

Photo: Lori Drummond  
Birds of Prey at  
Springbrook (p9)



# The Village News



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## Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

With the holidays just around the corner, this is the time of year to reflect on the things we are most thankful for. I, for one, am thankful for the health of my family, friends, and that of our community. I am also grateful for the tremendous support our community has shown to each other. Throughout this pandemic, I have witnessed heart-warming tales of neighbors helping neighbors. It is truly inspiring to see the kindness of our residents to one another.

Speaking of neighbors looking out for neighbors, long-time resident Rose Ann Roll reached out to me, on behalf of a group of community volunteers, wondering if the Village would be willing to host a tree lighting event in Downtown Itasca to brighten up what has been a difficult year. Several months ago, Chrissy Pan and Nicole Diestel made a similar suggestion.

With the support of these volunteers and a generous donation from Itasca Bank & Trust Co., the Village, along with our partners at the Itasca Park District and Itasca Community Library, will be hosting a Tree Lighting Celebration on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. What was originally envisioned to be an outdoor Christmas market has been reimagined as a drive-thru parade with the health and safety of our residents at the forefront. More information can be found on page 6.

Our friends at the Park District and Library have worked incredibly hard this year to modify in-person events and create virtual experiences to keep our community connected. I am grateful for their dedication and encourage each of you to visit their websites to participate in other winter events that exemplify the holiday spirit.

I am also thankful for the virtual connections that I have made with residents, Village staff, and business owners over the past several months. While I was wary at first of the value of remote meetings, today we rely on virtual platforms to move business forward and connect with residents and business owners on a daily basis. After the holidays, I will be hosting another virtual Coffee with the Mayor. Details can be found on page 6 and hope to see you all there.

While 2020 has been a tumultuous year for all of us, it has been especially difficult for our

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## Mayor's Message Continued...

restaurants. Facing unknown futures, they quickly changed their business models and offered curbside carry-out, delivery, Uber Eats, and Door Dash. The lucky restaurants that were able to survive the first shutdown have invested thousands of dollars into restaurant modifications like adding partitions, installing new HVAC systems, hiring cleaning companies, and buying new cleaning supplies. They also invested in new training for their employees, so that they and you, their patrons, could be as safe as possible.

The Village Board and I could not be prouder of the resiliency and strength that our restaurants have shown during this time. To assist the restaurants during the initial shut down, the Village Board offered direct financial assistance through the creation of the Itasca Bucks Program. This program encouraged residents to eat locally, by providing subsidized coupons to participating restaurants. Due to the success of the program, the Village Board approved two additional rounds of Itasca Bucks, with the third round being mailed to households shortly. No matter what you're craving from steak, and seafood to pizza, burgers, an omelet or sweets, Itasca restaurants have got you covered.

While much of what we are accustomed to wasn't possible this spring and summer, we continue to accomplish projects aimed at improving the quality of life of residents and businesses alike. In partnership with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), the Village selected the Lakota Group to create a new Downtown Strategic Action Plan. The plan will define our vision for Downtown Itasca and identify action steps we can take to leverage existing transportation, real estate, and community involvement, to create a downtown that is a welcoming and active meeting place for residents and visitors.

Village staff recently met with the RTA and Lakota Group for kick-off meetings in September to discuss the timeline and completion of the Existing Conditions Report, the first part of the plan. The Existing Conditions Report will provide an in-depth analysis of the current land uses in the study area as well as identify the various strengths and obstacles that exist in further enhancing development in Downtown Itasca.

There will also be a number of opportunities for residents to help shape the plan by sharing their thoughts and ideas.

A Steering Committee of local business owners and community members will also provide feedback on the plan before it goes to the Plan Commission and Village Board for review and adoption in 2021.

While we have seen many changes over the past year, we continue to adapt and rise to the occasion. While 2020 has not been easy, I believe that as a community we will emerge stronger than before. On behalf of everyone at the Village, we wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

## Administrator's Message

**Carie Anne Ergo**

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of everyday life, from how we work to how we shop and interact with each other. In the previous newsletter, I discussed the different measures that the Village has taken to keep you and our employees safe. From installing plexiglass dividers at the front counters to expanding our online services, the Village has taken significant steps to ensure it can continue to provide essential municipal services to you, no matter what phase we are in.

