

Photo – Submitted by  
Michelle Laiche,  
Santa Time  
(p10)

# The Village News



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## Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

As we leave behind the mild fall weather, I am looking forward to winter gatherings and days filled with laughter as we celebrate the holiday season. I am blessed to live and work in a community that continues to grow and improve while honoring our identity.

Looking back, it was truly a productive year in the Village. In compiling this year's State of the Village address, it hit me just how much we accomplished. The Village has been very focused on cultivating growth and expansion opportunities this year in the community. In March, the Village Board adopted a Strategic Action Plan to encourage business and residential growth in downtown Itasca. Thank you to the residents who participated in developing this plan at various community workshops.

The Village Board and staff have already been hard at work pursuing projects and strategies that align with the recommendations in the plan. Currently, the Village has a purchase agreement with the owners of Kean's Bakery to buy the building when the time comes for their retirement, which has been extended from the original date of June 2022.

Another initiative designed to support our area businesses is our new Winter Wonderland celebration. Partnering with the Itasca Park District, we have transformed Usher Park into a Winter Wonderland from Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to stop by our beautifully decorated park to enjoy one of the many activities that have been scheduled to celebrate this new attraction.

Speaking of Usher Park, I have more good news to share. This past July, the Village purchased 102 E. Irving Park Road, which had sat vacant due to the prior owner's refusal to invest in the property and offer a fair market value lease. Rather than allow this important downtown gateway building to remain vacant, the Village Board stepped up and purchased the property. In September, the Village released a Request for Proposals for lease operators, which led to the selection of two finalists. I am pleased to announce that we are in the process of negotiating a lease agreement and hope to have the new tenant up and running by spring 2023.

Economic activity continues to remain strong, with the Village experiencing steady building permit activity. The Community Development Department has issued approximately 700 permits with a total investment in building construction of over \$150 million over the last

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## Mayor's Message Continued...

10 months. Of these, 295 are commercial permits. While we are pleased to see this activity, the impact of the pandemic on traditional retail and a tightening debt market has resulted in less investment in downtown areas. To encourage economic growth, the Village Board is currently exploring establishing one or more Tax Increment Financing Districts. More information on TIFs can be found on page 4.

The Village, also this year, continued to address stormwater and roadway infrastructure improvements. Work began on the northside of town to reduce flooding and better control stormwater flow by upsizing stormwater pipes and adding curb and gutter. Additionally, new sidewalks were completed to increase safety for pedestrians and students. The Village decided to proactively replace deteriorating water mains in the area, most over 80 years old. The project was completed late this summer and came under budget. Work also continues to occur on Bloomingdale Road. Construction on this project was due to be completed by winter, but a labor strike at gravel quarries this summer delayed the project, and a concrete shortage is now impacting the completion. We are pushing the contractor to open both lanes before winter sets in.

Next year, the Village will begin work on improvements to the

intersections of Park and Pierce and Park and Devon to reduce back-ups during rush hours and improve the functionality of Hamilton Lakes Business Park. Seventy percent of this \$3.6 million will be funded by competitive grant funds, which have been awarded to Itasca for the project. The Village received another grant from Invest in Cook for \$600,000 to help cover the local portion.

As you can see, Itasca has much to be grateful for. We live in one of the area's premier suburbs that offers a variety of high-quality amenities and services, excellent schools, and numerous parks and playgrounds. None of this is possible without the leadership of our Village Trustees, partnerships with the Itasca Park District, Itasca Community Library, and Fire District, and the dedication of Village staff.

This winter, I hope you take the opportunity to explore Itasca and enjoy all that we have. On Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, I will be hosting my quarterly Coffee with the Mayor series at Village Hall at 9:00 a.m. to discuss our plans for the upcoming year and answer any questions. I would like to thank Dunkin' Donuts's owner Amin Habib and his staff, for sponsoring the latest Coffee with the Mayor at their newly constructed Itasca location.

On behalf of the Itasca Village Board and staff, I wish you a safe and joyful holiday season!

## Administrator's Message

It's the most Wonderful Time of the Year! Oh, how I love the holidays. The smell of cookies baking, twinkling lights on trees and homes, gift giving...and so much more. It's also a perfect time to reflect on all our blessings over the past year, so instead of a message this month, I've written a gratitude letter for you.

Season's greetings, everyone.

