



Committed to our future.
Inspired by our past.

FALL 2022

Photo – Submitted by
Stephanie Sneath
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The Village News



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Mayor's Message



Mayor Jeff Pruyn

As we move into fall, I am immensely proud of the progress that we have made as a Village over the summer. We were able to advance priority capital projects, spur economic development activities, and progress with upgrades to our Village's software systems. All of these elements aid in boosting our local economy and supporting core village services.

Also strengthening our community are our relationships with our community partners. I want to thank the Itasca Lions Club for hosting Itasca Fest this past July. It was a wonderfully attended celebration with great music and weather. I would also like to thank School District 10, the Itasca Fire District, the Park District, Hamilton Partners, and Church Street Brewing for coming together to host the Family and Friends fireworks celebration on August 20th. It is these interconnected relationships that give us our strength and allow us to provide residents with an enjoyable place to live and work.

On July 20th, the Village purchased the vacant former Starbucks property at 102 E. Irving Park Road. The Village Board is excited to return this property to the community as a gathering location for neighbors and friends to catch up with one another. The Village recently released a Request For Proposals (RFP) in September for lease operators at the site, and are hopeful that we will ink a final lease deal by the end of the year.

As you may recall, earlier this year, the Village received notice from Canadian Pacific Railway of its intention to merge with the Kansas City Southern Railroad. The proposed combination of these two railroads would create the single longest continuous freight line from Mexico to Canada. Not only will there be more trains, but the train lengths are expected to exceed 2 miles. The proposed merger will result in significant environmental impacts related to safety, traffic congestion, air quality, and noise.

In mid-September, representatives from the Surface Transportation Board came out to Itasca to host a public hearing on the merger. Itasca's State Representatives Seth Lewis and Dianne Pappas, along with U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, spoke that evening in opposition of the merger as proposed. Senators Durbin and Duckworth are also on the record expressing their concerns about Canadian Pacific's plan to add more than 400% more freight traffic to our

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Mayor's Message Continued...

commuter line. Unfortunately, Governor Pritzker has not commented or taken action at this time.

This is not just a local issue, it will have impacts across the U.S. and will ultimately be decided upon by federal agencies. The more voices that are heard in opposition, the more likely our concerns will be addressed. Please take the time to write to your elected officials and encourage them to do everything they can to implore the Surface

Transportation Board to put people before profits. Visit www.stopcpkc.com for more information.

Finally, although summer is ending, there is still time for you to connect with your neighbors and enjoy all that Itasca has to offer. Check out page 6 to see what's happening around town. I hope to see you and your family out and about, patronizing our local businesses.

Administrator's Message

Carie Anne Ergo

Greetings,

Summer seemed to fly by this year and with it the summer heat. Just as the heat is fading, so to are many of our road construction projects. Work on the Northside Roadway & Infrastructure Project is nearing completion and under budget. If you have not had an opportunity to do so yet, take a stroll down Walnut Street to check out our new thermoplastic decorative crosswalks, which are more durable and environmentally friendly than traditional painted crosswalks. This is just one of the many types of investments that the Village is doing to make our community attractive to residents, visitors, businesses, and developers alike.

As inflation continues to rise, finding ways to strengthen our local economy becomes more critical than ever. New development in town helps maintain a solid, diversified tax base that supports high-quality service to residents.

Bridge Point Itasca, the Village's newest business park at Rohlwing and Devon, is nearly complete. All three industrial buildings are up and leased, paving the way for Heidner Properties to acquire and begin developing the 8 acres fronting Rohlwing Road. In 2021, the Village approved a gas station, hotel, and 10,000 ft² multi-tenant retail/restaurant building. A Ricky Rockets gas station is currently under construction, and staff continues to work with the developer to identify and attract potential new tenants.

With the approval of a new Downtown Plan this past spring, staff has been busy working on projects that will move this vision forward. Both the Village Board and Plan Commission had preliminary discussions this spring with Holladay Properties on its proposed Itasca Station development at 115 - 125 W. Orchard Street. The five-story mixed-use development would include four stories of residential with a total of 87 units. The first floor is designated for up to two commercial units. Village staff has connected the developer with a family-owned restaurateur who intends to operate a brunch-style restaurant on the first floor of the proposed development, if approved.

