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Michelle Laiche,
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The Village News



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Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

As we embark on the sun-filled season of summer, I find myself filled with a deep appreciation for our beautiful town of Itasca and the countless opportunities it provides to enjoy the outdoors. From lush parks to scenic trails, our community truly comes alive during this time of year, and I encourage each and every one of you to take full advantage of all that Itasca has to offer.

I would like to thank everyone who made the recent Shape of Itasca a resounding success. The strong turnout was a testament to the incredible spirit of unity that defines our community. I'm proud to be part of a town that cares so deeply about its future. For those unable to join us in person, a recording of the event is available on the Village's YouTube channel.

In light of the concerns raised by residents regarding water and sewer bills, I strongly advocated freezing the current rates while the Village conducts a comprehensive water rate study. The purpose of the study is to ensure future rates are equitable and sustainable. I am pleased to inform you that during the May Village Board meeting, the Board agreed to forgo a water rate increase for this year. As a result, water and sewer rates will remain unchanged for a full 28 months.

I am also happy to share that the Village has approved its first-ever Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District in downtown Itasca. Through TIF, the Village now has an opportunity to financially support downtown development without raising taxes or taking funding away from other essential services. One large-scale project made possible due to the approval of the TIF is Itasca Station - a luxury, 5-story concierge-style residential building on the corner of Orchard and Maple, which will include a first-floor restaurant. This exciting development promises to infuse new energy into our downtown area, bringing job opportunities, housing options, and new retailers to our community. It marks a significant step forward in the Village's ongoing efforts to promote economic growth in downtown Itasca. In May, the project received unanimous approval from the Plan Commission and is set to be discussed by the Village Board in June.

In addition to these noteworthy achievements, I am thrilled to update you that Fulla Beans plans to open its doors by the end of June. As you may remember, the Village acquired this

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Mayor's Message Continued...

property at the corner of Irving Park Road and Walnut after it sat vacant for two years. Listening to resident feedback, the Village embarked on an extensive public process to find a tenant that would fulfill the community's desire to have a unique new gathering spot. After site visits to more than 30 regional eateries and evaluating four finalist applications, the Village Board approved a long-term lease for a new locally owned coffee and sandwich shop. This new addition will undoubtedly enhance our community, providing a gathering place for friends and neighbors to come together over

coffee. As they prepare to open, Fulla Beans is currently looking for baristas to join their team.

Our town will be filled with exciting events and celebrations as summer unfolds. From the Highland Games to the Fourth of July festivities, ItascaFest, and National Night Out, we will have plenty of opportunities to come together as a community. I eagerly look forward to seeing each and every one of you out and about as we enjoy these joyous occasions and further strengthen the bonds that make Itasca such a remarkable place to call home.

Administrator's Message

As your Village Administrator, my role is to manage the team that implements the policies and directives the Village Board approves in order to improve the quality of life of residents. Our team at the Village works diligently to support community needs and provide exceptional services to residents and businesses.



Carie Anne Ergo

One way we have been able to enhance village services and address critical infrastructure projects is through securing grants. Over the past two years, our dedicated staff has successfully obtained an impressive \$12.5 million in grants. These funds have been instrumental in financing vital initiatives such as lead service line replacements, road construction, pedestrian safety projects, stormwater improvements, and technical assistance for the creation of a downtown plan. These grants have not only alleviated the financial burden on our community but have also paved the way for significant advancements that directly benefit our residents.

Another way we are advocating for residents is through our ongoing commitment to safeguarding residents from the negative consequences of the Canadian Pacific Kansas City merger. When Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern Railway announced their intention to merge rail lines, the Village formed a coalition with seven other communities to advocate for area residents. Although the merger was ultimately approved by the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB), our advocacy efforts resulted in preservation of quiet zones along the line and an unprecedented 7-year period of oversight and monitoring. The federal government also required implementation of several technology improvements to address safety concerns.

While we have achieved significant milestones, our work is far from done. Recently, the Coalition filed to have the merger reviewed by the U.S. Court of Appeals. This appeal aims to compel the Surface Transportation Board to impose tougher conditions through a second environmental review in our region. Our goal is to secure more robust mitigation measures to offset the impact of additional freight trains passing through our communities daily. Itasca remains united with communities from Bensenville to Elgin to ensure a safe and thriving region.