As part of its ongoing efforts, the Village like many other municipalities, has invested in technology upgrades, in order to continue to move Village business forward, while still remaining transparent.

While working remotely, the Village Board was able to welcome 18 new businesses to town, implement financial and code relief to struggling businesses, waive late fees for residents' past due water bills, and much more.

Public hearings are vitally important to spurring economic growth and new investment in properties throughout our Village. This is why the Village invested in tools and technology to allow public hearings to move forward and keep residents informed. As a result, the Plan Commission was able to hear a dozen cases from residents and businesses owners wishing to make improvements to their properties.

Technology improvements have allowed the Village to resume large scale Plan Commission meetings, such as the Haymarket Public Hearing with 25 people present. Some have inquired why the Village now allows remote public participation, when previously members of the public had to be physically present to provide comment. The simple answer is because now we can.

The Village of Itasca is bound by state laws that guide the public hearing process. With no end in sight for the pandemic, the State of Illinois has temporarily altered the law to allow public hearings to be conducted remotely. The Village will continue to explore ways to adapt its policies in order to keep Village business moving forward and residents informed. The new procedures make it far easier for members of the public to address the Plan Commission because now residents can submit testimony or comments in writing, online, or by phone. To learn more about ways you can participate, visit [www.itsasca.com](http://www.itsasca.com).

I received word this week that Itasca Country Club's request to convert approximately 34 acres of the club's property to a two-story data center and preserve the balance as recreational open space has been withdrawn. The entire Itasca Country Club property is currently zoned R-1, which allows the property owner to build single family homes on the site. The Village remains committed to working with the property owner to evaluate any proposal that serves to enhance quality of life in Itasca and preserve open space.

Finally, a quick update on the Starbucks property. The Village has connected the property owner to several food and beverage

companies that have expressed interest in leasing the property. Staff continues to be in regular communication with the property owner as they evaluate potential new tenants.

While we continue to adjust and adapt to our new environment, please

know that the Village staff continues to work with your best interests in mind and is here to answer any questions. Although the pandemic has been challenging for all of us, we will get through this together stronger than before.

## Itasca Means Business

The Village of Itasca is proud of its business community and being a premier destination for all types of businesses. Join us in extending a warm welcome to the following companies which recently received Village Board approval to operate in our town:

**Keyence Corp. of America –  
1055 W. Devon Ave.**

Keyence Corp. of America is a global manufacturer of measurement equipment whose U.S. headquarters are also located in Itasca in the Hamilton Lakes Business Park. They have recently expanded in Itasca to utilize the Class A Facility at Bridge Point Itasca to warehouse their products. For more information go to [www.keyence.com](http://www.keyence.com).

**Avital Limousine –  
1431 Harmony Ct.**

Avital Limousine provides limousine and party bus services for all your special events. To get a free quote or book an event, go to [www.avitalchicagolimosine.com](http://www.avitalchicagolimosine.com).

**The Beauty Lounge Salon & Boutique –  
320 W. Irving Park Rd. Suite 2**

The Beauty Lounge Salon & Boutique is a full-service salon conveniently located in Downtown Itasca, near Itasca Bank & Trust. The owner, Chiara Lazzara, is a former Paul Mitchell Educator and is a hair stylist, colorist, and extension specialist. Call or text (630) 217-9919 for reservations. For more information go to [www.beautyloungechicago.com](http://www.beautyloungechicago.com).

**Option Care –  
870 N. Arlington Heights Rd. Suites 101 & 102**

Option Care, a former subsidiary of Walgreens, is a Home Infusion Pharmacy Service. They will be occupying the newly constructed Office/Flex-Tech/Warehouse Space at 870 N. Arlington Heights Road just off of South Thorndale Avenue. For more information go to [www.optioncarehealth.com](http://www.optioncarehealth.com).

**Costco Wholesale –  
1155 W. Devon Ave.**

Costco Wholesale (Costco-Innovel Solutions) is a global warehouse retailer and will be occupying 112,000 square feet at the newly constructed Class A Bridge Point Itasca Development. Costco will be utilizing this location for its home delivery service of products bought by its customers online and in-store. For more information go to [www.innovelsolutions.com](http://www.innovelsolutions.com).

