



THE VILLAGE NEWS

COMMITTED TO OUR FUTURE ... INSPIRED BY OUR PAST

WINTER 2018

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Holiday Events In Our Community
See Page 3 for more details



New Subaru Squad Car for Itasca
See Page 8 for more details



Holiday Safety
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Message from the Mayor

As I am writing my last message of the year to you, Itasca is experiencing its first measurable snow. Where has the year gone? As we leave 2018 behind us, I would like to take a moment to pause and reflect on the past year.

As 2018 comes to an end, Chicago gets closer to completing its improvements at O'Hare International Airport. The year 2021 is the targeted completion date for the extension of runway 9R and the construction of new runway 9C. These two runways will impact the north side of Itasca while hopefully providing some noise relief to the south side of town. In preparation for the completion of the O'Hare Modernization Program, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) is working on the long-term fly quiet procedures that will be implemented when this project is completed. So that our voices are heard in these discussions, the Suburban O'Hare Commission, of which Itasca is a member, has hired aviation experts to provide technical assistance to its members and the ONCC, as we analyze proposed fly quiet procedures and the impacts they will have on the region.

We also had a successful year economically in 2018. More than 20 new businesses opened their doors in Itasca during the year. In addition, we approved the construction of a 650,000 square foot data center for RagingWire Data Centers, Inc. RagingWire is a global leader in operating Data Centers. Office Depot also chose Itasca to consolidate its Chicago land distribution operations, and the Village is currently negotiating a development agreement with a local developer to build three new industrial buildings and three restaurant or commercial buildings on the 50 acres

at the corner of Rohlwing Road and Devon Ave.

The Illinois Tollway completed their extension of I-390, which now runs from Lake Street in Hanover Park to Route 83 in Bensenville. Work continues on extending the Tollway east into the airport and then north to I-90 and south to I-294. Even though this improvement could not be built as a Freeway as the Village had hoped, I-390 has strengthened our position as a centrally located community, with easy access for both businesses and residents. Itasca has partnered with 10 communities along the I-390 corridor to create Access O'Hare West to raise awareness of and market the new development potential along the I-390 corridor and to continue our efforts to advocate for true western access to O'Hare International airport.

The holiday season is the time of year that can bring us all closer and help us understand the importance of community. We are fortunate to have a strong outreach program through Itasca Cares, which helps those experiencing hardships or who are in need of a helping hand. To donate or volunteer this holiday season, contact Itasca Cares at (630) 200-3978 or visit itascacares.org. You may also stop by Village Hall and participate in the Village's annual hat and mitten tree event. For more information on this event, please see page 2.

On behalf of the Village Board of Trustees and staff, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Mayor Jeff Pruyn





From the Desk of the Administrator

Local Dog Tags No Longer Required

This fall, the Village Board lifted the requirement for owners to obtain a dog tag from the Village. The requirement was eliminated after staff review of the Village's animal control procedures revealed that the long-standing ordinance was no longer necessary.

Local dog tags were put in place years ago when villages provided animal control services. The purpose was to ensure dogs were vaccinated against rabies and aid the police in reuniting lost dogs with their owners.

Today, the Village relies on the county for animal control services. The State of Illinois now charges county government with ensuring that dogs are vaccinated for rabies. DuPage County requires dogs to wear the identifiable rabies tag at all times. Furthermore, most animals today are microchipped, which is a far easier and more efficient method for returning animals to their owners than the local tagging system.



From the Desk of the Village Clerk

Jody Conidi, Village Clerk • Phone: (630) 773-0835 • e-mail: clerk@itasca.com

Hat and Mitten Tree

The annual Hat and Mitten Tree will be at Village Hall starting Monday, November 26, 2018 through Monday, December 31, 2018. In addition to new hats, mittens, and scarves, donations of new unwrapped toys are also collected.

Election Packets

The filing period for election packets for the April 2, 2019 Consolidated Election for municipal, park district, library district, school district, and fire district officials is Monday, December 10, 2018 through Monday, December 17, 2018. The simultaneous filing lottery, if needed, is Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at Village Hall. For election and voting questions, contact the DuPage Election Commission at (630) 407-5600 or visit dupageco.org/election.

