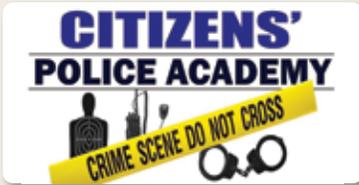


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Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

As fall fades and windows are closed to make way for warming fireplaces, the temptation to snuggle under blankets indoors is strong. However, I encourage you all to stay active this winter, as we have various events and opportunities to maintain our community's vibrancy and connection, regardless of the temperatures.

Mark your calendars for a memorable start to the season at our Winter Wonderland Holiday Lighting event on Sunday, November 26th at Usher Park. This heartwarming gathering will kick off our winter festivities and fill the air with holiday cheer. It's a day for families to come together, enjoy the season's magic, and create lasting memories. At this event, we will be sharing our holiday spirit by gathering toys for children in need and contributing them to Toys for Tots. Please bring a new, unwrapped gift to the event. Your generosity will bring joy to children in need who deserve a bright holiday season.

Carry on the spirit of care by visiting the Village Hall throughout December and contribute mittens and scarves to our mitten tree. These warm items will be distributed to individuals in need through the Itasca Food Pantry. Every gesture counts and will ensure that everyone in Itasca remains cozy during the winter months. For more information, please see page 4.

Volunteering provides another opportunity to create a positive impact in our community. Please consider lending a hand at the Itasca Food Pantry, where your contributions can assist those struggling to access nourishing meals. The Food Pantry requires assistance not only during the holiday season but throughout the year. This New Year, make volunteering at the Food Pantry your resolution. It's a way to generate a positive impact on both your life and the community.

The Village will also do its part by distributing the tips it received during Oktoberfest to local charities. All these combined efforts embody the spirit of Itasca, where neighbors work together, care deeply about each other, and support those in need.

As winter progresses, I urge you to check on your neighbors, especially our senior residents. A simple phone call or visit can make a world of difference. It's also important to remember that the Itasca Police Department serves as a warming center for those in need during the coldest days and nights, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Continued on page 2 >



Mayor's Message Continued...

While I take joy in the strength of our community spirit, I'm also happy to share that our local economy continues to flourish. Building permit activity and business licenses remain steady, showcasing the strength of our business community. To maintain this stability and support the growth of businesses, we all must come together and shop locally this season. Visit one of our local hair salons or barbershops for a fresh look. Treat your friends to dinner at Antonio's, Naxos, Casale, Tree Guys, or Fox & Turtle. Plan a family spa day at Eaglewood for a one-of-a-kind experience.

Don't arrive empty-handed when heading to a party; pick up wine from Wine with Me, craft beer from Church Street, or sweet treats from Fulla Beans or Joe Donut. Every dollar spent locally makes a difference, so explore, enjoy, and support everything Itasca has to offer.

As I wrap up my message, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our residents for making our community a wonderful place to live. Your support and unity truly make Itasca special. I wish you and your loved ones a safe and peaceful holiday season.

Administrator's Message

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past year and extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you.

Over this past year, we've been busy updating our infrastructure to support economic growth and quality of life. Phase Two of Itasca's North side infrastructure project is nearing completion with newly paved roadways, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, water mains and storm sewers. As part of this project, we partnered with District 10 to make school drop-off and pick-up safer at Peacock Middle School by adding a new dedicated drop-off lane.

This fall, the Village also began replacing aging water meters. The new meters, which will be installed in every home and business over the next few months, will enhance customer service and transparency regarding rates and usage. The Village recently contracted with Stanley Consultants, a global engineering consulting agency, to provide the Village Board options for rate models that support capital infrastructure and maintenance for the water and wastewater utilities - now and in the future. This effort reflects the Board's commitment to financial sustainability and transparency.

While there is more construction work ahead of us, for now, we have transitioned to keeping streets safe and plowed over the winter and preparing our town for the holiday season. The Village has once again partnered with the Park District to turn downtown Itasca into a dazzling Winter Wonderland. And while the Village prepares the former Kean's bakery building for its next business, local artist, business owner, and resident, Aaron Sorensen, will be decorating its windows for the holidays. Make sure to plan a trip downtown this holiday season to see the lights and windows. And remember to warm up at Fulla Beans with a steaming cup of hot cocoa or coffee!