Unfortunately, rising interest rates and skyrocketing construction costs have threatened the financial viability of this and other redevelopment projects throughout the region. To keep development moving forward, the Village Board directed staff to complete a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Feasibility Study for commercial areas, downtown to west of Rohlwing and Irving Park Roads. TIF allows a community to partner with a developer to close a funding gap by using tax revenue generated by new developments to pay for public

infrastructure improvements and certain land acquisition costs. The study is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The Village took another significant step in revitalizing the downtown area by acquiring the Usher Park anchor property at 102 E. Irving Park Road. The Village Board directed staff to identify a potential food/beverage lease operator consistent with the vision outlined in Itasca's Downtown Plan. In September, staff released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to consider possible operators. The Village intends to select a lease operator by the end of the year.

This past spring, Itasca Real Estate Investors proposed operating an outdoor market with three food trucks and three tiny outdoor retail shops on its property at 105 S. Maple Street from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday - Sunday. When first proposed, staff advised the Itasca Real Estate Investors it would need to seek Plan Commission approval, which requires a public hearing, because the proposed outdoor uses are not permitted in the B-5 zoning district. Itasca Real Estate Investors indicated that the immediate neighbors were supportive of the plan and requested to move forward as a six-month, temporary use, which only requires Village Board approval. After several Board meetings where residents in the area objected to Itasca Real Estate Investors's plan, the Village Board rejected the temporary use at that location. The Board further instructed staff to work with Itasca Real Estate Investors, if they desired, to find an alternative location where outdoor food trucks would not negatively affect nearby residential homeowners.

Staff worked with representatives from Itasca Real Estate Investors, Itasca Park District, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Metra Rail, and more to identify a suitable alternative location. After reviewing multiple sites, Itasca Real Estate Investors petitioned, and Village Board granted approval for a similar concept on greenspace along Irving Park Road adjacent to the Metra Parking Lot. Shortly after approval, Itasca Real Estate Investors informed the Village it did not intend to move forward with its plans.

Staff also worked this spring with representatives from Church Street Brewery and Hamilton Lakes to permit a seasonal outdoor, tented "tap room" on Hamilton Lakes property. The Hop Garten was a big success, attracting residents and business members from across Itasca and beyond.

I look forward to the Village's continued progress and the completion of many of our community improvements, which will enhance property values and make Itasca a more attractive location for businesses and homeowners.

New Hires, Promotions, & Retirements



Jennifer Ramsay

On July 12th, Jennifer Ramsay was appointed by the Village President and Board of Trustees as the new Finance Director for the Village. Jennifer comes with prior municipal experience, having worked for the villages of Berkeley, Campton Hills, and East Dundee. Jennifer has a Master's in Public Administration from NIU and began her career in the Village of Clarendon Hills.

Jennifer will be assisting Village Administrator Ergo in the financial management of the Village to ensure long-term financial sustainability and oversee all financial operations.



Dave Kuba

On June 15th, Dave Kuba joined Public Works working in the water utility department. Dave has 15 years of working with the public, and is experienced with resolving customer service related issues. He also has knowledge on conducting routine maintenance and basic repairs to underground utility infrastructure. During his free time Dave enjoys golfing and playing bass guitar in a local band.

The Fire District is happy to announce that five candidate firefighter/paramedics have completed their probationary year and are now full-fledged members of the Itasca Fire District. Congratulations to FF/PM Benjamin Carbonara, FF/PM Joseph Klatt, FF/PM Cameron Letheby, FF/PM Casey Magoon, & FF/PM Nicholas Skelley. We wish them continued success and many long, productive and healthy years in Itasca!

The Itasca Fire District is also proud to announce the recent promotions of three lieutenants into the newly created rank of Captain. Congratulations to Capt. John Helzing, Capt. Ryan Rasche, and Capt. John Raschke. The Fire District also promoted Mark Ber, David Brzezicki, and Brooks Nicewarner to the rank of Lieutenant. Please join us in wishing them success and the continued wisdom and leadership to advance the mission of the Fire District and the community they serve.



Benjamin Carbonara



Joseph Klatt



Cameron Letheby



Casey Magoon



Nicholas Skelley



John Helzing



Ryan Rasche



John Raschke



Mark Ber



David Brzezicki



Brooks Nicewarner

Congratulations Officer Esmael



Kalilh Esmael

Recently, Officer Kalilh Esmael was recognized with the Itasca Police Department's Life Saving Award for his quick actions during a mutual aid call.