27th Family Christmas Concert

Mark your calendars for December 1st. The Combined Church Choir of Itasca will host its 27th Family Christmas Concert at Hanmee Presbyterian Church, 1049 W. Bloomingdale Rd., Itasca.

The concert has become a holiday tradition for the Itasca community.

Choir members will perform familiar Christmas carols, the audience will join in on three numbers and children will

perform with the Sinfonietta Bel Canto orchestra singing "Away in a Manger". The Hanmee Handbell Choir will present two handbell selections.

Proceeds benefit the Itasca Food Pantry, Itasca Walk in Ministry, Itasca PADS and the Itasca Community Outreach Team. Tickets go on sale mid-November at the Itasca Community Library and Itasca churches. Tickets will also be available at the door. Adult tickets are \$10, children 3-12 are \$5 and those under 3 are free.

A reception hosted by the Hanmee Presbyterian Church will be held following the concert. The Itasca Garden Club will provide table decorations that attendees can take home for a donation.

For more information, call 630-773-8518.



Village of Itasca Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Monday: No Meetings Scheduled

Tuesday: 1st Tuesday – Board of Trustees – 7:00 p.m.,
Committee of the Whole immediately after
3rd Tuesday – Board of Trustees – 7:00 p.m.,
Committee of the Whole immediately after

Wednesday: 2nd Wednesday – School District #10 – 7:00 p.m.
3rd Wednesday – Plan Commission – 7:00 p.m.
3rd Wednesday – Peer Jury – as Scheduled

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

Friday: No Meetings Scheduled



Special Events

Deputy Clerk • Phone: (630) 773-0835 • e-mail: deputyclerk@itasca.com

CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY!

ILLINOIS PROUD! 2018



ITASCA
COMMUNITY
LIBRARY



Itasca
Park District



Saturday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Reception following concert.
Hanmee Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, December 5, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

ILLINOIS' BICENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY BASH

Grades 2-8
Itasca Community Library

Monday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.

STAYING RELAXED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON WITH MEDITATION

Zelma Chamberlain, M.Ed and long-time meditator,
will present a simple and powerful technique.
Itasca Community Library

December 6, Full Day or Half Day

CHRISTKINDLMARKET TRIP

Age 30+
Itasca Park District

Tuesday, December 4

5:30-8:00 p.m.

NIGHT WITH SANTA

Complimentary ornaments courtesy of the
Village of Itasca and tote bags while supplies last.
Itasca Community Library

Tuesday, December 11

6:00-8:00 p.m.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

Fee: \$20
Itasca Park District

Friday & Saturday, December 7 & 8
5:30-8:00 p.m.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Visit with Santa! Enjoy cookies,
hot chocolate, and make crafts.
A free family event!
Springbrook Nature Center

Sunday, December 9

5:30-8:30 p.m.

VISITS FROM SANTA IN YOUR HOME!

Fee: \$25

For Park District & Village Residents

Tuesday, December 11

10:00-10:45 a.m.

CHRISTMAS STORYTIME

Geared to ages 3-6

Itasca Community Library

Sunday, December 16

LETTERS TO SANTA

Free!
Sign up by December 15
Itasca Park District

Tuesday, December 11

HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

Register to participate. Contact
Steve@itascaparkdistrict.com

Free!

Itasca Park District

Thursday, December 13

4:00-8:00 p.m.

GIFT WRAPPING DROP-IN

The Friends of the Library will provide
wrapping materials so you can wrap your
gifts while listening to holiday music!

Itasca Community Library

Saturday, December 15

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

BREAKFAST WITH MRS. CLAUS

Fee: \$10

Itasca Park District

Registration required for most programs.
Contact the Library or Park District to register!

Tuesday, December 18

4:00-5:00 p.m.

GLOBE-TROTTERS: WINTER HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Grades 3-6

Itasca Community Library

Friday, December 21

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ORNAMENT CRAFT

Drop-in

All Ages

Itasca Community Library

Monday, December 31

11:15 a.m. - 12:01 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNTDOWN

For Families

Itasca Community Library

Visit the Library
to view the
parade of trees!