**Williams & Co. Consulting –  
500 Park Blvd. Suite 185C**

Williams & Co. Consulting is an Environmental Management Consulting Firm. The business provides a wide array of services

including Project Management, Risk Management, Technical Services & Testing, Class A/B & C Operator Training in compliance with the Energy Policy Act, Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plans, and Information Management. For more information go to [www.willconsult.com](http://www.willconsult.com).

**Litholink –  
150 Spring Lake Dr.**

Litholink, a subsidiary of Laboratory Corporation of America (LabCorp), provides at-home medical testing kits and utilizes their Itasca location as a medical testing facility. For more information go to [www.litholink.com](http://www.litholink.com). LabCorp is another Itasca-based business.

**Cunningham Commodities –  
500 Park Blvd.**

Cunningham Commodities is a Financial Investment Consulting Firm specializing in futures and options trading. Their premier state-of-the-art electronic platform provides access on all major futures exchanges for both high volume traders and retail accounts. For more information go to [www.cunninghamllc.com](http://www.cunninghamllc.com).

**Paramedic Services of Illinois –  
1 Pierce Suite 750W**

Paramedic Services of Illinois has provided contractual paramedic and firefighting services for over 45 years and serves over 640,000 residents through their contractors with communities, municipalities and fire protection districts. For more information go to [www.paramedicservices.com](http://www.paramedicservices.com).

**Panstar Express Chicago –  
1200 N. Arlington Heights Rd. Suite 420**

Panstar Express Chicago is a division of Pan Star Group/Express which is a full service transportation logistic firm specializing in the field of shipping agency, shipbroking, container leasing, sea and air freight forwarding, customs clearance, maritime legal consulting, and shipping gazette publication. For more information go to [www.panstarexpress.com](http://www.panstarexpress.com).

**Kiewit Infrastructure –  
2 Pierce Pl. Suite 1600**

Kiewit Infrastructure is an infrastructure engineering and design firm which oversees the planning and design of roadways, bridges, and rail systems. They have experts in the field of structural, geotechnical civil roadway, hydraulics, drainage, and materials science. For more information go to [www.kiewit.com](http://www.kiewit.com)

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Facebook: Itasca Means Business

## Retirements & New Hires



Marilu Burns

The Village is pleased to welcome Marilu Burns to our team. Marilu was hired as a part-time Customer Service Representative in August. You will meet her at the front counter handling intake for the Community Development and Administration counters.

As a three-year resident of Itasca, she is happy to serve the community and work close to home. Marilu is married with 3 beautiful daughters.



Linda Tountas

The Village is also pleased to announce the recent hiring of Linda Tountas. Linda was hired in October as our full-time Community Development Permit Technician. She comes to us with several years of public service, having worked at several villages. Linda is here to assist you with your permit questions and needs.

Outside of work, Linda enjoys spending time with her new grandson and 5 adult children, all of whom are first responders in Chicago and area suburbs.

It is with a mixture of happiness and sadness that the village announces the retirement of three long-time employees. Recently, the Community Development Department announced the retirement of Tom Edwards, the Village of Itasca's Code Enforcement Officer. Tom, who is also an Itasca resident, was hired in 2000, and has been a fixture in the community for over two decades. Tom spent his career working hard to keep Itasca beautiful, making property maintenance inspections, and working with home and business owners. The Village is sad to see Tom depart but delighted for him as he embarks on this new chapter of life! If you see him out and about walking his dog, be sure to say hello.



Barry Kauther

After 31 years of dedicated service to the Village of Itasca, Deputy Chief Barry Kauther announced his plans to retire from the Itasca Police Department.

Over the course of his career, he held several appointments including Patrolman, Juvenile Officer, DARE Officer, Detective, Sergeant, and Deputy Chief of Operations. In each of these assignments he distinguished himself through his

tenacious work ethic and received numerous accolades from the Police Department, State's Attorney's Office, AAIM, and various professional law enforcement organizations for his contributions to the residents and businesses of Itasca.

In 2016 Deputy Chief Kauther attended the prestigious Staff

and Command curriculum for Law Enforcement management professionals at Northwestern University. He implemented the concepts he learned to make the Itasca Police Department the 21<sup>st</sup> century agency it is acknowledged for being.