At the same time, the Itasca Fire District and Police Department are developing plans to ensure that new freight trains do not prevent

emergency personnel from responding to properties on the north side of town in a timely manner. We are committed to working collaboratively to preserve safety and quality of life for all Itasca residents.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, feel free to drop me a note at cergo@itasca.com or call Village Hall at (630) 773-0835.

Resident Spotlight



The Village proudly congratulates Laura McGovern, a valued community member, and exceptional Lake Park High School teacher, for being honored with the prestigious Fulbright U.S. Distinguished Teaching Award. This esteemed accolade recognizes Laura's outstanding dedication, unwavering passion, and remarkable

contributions to education, making it a tremendous honor for her and a source of great pride for all of us in Itasca.

The Fulbright U.S. Distinguished Teaching Award is a highly revered recognition bestowed upon educators who exemplify excellence in teaching and foster cultural exchange and understanding between the United States and other countries. Laura's receipt of this distinguished award is a testament to her exceptional teaching skills, innovative approach, and unwavering commitment to her student's growth and development.

As a Spanish teacher at Lake Park High School, she has equipped students with language proficiency and instilled in them a profound appreciation for diverse cultures and global perspectives.

Laura's achievement fills us with immense pride and serves as a reminder of the exceptional talent within our community. Her dedication, passion, and commitment to education reflect the values and aspirations we hold dear in Itasca. We are grateful to have such an extraordinary individual who not only enriches the lives of her students but also uplifts our community through her outstanding contributions. Congratulations, Laura, on this well-deserved recognition, and thank you for making Itasca a better place through your remarkable teaching abilities.

New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements



Heidi Zambrano

The Village is pleased to announce the recent promotions of Heidi Zambrano and Scott Lawson. Heidi joined the Itasca Police Department in 2021 as a part-time Records Clerk, later becoming full-time in 2022. Recently, Heidi was promoted to Administrative Assistant to the Director of Police. She has over 18 years of experience in various administrative duties in Law Enforcement and looks forward to working and collaborating with Itasca PD's remarkable team.



Scott Lawson

Scott Lawson was also recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Graduating with a degree in Sociology and an emphasis in Criminology from NIU, Scott joined the Itasca Police Department in 2008. In 2009, he was trained as an Evidence Technician and became a Field Training Officer (FTO) in 2014. As an FTO, he has assisted with training many of the new officers, who have since joined the department. In 2017, he was certified as a child safety seat technician and has assisted in installing car seats at the department and special events. Reflecting on his new position, Sergeant Lawson stated that he is "thankful for this opportunity and looks forward to growing in this new position."

Please join the Village in congratulating Heidi and Scott on their promotions and continued success in their new roles.

Congratulations Elected Officials



Trustee Daly, Trustee Leahy, Mayor Pruyn, Trustee Daly

Congratulations to the newly elected officials who have taken on the important responsibility of serving our community! Your dedication and commitment to positively impacting our Village is commendable, and we are grateful for your willingness to serve.

- Village Trustees** - Brendan Daly, Dino Gavanes, and Ellen Leahy
- Park District Commissioners** - David Hansen and Jeff Craven
- Fire District Commissioner** - John Kearney
- Itasca Library Trustees** - Anja Tranter, Paul Nelson, and Michael Golden
- School District Board Members** - James Barthel, Nicole Diestel, and Ketan Patel

Itasca Fire District Drill



On Monday, May 8th, 2023, the Itasca Fire District held its first Mass Casualty Drill. During this drill, real-life scenarios were replicated to train and prepare personnel for emergencies. This type of training allows firefighters and emergency responders to hone

their skills, enhance their coordination, and improve their decision-making abilities in high-pressure situations.

The Fire District would like to thank the 20 volunteers who played the role of victims during the drill. Their commitment to creating a realistic simulation greatly enhanced the training experience for the emergency response teams. The district would also like to express its appreciation to Kimber Gruber, who did an exceptional job with moulage and make-up, bringing authenticity to the portrayal of injuries for all the victims.

Join the Park District Team

The Itasca Park District offers great part-time and seasonal jobs. They are looking for community builders of tomorrow to get started this summer and throughout the year. Join a team that strives to provide our community with fun, exciting and meaningful experiences with classes, programs, and camps. They are now hiring instructors for early childhood, gymnastics and dance. Waterpark jobs include lifeguards, cashiers and concessions attendant. Additional job opportunities are building supervisor and camp counselors. Visit www.itascaparkdistrict.com to view all open positions.