Sponsored by Itasca
Fire Protection District

November 12 - December 12

Collections of new, unwrapped toys
will be taken at the Itasca
Library & Park District.

Itasca Fire Department
630-773-1223

November 26 - December 28

MITTEN & HAT TREE

Hang winter wear donations for
children in need on the
Village of Itasca's
Mitten & Hat Tree located in
the Itasca Village Hall.

All Month Long COLLECTION OF FOOD & HOUSEHOLD NECESSITIES

Drop off items Saturdays
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Itasca Food Pantry
336 W. Center Street, Itasca

All Month Long ITASCA WALK-IN MINISTRY

Monetary donations for people
in need within our community.

Wednesday, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

IWIM 630-467-0133



NAUGHTY or Nice?

A Guide to Holiday Recycling

Confused about how to dispose of your 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 re-use*)
- 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

Itasca's Holiday Lights Recycling Drive



The Village of Itasca has partnered with Elgin Recycling for their 8th Annual Holiday Lights Recycling Program. The recycling program will run from Monday, November 26, 2018 until Friday, January 25, 2019. The drop-off collection box will be located in front of the Itasca Police Station at 540 W. Irving Park Road. Residents can drop off their old holiday lights at any time in the labeled receptacles in front of the Police Department. 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.

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. With this program, Itasca can now divert all holiday lights that would normally end up in a landfill as recycled goods. One strand of lights here and there may seem as though it doesn't help, but these small contributions helped the previous year be extremely successful.

For more information about the Holiday Lights Recycling Program please visit www.itasca.com or track Itasca's progress at www.elginrecycling.com.

Christmas Tree Disposal

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



Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps Update

For the past several years, DuPage County, in cooperation with the state of Illinois and FEMA, have been working to update the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for DuPage County. In the last few months there has been progress towards this goal.

Preliminary flood insurance rate maps were issued for public review and comment in 2017. These preliminary maps brought some additional properties into the regulatory floodplain, and draft maps are now considered “best available information” by DuPage County for the purpose of reviewing floodplain permit applications. To ensure that Itasca property owners had the opportunity to participate in last year’s public comment process, the Village contacted affected property owners by mail for an open house meeting held by DuPage County and informed them about where to send written comments.

In the spring of 2018, the preliminary maps were in the required 90-day Technical Appeals period, the time in which appeals on technical issues with floodplain modeling are raised. That period ended on May 29. Since that time, FEMA has worked to resolve technical issues and finalize the maps for adoption.

In October, DuPage County announced the Letter of Final Determination could be issued as early as February 2019, initiating a 6-month map adoption period. With this anticipated timing, the final floodplain maps could become effective in August 2019. Once formally adopted, mortgage companies and insurers will be required to use these new Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

You can still review the revised preliminary floodplain map for Itasca on the Village’s website www.itasca.com. Printed copies of the map are available at Village Hall. Contact Shannon Malik Jarmusz, Interim Community Development Director, at 630-228-5671 or smalikjarmusz@itasca.com with any questions.



Itasca Means Business!

The Village of Itasca is proud of its business community and would like to extend a warm welcome to the following companies which recently received Village Board approval to operate in our town:

- Smart Tool Solutions, 1211 Norwood Ave. (Injection mold building/3-D metal printing)
- Nicolette Hermiz Artistry, 810 N. Arlington Heights Rd. (Makeup, eyebrows, photo sessions)
- MW Distributor, 1376 Industrial Dr. (Wholesale distributor of candy, tobacco and sundries)
- Two Wine Guyz Inc., 1376 Industrial Dr. (Wholesale alcoholic beverage distributor)
- Sheets Group Ltd., 1115 Hilltop Dr. (Vending machine repair)
- Roy’s Lawn Service, 1215 W. Irving Park Rd., Suite C (Lawn care and retail)
- O’Brien Sexton Associates, 104 S. Walnut St. Unit 1B (Toy and puzzle sales rep)



The District 10 Education Foundation’s Sixth Annual Trivia Night brought the Itasca community together for a madcap battle of the brains. Held on October 5th, Trivia Night was a night of records – a record number of tables sold, a record number of donations from area businesses and individuals, and a record fundraising total of over \$23,000. Our headline sponsor, Itasca Window Cleaning, and our spectacular emcee, Itasca’s own NBC 5 sportscaster, Peggy Kusinski, were integral to its success.