This year, I'm especially grateful to see Itasca's new Winter Wonderland light display in Usher Park. The display and event were made possible thanks to the excellent partnership between the Village of Itasca and the Itasca Park District. The Village funded 70% of the new decorations with the Park District agreeing to pay the remaining 30%. Working together, it took Public Works crews and our partners more than 750 hours to spruce up the Village for the holidays this year.

In addition to decorating the Village, Public Works has been busy preparing equipment, vehicles, and facilities for winter snow. And when the snow begins falling, your Public Works team comes in at all hours of the day and night to clear snow and ice, so we can travel to gatherings with friends and family, go shopping, or drive to work or school. I am grateful for their service and dedication.

I'm also thankful for the men and women of the Itasca Police Department, who give up countless holidays and special days with their families to keep ours safe.

Currently, police departments throughout Illinois are facing staffing shortages, as retirements have amped up and fewer individuals are choosing to go into law enforcement in Illinois. To avoid a staffing shortage in Itasca, the Village Board authorized hiring an extra officer this past year in anticipation of upcoming retirements. This

fall, long-time Deputy Chief John Matuga announced his retirement, but thanks to the Board's foresight, Itasca remains fully staffed. I'm also thrilled that Itasca resident Tom Poulakidas has been selected as the new Deputy Chief.

Over the last 16 months, the Village has completely overhauled its main technology system. Originally, implemented in the early 1990s, the Village's previous database system still operated on a "green screen" platform. Administrative staff in Community Development, Finance, and Public Works spent the past few months converting old data files into a modern, cloud-based, technology platform. The new system improves data retention, streamlines data reporting, and allows seamless electronic transactions. Ultimately, this will increase efficiency and improve customer service. This process was not easy; I appreciate the efforts of all our staff, as we complete this difficult transition.

It's one thing for Itasca to come together for the good of our Village, it's quite another when our neighbors and other elected officials come alongside us. That is exactly what happened when Canadian Pacific revealed that its proposed merger with Kansas City Southern Railway would more than triple freight traffic on Itasca's rail line and could easily block every single Itasca crossing from Rohlwing Road to Prospect at once.

Earlier this year, all eight communities along the Metra line, from Bensenville to Elgin, joined Itasca in opposing the merger, as proposed. The communities formed the Coalition to Stop CPKC and I was selected to lead the Coalition. Shortly after, we were joined by DuPage County. Together, these governments pledged nearly \$1 million to ensure decision-makers in Washington D.C. are well aware of the impact that this merger will have on our communities. I



## Administrator's Message Continued...

continue to be overwhelmed with gratitude by their confidence and commitment.

In September, I had the honor of representing Itasca and the Coalition in Washington D.C. as I testified at a Surface Transportation Board hearing. Mayor Pruyn attended the hearing, as well, and met with our federal officials, Senators Durbin and Duckworth and Representative Krishnamoorthi. Each of them has wholeheartedly supported our efforts to stop this merger from dividing our community. Our federal officials have become our partners and advocates in this fight, and I am grateful for their support.

Residents of Itasca, I wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season and hope to see many of you at the upcoming holiday events happening in our community! It is my absolute privilege to serve you and your family, and I value each and every opportunity to connect with you.

With gratitude,  
Carie Anne Ergo



PS. Don't forget to visit the mailbox near the gazebo in Usher Park to mail your letter to Santa!

## New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements



Stacy Patrianakos

The Village is pleased to welcome two new full-time employees to our team. On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Stacy Patrianakos joined the Village as its new H.R. Generalist. Stacy brings over 20 years of private and public sector experience in talent acquisition, training, organizational design, and management. Stacy has a B.A. from Dominican University and is excited to continue on her path in Itasca.



Allison Grovak

The Village is also pleased to announce the recent hiring of Allison Grovak. She joined the Finance Department as the Administrative Assistant on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Allison will handle the Village's accounts payable and payroll in her new role. Previously, Allison worked as an Inventory Control Coordinator for 17 years at Van Son Holland Ink in Itasca. Allison has a bachelor's degree in Marketing from DeVry University.



John Matuga

It is with a mixture of happiness and sadness that the Village announces the retirement of John Matuga after 22 years of dedicated service to the Itasca Police Department. Deputy Chief Matuga joined the department in November of 2000. Throughout his career, he has held several appointments, including Sergeant, Deputy Chief of Administration, and Deputy Chief of Operations.

In 2017, Deputy Chief Matuga graduated from the prestigious Southern Police Institute's 138<sup>th</sup> Administrative Officers Course with the Dean's Scholar award for academic excellence.