On March 6th, around 1:10 a.m., Officer Kalilh Esmael responded to a request for assistance from the Wood Dale Police Department to help with a disturbance at one of their local business, which had over 100 patrons in attendance. Upon his arrival at the chaotic scene, Officer Esmael observed an individual lying on the ground bleeding severely from a gunshot wound to their lower extremities. It was apparent that this person was in need of critical medical attention, as the individual was going in and out of consciousness.

Officer Esmael immediately went into lifesaving mode by physically cutting away the person's pants to apply the first of two tourniquets to stop the severe bleeding. Approximately ten minutes later, one of several ambulances arrived at the scene and transported the victim to the hospital. Once there, lifesaving surgery was performed to repair a torn artery. According to the hospital's medical personnel, the individual would not have survived without Officer Esmail's swift response and lifesaving actions.

Please join us in thanking Officer Esmael and all the men and women of the Itasca Police force who serve our community courageously and compassionately each day.

Enjoying time with the IPD

Thank you to everyone who came out to this summer and participated in the Itasca Police Department's annual summer events.

Ice Cream with the Cops & Firefighters at Usher Park was held in conjunction with the Itasca Park District. The Department's officers came out to meet the Park District summer campers and neighborhood families to enjoy games and free ice cream that was provided by Itasca Bank & Trust.

Director Robert O'Connor stated, "The P.D. and its officers always look forward to spending time with the park district campers and local children from the community."

In addition to this event, local residents, both young and old, brought their fishing poles and appetites to Happy Acres Retention Basin to fish with members of the Itasca Police Department. This annual event, sponsored in conjunction with the Itasca Lions Club, was a spectacular day enjoyed by all. There were no worries of going hungry, as there were drinks, chips, and grilled hot dogs, prepared by Itasca's finest.



**ITASCA
MEANS
BUSINESS**

– Follow us on Twitter: @ItascaMeans | Facebook: Itasca Means Business

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

Cloudfitters, LLC – 500 Park Blvd., Suite 152C

Cloudfitters, LLC is a multi-cloud hosting provider headquartered in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago. Cloudfitters provides private cloud, virtual private servers, remote work technologies & work-from-home solutions for enterprises of all sizes. The business also offers colocation, dedicated servers, and consulting services. To learn more about Cloudfitters, go to www.cloudfitters.com.

KSA Lighting & Controls – 150 E. Pierce Rd., 5th Floor

KSA Lighting & Controls is a manufacturing and design company of lighting systems for indoor and outdoor applications. Their portfolio and projects include municipal downtown areas, riverwalks, grocery stores, recreation centers, company offices, and breakrooms. KSA Lighting & Controls works with over 140 other manufacturers to provide their clients with the best-finished product. To learn more about KSA Lighting and Controls, go to www.ksalighting.com.

Aeronet Worldwide – 1400 W. Thorndale Ave.

Aeronet Worldwide is a full-service freight company providing global air, ground, ocean freight, logistics, and warehousing. Itasca is home to their Midwest location as part of their 12-office nationwide company. To learn more about Aeronet Worldwide, go to www.aeronet.com.

Sonica International – 1420 W. Thorndale Ave.

Sonica International is a USA-based freight forwarding company specializing in air-ocean-ground import and export shipments and providing brokerage and storage services. Sonica has two offices in the United States, the Chicago area office in Itasca and one in the Los Angeles area. To learn more about Sonica International, go to www.sonicainternational.com.

Seiler Instrument & Manufacturing – 1255-1261 Hamilton Pkwy.

Seiler Instrument & Manufacturing Company, Inc.'s Geospatial Division is one of the Midwest's largest suppliers of brand-name surveying & supply equipment in the Midwest. Products include survey optical, GNSS, data controllers, 3D Scanning, drones, mapping GIS, utility survey systems, field, office software, and more. To learn more about Seiler Instrument & Manufacturing, go to www.seilergeo.com.

Progressive Transportation – 224 Spring Lake Dr.

Progressive Transportation has been in business for over 25 years and provides freight transportation to retail, restaurant, and hospitality industries, including shipment loading and unloading. The company also offers nationwide service for its customer with satellite-based shipment tracking. To learn more about Progressive Transportation, go to www.progresstransportation.com.

