



Robin Arvanitis, Councilmember Ward 1



Tom Schmitt, Councilmember Ward 4



Kevin Connelly, Councilmember Ward 2



Rob Guetzloff, Councilmember Ward 3



Caleb Johnson, Councilmember Ward 5



Mike Troxell, Clerk-Treasurer



Randy Wyllie  
Judge, Schererville Town Court

## *Town Manager Bob Volkmann retiring after decades of service to Schererville*

Bob Volkmann has served the Town of Schererville in a variety of positions and has been part of the town's development since becoming a resident in 1979. Volkmann, who recently turned 70, will retire as Town Manager at the end of December.

Although he and his wife Lynn plan to travel and spend more time with their 2-1/2 year old grandson Benjamin who lives in Virginia, Volkmann said, "I'll be around if they (town officials or staff) have a question that I can answer."

Reflecting on Schererville's growth from a small farm community of less than 10,000 residents to the thriving community with nearly 30,000 residents, Volkmann said the projects that have helped spur that growth provide "a sense of accomplishment." Those projects have included building the Police Department, Town Hall, fire stations and repair and revitalization of neighborhood streets plus Joliet Street in the downtown. Reconstruction of Kennedy Avenue with a connection to U. S. 30 will begin sometime in 2023, after 25 years of planning.

Volkmann joined the Plan Commission in 1986. Five years later, he was appointed building commissioner.

"I had a background in construction and while serving on the Plan Commission, Glen Eberly, who was Town Planning Director, kept asking me to consider working as the Town's building commissioner."

"In 1998 I moved positions to the Public Works Department as Director," Volkmann said, adding that he felt he was now taking care of the whole community in that capacity.

"I've always enjoyed helping people," he said. "It gives me a lot of satisfaction."

Volkmann was appointed Town Manager in 2005 and said that over the past 17 years his top priorities focused on working together with all



(John J. Watkins/The Times of Northwest Indiana)

departments in maintaining Schererville's current infrastructure and planning for the future needs of the community.

"It's a team effort. I've always promoted that from day one," Volkmann said. "This is all about customer service. I am most proud of the team we have – great department heads and great employees who are all here to serve. We all have that common goal."

Volkmann also said, "Schererville's residents and I have been blessed with great legislative leaders (the Schererville Town Council) to work with. For all of us it is all about servicing the community and working to solve problems."

As he prepares for his retirement, Volkmann said the plan for succession has been in the works the past four years. "In 2018, we selected Jim Gorman, who was superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, to be the Director of Operations and join the administrative department at Town Hall. Gorman will become Schererville Town Manager on January 1, 2023," Volkmann said.

"I have had a very rewarding career," Volkmann said. "I am proud and honored to have been allowed to hold the position of Town Manager and serve the citizens of Schererville."

## *Snow removal involves team effort from everyone*

Keeping our streets plowed and salted during snowfall events requires a team effort that includes the Public Works Department, residents and businesses. The Public Works Department is responsible for snow removal on approximately 115 miles of streets throughout Schererville. This doesn't include U.S. 30 or U.S. 41, which are maintained by the Indiana Department of Transportation State Highway Department.

Main roadways are plowed and salted first. These streets are usually pre-treated with a brine solution before a winter storm hits. This helps keep the snow from packing and freezing to the pavement. When plows are dispatched to begin plowing, they spread road salt behind each truck using a spinner. **Drivers need to keep a minimum distance of 50 feet from the plow to avoid having the salt strike their vehicles.**

After the main roadways are completed, the plows begin on the secondary tier streets, usually the main entrances into subdivisions.

The Public Works Department finishes by completing the third tier streets within the subdivisions – streets that service the residents of that street and their visitors. The Public Works Department always attempts to keep these streets open, making one or two passes up and down them during a snowfall event. However, pushing the snow back to the curb line is usually not completed until the snow has stopped falling and the main streets and secondary streets have been completed.

Plow trucks must clear snow on streets to the curb line, and that sometimes causes snow to be plowed into cleared driveways entrances. The streets must be clear to the curb line to provide access for emergency vehicles, to provide mailbox access for postal carriers and to expose storm water inlets in case of a rapid thaw.