On behalf of everyone here at the Village, have a safe and joyful winter season filled with warmth and laughter.



Carie Anne Ergo

Welcoming New Members to Our Committees

The Village of Itasca's Historical Commission and Police Commission recently welcomed several new members, bringing fresh perspectives and expertise to our community.

In September, Anne Marie Schwarz became a part of the Historical Commission. A nine-year resident of Itasca, Anne Marie, along with her husband and son, have been active members of the community. She recalls being drawn to Itasca by its historic district and is now happily settled here, surrounded by friends and neighbors, making it an ideal place to raise her son. Anne Marie works as a Cardiac Sonographer at Northwestern Hospital and Duly.

Margaret Mead said,

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Another recent addition to the Historical Commission is Dianna Barthel, who has been an Itasca resident for 21 years. Dianna enjoys gardening, Zumba, bowling, and family trips in her leisure time. Her decision to join the commission stems from her deep love for Itasca and her desire to contribute to preserving the Village's beauty. Dianna works as a corporate accountant for a manufacturing company.

In September, the Police Commission welcomed Christian Ketter, who is dedicated to upholding the safety and integrity of our community. Christian and his wife, Cara, have called Itasca home since 2019 and are excited to raise their son here. As an attorney specializing in federal and state litigation, Christian brings valuable legal insight to the Police Commission. His passion for civil service was inspired by his grandmother, Shirley Ketter, who served as mayor from 1985 to 1997. Christian appreciates the resources and leadership in Itasca, having worked with Village Attorney, Charles Hervas. He considers it an honor to serve on the Itasca Police & Fire Commission under Mayor Pruyn and alongside Chief Robert O'Connor.

As we look forward to the positive impact Anne Marie, Dianna, and Christian will undoubtedly make on our community, please join us in welcoming them to their new roles.

Village offices will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th for the holidays. Garbage and recycling pick-up will be delayed until Tuesday, December 26th. Village offices will also be closed on Monday, January 1st for New Year's Day, with garbage collection rescheduled for Tuesday, January 2nd. Please note that emergency services will remain available.



Citizens' Police Academy Open for Enrollment



The Itasca Police Department is pleased to announce the return of the Citizens' Police Academy (CPA)! This interactive 8-week program is designed to provide participants with a firsthand understanding of police procedures and goals. Gain insight into the daily experiences of police officers as they work to maintain community safety. Throughout the course, you'll explore the processes involved in conducting crime scene investigations, traffic law enforcement, crime prevention strategies, and a variety of other related topics. You will also have an opportunity to join an officer for a ride-along.

This free program will meet on Tuesdays from January 30th through March 19th from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Itasca Police Department at 540 W. Irving Park Rd. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and either live or work within the Village of Itasca. Applications are available at www.itasca.com under the Police Department forms section. Enrollment is limited to 20. Please contact Sergeant Jim Duda at (630) 228-5756 for more information.

Honoring Ken Machynia's Community Service

Please join the Village in expressing our appreciation to Ken Machynia for his tenure on the Itasca Police Commission and his commitment to Itasca.

Ken has contributed to various committees and commissions over the years. Most notably, he chaired the Itasca Police Commission, playing a key role in recruiting over 30 officers, enhancing community safety, and guiding the commission through challenging times like the COVID pandemic.

In addition to his service on the Police Commission, Ken contributed to various community events and initiatives. He served as President of the Itasca Lions Club and organized the first ItascaFest, earning him the Citizen of the Year award in 1990 from Mayor Ketter. Throughout the years, Ken has also provided support to individuals seeking office and was a key advocate in the creation of the Village Administrator position in 1995.

The Village appreciates Ken's years of service and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements



Sam Shore

The Village is excited to introduce three new team members, each bringing a unique blend of skills and experiences.