When we come together for events like Trivia Night, we show a commitment to teacher innovation and to our children’s education. Last year, D10EF granted technology and resources such as a digital listening library, Composition to Coding

program, and a day with nationally renowned composer, Brian Balmages. We look forward to making more classroom wishes come true with your continued backing. Here’s what the community can do:

- Join D10EF for its fourth annual Gala on Friday, March 8th. Gather your friends, family, and co-workers for an evening of fine dining and festivities to honor this year’s teacher grant recipients.
- Sponsor or donate to D10EF events. Corporate charitable contributions and sponsorships are vital to the success of the foundation. Sponsorship gives local businesses and corporations an opportunity to be recognized for supporting Itasca public schools and to be involved in the community.
- Consider D10EF for corporate matching. Double your donation. If you plan to make a donation to D10EF and your company has a

corporate matching program, please consider requesting corporate match.

If you are interested in making a donation or being a sponsor, email district10ef@gmail.com or visit d10ef.org. A local commitment to education establishes the roots that help our children grow toward the future. The District 10 Education Foundation is both proud and grateful to be part of a community that champions our schools and children.



DuPage River Salt Creek Watershed Workgroup Recommends a “Low Salt” Winter Diet

Salt Improves Winter Driving Conditions, But Too Much Can Harm Ecosystems

Keeping roads and parking areas free of ice and snow is an essential part of modern life. However, road salt – one of the main tools used to achieve this task – contains chloride as its principal ingredient. Chloride does more than melt snow and ice; it negatively impacts local lakes and rivers. Other minor ingredients of commercial road salt include arsenic and cyanide.

As snow and ice melt, they drain into landscaped areas or storm sewers, and then to natural bodies of water. Waters from a deiced area contain high levels of chlorides, which do not degrade, and there is no cost effective way to remove them. Excessive levels of chlorides can severely impair the ability of plants to absorb water and nutrients. These negative effects are common to both aquatic and terrestrial plants in residential gardens, landscaped areas, and rivers. Fish and other aquatic organisms are then impacted by the decline in habitat.

How Much Salt is Getting into Our Rivers?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set total maximum daily loads (TMDL) for chloride in the DuPage River and Salt Creek. These TMDLs state that the legal level of chloride in the rivers is being exceeded, and require that the levels be reduced. In order to investigate current usage of chlorides and possible reduction strategies, the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup conducted a Chloride Usage Education and Reduction Program Study. The study gave a conservative estimate of the annual chloride use in the watersheds of the upper DuPage and Salt Creek, which exceeded 117,000 tons.

What is being done to reduce chloride usage?

Roads must remain clear to protect public safety, and the Workgroup does not recommend that road salting cease. However, many communities are already employing alternative technologies to deice their roads, such as anti-icing, which applies salt brine to roads when a storm is forecasted, and prevents the formation of ice. Residents can use a similar treatment method by purchasing a deicing alternative to salt available in some groceries and hardware stores. If you must use salt, the Chloride Usage Study recommends employing



the “Just Enough” principle – applying just enough salt to keep your property ice-free. You save money and protect the environment at the same time.

What can I do to help?