Cul-de-sacs present several challenges for the Public Works Department. They are wider than most streets which allow them to hold

more snow. They also have more driveways. This leaves less area for the snow to be pushed to the side when clearing the road.

To help with snow removal efforts, we ask residents and businesses to **NOT** shovel snow from driveways into the street. The snow should be pushed to the sides of the driveway. Shoveling snow into the street causes ice patches, creating a hazard for drivers, and increases the amount of snow that may come back into your driveway during street plowing.

Please help keep fire hydrants clear of snow. This will assist the Fire Department if an emergency arises. Public Works employees are usually not available to do this until after the snow has been plowed from all streets.

As in the past, salt will continue to be spread on the main roadways. On the second and third tier streets, salt will only be applied to the intersections, curves and hills. All drivers should use caution when using the roadways under adverse conditions.

Town Ordinance 791 prohibits parking on the street when there is a snowfall of 2 inches or greater. That Ordinance reads, "No person shall park any vehicle on any street within the corporate limits of the town whenever there is two (2") inches or more of snow thereon, until said snow is removed. Any vehicle which is parked on said street when depth of snow exceeds two (2") may be towed away."

Your cooperation is always greatly appreciated so that the Public Works Department can maintain the streets in a safe, efficient and economic manner.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact us Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM until 3:30 PM at (219) 322-6688 or (219) 322-5486. If you need to contact us after hours or in an emergency, we can be reached through the Police Department at (219) 322-5000 (non-emergency number). Emergency numbers are (219) 322-2121 or 911.

## *Sales of book about Schererville to help benefit Historical Society*

*Images of America: Schererville* by Sandi Radoja highlights our Town's history and development from 1866 when founder and namesake Nicholas Scherer platted the community that has come to be known as "Crossroads of the Nation."

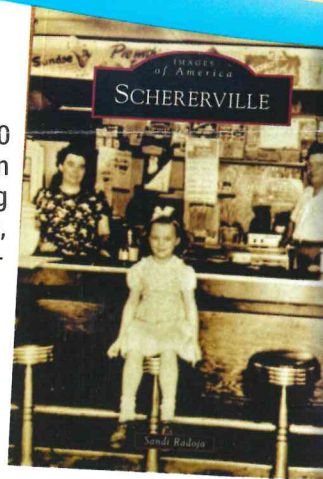
Portraits of early settlers, government accomplishments, and the contributions of Schererville's citizens fill the book along with images of the Town. Those highlights include the following:

- When Scherer platted the community, 25 families resided here.
- In 2007, *Money* magazine named Schererville one of the "100 Best Places to Live in the U.S" and the town boasted a population of more than 25,000 residents.
- By Schererville's 2016 sesquicentennial, the expanding school system included a middle school, three elementary schools and three private schools. As part of the Tri-Town area, Schererville students attend high school in St. John, where the student enrollment now exceeds Schererville's entire centennial population in 1966.

- Today more than 900 businesses operate in Schererville, bringing with them jobs, goods, services and prosperity.

Radoja, a longtime newspaper editor born and raised in Lake County, Indiana, credits the Schererville Historical Society's archives as invaluable in writing this book. That coupled with "the immense knowledge of its volunteers, government employees and multigenerational residents made this book a reality," she said.

Sales of *Images of America: Schererville* will benefit the Schererville Historical Society. Copies cost \$23.99 and are available at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall, 10 E. Joliet St.



**Town of Schererville**  
Welcomes You

**THE SCHERERVILLE CROSSROADS**

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Lu Ann Franklin, Editor



## CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS PAINTING CLASS

FOR ALL AGES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 6 P.M. – 8 P.M.

SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

500 E. JOLIET ST.

Oh, Christmas Tree! Oh, Christmas Tree!

Get into the holiday spirit by bringing home your very own Charlie Brown Christmas Tree in this painting class led by Chris Hnatusko! All ages are welcome, and all supplies will be provided.

The fee is \$30 for residents/+20% for non-residents. Sign up today at [Schererville.org](http://Schererville.org).