In July, Community Development welcomed two new additions, Sam Shore and Francesca Borman. Sam holds a Master's in Public Administration with a focus on Urban and Regional Planning & Policy from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He previously served as a Senior Planner at the Cape Fear Council of Governments, offering valuable support to local governments across a four-county region. Sam expressed his enthusiasm for joining Itasca, stating, "I'm excited to be part of Itasca's outstanding team and to tackle diverse responsibilities daily."



Francesca Borman

Francesca, the new Administrative Assistant in Community Development, brings a passion for people and a Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration degree with an Event Planning specialization. Her enthusiasm and desire to engage with others make her a valuable asset to our team. Francesca shared her excitement about joining the Itasca community, stating, "I'm genuinely thrilled to be part of the Itasca team. The support I've received as I learn my role is incredible, and I look forward to what lies ahead."



Jill Hanssen

In September, the Administration Department welcomed Jill Hanssen as its new Executive Assistant and Deputy Clerk. Jill has extensive experience supporting senior management and decision-makers in the education and corporate sectors. Additionally, she is an Itasca resident who enjoys reading, walking, and playing games with her family. Jill said about her new role, "I'm thrilled to work for the Village and be part of such a talented and dedicated team!"

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Jill, Sam, and Francesca.

Join Mayor Pruyn for Coffee at Joe Donut

Mark your calendars for an opportunity to meet with Mayor Pruyn at Joe Donut, located inside Ricky Rockets at 1221 N. Rohlwing Road, on Saturday, December 9th at 9:00 a.m. This is your chance to chat with the Mayor, ask questions, and share your thoughts on upcoming projects in a relaxed and informal setting. There's no fixed agenda – just great conversation.

While there, enjoy a cup of coffee and show your support for a local business, Joe Donut. Bring your friends and family along, and make our village even better, one cup of coffee at a time



Gift Big, Shop Small, Shop Itasca

Residents are encouraged to shop, dine, and take advantage of everything Itasca has to offer this winter! We have a wide variety of locally owned and operated businesses, all of which can provide a personalized and unique experience. 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, allowing businesses to thrive and revenue for 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, which makes 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 can help you find that perfect gift for your family or yourself.

America's Best Train, Toy, & Hobby Shop

865 Maplewood Dr.

Trying to find an interactive gift that doesn't involve a screen? America's Best Train, Toy, & Hobby Shop may be just what you're looking for. In addition to a wide range of model train gear, this store has toys and model kits for you to browse. For more information, visit: <https://americasbesttrain.com/>.

Eaglewood Resort & Spa

1401 Nordic Rd.

Provide an experience to remember with a staycation, tee time, or spa day at Eaglewood Resort & Spa. Gift cards are available, so your giftee can choose the option that sounds best to them. For more information, visit: <https://www.eaglewoodresort.com/>.

Wine With Me

111 Gigi Gruber Ln.

Wine With Me offers a broad selection of wines for different palates and budgets to bring for a holiday dinner or as a gift. The shop also offers a giftable wine club membership that provides a monthly bottle curated to different tastes. For more information, visit: <https://www.winewithmeitasca.com/>.

Hat and Mitten Tree

As the season of joy and gratitude returns, you can join the Village in making someone's winter a little warmer and their holidays a bit brighter through our annual Hat and Mitten Tree event. Simply visit the lobby of Village Hall during business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) from November 30th through January 2nd and swap a candy cane with a new hat, scarf, or a fresh pair of mittens or gloves. All items collected will be donated to the Itasca Food Pantry to support local families in need. The last day to drop off is January 2nd.



Supporting New Businesses with Chamber Memberships

In the Village's ongoing commitment to fostering local business growth and strengthening our community, the Village Board introduced an initiative tailored to new businesses. These businesses are now eligible for a complimentary three-month membership with the Itasca Chamber of Commerce. This program has been designed to empower owners, facilitate their integration into the local community, and provide them with the necessary resources for success.

One significant benefit of this membership is the opportunity for new businesses to have a free ribbon-cutting ceremony. These ceremonies mark the beginning of their journey into the Itasca business community.