Director of Police Robert O'Connor said, "I have enjoyed working with Deputy Chief Matuga over the years. John always kept the

## New Dare Officer



Marcus Devers

The DARE program serves as an educational tool in which the Police Department can speak to students about the perils of drugs and alcohol, bullying, and peer pressure. The DARE program prepares students to make good life decisions and deal with those difficult matters that present themselves as they go through their teen years.

The Itasca Police Department is proud to introduce its newest DARE officer, Marcus Devers. Officer Devers recently completed an in-depth two-week DARE curriculum. In his position, Officer Devers will educate students about making safe choices and staying drug-free.

When asked about what he learned, Officer Devers responded, "During the DARE course, I learned a lot about the importance of connecting with the youth and the impact my teaching might have on them. The instructors at my course were all current/former police officers with over 20+ years of teaching DARE in classrooms. I am grateful to have been able to absorb knowledge from their experience. DARE is more than just preventing children from staying away from drugs. DARE is about connecting, building, growing, and learning life lessons that even adults can use in everyday life. DARE is truly a useful tool that can educate children, and I am proud to be able to instruct this course and connect with Itasca's future."

residents and businesses of Itasca at the forefront of his decisions and worked tirelessly to put forth a solution to the matters that needed addressing. His bravery has kept us safe, and his service has made the community better, for which he will be greatly missed."

When asked about his time with the IPD, D.C. Matuga stated, "I feel very fortunate to have been allowed to serve the residents of this amazing community in so many ways. I will forever feel connected to the Village of Itasca and those who work and reside here. Thank you for allowing me to fulfill such an important and meaningful role."

Please join the Village in congratulating Deputy Chief Matuga on his years of dedicated service and wishing him well in his new endeavors.



## Home Safety Visits

As we prepare to spend more time inside due to declining temperatures, make sure your home is ready for potential emergencies with a free home visit from the Itasca Fire District.

In conjunction with the home safety visits, the Fire District is also installing free smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are provided courtesy of Itasca Bank & Co. To schedule a complimentary safety visit with the Fire District, please call (630) 773-1223 today..



## Itasca Police Department Survey



The Itasca Police Department is committed to ensuring public safety through law enforcement, education, and exceptional service. Recently, the department released an online survey

to assess the Itasca Police Department and thereby measure the public sentiment, views, and opinions on how the police department is perceived, as well as look for ways to improve.

Director O'Connor is pleased to report that 53% of respondents rated the department's overall performance as excellent. Another 59% rated employees as courteous and professional, which is not surprising due to the department's strong leadership and commitment to adhering to the best law enforcement practices.

Please join us in thanking the men and women of the Itasca Police Department for serving us so courageously and professionally every day.

## Stay Connected

The Village of Itasca provides many forms of communication to Village residents and businesses through our website, social media, and quarterly newsletter. We are happy to announce a new platform – residents can now livestream the Village Board and Committee of the Whole meetings through the Village's YouTube channel. You can find the link on the Village's website or simply search YouTube for "Village of Itasca."

Residents can also stay up to date by signing up for CodeRED. CodeRED is a notification system that allows emergency response personnel to send out notifications to residents and business owners. Messages regarding emergencies, important community events, and road closures will be disseminated via phone, text, or email. Please take a moment to go online and fill out the appropriate information to be notified at: [www.public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/04322AC12417](http://www.public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/04322AC12417)

## Itasca Assessing the Feasibility of a TIF District

The Village has recently retained Kane, McKenna, and Associates (KMA) to assess the feasibility of a potential TIF district in the downtown area and at the intersection of Irving Park Road and Rohlwing Road. The Downtown Itasca Strategic Plan, adopted in early 2022, calls for public investment to assist with developing and redeveloping opportunity sites. The Downtown Plan specifically calls for considering financial incentives, including a TIF district, to attract developers and businesses into downtown Itasca.

### What is a TIF District?

Illinois law allows units of local governments to designate areas within their jurisdiction as Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts. These districts dedicate sales tax revenues and additional property tax revenues generated within the TIF for improvements within the district to encourage new economic development and job creation. Funds may be used for costs associated with developing or redeveloping property within the TIF, to encourage the economic vitality of an area.