Stephen Gould Corporation – 851 Expressway Dr.

Stephen Gould Corporation is expanding and relocating from its existing Itasca location to a 110,000 ft.² facility in Itasca's Central Manufacturing District. Stephen Gould Corporation provides a variety of services in the retail and industrial sector, including retail & industrial packaging, product marketing, design services, manufacturing, and inventory and fulfillment services. To learn more about Stephen Gould Corp., go to www.stephengould.com.

Red Arrow Logistics – 150 Pierce Rd., Suite 200

Red Arrow Logistics is a shipment service provider, including air, ground, and ocean transportation. Red Arrow Logistics provides services in over 185 countries with over 7,000 operation partners and 10,000+ contracted carriers. To learn more about Red Arrow Logistics, go to www.redarrowlogistics.com.

Business Spotlight

The Village of Itasca is proud to be the home of the Animal Medical Center of Itasca, located at 220 Catalpa Avenue. Opened in 1991, the veterinarian office has grown to 5 doctors and 20 support staff members. The practice services over 8,000 patients in the Chicagoland area, many of whom are pets of Itasca residents.



The excellent service provided by the doctors and staff at the Animal Medical Center of Itasca has resulted in the practice winning multiple awards, including the Consumer's Research Council of America's Top Veterinarians Award, Chicago Magazine's Areas Top Veterinarians, Chicago Consumer's Checkbook Top Rate Veterinary Clinics, and Talk of the Town Illinois: Excellence in Customer Service.

If you are in need of a veterinarian for your furry loved one, contact the Animal Medical Center of Itasca to see how they can provide the care needed. To learn more about their services, visit their website at www.amcitasca.com or by phone at (630) 773-2040.



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.

Demand in Itasca for Industrial Property

Over the past five years, increases in distribution capacity related to online shopping and economic growth related to the expansion at O'Hare, have resulted in an unprecedented demand for industrial properties in our area. Itasca industrial vacancy in the first quarter of 2022 was at 1.7%. Currently, Itasca has several major employers looking to expand operations in Itasca, however, our town lacks suitable available industrial sites.

The high demand and lack of availability in the market have caused developers to ask villages to consider rezoning of non-industrial properties. Both Bensenville and Wood Dale have approved new industrial projects in former unincorporated residential areas. Not surprisingly, multiple developers have now expressed interest in Itasca area residential properties, in hopes of achieving similar results.

According to a local brokerage report, residential land near Itasca that can be converted to industrial zoning is now valued at a record \$1 - 1.3 million per acre. As a result, many unincorporated residential properties can be sold for far more to an industrial developer than to another homeowner.

Some people have asked what happens if a developer secures properties and Itasca doesn't agree to rezone these areas to industrial? In that case, the developer would have the option of seeking the zoning change from DuPage County or another adjacent municipality.

Over the last couple of months, unincorporated citizens have been petitioning the Village of Itasca to stop developers from trying

to acquire properties in their area. Staff is aware that several developers have reached out to unincorporated area residents to determine whether sufficient interest in selling exists to make an industrial project feasible.

Staff often works collaboratively with developers during the initial inquiry phase and throughout the process of preparing proposals to bring to the Village Board for consideration. The Village Board does not generally see development proposals until the developer is ready to officially submit a project for consideration.

If homeowners adjacent to Itasca decide to sell to a developer, then that developer will likely submit a proposal for annexation, rezoning, and development to the Village Board for approval. This typically happens after the developer reaches voluntary purchase agreements with property owners within a proposed development area.

If property owners choose not to sell their property, the project will stall and cannot come before the Village Board for consideration. Individual property owners are 100% in control of what happens on their properties. No one is forced to sell.

Finally, as always, should a proposal for annexation and redevelopment be submitted for approval, be assured that affected property owners will be directly notified of the plans, and all citizens will have an opportunity to view and comment on the proposed development before the Plan Commission and Village Board make any final decisions.

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.itasparkdistrict.com.



Wed., October 12th

Make It!

Library

4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Create something fun each month at the library. For grades 6-12. Registration is required.



Fri., October 14th

Haunted Trail

Ray Franzen Bird Sanctuary

6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

You will be petrified to enter the trail as your guide leads you through the 1/3-mile loop that turns into your worst nightmare. Family hour is 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Active scaring 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.