Deputy Chief Kauther has also helped guide the IPD through many large scale events such as the annual Fourth of July fireworks display, Oktoberfest, and ItascaFest.

Lastly, in January of 2016, the Itasca Police Department became one of only 22 accredited police agencies in Illinois and was re-accredited in July of 2020. Deputy Chief Kauther's knowledge, professionalism, and training were all cited as contributory factors in making accreditation possible.

Director of Police Robert O'Connor said that he is "proud to have served all these years with a dedicated Law Enforcement officer of D.C. Kauther's caliber. His integrity is beyond reproach and he has set the standard for every position he has held for future officers to strive to. The bravery, professionalism, and behavior Barry demonstrated throughout his career has had a great influence on the officers and community."



David Sloan

Lastly, the Village would like to congratulate David Sloan, Public Works's General Service Superintendent, on his retirement after 33 1/2 years of dedicated service to Itasca. Dave was hired into our Public Works Department as a Parks & Grounds Foreman in the spring of 1987. The Village had just completed the construction of Usher Park and needed a qualified horticulturist to maintain the park in a professional manner.

Dave has supervised the maintenance of Usher Park and assisted in the design and maintenance of the Orchard Street Gardens, the downtown landscaping, flower baskets, Riverwalk, and Municipal Complex. Dave has served as the Village Forester for 30 years. Dave's responsibilities also grew to include transportation, fleet, snow and ice control, special events, and the Nature Center grounds.

Dave has also been on the front line of Public Works response to flooding, blizzards, storms, and the recent pandemic. He supervised and coordinated Public Works's response and cleanup of the micro-burst in 2017, working with volunteers, in-house personnel, and a contractor.

Public Works's Director Ross Hitchcock noted that, "it is impossible to communicate all of Dave's accomplishments and contributions to the village in a newsletter article. As you walk, ride a bike, or drive through town, I can assure you that Dave Sloan was involved in making it look great."

Thank you, Tom, Barry, and Dave, for your years of dedicated service to the Village. We wish you the best of luck and hope you enjoy the new endeavors that life brings to you.

## Business Spotlight

### Shop Local this Holiday Season!

While our shopping and dining habits may look and feel a little different due to protective face masks, social distancing, and other safety measures, our local shops, restaurants, and service providers are hard at work to provide you with exceptional goods and services that can help check off your gift list or provide you with a little pampering.

How you spend your dollars matters. As a consumer, you're part of the success of small businesses. Every local purchase you choose to make supports business owners, their employees, and the community, which in turn can funnel back into the community for additional investment.

Supporting small businesses is more important than ever this year. As 2020 draws near its end and the holiday season quickly approaches, the Village of Itasca encourages you to patronize local Itasca businesses that call our community home. To get you started, here are some of our local businesses who are eager to help you find that perfect gift this holiday season.

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

### America's Best Train, Toy & Hobby Shop

Located at 865 Maplewood Drive



America's Best Train, Toy, & Hobby Shop specializes in all things hobby for kids and the kid at heart! Trains, train sets, building sets, slot cars, models, figurines, and more can be found at this

treasured shop, which has been in business for more than 20 years. Lionel? Check. Brio? Check. Thomas the Tank Engine? Check. Playmobil? Check. You can even find a wide variety of science kits, K'nex, and more! Visit [www.americasbesttrain.com](http://www.americasbesttrain.com) for more information. Gift certificates are available. Be sure to say hello to Tony when you stop by!

### Helix Camera and Video

Located at 100 N. Walnut Street



With a 50+ year history and a unique location in the former Village Hall building in Downtown Itasca, Helix features a wide variety of cameras, lenses, lighting, and accessories from all

of the major camera equipment manufacturers. In addition, class and event information is regularly updated on the company website by Valerie and Eric. Visit [www.helixcamera.com](http://www.helixcamera.com) for more information. Gift certificates are available.

### Ju Ju B's Hair 'N' Nails

Located at 929 W. Irving Park Road



Ju Ju B's Hair 'N' Nails is a full service, family-friendly salon, serving our community for more than 15 years. Some of the salon's service offerings include haircuts, styling, coloring, and treatments. Manicures and pedicures are also available, including classics such as the French manicure, acrylics, no chip, and gel styles,

or get creative with a nail art session for a little something unique or festive! Hair removal and lash extension services are also available. Visit [www.jujubshairnnails.com](http://www.jujubshairnnails.com) for more information. Gift certificates are available. Be sure to say hello to owner Julie when you stop in.