Cop Card Challenge



Throughout summer months, the Itasca Police Department will be participating in a community-wide program called Cop Cards. This program is designed to foster positive interactions between Itasca police officers and kids in the community.

In May, children received individualized styled baseball cards of every officer at their schools. Each card includes a photo of the officer and a brief description of their career and community activities. Additionally, each card has a designated spot for kids to obtain the officer's signature. Children are encouraged to collect all twenty of the officer's signatures throughout the summer. Once accomplished, they are to bring their completed cards to the front counter of either the Park District or Library for verification. Verified cards will then be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a prize at the National Night Out event on August 1st. Rules and more information about the program are included in each packet of the cards.

Director O'Connor would like to thank the following entities for supporting this endeavor.

- The officers and personnel of the Itasca Police Department
- The Itasca Lions Club for their financial support
- The Itasca Bank & Trust Co for their financial support
- The Itasca Park District
- The Itasca Community Library

Help Our Community Restore Local Funding

Itasca is joining communities across the State to urge Springfield to restore local funding for essential services and fulfill its agreement with municipal governments.



The Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) is a portion of Illinois income taxes, paid by you, our residents, and businesses, that are collected by the State and redistributed back to municipalities per capita.

LGDF can account for a significant portion of a municipality's operating budget. Since 2011, the State of Illinois has shorted the Village more than 6 MILLION DOLLARS in LGDF funding. That's funding for police services, road repairs and maintenance, garbage collection, flood prevention, and other infrastructure needs. It also helps avoid increases in property taxes. Itasca should be able to rely on predictable funding levels and consistent distribution of funds each year. Please visit www.InvestInCommunities.org to learn more about this important topic and how to make your voice heard in Springfield.

Budget in Brief

In May, the Village Board approved the FY 2024 budget. The budget sets the stage for the Village's financial plans and initiatives in the coming year. Below is a list of highlights from this year's budget, which can be accessed on the Village's website.



Balanced Corporate Fund:

The Corporate Fund is balanced. This fund serves as the financial backbone that keeps our community running smoothly.



Sales Tax Growth:

Encouragingly, year-end projections for FY 2023 indicate that the Village's Corporate Fund revenues have returned to pre-COVID levels.



Stable Water and Sewer Rates:

The FY 2024 Budget freezes the current water and sewer rates.



Investment in Infrastructure Improvements:

The Village has allocated approximately \$21 million for capital projects such as street resurfacing and sewer improvements.



Congrats Graduates

On behalf of the entire community, we are thrilled to congratulate the remarkable 8th grade class of Peacock and the Lake Park seniors on their well-deserved graduation! This milestone marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and personal growth.

Remember, graduation is not the end; it is a new beginning. Embrace the opportunities, challenges, and adventures that lie ahead with confidence and determination. Believe in your abilities, pursue your dreams, and strive for excellence.

First TIF District Approved

The Village is pleased to announce that it has approved its first Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district. Through an extensive public process that took nearly a year to complete, the Village worked collaboratively with the school district and other taxing bodies to ensure they were comfortable with the creation of the TIF District. By leveraging the incremental tax revenues generated by new development within the district, the Village will see new economic investment downtown that would only be possible with public partnership.

To learn more about the TIF District, visit the Village's website at www.Itasca.com, go to the Community Development tab, and click the TIF District link.



Downtown Investment:

The FY 2024 Budget introduces a newly created Downtown TIF Fund. The TIF Fund includes a TIF Façade Program that will provide matching grants to commercial properties within the Downtown TIF District.

Business Spotlight

Cooking Skills & Social

Cooking Skills & Social is Chicagoland's Premier cooking event facility for hands-on cooking classes, private parties, corporate team-building events, showers, birthday parties, and more! Private chef instructors offer a range of services from step-by-step cooking classes to events like Iron Chef Battles! All classes and events include a full meal. Patrons are allowed to bring their own beverages to the facility.

When asked what she would attribute her business success to, Abbey Cannon, General Manager, said, "We love being in Itasca. Everyone that we have met here has been so warm and welcoming to us. And the location is perfect. We are right at the intersection of I-390 and Rte. 53 (1201 Norwood Avenue), so no matter where you are coming from, we are easy to get to."