We are pleased to welcome the following new additions to our chamber:



Salon De Cheveux

- Official Ribbon Cutting: July 21st
- 415 W. Irving Park Road

Edward Jones Financial Advisor - Erin Wambangco Ribbon Cutting

- Official Ribbon Cutting: September 28th
- 300 Park Blvd, Suite 290



Fulla Beans

- Official Ribbon Cutting: October 2nd
- 102 E. Irving Park Road

The Village encourages residents to explore these new businesses and utilize their diverse offerings. Whether you're seeking beauty services, financial guidance, or a tasty coffee and sandwich experience, there's something for everyone.



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. Fortunately, we have a strong outreach program through Itasca Cares, which helps those experiencing hardships or needing a helping hand. Contact Itasca Cares at (630) 200-3978 to donate or volunteer this holiday season or visit www.itscacaress.org.



Business Spotlight

As the Church Street Brewery team gears up to introduce Barleyhaus, their new brewpub in the Hamilton Lakes Business Park, we were eager to catch up with this homegrown establishment encompassing a brewery, restaurant, and event space. With a proud 11-year history of serving the Itasca community, their deep-rooted connections are evident. Owner Lisa Gregor, a 30-year resident of Itasca, finds added strength in her two children, who grew up in Itasca and have played an integral role in the brewery's journey to success.

Lisa credits her business's longevity to several factors. She points out that Itasca's business location, along with the Village's efforts, have significantly contributed to her business's growth. Additionally, the ability to recruit and retain talented employees over the years has played an important role in their success. Lastly, Itasca residents have been instrumental in supporting her business.



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.

Church Street Brewery is located at 1480 Industrial Dr. Unit C, just off Prospect Avenue. Their operating hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m., Friday from 4:00 - 10:00 p.m., Saturday from 12:00 - 10:00 p.m., and Sunday from 12:00 - 7:00 p.m. Keep an eye out for the grand opening of Barleyhaus at 500 Park Blvd., Ste. 177C. For more information, please visit their website at www.churchstreetbrew.com/ or connect with them on social media using the hashtag #RighteouslyGoodBeer to share your visit.



*Follow us on Twitter:
[@ItascaMeans](https://twitter.com/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:

Alliant Financial Services Strategies Group, LLC – 2 Pierce Pl., 17th Floor

Alliant Financial Strategies Group provides personalized wealth management advice, including goal setting, investment support, and more. For more information, visit <https://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/team/alliant-financial-strategies-group/>.

Ashpole Plastic Surgery & Vein Center – 1107 N. Prospect Ave.

Ashpole Plastic Surgery and Vein Center provides a variety of cosmetic procedures for patients out of their office in Itasca, with service by a Board-Certified Plastic Surgeon. For more information, call (847) 884-8346.

Barleyhaus – 500 Park Blvd., Ste. 177C

Barleyhaus is an upcoming expansion from Church Street Brewing Company in the Hamilton Lakes Business Park that will be a brewpub and restaurant. For more information, visit <https://www.churchstreetbrew.com/>.

Global Leader Air & Sea Express – 1375 E. Irving Park Rd.

Global Leader Air & Sea Express is a freight forwarding business assisting clients with importing and exporting airborne and oceangoing freight, warehousing distribution, and customs brokerage. For more information, visit <https://www.globalleader.us/>.

Isutami USA – 1525 Ardmore Ave.

Isutami USA is a company that manufactures and supplies bearings as well as other associated products. For more information, visit <https://isutami.com/>.

Randstad In-House Services, LLC – 1240 Meacham Rd.

Randstad USA provides outsourcing, staffing, consulting, and workforce solutions within several areas, including engineering, accounting and finance, healthcare, etc. For more information, visit <https://www.randstadusa.com/>.

Smoke n More – 921 W. Irving Park Rd.

Smoke n More is a shop providing tobacco products and convenience foods at the corner of Rohlwing Rd. and Irving Park Rd. For more information, call (630) 653-8799.

World Way International – 1375 E. Irving Park Rd.

World Way International offers freight forwarding solutions, which encompass aiding in the import and export of both air and sea cargo, managing warehouse distribution, and handling customs brokerage. For more information, visit <https://www.worldway.us/>.