### Wine with Me

Located at 111 Gigi Gruber Lane



Wine with Me is a unique wine shop and casual wine bar also located within the former Village Hall building in historic Downtown Itasca, where it has been in operation since 2008.

Wine varietals at all price points, handcrafted beer, and small batch spirits, along with wine accessories, gifts, and chocolates are on offer, along with occasional educational seminars and tasting events. Can't decide, ask Mark or one of his knowledgeable staff members for help. Visit [www.winewithmeitasca.com](http://www.winewithmeitasca.com) for more information. Gift certificates are available.

## Itasca Holiday Drive-Thru Tree Lighting Celebration

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Pack up the family, decorate your car with holiday spirit and come drive through our Itasca Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration! Holiday music, gift bags for the kids, cookies for the family, and a sighting of Santa will be along this holiday celebration route.

Santa's elves will be collecting new and unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots Foundation – please bring a donation. The celebration route begins at the intersection of Center and Maple Streets, then proceeds south on Maple, through SD10/Metra Parking Lot, east on Orchard, and North on Walnut.

Due to the current COVID Restrictions, please follow these guidelines: This is a drive-thru only event, no exiting the vehicle. No walk-ups will be permitted. Display on the driver's side, the # of kids in the vehicle. Wear face coverings if vehicle windows are open.

The Village would like to thank its committee of resident volunteers for organizing this event.

Sponsored by:  
Village of Itasca  
Itasca Park District  
Itasca Community Library  
Itasca Bank & Trust Co.

## Itasca Lions Club Christmas Luminaria

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 5:00 P.M.



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 sometime in early December. Please light your candles at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> (rain date is 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Day). In 2019, a drone was used to take pictures and video of the Luminaria as it appeared from above, and this may be done again in 2020. All pictures and videos will be made available for public viewing after the event.

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.

## Holiday House Decoration Contest

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 6:00 P.M.



Village of Itasca and Itasca Park District residents, decorate your house with holiday spirit! To enter your house, email your name, address, and phone number to [amoraca@itascaparkdistrict.com](mailto:amoraca@itascaparkdistrict.com). Lights must be on by 6:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded! Winners will be posted on the Itasca Facebook page & website by December 20<sup>th</sup>.



## Santa's Workshop

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>  
5:30 - 8:00 P.M.  
AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>  
11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.  
SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER  
Must register online  
[www.itascaparkdistrict.com](http://www.itascaparkdistrict.com)

## Coffee with the Mayor

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 9:00 A.M.



Mayor Prunyn invites you to participate in a virtual Coffee with the Mayor event on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Itasca Park District Executive Director Maryfran Leno, Itasca Community Library Director Frank Murray, Itasca Fire District Chief Burke, and Itasca School District 10 Superintendent Craig Benes will also

be joining us. Come learn about upcoming projects, ask a question, or express your concerns during this live Q&A session.

There is no agenda, just conversation. So, brew your favorite cup of coffee; grab your tablet, laptop, or computer; and join us on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

The Village would like to thank the Itasca Community Library for hosting this event.

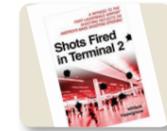


## Upcoming Virtual Events



### Take & Make Crafts for Kids

Pick up a new craft kit every week (crafts change each Monday).



### Shots Fired in Terminal 2 Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Learn about the 2017 Fort Lauderdale Airport shooting from the first-hand experience of author William Hazelgrove. Registration is required.



### Festival of Bells Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Join the library and Music Play Patrol as we explore a variety of bell instruments to celebrate the holidays. For ages 2-6 years. Registration is required.



### Cook Up a Good Book Tuesdays, December 8<sup>th</sup>, January 12<sup>th</sup>, and February 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Join us for a holiday recipe or two over Zoom. Geared to grades 4-8 with a caregiver. Registration is required.



### The Legend of St. Nicholas with Terrence Lynch Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Terry Lynch portrays Father Christmas to share worldwide Christmas traditions. Registration is required.



