



## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

*Presented to:*

**LINDA AIANI**

The Citizen of the Year Award recognizes an individual whose outstanding contributions have significantly benefitted the community. This award celebrates those whose efforts bring people together, fostering a sense of unity and pride among residents.

*Nominated by: Jeff Aiani and Maryfran Leno*

*Summary of Nomination:*

For decades, Linda has quietly shaped the heart of Itasca, making the community stronger, kinder, and more welcoming through her actions and example. She has served on the Itasca Park District Board of Commissioners for more than 30 years, including as President since 2002, overseeing projects that have transformed parks, playgrounds, open spaces, and community facilities into places where families and neighbors can come together, play, and thrive. Her leadership has not only improved physical spaces but has set a standard for collaboration and vision in the village.

Beyond the Park District, Linda brings her care and energy directly to neighbors in need. As a leader within ITASCA CARES, she supports the Food Pantry, Walk-In Ministry, Homeless Shelter, and Community Outreach Team. She is often the first to offer a home-cooked meal, opens her holiday celebrations to friends, neighbors, or anyone without a place to go, ensures children from Food Pantry families receive gifts, and helps families access scholarships for programs and activities. She can be seen volunteering weekly, coordinating donations, and supporting community fundraisers that strengthen the village as a whole.

Linda's influence also touches the Itasca Garden Club, where she has led beautification projects and community gardens, and the local music and faith community as director of St. Matthew's Hand Bells, a member of the Combined Church Choir, and a volunteer teacher for St. Luke's Religious Education. Every day, she gives her time and energy not for recognition, but to make Itasca a better place for everyone.

On behalf of the Village, we honor Linda with the Citizen of the Year award, celebrating decades of dedication, generosity, and service. Her example has strengthened the community and inspired others, leaving a legacy that will be felt for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Pruy", written over a white background.

Mayor Jeff Pruy

September 7, 2025