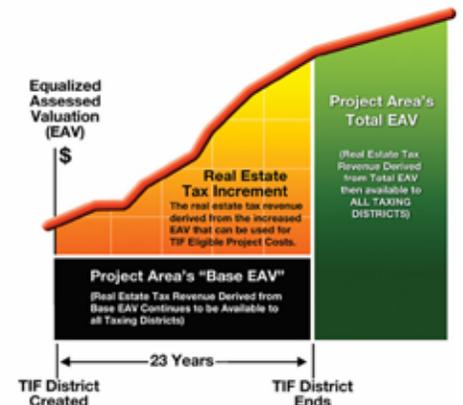
### Projects in TIF districts typically include:

- Redevelopment of substandard, obsolete, or vacant buildings
- Financing public infrastructure improvements, including streets, sewer, and water, in declining areas
- Cleaning up polluted areas
- Improving the viability of downtown business districts; rehabilitating historic properties
- Providing infrastructure needed to develop a site for new industrial or commercial use

TIF is an economic development tool used by units of local governments across Illinois to create momentum in the targeted redevelopment areas. Importantly, a TIF District does not raise taxes. The maximum life of a TIF District is 23 years. For further information, contact Community Development Director Vijay Gadde at (630) 228-5671.

## How Does Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Work?

- Real Estate Tax Increment (RETI) results from an increase in Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) above the Base EAV that occurs during the life of the TIF District.
- Annual increases in EAV are then multiplied by the total real estate tax rate.
- The County sends RETI to Municipality for deposit to a Special Tax Allocation Fund.





# Business Spotlight

The Village of Itasca is proud to be the home of the corporate office and logistics centers of AIT Worldwide Logistics at 701 N. Rohlwing Rd. AIT Worldwide Logistics is a freight forwarding company that provides sea, air, and ground freight transportation. AIT has more than 100 locations across three continents in Asia, Europe, and North America, with over 60 locations in the United States.



*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.*



AIT provides solutions for companies of all sizes, from multinational operations to grassroot startups. AIT services the aerospace, automotive, consumer retail, food logistics, government, healthcare, industrial, life sciences, and technology industries.

AIT's culture also extends into charity. In 2017, AIT selected St. Jude Children's Hospital Research Hospital as the company's flagship alliance, which has continued a successful partnership for six years now. Since the decision to support St. Jude, the company

has raised nearly \$400,000 in funds to support the hospital's effort in fighting pediatric cancer.

AIT Worldwide Logistics' commitment to its business, clients, and employees has resulted in the company being awarded the Forbes 2022 American's Best Midsize Employers Award. AIT was also ranked #33 on Crain's Chicago Business Fast 50 list, a list of the 50 fastest-growing organizations in the Chicagoland area.

To learn more about AIT Worldwide Logistics, go to [www.aitworldwide.com](http://www.aitworldwide.com). For job opportunities, go to [www.aitworldwide.com/job-openings](http://www.aitworldwide.com/job-openings).



*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:

**Bulldog Cartage – 1549 Glenlake Ave.**

A subsidiary of Porter Pipe & Supply, Bulldog Cartage services the construction and manufacturing industry by staging, providing storage of construction materials, and delivering supplies and materials to construction sites. To learn more about the services offered, go to [www.bulldogcartage.com](http://www.bulldogcartage.com).

**Vivant Medspa – 127 N. Walnut Ave.**

Vivant Medspa, located in downtown Itasca provides cosmetology and body contouring services, including injectable services, facials, non-invasive body contouring, IV therapy, consultation, and cosmetology product sales. To learn more about the services they provide, go to [www.vivantmedspa.com](http://www.vivantmedspa.com).

**Beauty for You Salon – 1250 W. Irving Park Rd.**

Beauty for You Salon provides salon and hair-cutting services for men, women, and children. Services also include hair coloring, highlights, and up-dos. To learn more about the services provided, stop by the salon!

**Alpha Reading Center – 400 N. Walnut St.**

Alpha Reading Center provides tutoring/education instruction and support services to students of various ages. Located just outside downtown Itasca, Alpha Reading Center is close to many of Itasca's local schools. To learn more about the services provided by Alpha Reading Center, go to [www.alphareadingcenter.com](http://www.alphareadingcenter.com).

## Energy Assistance Applications Now Accepted

To assist with home heating and energy bills during the winter months, applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are being accepted for seniors (60+), people with disabilities, individuals who have been disconnected from services, and households with children ages 5 and under. Program benefits are paid directly to the utilities on behalf of eligible households. Individuals must qualify to receive assistance and provide a variety of documentation, such as a social security card, proof of income, a lease, and current electric or heating bills. For more information, contact DuPage County at (630) 968-2087 or visit [www.dupageco.org/LIHEAP/](http://www.dupageco.org/LIHEAP/).