To learn more about Cooking Skills & Social or to schedule your next holiday party with them, contact Abbey at abbey@cookingskillacademy.com or visit www.cookingskillsandsocial.com.



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



*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:

CueSmart Billiards, LLC - 320 W. Irving Park Rd.

CueSmart Billiards is a retail/service business offering new and used pool tables for sale and provides in-home services for pool tables. To learn more about their sales and services, visit their website at www.cuesmartbilliards.com.

Colour Palette Corporation at 213 N. Catalpa Ave.

Colour Palette is a beauty salon offering a variety of hairstyles and beauty services. To schedule your appointment, please visit: vagaro.com/us04/colourpalettecorporation

Salon de Cheveux, LLC at 415 W. Irving Park Rd.

Leave the demands of your busy life behind and let Salon de Cheveux pamper you. Offering various services, be assured you will be in the best hands with the staff at Cheveux. Please stop by their place today to schedule your appointment.

Yamaki USA, Inc. at 250 E. Devon Ave.

Yamaki USA is a food manufacturer specializing in producing bonito flakes, which are dried and thinly shaved tuna primarily used in East Asian Cuisine. Yamaki will be using the space for Research & Development and will be co-tenants with Ajinomoto Health & Nutrition. For more information, please visit: www.yamakiusa.com



ItascaFest 2023

Join the Itasca Lions as they celebrate 34 years of family fun and entertainment! Over four days, nearly 40,000 visitors will come to enjoy food, fun, and music! All entertainment is family-oriented and mainly provided free of charge, with the exclusion of the carnival. Proceeds from this event aid the Lions with donations to causes such as helping the blind, hearing impaired, and handicapped and fostering many local youth and senior citizen programs.

Fest hours:

Thurs., July 6th - 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., Band: The Petty Kings

Fri., July 7th - 6:00 p.m. – Midnight, Bands: Sealed with a Kiss & Boy Band Review

Sat., July 8th - Noon – Midnight, Bands: Kashmir & Keith Semple

Sun., July 9th - Noon – 11:00 p.m., Bands: Throwback Jukebox & Think Floyd

***Bingo 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. - Fri. and Sat. only

Early bird tickets for unlimited rides will be available for purchase at the Park District, Village Hall, and the Itasca Community Library beginning the end of June.

Celebrate Our Community

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



Fri., June 16th

Highland Games
Hamilton Lakes
1:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Join the largest Midwest Scottish Festival. This family-friendly outdoor event is a chance to explore Scottish culture without buying a plane ticket.



Sat., June 17th

Highland Games
Hamilton Lakes
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Join the largest Midwest Scottish Festival. This family-friendly outdoor event is a chance to explore Scottish culture without buying a plane ticket.



Tues., June 20th

Summer Park Parties
Peacock Park
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Celebrate summer with parties in the park! Join the Park District for games, contests, crafts, music, entertainment, and more!



Wed., June 21st

Itasca Outdoor Concert Series
Usher Park
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Come enjoy a free outdoor family concert this summer.
Band: Gen Fuze. Music: Variety Cover Band



Thurs., June 22nd

Billy Joel: The Piano Man
Itasca Library
7:00 p.m.

Explore Billy Joel's career with performance and interview video clips. Registration is required.



Sun., June 25th

Fish with a Cop
Happy Acres
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Bring your fishing poles and bait for a day of fun with members of the Itasca Police Department. All participants are guaranteed to catch a hot dog and chips!



Mon., June 26th

Medicare 101
Itasca Library
7:00 p.m.

Learn about Medicare from Medicare Solutions Network. Registration is required.



Tues., July 4th

Fourth of July Celebration
Hamilton Lakes
5:30 p.m.

Join us on July 4th at Hamilton Lakes as Itasca hosts the largest fireworks display in the Chicagoland area. The celebration starts at 5:30 p.m., with fireworks beginning at 10:00 p.m.



