



Schererville Neighborhood Watch

# Weekly Report

Neighborhood  
Edition

12/25/23 – 1/1/24

Schererville Police Department

25 E. Joliet St. Schererville, IN

Call 911

[www.schererville.org/police](http://www.schererville.org/police)

## Winter Travel

Road Trip Safety Tips

- SHARE YOUR TRAVEL PLANS WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY
- PACK AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT
- WINTERIZE YOUR VEHICLE
- CHECK ROAD CONDITIONS
- GET THE WEATHER FORECAST



REMEMBER, PLEASE **CALL 911** IMMEDIATELY TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

**REPORTS****\* Open garage doors found on the following streets:**

Wexford Way, St. John Rd., Amberleigh Ln., Dove Dr.,  
Pershing Rd., 75<sup>th</sup> Ave., York Rd., Scotch St., Springvale Dr.,  
Winchester Ln.,

**\* CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** – Kathleen Dr - While en route to the area of Kathleen Dr., Schererville PD officers assisting with this call for service advised they observed a group of 6-7 juveniles walking in the area near the dispatched location. Once the juveniles spotted police, they fled in multiple directions. Officers remained in the area and were unable to locate the juveniles. While other officers attempted to locate the juveniles, I spoke with the complainant/victim who advised she was inside when she suddenly heard a loud "bang" from her backyard. She advised she went outside to check and observed a portion of her fence being damaged. The R/P advised she continued to check the area and observed what appeared to be 2 juveniles walking down the street with their hoods up and provided that information to police at the time of dispatch.



Welcome our newest Officer Brett Bandstra.  
He starts the academy in early January

**\* SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE** - On December 26, 2023, at approx. 2:42 pm, Southcom advised they received a complaint in reference to a suspicious vehicle outside of a home on Little John Drive. The complainant advised Southcom that a maroon Chevrolet SUV has been driving around the neighborhood for the past hour and occasionally parks next to his house, yet nobody exits. The suspect vehicle was found and Charges for the following will be filed through the Schererville Town Court:

\* False Government Issued Identification - IC 35-43-5-2.5 - Class A Misdemeanor

\* Possession of Marijuana - IC 35-48-4-11 - Class B Misdemeanor

Once back at the Schererville Police Department, the green and brown leafy vegetation was tested and returned positive for marijuana using the Nark II Duquenois-Levine Reagent Kit. Both the firearm, and the marijuana was placed in evidence locker #1. **WELL DONE COMMUNITY CRIME WATCH FOR KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.**

**\* SUSPICIOUS PERSON** – Springvale Dr. - On the above date and time I was dispatched to Springvale Dr. in reference to an unknown male leaving cat food near the rear porch of the residence. I arrived and spoke to the R/P whom stated that a unknown male driving a white Ford Focus (unknown plate) has been stopping near her residence and leaving cat food in a container near her rear porch around 8-9 A.M. The R/P advised she has seen kittens near her porch in the past but not recently.

**\* SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE** – Tamarack Dr. - I was dispatched to the area of Tamarack Dr in reference to a black sedan (IN: BPZ676) occupied by one (1) female who backed up into the driveway, got out and then left in an unknown direction. RP described the female as a heavy set black female and is aware that she isn't the neighbor who resides at 1523. The RP requested the area be checked for the vehicle in question as she believed it may be involved in package theft.



- \* **PROPERTY DAMAGE**- 74<sup>th</sup> Pl. - I was dispatched to the listed location for property damage to a fence. Upon arrival I met with the complainant who showed me to the south side of his yard where three panels of fencing was damaged. The complainant mention this to be the second time his fence has been damaged and an ongoing issue in the area due to a social media challenge on TIK TOK. The damaged occurred overnight on 12/29/2023
- \* **SUSPICIOUS PERSONS** – Plum Creek Dr. - I arrived on scene and spoke with the homeowner who advised that about an hour before my arrival, a male subject and a female subject with strong eastern European accents come to her front door and asked for her granddaughter by name. The granddaughter advised that the male subject advised that he had to "have a talk," with her. I asked the granddaughter if she had any conflicts online or at school that may have caused these individuals to locate the address, and she advised she did not. The granddaughter's dad, was also on scene and advised that he did not know the individuals. The granddaughter showed me a video of her Ring doorbell, which showed the incident in which she described. The subjects appeared to be a white male and a white female, with strong accents.