# 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).



**Sat., December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Luminaria Pick-Up**  
Itasca Village Hall  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join 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).



**Wed., December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Free Pictures with Santa**  
Usher Park  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Santa will be at Usher Park Gazebo. Please bring your camera to capture this special moment. The Itasca Park District will collect toys for Toys for Tots and non-perishable goods for the Itasca Food Pantry.



**Sat., December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Free Pictures with Santa**  
Usher Park  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Santa will be at Usher Park Gazebo. Please bring your camera to capture this special moment. The Itasca Park District will collect toys for Toys for Tots and non-perishable goods for the Itasca Food Pantry.



**Mon., December 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt**  
Washington Park  
6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

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, \$10 per child.



**Tues., December 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Family Fun**  
Library  
4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Come to the library for Christmas stories, crafts, and other activities. For all ages. Registration is required.



**Tues., December 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Holiday Movies and Music**  
Library  
7:00 p.m.

Host John LeGear showcases memorable holiday moments and songs from classic and popular films. Registration is required.



**Wed., December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Free Pictures with Santa**  
Usher Park  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Santa will be at Usher Park Gazebo. Please bring your camera to capture this special moment. The Itasca Park District will collect toys for Toys for Tots and non-perishable goods for the Itasca Food Pantry.



**Wed., December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Adult Board Game Night**  
Library  
7:00 p.m.

Learn the rules of a new board game and play together with other board game fans. For ages 18+.



**Fri., December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Breakfast with the Grinch**  
Itasca Rec Center  
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Get ready for some holiday cheer. There will be crafts and games, a watching of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and a special appearance of the Grinch himself! Registration required.



**Sat., December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Light Your Luminaria**  
Itasca Lions Club  
5:00 p.m.

Please light your candles at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The rain date is 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Day.



**Tues., December 27<sup>th</sup>**

**DIY Cardboard Gingerbread House**  
Library  
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Design and decorate your own cardboard gingerbread house and snack on gingerbread house candy. For grades 6-12. Registration is required.



**Sat., January 14<sup>th</sup>**

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

Enjoy a cup of coffee with Mayor Pruyn as he talks about upcoming projects and plans for the Village. Event is free and open to all.



**Sat., January 14<sup>th</sup>**

**The Reluctant Cook: Preparing Quick Plant-Based Meals**  
Library  
10:00 a.m.

Joan Davis, RN, MS, will share tips on streamlining your kitchen time and putting together delicious plant-based recipes (with samples!). Registration is required.



**Sat., January 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Winterfest**  
Springbrook Nature Center  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Celebrate the winter season at the Nature Center. There will be snowshoes available to use, dog sledding demonstrations, crafts, a bonfire with s'mores, Wings & Talons Birds of Prey, and more.



**Wed., January 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Make It!**  
Library  
4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Relax after school, create something fun, and enjoy a snack. For grades 6-12. Registration is required.



**Wed., January 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Adult Board Game Night**  
Library  
7:00 p.m.

Learn the rules of a new board game and play together with other board game fans. For ages 18+.



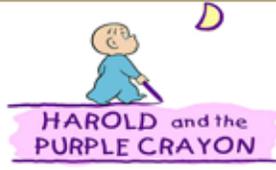
# Celebrate Our Community



**Sat., January 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Disney Characters on Ice**  
Itasca Park District Ice Rink  
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Skate alongside Elsa and Anna! Giggle with Olaf! Pre-registration is required. \$10 for residents and \$12 for non-residents.



**Thurs., January 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Imagine with...Harold and the Purple Crayon**

Library  
4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate the new movie at the library with Harold stories and activities. Geared to ages 4 - 8. Registration is required.



**Tues., January 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Baby-Sitters Club**

Library  
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Come to the library for *Baby-Sitters Club* activities, including making your very own Kid Kit. For grades 3 - 8. Registration is required.



**Wed., February 15<sup>th</sup>**

**This...Is...Jeopardy!**

Library  
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate the release of the book *Who Was Alex Trebek?* with *Jeopardy!*-style trivia and activities. For grades 3-6. Registration is required.



**Wed., February 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Adult Board Game Night**

Library  
7:00 p.m.