Wed., July 5th

Itasca Outdoor Concert Series
Usher Park
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy a free outdoor family concert this summer.
Band: Flat Cats. Music: Swing/Jazz



Thurs., July 6th

ItascaFest
Washington Park
6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Enjoy food, live music, entertainment, and a carnival.
Band: The Petty Kings



Fri., July 7th

ItascaFest
Washington Park
6:00 p.m. – Midnight

Enjoy food, live music, entertainment, bingo, and a carnival.
Bands: Sealed with a Kiss & Boy Band Review



Sat., July 8th

ItascaFest
Washington Park
Noon-Midnight

Enjoy food, live music, entertainment, bingo, and a carnival.
Bands: Kashmir & Keith Semple



Sun., July 9th

ItascaFest
Washington Park
Noon – 11:00 p.m.

Enjoy food, live music, entertainment, and a carnival.
Bands: Throwback Jukebox & Think Floyd



Tues., July 11th

Ice Cream with Cops & Firefighters
Usher Park
11:30 a.m.

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



Wed., July 12th

Summer Park Parties
Washington Park
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Celebrate summer with parties in the park! Join the Park District for games, contests, crafts, music, entertainment, and more!



Wed., July 12th

Summer Movie in the Park
Washington Park
8:30 p.m.

Take the whole family to the movies, put the kids in their pajamas, bring blankets, and remember the snacks.

Celebrate Our Community



Thurs., July 13th

Little Miss Ann Kids Music Concert

**Itasca Library
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Join Little Miss Ann as she plays songs that kids will sing, jump, and dance along to! Geared to ages 6 & under. Registration is required.



Thurs., July 13th

A Tale of Two Chicagos

**Itasca Library
7:00 p.m.**

Clarence Goodman presents Chicago's first World's Fair and America's first serial killer. Registration is required.



Mon., July 17th

Relaxing Watercolors

**Itasca Library
6:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

Audrey Ra Design will help you relax with simple watercolor techniques. Registration is required.



Wed., July 19th

Itasca Outdoor Concert Series

**Usher Park
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

Come enjoy a free outdoor family concert this summer. Band: Mackenzie O'Brien Band. Music: Country

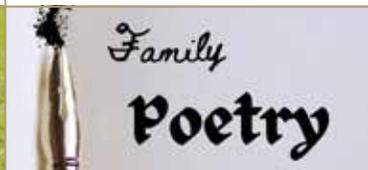


Thurs., July 20th

2023 Pup Cup

**Barking Lot Dog Park
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

Dogs will go for the gold as they score goals and show off their soccer skills. There will be a puppuccino bar and the opportunity to take soccer-themed pictures with your dog.



Thurs., July 27th

Family Poetry

**Itasca Library
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

Families can explore poetry through blackout, concrete, and magnetic poetry stations. Registration is required.

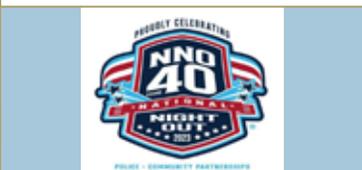


Mon., July 31st

Instrument Petting Zoo

**Itasca Library
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Meet various instruments provided by Music & Arts in Itasca and get to try them out. For all ages. Registration is required.



Tues., August 1st

National Night Out

**Itasca Municipal Complex
5:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Come and enjoy this community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.



Wed., August 9th

Itasca Outdoor Concert Series

**Usher Park
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

Come enjoy a free outdoor family concert this summer. Band: The Valius. Music: Variety Cover Band



Wed., August 16th

Itasca Outdoor Concert Series

**Depot Museum
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

Come enjoy a free outdoor family concert this summer. Band: Whiskey Kitten Band. Music: R&B, Disco, Dance hits



Mon., August 21st

The Windy City on the Air: Chicago and the Golden Age of Radio

**Itasca Library
7:00 p.m.**

Explore Chicago's many groundbreaking contributions to radio that became national sensations. Registration is required.

Wings and Talons



This summer, make sure to mark your calendars and visit the extraordinary Wings and Talons exhibition at Springbrook Nature Center. Prepare to be captivated by the magnificent birds of prey on display, showcasing their majestic wings and razor-sharp talons. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, a bird lover, or simply seeking an awe-inspiring experience, these magnificent creatures will leave you in awe. Stay updated on the latest news and events by following www.facebook.com/WingsAndTalons.