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.



Sun., November 26th
Holiday Lighting
Usher Park
4:00 p.m.

Join us for the Winter Wonderland Holiday Lighting at Usher Park! Celebrate with Santa, hot chocolate, and friends as we light up the season.



Sat., December 2nd
Luminaria Pick-Up
Itasca Village Hall
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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



Sat., December 2nd
Free Pictures with Santa
Usher Park
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Santa will visit Usher Park on Saturday and Sunday. Bring your camera for the special moment and contribute a toy for Toys for Tots or a non-perishable food for the Itasca Food Pantry.



Mon., December 4th
Family Storytime
Library
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Drop in for stories and more every Monday from December 4th through February 26th. Geared to ages 6 & under. No registration is needed.



Wed., December 6th
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.



Thurs., December 7th
Knit & Craft Club
Library
10:30 a.m.

Join other creative people each month on the 1st Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and on the 4th Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. No registration is needed.



Fri., December 8th
Teen Book Boxes
Library
All Day

Teens can register by the 8th of each month for a customized box with a book, candy, and other fun stuff!



Sat., December 9th
Coffee with the Mayor
Joe Donut
9:00 a.m.

Join Mayor Pruyn for a cup of coffee and connect with a new business, as he shares insights on upcoming Village projects and plans. More information can be found on page 3.



Sat., December 9th
Dog Photos with the Grinch
Barking Lot
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Who says Christmas photos are just for humans? Bring your furry friend and camera to capture a free picture with the Grinch.



Sat., December 9th
Luminaria Pick-Up
Itasca Village Hall
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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



Tues., December 12th
Dog Photos with the Grinch
Barking Lot
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Who says Christmas photos are just for humans? Bring your furry friend and camera to capture a free picture with the Grinch.



Tues., December 12th
Make It!
Recycled Christmas Cards
Library
4:00 p.m.

Turn old cards into new masterpieces for family and friends. For kids in grades 3-6. Registration is required.



Wed., December 13th
Pictures with Santa & Reindeer
Usher Park
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Santa will be at Usher Park with his live reindeer. Bring your camera to capture this moment. Please bring a toy for Toys for Tots or a non-perishable food item for the Itasca Food Pantry.



Wed., December 13th
Holiday Trolley Lights Tour
Waterpark Hideaway Room
5:00, 6:00, or 7:00 p.m.

Hop on the Holiday Trolley Lights Tour for hot cocoa and a festive ride through Itasca's lights, including Usher Park's Winter Wonderland. A special guest will join. Registration is required.



Thurs., December 14th
You Can Brew It!
Library
6:00 p.m.

Award-winning home brewer Scott Pointon will discuss everything would-be brew masters need to know. Registration is required.



Mon., December 18th
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.



Celebrate Our Community



Sat., December 23rd
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, watching *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and a special appearance of the Grinch himself! Registration required.



Sun., December 24th
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 will be 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Day.



Mon., January 22nd
Paranormal Illinois
Library
7:00 p.m.

Chad Lewis covers the entire spectrum of Illinois' supernatural activity in this eerie presentation. Registration is required.



Thurs., January 25th
Instrument Petting Zoo
Library
7:00 p.m.

Calling all adults to explore a new hobby in 2024! Come meet a variety of instruments and experience them firsthand. Registration is required.



Mon., February 5th
Protecting Your Digital Assets
Library
7:00 p.m.

Lisa Knauf from Knauf Law will share what you need to know about digital assets. Registration is required.



Thurs., February 22nd
Red Cross Pillowcase Project
Library
5:30-6:30 p.m.

DuPage County Health Dept. will help kids be prepared for an emergency. For ages 8-12. Registration is required.



Sun., February 25th
The History of American Country Music
Library
2:00 p.m.

Join Steve Justman for a live musical overview that captures the heartbeat of Americana. Registration is required.



You've Been Grinched

Grinch your house or a friend's with a holiday surprise! The Grinch's helpers will deliver the surprises and treats to Itasca Park District and Village residents on Friday, December 15th, between 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. A "You've Been Grinched!" sign will be left in the yard stating who Grinched that house. Registration is required by December 1st through the Park District and is \$20.