## CRAFTS AT THE CROSSROADS HAND-MADE CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY, DEC. 10, 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Handmade has RETURNED!

Schererville Parks brings back all those unique goods and goodies for you and your loved ones. And this show – just two weeks before Christmas – is your last chance to get those hand-crafted/homemade goods you cherish.

This Craft show will have CRAFTERS ONLY! No Direct Sellers! You'll find more than 75 crafters as well as vendors, food trucks, and raffles. ADMISSION & PARKING ARE FREE! So, you're sure to find something for everyone on your list.

## GRINCH CANDY CANE HUNT 2022

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

AGES 3-5, 10 A.M. TO 10:45 A.M.

AGES 6-9, 11:30 A.M. TO 12:15 P.M.

AGES 10-13, 1 P.M. TO 1:45 P.M.

SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Join Schererville Parks as we help save Christmas & Candy Canes from that nasty Mr. Grinch!

Children will search the Community Center lawn for hidden candy canes before Mr. Grinch can get his furry fingers on them. Some will even have hidden surprises!

Before the hunt, we will warm up with hot cocoa, a craft project, and cookies. Each child will receive their own glow gear, goodie bag and participation prize!

There's a limit of 100 children (plus 1 parent per child) for each age group.

The fee is \$13 for residents/+20% for non-residents. Sign up today at [Schererville.org](http://Schererville.org).

## BEDTIME CHRISTMAS STORIES

MONDAY, DEC. 12, 6-7:30 P.M.

SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Boys and girls are invited to join Cindy Horgash and the Northwest Indiana Storytelling Guild for some magical Christmas stories and songs in the glow of Christmas tree lights. Holiday cookies and drinks will be provided to all participants. Dress in your PJs, bring your sleeping bag, and pillow for a relaxing good time. THIS IS A FREE EVENT!

## LITTLE TYKES PROGRAM – SESSION #3

JANUARY 5 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023, 9 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.

FOR AGES 3-1/2 TO 5 YEARS OLD

SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Welcome back to an exciting new school year!! Little Tykes is back for children ages 3-1/2 to 5 years of age! This class, which meets in our activity room at the Schererville Community Center, is all about learning in a creative environment, exploring

letters, numbers, shapes, story time, crafts, games, songs, and more!

Children MUST be potty-trained and ready to leave their parents. A reusable water bottle, snack, and backpack should be brought with your child for each class.

The fee for each session of this program is \$143 for residents/ \$171.60 for non-residents. The deadline to register is seven business days before the program. Register at [schererville.org](http://schererville.org)

## COMMUNITY CONNECT 2023

MONDAY, JAN. 9, 7 P.M.

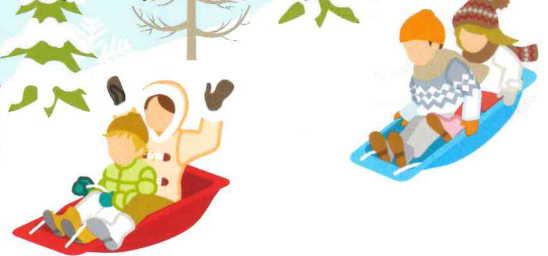
SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Calling all Crafters, Vendors, Food Vendors, Food Trucks, Businesses, and Entrepreneurs – you don't want to miss this!!

The Schererville Parks & Recreation Department is looking to connect with you! This is your chance to "GET IN THE KNOW" about all of Schererville's Shindigs. We want to start the year off well by getting vendors involved early.

At this "Community Connect," we will be debuting all our new and improved events, providing applications for many events, and giving you the chance to pitch ideas for what you want in Schererville.

This is a FREE EVENT and will be highly beneficial for you and your business to join. Don't miss out!



## St. John Township Trustee's office provides much-needed services for those in crisis

St. John Township encompasses the Towns of Schererville, St. John and Dyer as well as unincorporated areas, a small portion of Griffith and Crown Point. Those who live in St. John Township sometimes face crises including homelessness, financial problems, unemployment or lack of access to food.