Fourth of July

Join us on July 4th at Hamilton Lakes as Itasca hosts the largest fireworks display in the Chicagoland area. The Independence Day celebration starts at 5:30 p.m. with numerous food vendors serving a variety of picnic-style food items and Church Street Brewing hosting a Beer Tent offering a variety of Craft Beers. Live music begins at 7:00 p.m., with Maggie Speaks taking center stage. The fireworks show, choreographed to music and played on a concert-quality sound system, starts at 10:00 p.m. Admission to the event is free; on-site parking is \$25.00 per car. Hamilton Lakes is located west of O'Hare Airport at the intersection of I-390 and Park Boulevard.

Itasca Outdoor Concert Series



Join the Park District for five free outdoor family concerts this summer on June 21st, July 5th and 19th, and August 9th & 16th.

You, family, and friends will enjoy music from various bands from the Chicagoland area. Don't forget your lawn chairs and a picnic basket. Get ready to hear some great music. Performances will be canceled if there is inclement weather. Check out their website at www.itascaparkdistrict.com and Facebook page for cancellations. The Village of Itasca & Itasca Park District sponsors this event series.

Fish with a Cop

Bring your fishing pole and bait to Happy Acres on Sunday, June 25th, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to fish with members of the Itasca Police Department. The pond will be freshly stocked with catfish by the Itasca Lions Club. If you catch one with a tag, remove the tag, and bring it to ItascaFest this year to possibly win a prize in the annual fishing contest. If you don't catch anything, it's ok, the police officers will have plenty of hot dogs, chips, and soda to share. Be on the lookout for the Kona Ice truck, who will also be there selling cold treats.



Swaminarayan Anniversary Parade

The Swaminarayan Temple is preparing for its 25th anniversary celebration from July 29th to August 6th. Among the various festivities, the highlight is the grand parade scheduled for August 5th, which will temporarily close a portion of Irving Park Road (between Route 53 and Medinah Road) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This celebratory procession welcomes both bystanders and participants, allowing the public to witness or actively engage in the cultural festivities.



National Night Out

Come join the Itasca Police Department on August 1st, from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., to play games, talk with your neighbors, and meet your Itasca police officers. There will be food and prizes and winners for the 2023 Cop Card event will be announced.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live. On this night, officers and residents come together to enjoy a night of laughter, fun, and food.



Riding with Responsibility

As the nice weather arrives, so do fun toys like bikes, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles. The Itasca Police Department asks you to discuss safe and responsible riding with your children.



- **Be Alert and Mindful** - Watch for vehicles backing out of the driveways when riding on the sidewalks. Remember, just because you see the car doesn't mean they see you.
- **Practice Makes Perfect** - Before letting your child ride a bike or motorized vehicle, ensure they understand basic controls, such as how to start and stop or maneuver safely. Encourage them to practice in a controlled and designated area until they gain confidence and proficiency.
- **Safe Riding Areas:** Designate specific areas where your child can ride their toys safely. Please remember that all unlicensed gas-powered vehicles, such as dirt bikes, golf carts, minibikes, and go-carts, are prohibited on all village streets and sidewalks.
- **Speed:** Electric motorized vehicles such as scooters and bikes should not exceed 10 miles per hour and shouldn't be driven in the nature center.

For more information on the Village of Itasca's local ordinances regarding motorized unlicensed personal vehicles, please visit our website at www.Itasca.com.

Museum Adventure Pass



Adventure awaits this summer! Itasca Community Library cardholders can receive free or discounted admissions to many exciting institutions through the Museum Adventure Pass. This program features 23 attractions throughout the Chicagoland area, including Brookfield Zoo, Cantigny Park, and the Illinois Holocaust Museum. Go to www.museumadventure.org to see a complete list. Stop in the library or call (630) 773-1699 to get more details and to check out a pass.

Summer Reading Clubs



Join the *Find Your Voice!* Summer Reading Clubs at the Itasca Community Library. Read books and earn fun prizes! The Friends of the Itasca Community Library have generously donated prizes.

Adult Reading Club: Get a prize when you sign up and earn chances for grand prizes after you finish three books. Each person who reads at least three books can enter the drawing of their choice and earn additional entries after each book read. Play Summer Reading BINGO to get even more grand prize entries. Prizes include gift cards to local businesses.

Youth and Teen Reading Clubs: Kids and teens from birth through high school can earn prizes for reaching reading time goals. In addition to earning prizes for reading, visit the library regularly to have the opportunity to spin our prize wheel and enter weekly drawings.

Drew the Drummer will be hidden in the Youth Department each day of the Summer Reading Club. The first person to find him daily can claim a prize at the Youth Desk.