Christmas Tree Decorating Contest

The Itasca Community Library is celebrating the season with over 15 specially decorated trees! This year's theme is *Full of Holiday Cheer*. Tour the library in December to see the Christmas trees beautifully decorated by local schools and organizations. Come participate by casting your vote for the best-decorated tree based on creativity and originality. Itasca Bank & Trust Co. has generously agreed to sponsor the prize money once again. Winners will be decided by popular vote and announced on January 2nd. Cast your vote in person or online at itascalibrary.org starting December 1st.

Winter Wonderland

Celebrate the start of the holiday season with the Village and Park District at our annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Lighting event on Sunday, November 26th! Join us in Usher Park alongside Santa, Mrs. Claus, and their merry companions from the North Pole as we illuminate the park with holiday cheer. While we wait for the moment when the twinkling lights come to life, enjoy the tunes of the Holiday Dickens Carolers, a holiday performance from the Inner Prestige Dancers, and a cup of hot chocolate and cookies. Festivities kick off at 4:00 p.m.

Parents, don't forget to remind your children to bring their letters to Santa and place them in the 5-foot "Letters to Santa Mailbox,"



generously sponsored by Itasca Bank & Trust, Co.

Admission is free, but Santa's elves would love it if you brought a new and unwrapped toy for "Toys for Tots Foundation" or a non-perishable good to support the Itasca Food Pantry. If you cannot join us, no need to fret; the lights will remain lit until January 15th.



Give The Gift of Safety

With the holiday season here, the Itasca Fire District encourages celebrating safely to minimize holiday decorating and entertaining disasters. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), more than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. Here are suggestions for a safe holiday celebration:



- Ensure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are up to date and working.
- Follow manufacturer directions for the number of light strands that can be connected.
- Consider using battery operated candle lights instead of traditional candles.
- Always keep fresh trees well-watered. Make sure to check water levels in the stand daily.
- Turn off all decorative lights before going to bed.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- Stove top pot handles should always be turned inward and not hanging over the edge of stove.
- Have fire extinguishers in the kitchen, near decorations, and on every floor.
- Create and practice an emergency escape plan.



Are you looking for gift ideas? Consider buying fire prevention and safety items to show your love. Check out these great ideas for college students, new homeowners, seniors, and everyone on your list.

- Fire blankets
- Battery operated candles
- Flashlights
- Plug-in power failure night light flashlight
- Emergency escape ladder
- Emergency survival kits for home and car



Did you know the Itasca Fire Protection District offers Home Safety Visits to review and install needed smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors free of charge? Visit their website at itascafd.org or call (630) 773-1223 to schedule your appointment today!

Gingerbread Scavenger Hunt

“Run! Run! As fast as you can! You can’t catch me, I’m the Gingerbread Man!” The Gingerbread Man is back and once again has escaped Grandma’s kitchen. Help the Park District in finding him! Participants will find and solve clues, puzzles, and riddles hidden around Itasca. Complete anytime between December 3rd and December 12th. Email erubo@itascaparkdistrict.com the correct locations that the Gingerbread Man visited to be entered for a prize. The first clue will be emailed to you on December 2nd at noon. You can register additional members to receive more entries for a prize. Registration is required by Friday, December 8th. The hunt is open to all ages and will take place December 3rd - 12th; the fee is \$10 per family.



Holiday House Decorating Contest



Village of Itasca Park District residents, decorate your house with holiday spirit! To enter your home, email your name, address, and phone number to gstankiewicz@itascaparkdistrict.com. Lights must be turned on by 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 11th. Prizes will be awarded! Winners will be posted on the Itasca Park District’s Facebook page.

Winter Reading Challenge

The Itasca Community Library encourages you to read this winter by taking the *Chill Out With a Good Book!* Winter Reading Challenge. Adults can sign up to participate at the Adult Desk starting on Monday, December 18th. Kids in preschool through grade 12 can pick up their challenge sheet at the Youth Desk beginning on the same date to earn fun prizes and play their Penguin Sledding Disc Drop Game. Both the youth and adult reading challenges end on Wednesday, January 31st. Call the library at (630) 773-1699 for more information.