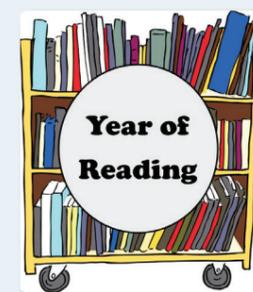
### Teen Cooking Club: Holly Jolly Treats Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Join us for a holiday recipe or two over Zoom. Geared to grades 6-12. Registration is required.



### Youth Winter Reading Challenge Registration begins Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

Kids in preschool through 8th grade can join the library's Winter Reading Challenge to earn prizes.



## Year of Reading 2021

Challenge yourself to read something new in 2021 and earn prizes just for reading! After a successful Year of Reading 2020, the Itasca Community Library is kicking off another round of this reading challenge with all new categories including a book about food, a book set in the U.S., a mystery, and a book about royalty. Register and pick up a book log beginning on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Keep track of what books you read to fit each of the 25 categories. To earn the finisher's prize, you must complete 24 out of the 25 categories by December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. As an incentive to keep reading throughout the year, you can also earn a smaller prize once you've reached the halfway point after completing 12 of the categories. Stuck on what to read for some of the categories? The library will have lists of recommendations for each category at the Adult Desk and on our website. Call the library at (630) 773-1699 for more information.



### Identifying and Transforming Inner Racism Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Join the dialogue on how we can move beyond good intentions to help make a difference in the world by understanding internal racism. Registration is required.



### Comics Club Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Kids in grades 2-6 will receive a free copy of the selected graphic novel to discuss over Zoom. Registration is required.



### Kids Cooking Club Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Join us for a winter recipe or two over Zoom. Geared to grades 3-5. Registration is required.



### Wicked Wrench Presents Automotive Basics Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:00 a.m.

Learn the basics of auto maintenance from Jaime and Naomi Hjelm, two sisters who grew up fixing cars in Itasca. Registration is required.



### DIY Instruments Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Join the library and Music Play Patrol as we take ordinary objects from home and turn them into musical instruments. For ages 2-6 years. Registration is required.



### Secret Chicago Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

Author Jessica Mlinaric will take us on a virtual tour of Chicago's little-known gems and curiosities. Registration is required.

## 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 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

## Donating this Holiday Season



With so many impacted by the pandemic this year, donations are important as ever. However, COVID-19 has affected a lot of organizations' abilities to collect items this year. This year for example, the Fire District will be unable to accept

donations this holiday season, as in years past. Instead residents are encouraged to drop off toy donations directly to the new DuPage County Toys for Tots warehouse located at 901 S. Rohlwing Road, Addison. Or if you plan on attending the Holiday Drive-Thru Tree Lighting Celebration on December 4<sup>th</sup>, Santa's elves will be collecting new and unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. The Village will also be continuing its tradition of collecting hats, mittens, scarves, and socks for the Itasca Food Pantry this holiday season. You may drop off your donation to Village Hall until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

You can also make someone's holiday season brighter through alternative donations such as:

- Donating blood or becoming a volunteer with the American Red Cross
- Volunteering at the Itasca Food Pantry or at a local church or shelter
- Organizing a neighborhood group to help shovel snow or pick up groceries. Whose day doesn't get brighter after walking out and finding your driveway shoveled after a major snowstorm?

Whatever you decide to do this holiday season, be sure to call and check with the organization to find out more about their safety procedures.

August 31<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to reopening in Summer 2021 with a new 1,200 square foot bathhouse. The new bathhouse will include a year-round multi-purpose room, two family restrooms, updated locker rooms, offices, and more! Holiday events are right around the corner. Make sure to visit our website for all the details on our Holiday House Decorating Contest, Santa's Workshop, and Letters to Santa. Register online for all events and programs at [www.itascaparkdistrict.com](http://www.itascaparkdistrict.com). As the weather cools, the Itasca Fitness Center is a great place to stay in shape during the winter months. We have different memberships to fit your lifestyle. The Fitness Center is continuously cleaned daily along with hand sanitizer and gym wipes available for all members. Do not let this winter pass, and stay active with us at the Itasca Park District.

## Birds of Prey at Springbrook

This year's cover photo was submitted by resident Lori Drummond. It is of the Springbrook Nature Center's resident Western Screech-Owl which considers Itasca the best place to call home!