Sat., October 15th

F.D. Open House

Itasca Fire District

11 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join the Fire District for their Open House Event. There will be demonstrations, tours of the station and vehicles, and much more!



Wed., October 26th

InvestiGators Celebration

Library

4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Celebrate the release of the latest *InvestiGators* book. For grades 1-5. Registration is required.



Thurs., October 27th

Drop-In Trick-or-Treating

Library

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Wear your Halloween costume and drop by the library to trick-or-treat. No registration is needed.



Sat., October 29th

Owl-O-Ween

Springbrook Nature Center

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Come meet some of Itasca's resident owls and discover why you can't have Halloween without Owl!



Mon., October 31st

Halloween Hours

Village-wide

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The Village wishes everyone a fun and safe Halloween.



Sat., November 5th

Pumpkin Smash Event

Public Works Facility

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Don't trash it; smash it. The Village of Itasca will be accepting pumpkins and jack-o'-lanterns of all sizes for composting.



Tues., November 8th

Classroom Kitchen

Library

6:30 p.m.

Follow along at home with this virtual cooking class featuring sharable Thanksgiving recipes (on Zoom). Registration is required.



Wed., November 9th

Make It!

Library

4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Create something fun each month at the library. For grades 6-12. Registration is required.



Wed., November 9th

Journey to Successful Senior Living

Library

7:00 p.m.

Hear a panel discussion for seniors, including a financial planner, attorney, and senior living specialist. Registration is required.



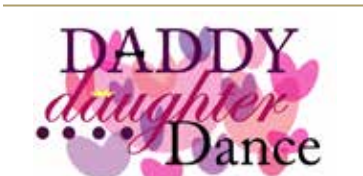
Thurs., November 10th

Sears Homes of Chicagoland

Library

7:00 p.m.

Learn more about the Sears Homes of Chicagoland. Registration is required.



Sat., November 12th

Daddy Daughter Dance

Itasca Rec Center

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Participants will enjoy dancing, desserts, crafts, and more on this magical night. Registration required.



Tues., November 15th

Virtual Cook Up a Good Book

Library

4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Join the library on Zoom for this storytime/cooking class combo! For ages 4-8 years. Registration is required.



Wed., November 16th

Lincoln and Thanksgiving

Library

7:00 p.m.

Mr. Lincoln, portrayed by Kevin Wood, shares the story of how the Thanksgiving holiday came to be established. Registration is required.



Mon., December 5th

Leaf Pick-Up

Village-wide

7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Reminder, this is last day for leaf pick-up for the season. For more information, please see page 10.

Halloween Hours



Pirates, ghosts, and Elsa are preparing to haunt Itasca this Halloween. Those who wish to trick-or-treat are recommended to do so between the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 31st. To help families celebrate safely, the Village recommends the following guidelines:

Trick-or-Treaters:

- Wash your hands before and after trick-or-treating
- Bring hand sanitizer to use before, during, and after trick-or-treating
- Stay home if you're sick
- Bring a flashlight or glow sticks to help see and to be seen by drivers
- Decorate costumes and trick-or-treat bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors
- Carry a cell phone or team up with someone who has one. Keep the phone easily accessible and report any suspicious activity or incidents to the Itasca Police by calling 9-1-1
- Plan a safe route and avoid cutting through alleys, backyards, or unlit areas
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up

Homeowners:

- Homes participating in trick-or-treating should turn ON their front porch/outdoor lights. If your home is not handing out candy, please turn OFF your lights
- Do not hand out candy if you are sick
- Remove objects from walkways and patios that may cause a trip or slip hazard



Keep Halloween decorations away from open flames, light bulbs and heaters.

It's easy for decorations like cornstalks and crepe paper to catch on fire. Keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks a way out.

FEMA U.S. Fire Administration

Fire District Open House



The Itasca Fire Protection District is very excited to, once again, hold an Open House event on Saturday, October 15th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event will be hosted at their station located at 520 W. Irving Park Road. They will have demonstrations, education opportunities, and tours of the station and vehicles. There will also be food and drinks, blood pressure checks for adults, and much more! This event is free of charge, and everyone in the community is invited to attend!

Wings and Talons Fall Event

Wings and Talons will be hosting a drop-in event on October 29th from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Springbrook Nature Center. Stop by to learn about the owls that might call your backyard home.