Learn the rules of a new board game and play together with other board game fans. For ages 18+.



**Tues., February 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Breast Health Basics**

Library  
7:00 p.m.

Community Outreach RN Michelle Schlieben from Northwestern Medicine presents breast health basics in this Zoom program. Registration is required.



**Wed., February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Make It!**

Library  
4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Relax after school, create something fun, and enjoy a snack. For grades 6-12. Registration is required.



**Thurs., February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**In the Belly of the Beast: King in Chicago**

Library  
7:00 p.m.

Clarence Goodman will entertain and inform in this presentation about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legendary connections to Chicago. Registration is required.

## Thank You Enesco



Globally recognized for its quality, originality, and sentiment, Enesco, LLC is a global leader in the gift, home décor, personalized accessory, and merchandise industries. Serving markets in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia, Itasca is fortunate to have Enesco's

North American headquarters here in Itasca. In 1995 they moved from Elk Grove to 225 Windsor Drive, Itasca.

For over 60 years, they have introduced us to unique and beloved gift and

home décor products. Department 56, Disney Traditions, Jim Shore, and Things Remembered are just a few of their brands. Check out all that they have to offer at [www.shop.enesco.com](http://www.shop.enesco.com).

As a member of the Itasca business community, Enesco has been extremely generous in helping the Itasca Food Pantry with its annual food drive and adopting families for the Christmas Wish Program, thus enabling children to have a merry Christmas.

Please join us in thanking Enesco and all our local businesses, who make Itasca a wonderful place to work and live in.

If you have a business or organization you would like to recognize for contributing to our community, please contact [deputyclerk@itasca.com](mailto:deputyclerk@itasca.com).

## 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 and will open daily for free. Please check the flagpole and display board outside the softball complex for skating conditions. Skating conditions will also be available on the Itasca Park District hotline at (630) 616-7558 and online at [www.itascaparkdistrict.com](http://www.itascaparkdistrict.com).





## Gift Big, Shop Small, Shop Itasca

Residents are encouraged to shop, dine, and take advantage of holiday events in Itasca this winter! We have a wide variety of locally owned and operated businesses, all of which can provide a personalized and unique experience for all. Shopping in the community offers the convenience of traveling shorter distances to make purchases and can provide the added benefit of meeting and getting to know the owners of Itasca businesses. It also helps keep sales tax dollars within the community, allows businesses to thrive, and provides revenue to support Village services, such as emergency services and road maintenance.

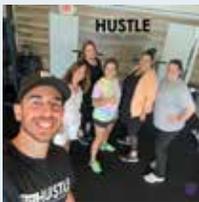
Remember, many of our local businesses contribute to our community in various ways, through sponsorships, hosting fundraisers, and other enriching events, making Itasca a wonderful place to live and work. So, let's show them support this holiday season by shopping locally. To get you started, here are some local businesses that are eager to help you find that perfect gift for your family or yourself.



### Hair Goddess

213 N. Catalpa Avenue

Let Hair Goddess help you look your best this holiday season. Offering cuts, coloring, and waxing, you will surely leave feeling more beautiful than when you came in. For more information, please visit [www.hairgoddess.glossgenius.com/](http://www.hairgoddess.glossgenius.com/).



### Hustle Personal Training

419 W. Irving Park Road

Offering small group personal training, Hustle makes each workout fun and exciting. A gift of a membership is a perfect present for anyone active in your life. For more information, please visit [www.HustlePersonalTraining.com/](http://www.HustlePersonalTraining.com/).



### The Finer Line

1701 Glenlake Avenue

The Finer Line is your one-stop source for all things personalized. Whether you're looking for the perfect award or engraving to give that gift a heartfelt touch, they will go above and beyond to fulfill your vision. For more information, please visit [www.finerline.com/](http://www.finerline.com/).



### Royal Pet Grooming

1213 W. Irving Park Road

Keep your favorite four-legged friend looking good this holiday season with a grooming session at Royal Pet Grooming. To schedule a session, call them at (630) 773-8677.

## Angela Dominguez Author Visit



The Roselle Public Library will host award-winning author/illustrator Angela Dominguez on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Lake Park High School West Auditorium, 500 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Roselle. The program will be presented in conjunction with Bloomingdale Public Library, Itasca Community Library, Bloomingdale-

Roselle Kiwanis, and Roselle Fine Arts Academy. There will be a "how to draw" portion of the presentation, and Angela will be available to sign books after her presentation. Books will be available for sale thanks to assistance from Barnes & Noble.