Itasca Lions Club Christmas Luminaria



The Itasca Lions are proud to continue the tradition of the Christmas Luminaria, which started in Itasca back in 1960 by Boyd and Barbara Hindman. Luminaria 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

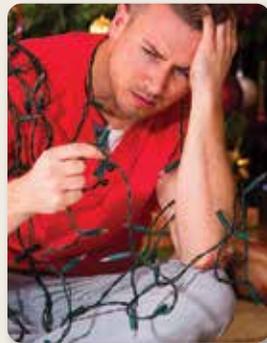
on Christmas Eve symbolizes the “Lighting of the Christ Child’s” way home.

The Lions will distribute the Luminaria at the Itasca Village Hall parking lot on Saturday, December 2nd and December 9th, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please light your candles at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24th (the 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 all donations for the Luminaria. Donations may be made at pickup or via Venmo @ItascaLionsTreasurer. 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.

Itasca’s Holiday Lights Recycling Drive

Year after year, residents find themselves testing bulbs and replacing fuses; when that doesn’t work, the strings of lights often end up in the garbage. The Village of Itasca has partnered with Elgin Recycling for its 13th Annual Holiday Lights Recycling Program. With this program, Itasca can now divert all holiday lights that would normally end up in a landfill as recycled goods.



The recycling program will run from Monday, November 27th until Wednesday, January 31st. Drop-off collection boxes will be at the Itasca Police Station (540 W. Irving Park Road) and Itasca Public Works (411 N. Prospect Avenue). Residents can drop off their holiday lights any time in the labeled receptacles in front of the Police Department, or between 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at Public Works. Lights that will be accepted for this program are mini lights (or Italian lights), C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights, extension cords, etc. Please DO NOT include lawn ornaments or other holiday decorations. The collection is specifically for lights and cords.

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

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 five and under. Program benefits are paid directly to the utilities on behalf of eligible households. Individuals must qualify for assistance and provide various documentation, such as a social security card, proof of income, a lease, and current electric or heating bills. Contact DuPage County at (630) 968-2087 or visit www.dupageco.org/LIHEAP/ for more information.



Winterizing Your Indoor Pipes

As winter's icy grip descends upon us, it's time to think about safeguarding your indoor pipes from the frigid temperatures that can cause them to freeze. Frozen pipes can lead to a host of problems, from inconvenient water loss to costly repairs.



To help you avoid these issues, the Village has put together a guide on preparing your pipes for winter.

- **Keep Your Water Meter Warm:** Ensure your water meter is placed in an area that receives heat circulation. Cabinets, closets, or access panel doors often house water meters and can get quite cold. Open these doors to let room heat circulate around the meter, preventing freezing.
- **Insulate Your Pipes:** If your water pipes and meters are in unventilated areas, insulate them. Pipe insulation, available at home improvement stores, is cost-effective. Wrap it around your pipes, focusing on vulnerable areas where cold air might infiltrate. This insulation maintains a consistent temperature around your plumbing.
- **Maintain Minimum Heat:** Avoid turning off or lowering your home's heat below 55 degrees during the winter, especially if you'll be away for a while. This will ensure that indoor pipes remain at a safe temperature, reducing the risk of freezing.
- **Detecting a Frozen Pipe:** Despite precautions, pipes can still freeze. Knowing the signs is crucial. You might have a frozen pipe if you open a faucet and only get a small trickle of water, which eventually stops completely. To pinpoint the freeze, check other faucets in your home. If they all show the same issue, it's likely a frozen water service line.

National Child ID Program

The Itasca Police Department has teamed up with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the Illinois Attorney General, and the National Child I.D. Program to offer FREE Child ID kits to families in our community.

These kits contain an inkless fingerprint card, inkless applicator, DNA collection tools, a section for a current photograph, and space for recording descriptions and measurements.