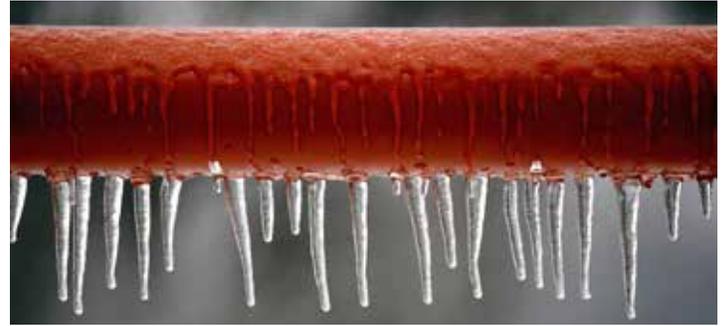
- Shovel (or use a snow blower) before you use any product; never put a deicing product on top of snow.
- Adopt the “Just Enough” principle, putting down just enough product to keep high traffic areas clear of ice.
- Sweep up un-dissolved product after a storm is over for reuse.
- Consider switching to a non-chloride deicer.
- Support changes in chloride application in your municipality.
- Inform a neighbor about the impacts chlorides have in our streams and rivers.



Preventing Frozen Pipes

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

- Check for open air vents in crawl spaces.
- Make sure your water meter is in an area that will receive circulated heat by opening cabinets, closets, or access panel doors to allow room heat to circulate.
- Insulate around water pipes and water meters if located in an unventilated area.
- Avoid turning off or lowering your heat in your home below 55 degrees if you are leaving for extended periods of time. If you do plan on vacating your home for an extended period of time, it is recommended that you winterize your home.
- If you have experienced problems in the past with a frozen service line and the weather forecast contains multiple days of sub-zero temperatures, you could consider leaving a



faucet trickle. Flowing water is less likely to freeze than stagnant water. The flow of water should be about the size of a pencil lead or about an 1/8 of an inch.

How do you know that you have a frozen pipe?

When you open your faucet and only a small trickle comes out and slows to a complete loss of water, you may have a frozen pipe. You can isolate the location by opening the other faucets in your home and observing the flow at each faucet. If every faucet is the same you most likely have a frozen water service line. Call Public Works for this scenario. Public Works can be reached at 630-773-2455 during normal business hours of 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday or during off hours call the police non-emergency number at 630-773-2455.

Snow Plowing Q&A

Q: What are the parking regulations during a snowstorm?

A: After a snowfall of two (2") inches or more, parking is prohibited on both sides of a public street. During this time, residents are asked to park their vehicles in the driveway or garage.

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 when freezing temperatures indicate that no melting will occur. Due to ever-changing weather conditions, we are not able to give you an estimate of when your street will be cleared.

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

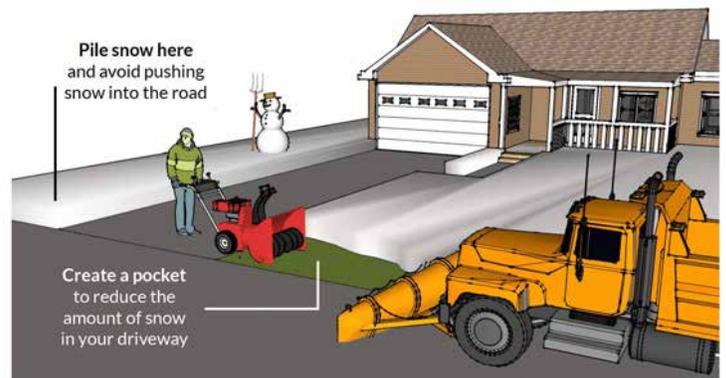
A: While it's frustrating to shovel your driveway only to have the plow come by and push snow back at the base, it is not feasible to plow the street so that your driveway remains completely "snow free". Plows push snow toward the curb, so with no barrier curb, a driveway opening will of course accept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

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

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

How Can I Keep Snow Out of my Driveway?

Before your street has been plowed, we recommend the following:



Using this method to clear snow will reduce the amount of snow that accumulates at the end of your driveway!



Congratulations Graduates

The Itasca Police Department would like to congratulate the recent graduates of Senior Citizen Police Academy Class 18-01 and Citizen Police Academy Class 18-10.

The Itasca PD Senior Police Academy began August 14, 2018 and met Tuesday mornings for five weeks. The class provided an excellent opportunity for senior citizens who live and/or work in the Village of Itasca to become familiar with the day-to-day operations of the Itasca Police Department. Some of the topics discussed were: an overview of the police department, hiring process, traffic stops, investigations, and crime scene processing.