Summer Cover Photo



Itasca Proud

This edition's cover photo was submitted by resident Michelle Laiche who took this photo of her daughter, Emily, during the Memorial Parade. Michelle noted that her "family loves kicking off the summer by attending the Itasca Memorial Day parade. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming; it is such a great way to begin the season." If you, like Michelle, have a great photo of what life is like in

Itasca and would like to have it considered for our newsletter, please submit it to deputyclerk@itasca.com, along with details of who/what the photograph is of, when it was taken, and its meaning.

School District Addition



Itasca community members may have recently noticed significant construction by Benson Primary School. The Capital Improvement Plan features an addition at Benson School that expands the pre-kindergarten program and provides additional classroom space to ensure small class sizes in the district. It also creates a special new multipurpose room that may be used for student performances and parent meetings, support rooms for intervention, and space for staff professional development. Phase 1 improvements also include a makeover of the Franzen and Benson libraries, new Peacock School Science Labs, and a new district-wide security system that was chosen in consultation with the Itasca Police Department.

Phase 2 construction will continue next year with additional work on student safety, outdoor learning spaces, and critical building mechanical upgrades. District 10 appreciates the commitment Itasca community members have made in funding these important school improvement projects. Investing in our students provides our children with an incredibly special and safe learning environment. The School District would like to thank everyone for their help and support!

Summertime Grilling

Warm weather is here, and there is nothing like the taste of freshly cooked food on the grill. Remember these safety tips when grilling so you can sit in your lawn chair instead of in an ER waiting room!



- Move the grill away from siding, decking, or other things that can catch fire.
- Do not squirt starter fluid into a grill that is already lit.
- If you use a gas grill, ensure your tank or gas connections are secured and not broken or corroded.
- Stay with the grill the entire time you're cooking.
- Use long-handled barbecue tools when cooking on the grill.

Itasca Park District Improvements

The Park District received confirmation from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that it will receive a \$600,000 Open Space and Land Acquisition Grant submitted in September 2022 for the Itasca Softball Complex and Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary. Under this grant, a new north boardwalk will be added to connect to the existing pathway system of Spring Lake Business Park, which leads to Irving Park Road. The Softball Complex will also receive significant improvements to ball field diamonds in the outfield and infield: drainage, irrigation, grading, new line fencing, dugouts, paving, walls & backstops. Improvements at the Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary will include adding to the existing boardwalk to create a new loop with interpretive signage & permanent binoculars, the creation of another boardwalk overlook with benches & birdsong interpretive features, the addition of fitness nodes with outdoor fitness equipment, and a permanent gaming area with ping pong tables and additional bike racks and a bike mechanical maintenance center. The total projected budget for these improvements is \$1.2 million. The grant covers \$600,000 of the project and will potentially start in the summer of 2024.

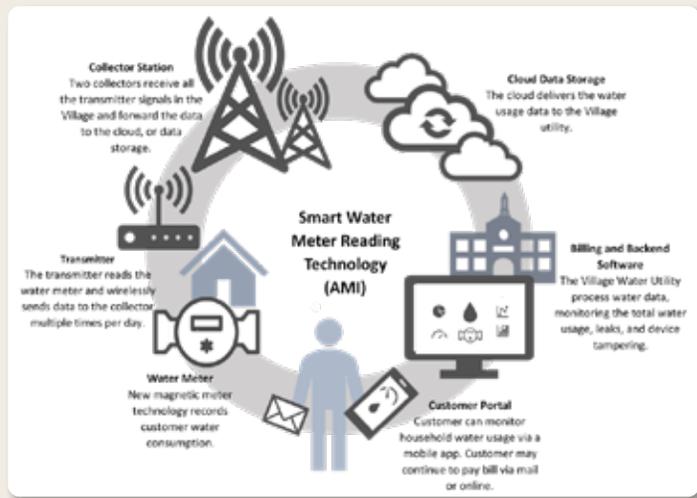
Itasca Park District Welcomes New Community Partner



The Itasca Park District and Insomnia 888 recently entered into a multi-year agreement aimed at supporting and enhancing the educational and recreational offerings at the Itasca Springbrook Nature Center. The partnership was officially announced during the Arbor Day celebration held on April 29th, 2023. Insomnia 888 is an Itasca-based “trucking company with a social conscience” located at 1437 Harmony Court.

