



# THE SCHERERVILLE CROSSROADS



## What's Happening in Town



### DECEMBER 2023

- 4 Plan Commission Study Session/Plan Commission Meeting 6 p.m.
- 6 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 7 Board of Safety Study Session, 5:30p.m.; Board of Safety Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 13 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 18 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 25-26 Christmas Holiday – Town Hall closed
- 27 Special Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 5:30 p.m.
- 29 New Year's Eve Holiday – Town Hall closed

### JANUARY 2024

- 1 New Year's Day Holiday – Town Hall closed
- 3 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 4 Board of Safety Study Session, 5:30 p.m.; Board of Safety Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Town Hall closed
- 17 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.

22 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 2024

- 1 Board of Safety Study Session, 5:30 p.m.; Board of Safety Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Plan Commission Meeting 6 p.m.
- 7 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 14 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 19 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 26 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6 p.m.

### MARCH

- 4 Plan Commission Meeting 6 p.m.
- 6 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 7 Board of Safety Study Session, 5:30 p.m.; Board of Safety, 7 p.m.
- 13 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 18 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 25 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6 p.m.

## Public Library branch offers All Ability programs for adults with special needs

All Ability programs at the Dyer-Schererville Branch of the Lake County Library were created for adults with special needs in mind and are offered at least once a month, usually beginning at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.

"As people with special needs age out of receiving services, we want to make sure they know they are included and welcome at their library," said Beth Alyea, manager of the Dyer-Schererville branch, located at 1001 W. Lincoln Hwy, in Schererville.

"Our programs, which last one hour, range from crafting to gaming to relaxing coloring sessions," said Alyea who leads the All Ability programs. "I like to create programs where the participants get to be creative while socializing with others. They can get as simple or as fancy as they want with their projects."

Alyea said she is always open to suggestions for future program ideas. "For December we will be making holiday/winter themed door hangings. Attendees will be able to use paints, ribbons and vinyl for their own customization," she noted. "In January, we will be making a melting snowman craft."

Registration is required by logging on to [www.lcpl.in.org/events](http://www.lcpl.in.org/events). Although created for adults with special needs, the program sessions are open to anyone who registers. Alyea said if someone missed registering and still wants to participate, they should call her at (219) 322-4731, ext. 504. "Sometimes, depending on the project, we can make room for more," she said.

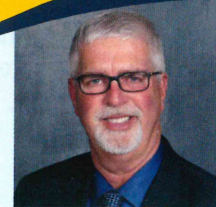
- \* All Ability: Holiday Door Decor: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 6-7 P.M.
- \* All Ability: Snow-themed craft: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 6-7 P.M.
- \* All Ability: Masquerade Bingo: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 6-7 P.M.

## Water rate increase

continued from front

In an effort to reduce the amount of IAWC's wholesale water rate increase and minimize the impact on the Town's customers, the Town has joined with other wholesale customers from across the state to intervene in the case pending before the IURC and challenged IAWC's proposed rate increase. In fact, the Town and its fellow wholesale customers have hired an expert who has filed testimony and exhibits requesting that the IURC reject IAWC's proposed wholesale water rate increase. A copy of the Town's filings and all filings in the case can be found at the IURC's website, <https://in.gov/iurc/>, under Cause No. 45870.

At this point, all the testimony and exhibits have been submitted and the IURC has completed the evidentiary hearings. The Town anticipates a final decision from the IURC in the first quarter of 2024. As this matter progresses, the Town will keep you updated on any wholesale water rate increases and the potential impact on the Town.



Tom Schmitt, Councilmember Ward 4



Robin Arvanitis, Councilmember Ward 1



Kevin Connelly, Councilmember Ward 2



Rob Guetzloff, Councilmember Ward 3



Caleb S. Johnson, Councilmember Ward 5



Mike Troxell, Clerk-Treasurer



Randy Wyllie  
Judge, Schererville Town Court

## Schererville residents urged to sign up for RAVE Alert & Smart911

In an emergency, seconds count and being prepared is vital. The Town of Schererville and Southcom encourage all Schererville residents to take a proactive approach to personal preparedness by signing up for a free Smart911 account provided by Southcom. This allows residents to receive alerts from the Town via the RAVE Alert System with information including severe weather, road closures, boil water advisories, and local emergencies and how to respond.

