020, a drone was used to take pictures and a video of the Luminaria as it appears from above. If conditions permit, this may be done again in 2021. All photographs and videos will be made available for public viewing after the event.

The Lions of Itasca appreciate any and all donations for the Luminaria. Donations may be made at pickup, Venmo @ ItascaLionsTreasurer, or via mail. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of residents, Luminaria donations have allowed the Lions Club to continue its mission of helping those in need throughout the Itasca community.

## Winter Fun in Itasca

One of the most tranquil settings during the winter season is the Springbrook Nature Center. The Springbrook Nature Center is located at 130 Forest Avenue. Take a walk around the grounds and enjoy wildlife, informational signage, and the Wings and Talons raptors in the mews. The Nature Center building is open on Saturdays & Sundays from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Take a look at all the new animal and educational exhibits on display.

The Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary on 704 N. Rohlwing Road is open every day, sunrise to sunset! Check out the 1/3-mile accessible loop through the marsh and woods. The Dog Park Barking Lot, located next to the Softball Complex and Bird Sanctuary, is also open year-round for free.

## Heard a Hoo

If you are fortunate enough to hear the hooting of owls this time of year, you may be hearing a pair of Great Horned Owls paring up before nesting season. Great Horned owls are the first species of raptor to nest starting in January and February. Owls don’t build a nest; instead, they tend to take over nests from other species, such as Red-Tailed Hawks, or use tree cavities, dead snags, or even human-made platforms.



Want to see owls up close? Visit Springbrook Nature Center to see the resident birds of prey. 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.

itasca Lions

@itascalionstreasurer



venmo





## Naughty or Nice? A Guide to Holiday Recycling

Republic Service has created a “Naughty or Nice” list to answer your recycling questions for those looking to dispose of their holiday wrappings and decorations.

### Naughty

*(not recyclable items)*

- Bubble wrap *(consider reusing)*
- Foam peanuts *(some UPS stores will accept and reuse)*
- Ribbon and bows *(consider reusing)*
- Anything on the tree
- Sticky gift labels
- Gift bags if coated, laminated, dyed
- Metallic wrapping paper *(consider reusing)*
- Soiled disposable tableware

### Nice

- Gift boxes
- Tissue paper
- Shoe boxes
- Gift bags *(if paper)*
- Holiday cards/envelopes

## Christmas Tree Disposal



With a bit of imagination, your Christmas tree can be used for a multitude of purposes after the holidays are over, such as mulch, winter wreaths, coasters, ornaments, and potpourri.

If you do not wish to repurpose your tree, Republic Services will pick up Christmas trees (no artificial trees) on your regular garbage day during the first two weeks of January. All trees must be free of ornaments, garlands, lights, tinsel, etc. Trees should be placed in the parkway next to your garbage with the trunk facing the street. Wreaths, garland, and natural décor will not be picked up. Residents should contact Republic Service at (847) 981-0091 with any questions about tree pickup or holiday service.

## Police Department Shows their Support

In October, the Itasca Police Department joined in the fight against breast cancer by displaying breast cancer awareness pins. The pin adorned the uniform of all officers below their names on the flap of the uniform shirt pocket. Director O'Connor stated, “The intent of the pin was to raise awareness, show support for survivors, and remember those who have lost their lives to this disease.”



For more information about breast cancer risk and prevention, visit the American Cancer Society website at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

## Library Offers New Streaming Service

The Itasca Community Library now offers access to a new streaming service by using your library card. Kanopy is a free resource that provides access to over 30,000 movies and Great Courses that can be streamed right to your device or computer. Kanopy Kids is a collection of movies and shows for kids. Download Kanopy to almost any device that supports apps. Find it on the library’s digital page at [www.itascalibrary.org/ematerials](http://www.itascalibrary.org/ematerials). It’s as simple as downloading, signing in, and enjoying! Call the library at (630) 773-1699 if you have any questions.



## Holiday Safety Tips



The winter holidays are a magical and fun time of the year for everyone! Keep safe this holiday season by following these safety tips from the Fire District and Police Department:

### Holiday Decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations; some decorations are meant for outdoor use only. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Water live Christmas trees daily and keep away from heat sources.
- Use LED candles.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.