While many of us tend to huddle indoors during the colder months, winter is prime time to see the birds at Springbrook Nature Center in action. Volunteers will be flight training several birds during the season. While times vary by day, stop by Sunday afternoons between 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. to see them fly from handler to handler (weather and bird willing). These birds are cared for by Wings and Talons, a 501(c)(3) non-profit comprised entirely of volunteers. Care of the birds is funded by donations from the public. For more information, visit Wings and Talons at <https://wingsandtalons.org> or find them on Facebook and Instagram.

## Christmas Tree Disposal



With a little imagination, your Christmas tree can be used for a multitude of purposes after the holidays are over. Before disposing of your tree, cut thin slices of the trunk to create a blank wood canvas which can be used to make an ornament by attaching a ribbon to it; or you can varnish the piece to make a drink coaster. You can also use the branches as winter mulch for plant beds.

If you do not wish to repurpose your tree, Republic Services will pick up Christmas Trees (no artificial trees) on your regular garbage day during the first two weeks of January. All trees must be free of ornaments, 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.

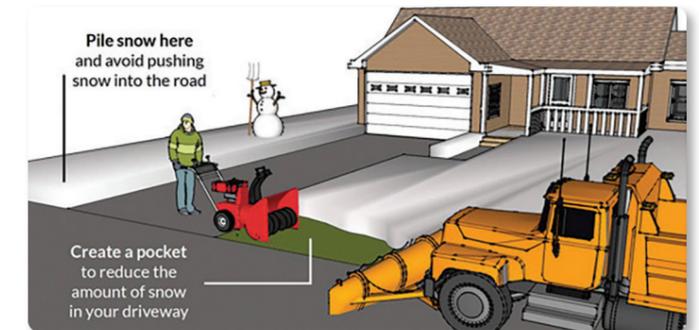
## Readying for Winter



Public Works is ready for another snow 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 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.



Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Itasca Park District has been working with new state and health guidelines to bring our residents the best possible recreation opportunities while providing a safe and fun environment for all to enjoy. All our parks and playgrounds remain open and the Itasca Rec. Center is open to program participants and fitness members. We are continuing to work with the Village, Library, and School District to provide as many program and event opportunities to our patrons during the pandemic.

The Itasca Waterpark said good-bye to its 50-year-old bathhouse on



## Holiday Safety Tips from the Fire District and Police Department



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire and opportunities for burglars and thieves to find “good bargains” too. Protect your home, yourself, and your family this holiday season by following a few simple tips from the Itasca Fire District and Itasca Police Department.

### Holiday Decorating



- Be careful with holiday decorations; some decorations are meant for outdoor use only. Choose decorations that are flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of light strands to connect.

### Holiday Entertaining



- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles. Also keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

### Holiday Presents



- When shopping locally this holiday season, try to use checks or credit cards whenever possible.
- If using cash this season, keep your bills flat in a wallet, so you can count it without taking it out of your wallet.
- Do not leave any holiday purchases in your car. If you must temporarily leave them in your car, lock purchases in the trunk of your car, but remove as soon as you can.
- Never hide presents in the garage! Garage locks are usually the weakest locks you have. A second story closet or attic equipped with a good lock is usually your safest storage area.

## Adopt a Fire Hydrant Near Your Home

With winter on its way, the Itasca Fire District asks that you pay attention to any snow that may accumulate near our village hydrants. A three-foot diameter circle around the hydrant helps in the event we need water for a fire situation.



## ONCC Announces New Runway

As part of the O’Hare Modernization Program, the Chicago Department of Aviation opened its final new runway (9C/27C) on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The new runway creates more balance for the airport with three parallel runways north of the terminals and three south of the terminals. As a result, properties on the south side of Itasca should experience some noise relief, as more flights are shifted to the northern runways. Unfortunately, the new runway path will result in aircraft flying over Itasca homes and businesses on the north side of town that may not have previously experienced much air traffic noise. The Village continues to be a member of the Suburban O’Hare Commission (SOC) and the ONCC, which works with aviation officials to reduce the impacts of airplane operation on our community. Complaints about aircraft noise can be directed to the O’Hare Noise Hotline at (800) 435-9569 or [www.oharenoise.org](http://www.oharenoise.org).