The Police Department's tenth Citizen Police Academy Class was conducted from September 5th to November 7th, meeting once a week on Wednesday evenings. Eleven residents participated in this highly interactive program designed to give them a working knowledge of the Police Department. Areas covered included crime scene investigation, traffic enforcement, crime prevention, investigations, and a multitude of other related topics. Ride-alongs in police vehicles were also available to those interested.

The IPD appreciates all who participated in these programs. Director of Police Robert O'Connor stated "The CPA and Senior CPA help to increase communication between the Itasca Police Department and the community served and gives the department an opportunity to bring a greater awareness of crime prevention and safety to those who live and work in Itasca."



Safety tips to prevent your delivered packages from being stolen

During the holiday season, the Itasca Police Department advises residents to be aware of delivered packages being stolen from homes. Nearly one-third of Americans had packages stolen from their front door or porch in 2017, according to a news report from USA Today. With the holidays quickly approaching, we want to take this time to remind our residents to protect themselves from being targeted. Always retrieve packages (and mail) as soon as it arrives. If you are not going to be home to receive the package:

- Send the package to the residence of a trusted friend or relative who you know will be home.
- Provide special instructions to deliver the package on the side or back of the house, so that the package is out of sight from the road.
- Have the package shipped to the nearest store for "in-store pick up".
- Check with employers to see if the package can be delivered to your place of employment.
- Install security cameras that point at the front door, hallway, or driveway to prevent package theft. It will serve as a great deterrent for criminals.
- Use a wireless home monitoring system. A wireless door monitor, such as Ring, allows you to see your porch. You'll know when packages are delivered and will be able to see visitors, even when not at home. It works through a Wi-Fi-enabled camera at your door and an app on your phone. You can set off alarms for snoopers, as well as ask questions to those approaching.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Itasca Police Department at (630) 773-1004 or police@itasca.com. These simple tips can help make the holidays much less stressful and protect your deliveries. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Itasca Debuts its Newest Squad Car



Have you seen the newest addition to the Itasca Police Department Fleet? This 2018 Subaru WRX high-performance vehicle was revealed to the public for the first time at this year's Subaru Car Show held in downtown Itasca and it was immediately a big hit!

The car is the latest example of an ongoing partnership between the Village's Police Department and local business. The high-tech vehicle is provided by Subaru of America, Inc. as part of their generous commitment to community and law enforcement. The graphics are inspired by students of Itasca's District 10 and feature patriotic colors throughout the design with a theme of 'include others' featured along the rear of the vehicle. This year's design also includes a very special memorial tribute to Tom Gehrke who was instrumental in establishing the program.



Board of Trustees

Chris Kunze, President - ckunze@itasca.com, Kevin Boehne, Treasurer - kboehne@itasca.com, John Kearney, Secretary - jkearney@itasca.com

The Itasca Fire District would like to give a **HUGE THANK YOU!** to the Lions Club of Itasca along with Itasca State Bank. Together they donated \$2500 each towards the purchase of new CPR manikins. These manikins are recommended by the American Heart Association because they provide real time feedback to students that are being trained in proper CPR techniques. They replace our old manikins that were well over 10 years old.



Holiday Safety

The Itasca Fire Protection District would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. It is customary for the District to provide our residents with helpful tips that you can use around the house during the holiday season along with some statistics on holiday decorations.

Christmas Trees

- Between 2011-2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an average 200 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of 6 deaths, 16 injuries, and \$14.8 million in direct property damage annually.
- On average, one of every 32 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 143 total reported home fires.
- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in two of every five (40%) home Christmas tree fires.
- REMEMBER TO KEEP REAL TREES PROPERLY WATERED!

Holiday Decorations

- U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 840 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees, in 2011-2015. These fires caused an annual average of two civilian fire deaths, 36 civilian fire injuries and \$11.4 million in direct property damage.
- The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or equipment in two of every five (42%) fires.
- More than one-fifth (21%) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen. Fifteen percent started in the living room, family room or den.
- Buy electrical decorations that have the UL label. This means they were tested for safety.