As St. John Township Trustee Cathy Lareau said her office "is governed by state statute to make sure everyone's basic necessities are met. Anyone who lives within the township who is having difficulties can seek assistance with such things as rent and utility bills."

Every case is different and is evaluated based on what information the person can provide, she added.

"For example, we sometimes get calls from police departments in the township letting us know somebody is homeless. Some are because they've been evicted," Lareau said. "We can pledge a night at a hotel, but we do not have a shelter in St. John Township. We try to find long-term solutions."

Help from the St. John Township Trustee's office begins with an application.

"Come to the trustee's office at 1515 W. Lincoln Highway in Schererville and you will be given an application for assistance," Lareau said. "No one can be denied an application although we do have state guidelines we must follow. Each person must provide necessary documents with the application that are used to make a decision for approval or denial of assistance. If they qualify, they will receive assistance."

Income guidelines for determining township assistance eligibility are based on 100% of the Federal Poverty level. Maximum rental and mortgage allowances are based on HUD Fair Market Rents (FMR).

These services are "not just a band-aid. We help with financing, build on basic needs and provide guidance. We give people who come to us temporary help, and refer them to organizations that can provide longer-term assistance," she said.

The Lake County Community Economic Development (LCCED) group is one of those organizations that the trustee can refer people needing help.

"The LCCED can pay a security deposit and one month's rent for those who qualify for assistance," she said.

*continued on back page*



# What's Happening in Town



## DECEMBER 2022

- 1 Board of Safety Study Session, 6 p.m.; Board of Safety Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Plan Commission Meeting 6 p.m.
- 7 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 10 Crafts at the Crossroads, Schererville Community Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 14 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 23-26 Christmas Holiday – Town Hall closed
- 26 Special Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council meetings 6 p.m.
- 30 New Year's Eve Holiday – Town Hall closed

## JANUARY 2023

- 2 New Year's Day Holiday – Town Hall closed
- 4 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 5 Board of Safety Study Session, 6 p.m.; Board of Safety Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Plan Commission/Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Town Hall closed
- 16 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 18 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.

- 23 Board of Zoning Appeals 6 p.m.

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 2 Board of Safety Study Session, 6 p.m.; Board of Safety Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Plan Commission Meeting/Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 8 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 20 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 27 Board of Zoning Appeals 6 p.m.

## MARCH

- 1 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 2 Board of Safety Study Session, 6 p.m.; Board of Safety Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Plan Commission Meeting/Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 8 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 20 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 27 Board of Zoning Appeals 6 p.m.

## St. John Township Trustee's office crisis services

*continued from inside*

"It's a challenge finding a residential facility that will take Medicaid or Social Security payments for subsidized housing," Lareau said.

"It is common for us to partner with many local organizations such as Schererville Civic, Catholic Charities and faith-based organizations to find additional financial assistance for the clients," she said. Another organization, the Lake County Community Services (LCCS), can provide assistance with NIPSCO bills, she said.

Those who are unemployed can receive assistance from the St. John Township Trustee's Office through referrals to Work One to develop skills, Lareau noted. The United Way Level Up program can also help those who are under-employed get a better job, she said.

The food pantry, located at the St. John Community Center, is open to clients who have an approved application. The pantry provides non-perishable food items as well as paper goods, laundry detergent, household cleaning items and grocery gift certificates.

All the items are donated by residents, businesses and a wide host of organizations throughout the community, Lareau said.

"Anyone who walks into the Trustee's office is treated with dignity, and our hope is that they will walk out in a better condition than when they walked in," she said.

## HOW TO REACH OUT FOR HELP

Although St. John Township doesn't have any shelters, residents can call the following phone numbers or log on to the following websites to receive help locating a shelter and to receive additional help.

- The St. John Township Trustee Office – (219) 865-2705, available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Indiana 211 is a free information and referral service that connects Indiana residents with help and resources in their local communities. Dial 211 or (866) 211-9966, available 24/7. Text your ZIP Code to 898-211, available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. OR visit their website at [www.IN211.org](http://www.IN211.org).
- Log on to <https://www.hud.gov/findshelter>