Have any questions about this event or want to plan a visit? Email info@WingsAndTalons.org for more information, or message them on Facebook.

Home Safety Visits

The Itasca Fire Protection District is now offering year-round home safety visits to Itasca residents. Following the three P's - Preparation, Prevention, and Practice is the best way to be ready if an emergency were to occur in your home.



- **Prepare** by testing your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors once a month, and changing the batteries at least once a year
- **Prevent** by inspecting your home for any possible hazards
- **Practice** by developing a fire escape plan and a meeting place

Is your household ready? Allow your firefighters to put your mind at ease by performing a complimentary home safety visit to ensure you are ready!

If interested, please call (630) 773-1223 to set up a home safety visit today.

Storm Drain Adoption

The Village of Itasca is asking you to consider adopting a storm drain in your neighborhood. Storm drains are the open grates found along the edges of our streets and in some of our local parkways. Storm drains are designed to collect stormwater and direct it to underground storm sewers. The storm sewers then direct the water to local retention and detention ponds or streams. Any pollution or debris that goes down a storm drain winds up entering these same waterways, so please do not dump anything down into the storm drains. Please help us keep storm drains free from debris and remove any litter that may get caught there. While the Village regularly sweeps all streets with a commercial street sweeper during the spring, summer, and fall, yard waste and trash can build up between sweepings. These leaves and other debris (and during the winter - snow and ice) can quickly clog the storm drain, preventing water from entering. This causes local flooding, which creates problems for you and your neighbors. Help clear away materials that may clog the stormwater intake.



Did You Know the Library Has...?

You know the Itasca Community Library has books, but did you know they also have these services and materials? For more information, call the library at (630) 773-1699 or go to www.itascalibrary.org.

- Passport services by appointment
- License plate renewal services
- Notary Public services
- Video games to check out for kids, teens, and adults
- Hundreds of board games to check out for all ages
- Roku devices for kids and adults with pre-loaded movies
- Ebooks and audiobooks that you can download to your device
- Mobile hotspots for internet on the go
- Study rooms for individuals or small groups
- Cricut Maker 3 for public use with a reservation
- Book a Librarian for your tech needs

Dinovember @ the Library

Join the Youth Department at the Itasca Community Library for a month-long celebration of dinosaurs during November! They'll have a daily Find the Dinosaur game, book displays, and dinosaur-themed programming. More details and registration information on the following dinosaur-themed programs can be found at www.itascalibrary.org.



- Picture Book Art Club: **Dino-Thanksgiving** on Thursday, November 3rd, 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
- Dinosaur-themed Family Storytime on Monday, November 7th, 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.
- Dinosaur-themed Take & Make Craft on Monday, November 14th
- Curious Kids: Dinosaurs on Wednesday, November 16th, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.
- Bookasaurus Rex Paint Party on Monday, November 21st, 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.
- **Jurassic World: Dominion** Movie Showing on Wednesday, November 30th, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.



Pumpkin Smash Event

The Village of Itasca will be doing its part to return nutrients to the earth by conducting our annual pumpkin smash on November 5th at the Itasca Public Works complex located at 411 N. Prospect Ave. from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

What is the Pumpkin Smash?

The Pumpkin Smash is an annual community effort to divert pumpkins from landfills by providing locations for residents to drop off jack-o-lanterns to be composted. It is held each year on the Saturday after Halloween.

Why Keep Pumpkins Out of the Landfill?

- Avoids landfill greenhouse gas emissions from decomposing organics (currently, landfills are the 3rd largest producers of methane in the U.S.)
- Produces a useful, nutrient-dense soil amendment
- Pumpkins are 90% water which is great for our soil but not so good in our landfills

To participate in the program, please clean the pumpkins and remove any candles, yarn, stickers, or other decorations.

Fun Fact

Did you know that most of the pumpkins processed in the U.S. are grown in Illinois, near Peoria?



Caring for Your Trees in the Fall

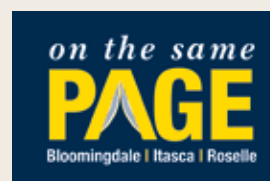
Fall is just around the corner, and soon the leaves will be changing color. Although we're at the end of the growing season, trees still need care to ensure they go into dormancy on a healthy note. Following these easy tips can help ensure your trees are healthy when leaves return in spring.