Candles and Fireplaces

Thousands of deaths are caused by fires, burns and other fire-related injuries every year, and 12% of home candle fires occur in December, the National Fire Protection Association reports. Increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes means more risk for fire.

- Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- Keep candles out of reach of children.
- Make sure candles are on stable surfaces.
- Don't burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items.
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace.
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year.



Turkey Fryers

While many subscribe to the theory any fried food is good – even if it's not necessarily good for you – there is reason to be on alert if you're thinking of celebrating the holidays by frying a turkey.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports there have been 168 turkey-fryer related fires, burns, explosions or carbon monoxide poisoning incidents since 2002. CPSC says 672 people have been injured and \$8 million in property damage losses have resulted from these incidents.

The National Safety Council discourages the use of turkey fryers at home and urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments or consider a new oil-less turkey fryer.

Candles and fireplace along with turkey fryer tips and many others come from one of our very own companies located in Itasca, The National Safety Council. Their website has many terrific tips, videos and posters that can be viewed and downloaded. Their website is <http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/news-and-resources-holiday-safety.aspx>

Christmas tree and holiday decoration facts come from the National Fire Protection Association Website. You can find more facts at www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Seasonal-fires/Winter-holiday-safety/Holiday-fires-by-the-numbers



Holiday Events

Free! Santa's Workshop

Visit with Santa, enjoy cookies, hot chocolate and create fun holiday crafts!
Fri, Dec. 7, from 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Sat, Dec. 8, from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Nature Center



Santa Visits

Your kids will love to have Santa visit their very own home! Santa will stay at each home for 15 minutes. Park District and Village Residents only.
Sun, Dec. 9, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Fee: \$25

Gingerbread House

Decorating

Come and decorate a pre-baked gingerbread house! Enjoy juice and cookies while listening to Christmas carols.

Families are invited to work together.
Tue, Dec. 11, from 6-8 p.m. Fee: \$20
Itasca Rec Center

Breakfast with Mrs. Claus

Get ready for some holiday cheer as families enjoy a yummy breakfast and special visit with Mrs. Claus! We'll enjoy holiday music, crafts and the reading of everyone's favorite holiday stories.
Sat, Dec. 15, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; \$10 per person
Itasca Rec Center



Holiday House Decorating Contest

Itasca Park District and Village of Itasca Residents, show us your best outdoor holiday decorating!
Email your name, address and phone number to Steve at Steve@itascaparkdistrict.com to register your home. Free entry and prizes awarded!
Date: Tue, Dec. 11, 6 p.m.

Reindeer Rock

Kids will enjoy a fun winter evening of reindeer games, crafts and snacks.
Ages: 3-7yrs
Mon, Dec. 17, from 6-7:30 p.m.;
Fee: \$15/\$20
Itasca Rec Center

Ice Rink

The **Ice Rink** will be open at the Waterpark parking lot this winter.

Skating is free! It is safe to skate when the green flag is flying. For skating conditions sign up for text or email notifications at itascaparkdistrict.com/notifyme or call the hotline 630-616-7558. Ice Rink address: 100 N. Catalpa



The Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary on Rohlwing Road is open every day sunrise to sunset! Check out the 1/3 mile



Follow the Itasca Park District on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and itascaparkdistrict.com!

accessible loop through the marsh and woods. Itasca's first dog park will open in May of 2019 at the Softball Complex. Stay tuned for Grand Opening event details on our website and social media.

Trips

We have trips for all ages including: **Age 40+** enjoy lunch at Armand's Pizza in Arlington Heights and see Mouse Trap at the Metropolis on Sat, Feb 16. **Age 60+** Visit Starved Rock for Shake, Rattle & Roll on Mar 11 for lunch and this rocking show!



Holiday Gift ideas: give a Fitness Membership, Recreation Gift Certificate, or a leaf on the Park District Giving Tree!

Get fit this winter at the Itasca Fitness Center! **Drop-in classes** include Pilates, Seniors in Motion, Boot Camp, Zumba, Aqua Aerobics and more, visit itascaparkdistrict.com/aerobics. We have 9 treadmills with cable and internet access. **Personal Training** is available 7 days per week. Hope to see you at the Itasca Fitness Center!