## Itasca Police Department renews status as an Illinois Accredited Police Agency



Recently, the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Council unanimously recognized the Itasca Police Department for renewal of full accreditation through ILEAP (Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program). Reaccreditation demonstrates that the department has maintained its level of professionalism among law enforcement peers and validates the methods in which department members provide service to the residents and general public in our community. In addition to improving the agencies relationship with the community, accreditation makes the agency more accountable for its actions limiting liability and risk exposure. The accreditation is overseen by the Illinois Association Chiefs of Police (ILACP).

This endeavor encompassed two full days of examination into the workings of the Itasca Police Department. Prior to this process much work went into the preparation for this review. Many members of the department met with the assessors and provided insight into our professional way of policing.

Director O’Connor commented, “I am proud to lead the outstanding men and women of this agency. I look forward to continuing our stellar reputation within the Village of Itasca and in the law enforcement community and to building upon our future as a progressive 21<sup>st</sup> century police department.”

ILEAP Executive Director Ed Wojcicki was unable to make the presentation in person to the department due to the ongoing COVID crisis.



## Learn Something New in 2021

Did you know you can use library databases for free from home with your Itasca library card? The Itasca Community Library subscribes to over 20 databases that can help you do research, learn a new skill, or complete schoolwork. Below is a description of some of the databases the library offers. To access the complete list, go to [www.itascalibrary.org/databases](http://www.itascalibrary.org/databases).

**Creativebug** – Includes thousands of award-winning art and craft video classes taught by design experts and artists

**Legal Information Reference Center** – Resources to assist you in legal matters of all kinds including business law, financial planning, family law, and property and real estate

**Mango Languages** – An online language-learning system that helps you learn over 60 languages

**Middle Search Plus** – Resources to support middle school students including biographies, maps, Scholastic News, Sports Illustrated for Kids, and National Geographic

**Primary Class** – Resources to support elementary school students including encyclopedias for kids, an image collection, Highlights magazine, and Junior Scholastic

**Small Business Reference Center** – Tools to address many small business topics including business videos, a help and advice center, and details on how to create a small business plan

**Science Reference Center** – Full-text articles to support research in biology, chemistry, and earth and space sciences, along with suggested science experiments

**Universal Class** – Includes over 500 classes, many offering CEUs, in areas such as computer training, self-development, and web development

## WiFi Hotspots at the Library



Do you need internet access? The Itasca Community Library has Wi-Fi mobile hotspots that you can check out with your library card. A mobile hotspot is a device that allows you to connect your mobile-enabled

devices such as laptops, smartphones, and tablets to the internet. The hotspot is portable so you can connect your device anywhere you go (at home, on the bus, in the park, etc.). The library’s hotspots check out for one week. Call the library at (630) 773-1699 for more information or to put one on hold.

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

**Mayor**

Jeff Pruyn

**Village Clerk**

Jody Conidi

**Trustees**

Jeff Aiani

Dino Gavanis

Mike Latoria

Ellen Leahy

Kathy Linsner

Frank Madaras

**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

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



**Schedule of Monthly Meetings**

**Monday:**

No Meetings Scheduled

**Tuesday:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday** - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.\*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** - Board of Trustees - 7:00 p.m.\*

**Wednesday:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** - Plan Commission - 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** - Historical Commission - 7:00 p.m.

**Friday:**

No Meetings Scheduled

\*Committee of the Whole immediately after

**April 6, 2021 Election Packets**

The next local consolidated general election takes place on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Village of Itasca residents interested in becoming a candidate for municipal or library board positions may pick up a candidate's packet at the Village Clerk's Office, located within Itasca Village Hall.

All offices are four-year terms and start May 1, 2021. Candidates must file their nominating papers with the Office of the Village Clerk during the filing period, which is December 14-18<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

The DuPage County Election Department can assist you with questions about precincts or general election questions at (630) 407-5600 or visit [www.dupageco.org/election](http://www.dupageco.org/election). The State Board of Elections may be reached at (217) 782-4141. All suggested election forms are available online at [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov). It is recommended that candidates running for office consult with an attorney on specific questions they might have regarding election codes, requirements, etc.