- Make sure you water. Although the ground isn't drying as quickly as it did during the summer, trees still need to receive adequate water through the fall. Generally, they need about an inch of water per week.
- Don't forget to mulch. It is recommended that you place mulch around the base of the tree to help retain soil moisture and keep the ground from freezing, allowing more time for roots to grow. Mulch should not be piled up against the trunk of the tree but rather be placed at ground level right next to the trunk.
- Be sure to trim. Removing dead and broken limbs can help improve the health of the tree, as well as reduce overwintering insects and fungi, and removing fallen leaves, fruit, and other tree debris from the landscape can help reduce foliar diseases the following season

Fall Fun

This edition's cover photo was submitted by resident Stephanie Sneath, who took this photo of her daughter Madeline enjoying the falling leaves. She said, "Madeline loves being able to walk through the nature center to enjoy the leaves changing colors and stomping on the ones that have already fallen. She brings her binoculars to look at all the animals in the trees." If you, like Stephanie, have a great photo of what life is like in Itasca and would like to have it considered for our newsletter, please submit it to deputyclerk@itasca.com, along with details of who/what the photograph is of, when it was taken, and its meaning.



Each October, Itasca Community Library partners with Roselle Public Library and Bloomingdale Public Library for *On the Same Page*, a community reading event. This year, we'll read *Black Bottom Saints* by

Alice Randall. Programs and book discussions based on the book are held in October at each of the three libraries. See the library's quarterly newsletter for a complete list of programs. If you participate in a book discussion at the Itasca Community Library or a library-run discussion off-site, you'll receive a copy of the book to keep. For more information, call the library at (630) 773-1699.

Turkey Fryer Safety

It's that time of year again – time to mash the potatoes, smell the pumpkin pie, gather family and friends, and take a bite of string bean casserole. Right now, you may be preparing your menu and deciding how you're going to cook your turkey this holiday season. Are you considering the prospects of deep-frying your bird? Take a look at the safety tips below to ensure you spend time at your dinner table and not in the E.R.



- Use your turkey fryer only outdoors on a sturdy, level surface well away from things that can burn
- Determine the correct oil needed first by placing the turkey in the pot with water
- Make sure your turkey is completely thawed before you fry it
- Check the temperature often with a cooking thermometer so that the oil won't overheat
- Use long cooking gloves that protect your hands and arms when handling the pot, lid, and handles of a turkey fryer

Road Construction Update

The Village continues to accomplish projects aimed at providing the best service to Itasca residents, including road resurfacing and watermain replacements. Although the construction is burdensome, the new watermain, storm sewers, and roadways will provide benefits for many years to come.

Northside Infrastructure Project Phase I

Phase 1 of the Northside Infrastructure Project encountered a slight delay this summer due to an Operating Engineers 150 strike. However, the strike has been resolved, and local quarries are operating 24/7 to help backfill material orders accrued during the shutdown. We look forward to completing this project which began in the fall of 2021.

Bloomingtondale Road Project

The Bloomingtondale Road Project also remains under construction and will be so until the end of fall. While the Operating Engineers 150 strike raised some concerns with the project's timeline, the Village moved forward with construction and has not experienced impacts due to the strike. We are hopeful that the roadway surface will be completed this fall to conclude the project. However, depending on the weather, a chance remains that the roadway will not have the surface course applied before the asphalt plants close for the construction season. If this occurs, Bloomingtondale Rd. will be opened to 2-way traffic through the winter, and the surface course will be installed in the spring.

Additional information regarding any Itasca Projects can be found at www.itasca.com.

Yard Waste & Bulk Brush Collection Ends December 5th



The Village's free Brush and Yard Waste program will be ending for the season on December 5th. In previous years, the last pick-up date was in November; however, the Village negotiated with Republic Services to extend this service. Collection of yard waste will resume in April.

When clearing out seasonal brush, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Yard waste must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or a reusable container no larger than 34 gallons clearly marked "Yard Waste" and weigh no more than 50 pounds.
- Brush is picked up every Monday. Any homeowner who needs brush disposal at other times must contact a landscaper for removal of materials.
- Brush must be bundled with biodegradable twine with a maximum weight of 50 pounds. Each bundle must be in neat, manageable piles, with cut ends facing the street, placed on the parkway.
- Branches and limbs can be up to 6 inches in diameter and no longer than 4 feet. Larger branches and tree trunks must be handled by homeowners.
- Refuse, recycling, and brush/yard waste may not be placed at the curb before 4:00 p.m. on the Sunday before trash pick-up and must be removed from the curb by 10:00 p.m. on the day of pick-up.