This event was made possible by the Maureen Hayes Author/Illustrator Award to Roselle Public Library. They received an amount of up to \$4,000 from the Association of Library Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association, and Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. Additionally, Lake Park High School, Bloomingdale Public Library, Itasca Community Library, Bloomingdale-Roselle Kiwanis, and Roselle Fine Arts Academy provided support for this event.

## Christmas Tree Decorating Contest

The Christmas trees are back at the Itasca Community Library! This year's theme is *Itasca, Small and Quaint*. Tour the library in December to see the Christmas trees beautifully decorated by local schools and organizations. We hope you will participate by casting your vote for the best decorated tree based on creativity and originality. Itasca Bank & Trust Co. has generously agreed to be once again the sponsor of the prize money for the winning trees. Winners will be decided by popular vote; voting can be done either in person or online at [www.itascalibrary.org](http://www.itascalibrary.org) starting December 1<sup>st</sup>. Winners will be announced on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## CPR Classes

Did you know that bystander CPR is the best way to increase the survivability of a victim? The Itasca Fire District does, which is why they offer CPR classes for the public and businesses within the district.

If you are interested in signing up for a CPR class or would like to explore options for your business, contact Captain John Raschke at (630) 773-1223 or [JRaschke@itascafd.org](mailto:JRaschke@itascafd.org) with any questions or to schedule a class. There is a minimum of 5 people per class, but you can still sign-up as an individual, and the Fire District will contact you when a course becomes available.



## Itasca Lions Club Christmas Luminarias



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 originates from Mexico, with the Hindmans first lighting the Christmas Eve Luminaria in the area. The tradition of candle-lit bags lining the walkways and streets on Christmas

Eve symbolizes 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 10<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). A drone will take pictures and a video of the Luminaria as it appears from above. All photographs and videos will be 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.

## Take a StoryWalk® This Winter!

The 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 readers to follow along with a story by walking.



The StoryWalk® this winter will feature Kate Messner’s picture book, *Over and Under the Snow*. It will be at the loop right next to the Springbrook Nature Center building starting in late January. 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 in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

## Great Backyard Bird Count

Become part of a global event without leaving the comfort of your home. Each year, for four days, people worldwide look for birds in their backyards and count how many birds they see. These observations help scientists better understand global bird population trends and geography.



Whether you count one bird or hundreds, participating is easy and fun for all ages! The Great Backyard Bird Count will take place the weekend of February 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All you have to do is submit your bird sightings in your yards to eBird, an international database of bird sightings.

To learn more about citizen science initiatives and other ways to help raptors in your local environment, stop by Springbrook Nature Center to visit with Wings and Talons volunteers or email them at [info@wingsandtalons.org](mailto:info@wingsandtalons.org).



## Making a Difference

The Village would like to acknowledge and thank Itasca Bank & Trust Co., for their years of sponsorship of community events, such as Shape of Itasca, National Night Out, Ice Cream with the Police and Fire Departments, the library’s Christmas Tree Decorating contest, and the Winter Wonderland Santa mailbox, just to name a few. We are grateful to have such a strong community minded business in town, that actively contributes to our small town charm. Thank you for all that you do for us!



**ITASCA CARES**  
Lending a Local Hand

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

The Itasca Fire District will also collect new and unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots Foundation until December 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Naughty or Nice? A Guide to Holiday Recycling

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

### 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

## Recycling Plastic Bags

So, you get all your holiday shopping done, get the presents wrapped, and put under the tree. But what should you do with all of the plastic bags and film wrap? Should you just throw it out since refuse companies are no longer collecting them in recycling bins?



Bags and film wrap are considered “contamination” at a materials recovery facility where recyclables are processed, because they get tangled in the equipment. Plastic film is soft, flexible polyethylene (P.E.) packaging. Examples include:

- Retail, carry out, produce, newspaper, bread, and dry-cleaning bags
- Zip-top food storage bags
- Plastic shipping envelopes (with labels removed), bubble wrap, and deflated air pillows
- Product wrap on cases of water/soda bottles, paper towels, napkins, disposable cups, and bathroom tissue

The good news is plastic bags and film wraps can still be recycled, just not with traditional curbside recycling programs. More than 18,000 locations across the U.S. and Canada, including Wood Dale’s Jewel and Target, and Addison’s Walmart, all have drop-off spots. To learn more about plastic bags and film, including which types you can recycle and where to recycle them, go to [www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org).