Check out our many Easter Events beginning in March.

Stay warm and register online at: itascaparkdistrict.com/register



INFORMATION. COMMUNITY. LEARNING

Itasca's Night with Santa

Tues., Dec. 4, from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Join us for our annual Village holiday celebration! Festivities kick off with Santa arriving at the library at 5:30 p.m. Activities include music by the Peacock Middle School Choir and holiday crafts organized by community groups. Each family will receive a commemorative ornament and a tote bag while supplies last. Donations of new and unwrapped toys, winter wear for all ages, and non-perishable food items will be accepted on behalf of the Itasca Police Department and the Itasca Food Pantry to help local families in need. Enjoy the display of "Illinois Proud" holiday trees decorated in the spirit of Illinois' Bicentennial! If you have any questions contact Library Director Tuki Sathaye at tsathaye@itascalibrary.org.



Youth Winter Reading Club (Preschool-Grade 8)

Register starting Monday, December 21

The library encourages you to read this winter by joining our *There's Snow Better Time to Read!* Winter Reading Club. Read for at least eight hours any time between December 21 – February 1 to earn prizes. To be a part of the Winter Reading Club or for more details, please visit the Youth Desk.

*There's Snow
Better Time
To Read!*

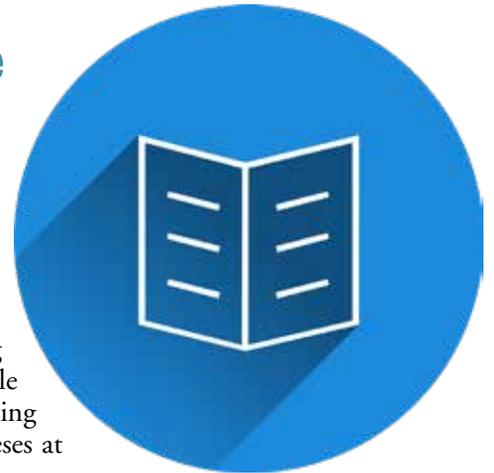
New Book Discussions for Adults

We're excited to announce two new book discussions starting this winter. **Escape from Earth!** will explore great science fiction, and **Epic Reads** will introduce you to wonderful, big books that you may have been reluctant to pick up. We encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and join us for these new book discussions, which will meet off-site at area businesses.

Epic Reads at Wine With Me

Thursday, February 28, 7:00 p.m.

Support small business. Read big books. You've heard of the books but never found the time to read them. This once-quarterly book group will help you through those epic reads you've always wanted to try, beginning with Donna Tartt's Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Goldfinch*. Books will be available for pickup and extended checkout starting December 1. Enjoy epic wines and cheeses at our discussion at Wine with Me.



Escape from Earth! Science Fiction Book Discussion

Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Itasca Starbucks.

Feel like escaping from this planet? We've got just the book discussion group for you. Explore other worlds, alien races, alternate realities, and cutting social commentary with our **Escape from Earth!** Book Discussion. We'll read classics of the sci-fi genre as well as modern speculative fiction. Put your head in the clouds and expand your reading universe!

January 15: *The Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Le Guin

February 19: *The Man in the High Castle* by Philip K. Dick



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

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- 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 773-1004
- non-emergency
- 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 773-1223
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Itasca Lions Club Christmas Luminaria

The Itasca Lions are proud to continue the tradition of the Christmas Luminaria, which started in Itasca back in 1960 by Boyd and Barbara Hindman. Luminaria have their origin in Mexico and it was the Hindmans who lit the first Christmas Eve Luminaria in the area. The tradition of candle-lit bags lining the walkways and streets on Christmas Eve is symbolic of the "Lighting of the Christ Child's way home." The Lions will be assembling the bags and will distribute them to the homes in the village on Saturday, December 1. Please light your candles at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24 (Rain Date is 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Day). The Lions of Itasca appreciate any and all donations for the luminaria. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of the residents, luminaria donations have allowed the Lions Club to continue their mission of helping those in need.