Alternatively, residents can dispose of yard waste by:

- Starting a compost pile or adding leaves to an existing one. Composted leaves and other organic materials are an excellent resource for fertilizing your garden in the summer months.
- Using a mulching mower, which will chop leaves into smaller pieces that will decompose directly on lawns. The leaf pieces can also be collected and spread around flowerbeds and shrubs as mulch.
- If recycling leaves on your property is not an option, residents may bring leaves to DuPage Yard Waste (1195 W. Washington St., West Chicago) for a fee.

Please remember that it is important not to rake your leaves into the street, as Republic Service nor the street sweeper will not pick them up.

Round of Applause

Cheers to the Itasca Dolphins Swim Team



For the 23rd year in a row, the Itasca Dolphins Swim Team were the 1st place champions in the DuPage Swim & Dive Conference White Division! Please join us in congratulating all the participants on another successful season!

Congratulations to the Inner Prestige Dance Team

The Inner Prestige Dance Team did an OUTSTANDING job at the Hall of Fame Nationals Competition! For National Group Routines, the Junior Rookie Group placed 5th. They also took 4th & 5th place in the Junior National Small Group and 6th & 11th place in the Teen National Small Group.



Thank you to the Silver Recipients of Troop 55191

In June, the Village honored Girl Scout cadettes Olivia Zablotny, Arianna Messick, Allison Gogola, Lily Kent, and Sophia Gurrola for earning a Silver Award achievement, which is one of the three highest awards a Girl Scout can earn.



These extraordinary young ladies identified an unmet need in our community and devised a plan to solve it. Their project was designed to help optimize the experience community members have at Itasca Parks. The most significant part of their project was building two large sports lockers that house sports equipment for residents and guests of Itasca parks to use while at our parks. The lockers include such things as tennis racquets, basketballs, chalk, and frisbees.

The Village would like to thank each these groups for their positive and inspiring contributions to our community.

Park District Fall Programs

The Itasca Park District continues to offer more programs and events as they resume back to pre-covid times.

Many patrons took advantage this summer of all their recreation programs and facilities; summer camp, Springbrook Nature Center and camps, Itasca Waterpark, swim team, swim lessons, and all of their great outdoor events. Continue the fun by registering for fall programs online at www.itascaparkdistrict.com.



Park District Early Childhood Education Program

There are still openings in the Park District's Preschool & Junior Kindergarten Early Childhood Program. The Itasca Park District Early Childhood Education Program is a theme-based curriculum emphasizing alphabet recognition, phonics, and numbers. These skills are acquired through various games, art, music, stories, and science activities, along with daily small group work at the Rec. Center & Springbrook Nature Center. Their highly qualified teaching staff help students develop a love of learning, tools to continue to learn, and a positive image of themselves. Register online at www.itascaparkdistrict.com or the Rec. Center.

New Village Gateway Signs

Earlier this summer, the Village erected a new gateway sign near the Irving Park Road and Prospect Avenue intersection to distinguish our Village and assist in attracting visitors and new businesses to our community. The Village will be installing similar gateway signs at the following locations:



- Irving Park Road - eastbound, adjacent to Medinah Country Club
- Rohlwing Road - southbound, south of Bloomingdale Road
- Bloomingdale Road - eastbound, east of I-290 overpass
- Crest Avenue - eastbound, southeast corner of Meacham Road
- Park Boulevard - southbound, south of Devon Avenue
- Rohlwing Road - southbound, south of Devon Avenue
- Arlington Heights Road - southbound, south of Devon Avenue

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 Gavanis

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

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Connecting Itasca

The Village and the Park District are excited to announce that they are partnering together to try and connect the Nature Center to the Ballfield, Dog Park, and Bird Sanctuary with a pedestrian walkway through the Springlake Business Park. Currently, the project is in the initial planning stages, as we await to see if the project will qualify for funding through two grants: the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant and Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant (OSLAD).

In the meantime, you can still enjoy peddling around town, like the Alvarado family does. Kari said, "My family enjoys nature and bike rides with our family and neighbors."



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