#### ARRESTS

- \* Frank Ruiz Valadez, 70 years old Strangulation - 35-42-2-9, Battery 35-42-2-1(c)(1) Resisting Law Enforcement 35-44.1-3-1(a)(1)
- \* Amaron E. Stevenson - Age: 20 – Warrant, False Government Issued Identification - IC 35-43-5-2.5 - Class A Misdemeanor, Possession of Marijuana IC 35-48-4-11 - Class B Misdemeanor
- \* Jeremy Goodloe Theft - IC 35-43-4-2 - Class A Misdemeanor
- \* Laverne Lampley Theft - IC 35-43-4-2 - Class A Misdemeanor
- \* Ana Maria Gonzalez, 35 YOA Neglect of a Dependent - IC 35-46-1-4 - Level 6 Felony, Public Intoxication IC 7.1-5-1-3 - Class B Misdemeanor, Disorderly Conduct - IC 35-45-1-3 - Class B Misdemeanor
- \* Simaya Josephine Hayes, 30 Driving While Suspended-Prior (IC 9-24-19-2)- Class A Misdemeanor
- \* Jessica Bejar: Possession of Cocaine (IC 35-48-4-6)- Level 6 Felony, Unlawful Possession of A Syringe (IC 16-42-19-18)- Level 6 Felony, Possession of A Controlled Substance (IC 35-48-4-7)- Class A Misdemeanor Possession of Paraphernalia (IC 35-48-4-8.3)- Class C Misdemeanor, Possession of Paraphernalia (IC 35-48-4-8.3)- Class C Misdemeanor, Warrant
- \* Andy Richardson: Possession of Cocaine (IC 35-48-4-6)- Level 6 Felony, Unlawful Possession of A Syringe (IC 16-42-19-18)- Level 6 Felony, Possession of A Controlled Substance (IC 35-48-4-7)- Class A Misdemeanor Possession of Paraphernalia (IC 35-48-4-8.3)- Class C Misdemeanor
- \* Luis Alberto Duran Jr, 28 - Driving While Suspended-Prior (IC 9-24-19-2)- Class A Misdemeanor, Operating Without Insurance-Prior (IC 9-25-8-2)- Class C Misdemeanor
- \* Juan Antonio, 39 YOA – No Drivers License Ever issued - 9-24-18-1
- \* Istvan Bryan Levai; 39 Public Intoxication IC 7.1-5-1-3 Class B Misdemeanor
- \* Montgomery, Kristina J., age 43 IC 35-42-2-2(b)(1) , Criminal Trespass , A Misdemeanor
- \* Diamond Monique Banks, AGE 22 IC 35-43-4-2(a) , Theft , A Misdemeanor
- \* Deborah Lynette Bailey; 52 Domestic Battery IC 35-42-2-1.3(a)(1) Class A Misdemeanor
- \* Faith Christine Klinkhammer; 19 Possession of Controlled Substance IC 35-48-4-7 Class A Misdemeanor Possession of Paraphernalia IC 35-48-4-8.3 Class C Misdemeanor
- \* Lavena D. Jackson (47 YOA) OWI-Endangering 9-30-5-2(b), Poss. of Marijuana | 35-48-4-11(a), OWI 9-30-5-2(a)





## How to recognize AI-generated phishing mails:

The old clues for telling if something was a phishing mail were:

1. It asks you to update/fill in personal information.
2. The URL on the email and the URL that displays when you hover over the link are different from one another.
3. The “From” address is an imitation of a legitimate address, especially from a known brand.
4. The formatting and design are different from what you usually receive from a brand.
5. The content is badly written and may well include typos.
6. There is a sense of urgency in the message, encouraging you to quickly perform an action.
7. The email contains an attachment you weren’t expecting.

Phishing emails are fraudulent emails that appear to be from a legitimate source, such as a bank or company, but are actually designed to trick you into giving away personal information or money. These emails often contain urgent requests for action or offer enticing rewards.

To avoid falling victim to phishing scams, here are some tips:

- Check the sender's email address: Make sure it matches the company's official email domain.
- Look for spelling and grammar errors: Legitimate companies usually have professional communication standards.
- Don't click on suspicious links: Hover over the link and check the URL before clicking.
- Be wary of urgent requests: Scammers often create a sense of urgency to pressure you into taking action without thinking it through.
- Verify requests for personal information: Legitimate companies will never ask for sensitive information via email.

By following these simple steps, you can protect yourself from phishing scams and keep your personal information safe.

Oh, and by the way, the text about how to avoid being a victim between the dashes, that was written by AI, not me.

Here are some more tips:

**Number 4** above—The formatting and design are different from what you usually receive from a brand—is helpful. Compare the email with any previous communications you have from the supposed sender. If there are inconsistencies in the tone, style, or vocabulary, this could indicate that the message is a phishing attempt.

**Number 5**—The content is badly written and may well include typos—AI phishing emails may still use generic greetings, such as “Dear user” or “Dear customer,” instead of addressing the recipient by name. Also, look for generic or mismatched signatures that do not align with the sender’s typical signature.

**Number 7**—The email contains an attachment you weren’t expecting—If you know the person who sent the email but don’t trust the content, contact the sender through an alternate communication method to verify whether they actually sent it.



Please **CONTINUE TO PAGE 5** for the “**Ordinance of the week**”





## **Sec. 7-51 Building Permit Required.**

A permit shall be obtained before beginning construction, alteration or repair of any building or structure, using forms furnished by the Building Inspector, or duly designated representative, and all fees required by this Code shall be paid to the Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana.

**(Ord. No. 1039, § 7, 10-14-89)**