### Holiday Entertaining

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles. Also, keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.

### Holiday Entertaining

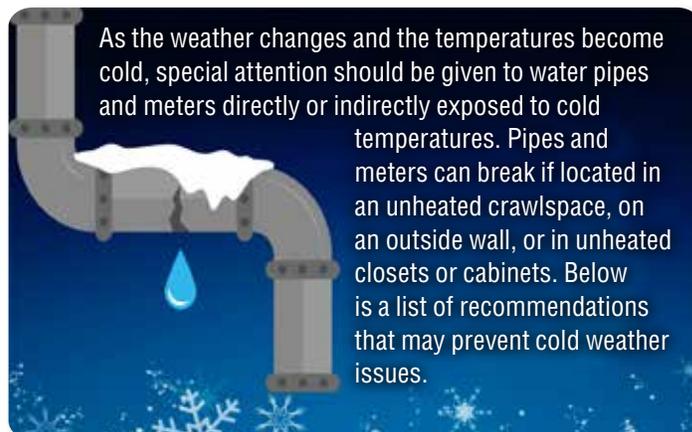
- When shopping locally this holiday season, try to use checks or credit cards whenever possible.
- If using cash this season, keep your bills flat in a wallet, so you can count it without taking it out of your wallet.
- If you must temporarily leave gifts in your car, lock purchases in the trunk, but remove them as soon as you can.



## Staying Active this Winter

With winter just around the corner, that doesn't mean you have to stay bundled up indoors! This winter season, take the opportunity to explore the things in Itasca you haven't experienced yet, or revisit things you haven't done in a while, like the Laiche family who enjoys getting out and sledding each year. Winter sports not your thing? Go enjoy a delicious meal at Casale's or Antonio's using your Itasca Bucks!

## Prepare Your Pipes for Winter



As the weather changes and the temperatures become cold, special attention should be given to water pipes and meters directly or indirectly exposed to cold temperatures. Pipes and meters can break if located in an unheated crawlspace, on an outside wall, or in unheated closets or cabinets. Below is a list of recommendations that may prevent cold weather issues.

- Ensure your water meter is in an area that will receive circulated heat by opening cabinets, closets, or access panel doors to allow room heat to circulate.
- Insulate around water pipes and water meters if located in an unventilated area.
- Avoid turning off or lowering your heat in your home below 55 degrees if you are leaving for extended periods of time.

### *How do you know that you have a frozen pipe?*

When you open your faucet and only a small trickle comes out and slows to a complete loss of water, you may have a frozen pipe. You can isolate the location by opening the other faucets in your home and observing the flow at each faucet. If every faucet is the same, you most likely have a frozen water service line, which you should call Public Works to assist you with. During regular business hours, Public Works can be reached at (630) 773-2455. For calls after 3:30 p.m. or on the weekends, please call the police non-emergency number at (630) 773-1004.

## Adopt a Fire Hydrant Near Your Home

As the winter season approaches and the possibility of snow increases, please remember to shovel your walkways, but also remember to shovel around your local hydrants! This makes it easier for firefighters to find and access a hydrant in a fire emergency. Remember, in an emergency, every second counts.



**Keep snow and ice 3 feet away from fire hydrants.**

In case of fire, firefighters need to be able to get to the hydrants quickly to protect people and property.

U.S. Fire Administration FEMA



## Elm Street Storm Project

Public Works is pleased to report that the Village has awarded the Roadway and Storm Sewer Improvement Project to DiMeo Brothers, Inc. The project will include the installation of a new storm sewer, replacing a water main, reconstruction of roadways to include curb and gutters along streets that do not currently have curb and gutters, and resurfacing streets in the project area.

In an ongoing effort to improve the stormwater drainage throughout the community, the Village will be installing storm sewers in the area between North Street and Orchard Street and between Maple Avenue and Linden Street. There will be two main storm sewers that will be installed. One mainline will run along Elm Street from North Street to Orchard Street. The second mainline will run along Center Street from Maple Avenue to Walnut Street, continuing south on Walnut Street and east along Orchard Street.