## Itasca Police Department Suspends Parking Enforcement for the Holidays

As a courtesy to residents and their overnight guests, overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced from Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, until Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. However, we ask residents to continue to observe no parking near fire hydrants or after 2” of snowfall.

## Winter Cover Photo

### Winter Fun



This edition’s cover photo was submitted by resident Michelle Laiche, who took this photo of her daughter Emily visiting Santa at the Nature Center. According to Michelle, it is a “wonderful setup to have his sleigh outside. It gets us in the Christmas spirit.”

If you, like Michelle, have a great photo of what life is like in Itasca and would like to have it considered for our newsletter, please submit it to [deputyclerk@itasca.com](mailto:deputyclerk@itasca.com), along with details of who/what the photograph is of, when it was taken, and its meaning.

## 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. Bundle up like resident Buddy Mode and 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. Be sure to look at all the animal and educational exhibits on display.





## Readying for Winter

Winter is here, and the Village's Public Works Department is committed to keeping motorists safe on the Village's roadways throughout the winter 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 leads to a more effective snow removal operation. Plowing generally begins when snow becomes more than two inches deep, and freezing temperatures indicate no melting will occur.

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

A: 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 utilized, and the severity of snow events all factor into the size of the snow deposits left in the plow's wake.

To minimize snow deposits left at the end of your driveway, try the 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 road). Snow piled on the left side adds to the amount that can be spread into the driveway.

**Q: Are there on-street parking restrictions during a snowfall?**

A: Yes, vehicles must be removed from the street when a snowfall of two or more inches occurs to allow the plows to clear the street.

**Q: How much salt should I use on my residential driveway?**

A: Don't overuse salt! Once dissolved, salt washes into soil and permanently pollutes our water. One pound of salt (approximately one coffee mug) is enough for a residential driveway, and a hand-held spreader helps to distribute it equally.

## 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 questions about tree pickup or holiday service.



## Preparing for Winter: Outdoor Faucet and Sprinkler Winterization

If you haven't done so already, it is time to winterize your lawn irrigation systems, outside hose bibs, and faucets. Lawn irrigation systems require a backflow preventer per the Village's Cross Connection Control



Ordinance. If your backflow preventer is outdoors, remember to remove and store it somewhere warm for the winter. Allowing it to freeze is a costly mistake. Remember where you stored it, as you will need to give the backflow preventer to your lawn irrigation contractor or plumber next spring to reinstall it. The Illinois Plumbing Code requires that your backflow preventer be tested immediately upon reinstallation of your backflow preventer every season. Annual tests must be performed by a certified tester and be submitted to the Village of Itasca's Cross Connection Control Program contractor, BSI, for compliance. Any questions can be directed to the Village of Itasca Public Works Department at (630) 773-2455.

## Adopt a Fire Hydrant

As the winter season approaches and the possibility of snow increases, please remember to shovel your walkways and 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.

You can do several things to help keep the fire hydrant near your home in working order and ready for emergency use.

- Throw snow in a direction away from the fire hydrant.
- If snow accumulates around the hydrant, shovel a path around the hydrant.
- For visibility, keep the snow level below the top of the hydrant.
- If the hydrant has water or ice coming from one of the hose connections, notify Public Works immediately, as it is a sign the fire hydrant is leaking. If not corrected, the cold weather will turn the hydrant into an ice cube, making it useless to everyone.

**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

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

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**Village Clerk**

Jody Conidi

**Trustees**

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Carie Anne Ergo

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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**

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**April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Election Packets**

The next local consolidated general election will occur on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Village of Itasca residents interested in becoming a candidate for municipal or library board positions may pick up a candidate's packet at the Village Clerk's Office, located within Itasca's Village Hall. All offices are four-year terms and start May 2023. Candidates must file their nominating papers with the Office of the Village Clerk during the filing period, which is December 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The DuPage County Election Department can assist you with questions about precincts or general election questions at (630) 407-5600 or visit [www.dupageco.org/election](http://www.dupageco.org/election). The State Board of Elections may be reached at (217) 782-4141. All suggested election forms are available online at [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov). It is recommended that candidates running for office consult with an attorney on questions regarding election codes, requirements, etc.

**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:**

No Meetings Scheduled

\*Committee of the Whole immediately after