It takes only two minutes to complete each kit, which parents can safely store at home, in case it is ever needed by law enforcement.

The National Child ID Program has distributed over 70 million of these kits since 1997, providing a more comprehensive solution than traditional identification programs for children whose features change rapidly.

You can visit the Police Department at 540 W. Irving Park Road to claim your free kit, which will be displayed in the lobby case.

Water Meter Replacement

During the upcoming winter season, UMI will continue contacting residents to install new water meters. The Water Meter Replacement Program aims to modernize the current metering system by introducing "smart" metering technology in all residential and commercial properties. This upgrade will enhance water management, consumption monitoring, and customer service.



Residents will receive communications 1-2 weeks prior to their scheduled meter replacement, asking them to schedule the installation. The installation process will take about 30 minutes and will briefly interrupt water service. Installers will require access to the water meter, typically located in the basement or crawlspace.

This program is mandatory, and your cooperation is appreciated. For questions or additional information, contact the Public Works Department at (630) 773-2455 or visit the program's website at www.itasca.com/2182/Water-Meter-and-AMI-Project.

Proper Storage for Seasonal Vehicles During Winter Months



In our Village, summer is a cherished season. However, being in Chicago means we must prepare for the colder months. As you get ready for winter by storing your summer belongings, please remember to do the same for your recreational vehicles.

From November 1st to March 31st, the Village requires that boats, trailers, and recreational vehicles be stored in the side yard. This storage should take place on an approved surface and should be screened by a fence that meets Village-approved specifications. More information can be found in the Village's Zoning Code in Section 4.22.

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 Friday, December 22nd, until Tuesday, January 2nd. However, we ask residents to continue to observe no parking near fire hydrants or after 2" of snowfall.



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: Where do I place my garbage containers during or after a snow event?

A: Residents are responsible for ensuring that refuse containers are accessible, but out of the way. To keep plows from hitting garbage cans, place them on the curb, not in the street. During heavy snowfalls, containers may have to be placed in the driveway apron or a cleaned area within the parkway.

Car Seat Installation

We are pleased to inform you that the Itasca Police Department will resume its car seat installation and check services by appointment only.



The PD understands the importance of ensuring the safety of our community members, especially when it comes to protecting our little ones. Appointments for this service are from Monday to Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, submit an email request to carseatcheck@itasca.com. Our Certified Safety Seat Technicians will readily be available to provide professional assistance. We look forward to serving you and your family.

Christmas Tree Disposal

When it's time to say goodbye to your Christmas tree, you have a couple of options for disposal. Republic Services offers a convenient pickup service for Christmas trees (no artificial ones) on your regular garbage day during the first two weeks of January. Remember to strip the tree of ornaments, garlands, lights, and tinsel before placing it in the parkway next to your garbage, with the trunk facing the street. Please note that wreaths, garlands, and natural décor won't be collected. For any inquiries about tree pickup or holiday service, please contact Republic Service at (847) 981-0091.



Alternatively, with a bit of imagination, you can repurpose your tree in these creative ways:

1. **Garden Mulch:** Transform your tree into mulch, a valuable addition to your garden. It helps control weeds, retains moisture, and enhances soil quality.
2. **Aromatic Sachets:** Collect dried needles and craft fragrant sachets to infuse holiday scents into your closets, drawers, or car.
3. **Craft Projects:** Utilize tree branches for DIY crafts. Craft unique decorations, wreaths, or even furniture.

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.



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.

Itasca, IL 60143

(630) 773-0835

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Resident Spotlight: Kimber Gruber

In this edition, we're spotlighting Kimber Gruber, an impressive 6th grader with exceptional talent. This past October, at just 11 years old and self-taught, Kimber made a valuable contribution to the Police Department and Fire District joint drill by creating makeup injuries for the volunteers, adding authenticity to their portrayal of injuries. Kimber exemplifies the notion that age is no barrier to making a positive community impact. We would like to extend our gratitude to Kimber and her mom, Tara, for their assistance, and look forward to Kimber's future achievements. If you know someone making a positive impact in our community, please contact dcurelo@itasca.com to feature them in one of our newsletters.



**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