Construction is scheduled to begin on Elm Street in early November and progress to Walnut Street in early 2022. Final paving and restoration of the project area are proposed to occur in May. DiMeo Brothers Inc. will be responsible for snow and ice control in the construction area during the winter months. Please be aware, there will be various detours and road closures during the stages of construction. If you experience issues during construction or have any questions about the program, please contact Public Works at (630) 773-2455.

## Readying for Winter

Public Works is ready for another snow season. To prepare residents, the Village has put together some of the most frequently asked questions that the Village receives regarding snow plowing.

**Q: When does the Village begin spreading salt and plowing streets?**

A: When a snowstorm begins, the initial salt application is used to prevent icing conditions which lead to a more effective snow removal operation. Plowing generally begins when snow becomes more than two inches deep and when freezing temperatures indicate that no melting will occur. Due to ever-changing weather conditions, we are not able to give you an estimate of when your street will be cleared.

**Q: Why does my driveway get plowed in when a snowplow truck passes by my house?**

A: While it's frustrating to shovel your driveway only to have the plow come by and push snow back at the base, it is not feasible to plow the street so that your driveway remains completely "snow free." Plows push snow toward the curb, so with no barrier curb, a driveway opening will of course accept more snow. Roadway design, the type of equipment that is utilized, and the severity of snow events all factor into the size of the snow deposits left in the plows wake.

To minimize snow deposits left at the end of your driveway, try these following tips:

- Leave snow in place for the last foot of your driveway, until the Village's snowplowing is complete.
- When shoveling the end of the driveway near the street, place the snow to the right of the driveway (as you face the street). Snow piled on the left side adds to the amount that can be spread into the driveway.

## Lead Service Lines

The IEPA has approved the Village for 100% reimbursement of costs associated with replacing lead service lines throughout town.



Currently, Phase I has been approved for reimbursement from the IEPA, and Phase II is in the process of being approved. The reimbursement will cover the costs of replacing lead service lines from the water main, located near the roadway, to the water meter within the dwelling. The program will cover all work, including excavations, drywall repairs, flooring repairs, and repainting, at no cost to the homeowner.

During installation, a standard 1" copper service will be installed to replace all existing lead water services at no cost to the property owner. An optional upgrade to a 1.5" service line size will be offered to property owners at an incremental cost, which the property owners must agree to pay. If a property owner wishes to upgrade to a 1.5" service, they should be aware that there will be an increase on the OM&A on the monthly water bill of 50%.

The average cost per home to replace a lead service line is estimated to be \$8,000. Participation in the program is voluntary, but we strongly encourage residents to take advantage of this free service. Since this program is 100% funded through the State and many other communities also have lead service lines, there is no guarantee that the program will be available in outlying years.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Public Works at (630) 773-2455 or visit [www.itasca.com](http://www.itasca.com) to see if you are in the Phase I or Phase II area.

## Winter Cover Photo

### Winter Wonderland



This issue's cover photo was submitted by resident Julie Kurzac, who took this photo of her son James during the Park District's candyland event. Julie said, "We love our small town. It's beautiful in every season, it offers so much stuff for

the kids to do." If you, like Julie, 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](mailto:deputyclerk@itasca.com), along with details of who/what the photograph is of, when it was taken, and its meaning.

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

**Mayor**

Jeff Pruyn

**Village Clerk**

Jody Conidi

**Trustees**

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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



Village of Itasca

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**Take a StoryWalk® This Winter!**

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

The StoryWalk® this winter will feature Karma Wilson's picture book, *Bear Snores On*, and it will be at the loop right next to the Springbrook Nature Center building beginning early to mid-December. This project is sponsored by the library, Itasca Park District, Friends of the Itasca Community Library, and Friends of Springbrook Nature Center of Itasca. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

**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:**

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

**Thursday:**

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

**Friday:**

\*Committed to the Village immediately after  
No Meetings Scheduled