The Village and Park District are excited for this collaboration, as it brings new opportunities to enhance the visitor experience at the Springbrook Nature Center. If you have not already done so, come embrace the beauty of summer days at the Nature Center, by taking a leisurely stroll amidst its picturesque surroundings. Or engage in a seasonal story walk while exploring the interactive displays, or marvel at the captivating birds of prey exhibits.

Water Meter and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)



Exciting changes are coming to our water meter system this summer as the Village embarks on a project to replace residential water meters and transition to an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. This upgrade will bring numerous benefits to our community, including improved customer service, accurate billing cycles, and early detection of potential leaks.

Starting this summer, our selected contractor, Core & Main, will begin replacing residential water meters. Residents will be contacted in June/July to schedule a convenient date and time for the water meter exchange. During the replacement process, which typically takes around 30 minutes, a certified plumber will temporarily interrupt the water service within your residence to complete the installation.

As part of the AMI system implementation, a small gray box known as a SmartPoint, will be installed on the exterior of your residence. This device will securely and wirelessly transmit water usage information to our base station. If you have any questions about this program, please don't hesitate to contact our Public Works department at (630) 773-2455.

CPR Classes



Did you know the Fire District offers CPR classes for residents and businesses? Go to www.itascafd.org, and select the Public Education Tab to find a CPR request for information form.

Please fill out and submit the form; someone will contact you when a class becomes available.

2023 Construction Update



As the summer season approaches, so does the hustle and bustle of road construction. This year, we are excited to share updates on two major projects that will significantly improve our community's infrastructure and enhance the quality of our roadways.

Roadway and Infrastructure Improvements - Phase 2:

This essential project has been progressing steadily, with significant developments already underway. The installation of 1.5 miles of new storm sewers and 1.1 miles of new water mains marks a substantial step towards improving drainage and water supply in our area. Once the utilities are in place, the next phase will involve grading the new roadway, followed by the installation of 2.5 miles of new curb and 1.6 miles of new roadway. This extensive undertaking demonstrates our commitment to enhancing the overall infrastructure of our community.

Construction for the Phase 2 project will kick off on E. North Street, near Peacock School, beginning in June. The project will be completed during the School District's summer vacation to minimize disruptions to students and staff. We anticipate substantial completion by November 17th, with the final touches wrapping up by December 15th. These improvements will pave the way for smoother and more efficient journeys in our community.

Street Maintenance Program:

Besides the Phase 2 project, our Street Maintenance program will be in full swing this summer. Our focus will be on pavement resurfacing, with specific attention given to S. Walnut and S. Oak. This process involves applying fresh layers of asphalt to these roads, revitalizing their surfaces, and improving their longevity. To ensure we address the needs of our community comprehensively, various patching and crack-filling will take place throughout town. Additional streets may be included based on the bid pricing, emphasizing areas south of Irving Park Road.

While these projects may result in temporary inconveniences such as traffic diversions and detours, it is important to remember that they are essential for the long-term benefit of our community. We kindly ask for your patience and cooperation as we work to enhance our infrastructure. Stay tuned to the Village's website and social media platforms for the latest information.

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

Mayor

Jeff Pruyn

Village Clerk

Jody Conidi

Trustees

Jeff Aiani

Brendan Daly

Dino Gavanese

Ellen Leahy

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

550 W. Irving Park Rd.

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Fire District Home Safety Inspections

The Fire District invites you to take advantage of their free Home Safety Inspection! Through this program, homeowners receive free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. During the inspection, fire personnel will replace smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors that are past their lifespan of 10 years. They will also look for any hazards that could be a life safety concern, a fall/trip hazard, or a fire hazard. No penalties will be assessed if violations are found. The Fire District just wants you to be as safe as possible in your home. For more information or to request a visit, please visit the Fire District's website at www.itscafd.org, and go to the Public Education tab. If you have further questions, feel free to call the Fire District at (630) 773-1223, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The program is funded through a generous donation by Itasca Bank & Trust Co.

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



Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Monday:

No Meetings Scheduled

Tuesday:

1st Tuesday - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.*

3rd Tuesday - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.*

Wednesday:

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

Thursday:

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

Friday:

No Meetings Scheduled

*Committee of the Whole immediately after