Individuals can create a Safety Profile for every person in their households at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com) or on the Smart911 app that includes any information residents want 9-1-1 and response teams to have in the event of an emergency. This information can include details about family members, photos, medical history, home health care details, pets and emergency contacts. Enter as little or as much as you like, said Kelly Wynkoop, PSAP Manager at Southcom. When an individual calls 9-1-1, that Safety Profile is automatically displayed to the call taker, allowing them to send the right response teams to the correct location with the right information.

With this information, fire crews can arrive at a house fire knowing how many people live in the home and the location of bedrooms. Emergency Medical Services can be advised of allergies or specific medical conditions. And police can have the photo of a missing child in seconds rather than minutes or hours.

## Schererville faces possible water rate increase

As many of you may know, the Town of Schererville does not have its own source of water supply. The Town buys water on a wholesale basis from Indiana American Water Corporation ("IAWC") and then sells or distributes this water to each of the Town's customers.

Earlier this year, IAWC filed a case with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("IURC") seeking to increase its water rates to the Town and other wholesale users across the state by almost 50%. If approved, the proposed increase would cost the Town's municipal water utility approximately \$1,470,682 per year.

"The information provided in a Smart911 & Community Alerts make a Safety Profile that helps us respond faster and more efficiently, saving critical time in an emergency when seconds count," said Wynkoop. "By signing up for this service, residents of the Town of Schererville can take action to help better prepare themselves and their families for the next emergency and give local first responders a leg up in a crisis."

Individuals can also opt-in for Alerts, which allows citizens to receive timely and actionable emergency alerts about potentially hazardous situations involving weather, traffic incidents and other emergencies via email, text or voice message. Individuals who sign up will receive tailored alerts based on their specific needs and geographic location, and can choose how they are alerted and communicated with before, during, and after emergencies.

"We have seen the devastation of severe weather throughout the state and in our own backyard, so it is critically important for all of us to remain vigilant and proactive when it comes to emergency preparedness," said Wynkoop. "We urge the residents of the Town of Schererville to sign up for Smart911 & Community Alerts today."

To sign up, visit [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com).



## 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 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 driveway 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 snow 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 the streets.

As in the past, salt will continue to be spread on the main roadways. On the second and 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") inches 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 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. 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.



## Apply for your 2024 pets' licenses to avoid late fees

Schererville residents can begin applying for their pets' 2024 licenses on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at the Schererville Police Department, 25 E. Joliet Street. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Please bring proof of your pet's current shot records and proof of spaying or neutering. The Town doesn't keep vaccination/neutering records from year to year. You must bring these papers with you each year. All dogs and cats must be licensed by March 31 of each year, according to Town Ordinance #1549.**

That ordinance also limits residents to owning and licensing 5 dogs and/or cats. Fees must be paid by check or cash. Those fees for each pet are as follows:

- Spayed or neutered dogs and cats \$ 5.00
- Non-spayed or non-neutered dogs \$ 20.00
- Non-spayed or non-neutered cats \$ 10.00

If you don't license your dog or cat by March 31, 2024, you will be charged a \$10 late fee for each pet. **Failure to license your dog or cat could result in fines of \$25 to \$2,500, according to Town Ordinance #1549.**



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Lu Ann Franklin, Editor

## schererville parks & recreation

All events at SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER, 500 E. JOLIET ST.

### SANTA'S NORTH POLE BREAKFASTS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 9 A.M. TO NOON**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 9 A.M. TO NOON**

'Tis the season for the jolliest man of them all to visit Schererville! Join Schererville Parks in welcoming Santa, Mr. Grinch and Elf on the Shelf during Santa's North Pole Breakfasts in December.

Each participant will enjoy a delicious breakfast including 2 LARGE pancakes, 2 sausages, orange juice, coffee and water. Guests can enjoy a hot cocoa bar; a Candy Cane Hunt (held outdoors with prizes) as well as Meet & Greets with Santa, Mr. Grinch, Elf on the Shelf and MORE!! There will also be a themed craft and DIY Reindeer food to create and a Jolly Jig sing-a-long.

All ages are required to register and each child ticket must be accompanied by an adult ticket. These events WILL SELL OUT! There are no date transfers and no refunds. The price is \$20 per person for Schererville residents and \$24 per person for non-residents.

Seating will be assigned based upon those registered on your receipt. Some tables may have multiple parties. If you are sick, please stay home!

Register @ [www.schererville.org](http://www.schererville.org).

### CRAFTS AT THE CROSSROADS CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.**

Handmade has RETURNED!

Schererville Parks brings back all those unique goods and goodies for you and your loved ones. This Craft show will have CRAFTERS ONLY! No Direct Sellers! You'll find more than 75 crafters as well as food trucks and free raffles. ADMISSION & PARKING ARE FREE! So you're sure to find something you've never seen before!

### GRINCH CANDY CANE HUNT 2023

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.**

**AGES 3-5, 10 A.M. TO 11 A.M. • AGES 6-12, NOON TO 1 P.M.**

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 and cookies. Each child will receive a participation prize!

The per person fee is \$15 for Schererville residents/\$18 for non-residents Register @ [www.schererville.org](http://www.schererville.org).

### BEDTIME CHRISTMAS STORIES

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 6-7:30 P.M.**

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 firelight. Holiday cookies and drinks will be provided to all participants. Dress in your PJs, bring your sleeping bags and pillow for a relaxing good time! THIS IS A FREE EVENT!

### YOUNG REMBRANDTS (FOR AGES 6-12) – SESSION #3

**MONDAYS, JANUARY 8 – MARCH 4 5:30-6:30 P.M.**

Do your kids have a knack for drawing, or do they want to improve their skills? Young Rembrandts may be just the thing for them! Young Rembrandts' elementary drawing teaches children to break complex objects into foundational shapes. As they learn how to deconstruct and reconstruct images, the experience, repetition and variety of engaging and relevant subject matter brings them to increased levels of mastery in drawing - and in life.

The fee is \$75 for residents/\$90 for non-residents

Register @ [www.schererville.org](http://www.schererville.org).

### SNACKS & APPS COOKING CLASS

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 (FOR AGES 4-7) 5-6:30 P.M.**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 (FOR AGES 8-12) 5-6:30 P.M.**

It's the New Year and it's time to party! Learn how to make party snacks and awesome appetizers to share in this class.

This is a kids' only class. We ask parents to be patient and let them experience the art of cooking and bake you some awesome treats!

The fee is \$30 for residents/\$39 for non-residents.

Register @ [www.schererville.org](http://www.schererville.org).

### COMMUNITY CONNECT

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 7 P.M.**

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

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

At this "Connect" we will be debuting all of our new and improved events, applications for most events, and your 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.

### THE MOTHER-SON "BARBIE vs KEN" NERF BATTLE BALL

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 6-9 P.M. • SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 6-9 P.M.**

### THE DADDY-DAUGHTER BARBIE BALL

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9 6-9 P.M. • SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 6-9 P.M.**

Calling all Dads, Daughters, Moms, and Sons!! Is your Pink prepared?!?!? Are you Ken-enough?!?!?

Schererville Parks is bringing the Barbie-Land to LIFE with our Mother-Son and Daddy-Daughter Dances! We invite all Barbies & Kens to join us for nights filled with dinner, dessert, dancing, games, contests, crafts and so much more.

The doors open at 5:50 p.m. and the magic begins at 6 p.m. with dinner and drinks featuring freshly baked chicken tenders, buttery sweet corn, whipped buttery mashed potatoes and gravy, a crisp side salad with a choice of dressing and a HUGE ice cream bar!! Enjoy dancing with music provided by a live DJ and join in dance games for PRIZES. Dance souvenirs will be available for purchase. There will also be a themed craft at each dance, and a Professional Photo will be included with the purchase of a pair of tickets.

For those attending the Mother-Son Dance, a Barbie Ball Keepsake will be available with a Mother-Son ticket AND a Nerf Battle will add to the excitement! The cost for **each** dance ticket is \$25 for Schererville residents/+15% for non-residents. This fee is per person. All ages are required to purchase a ticket. Every child must be accompanied by an adult, who has purchased a ticket. **Tickets will not be sold at the door.**

**PLEASE NOTE – Any food allergies or special food accommodations must be communicated to the Parks Department at (219) 865-5530 no later than 2 weeks before the dance.**

Register @ [www.schererville.org](http://www.schererville.org).

