



# The Schererville Crossroads



## What's Happening in Town

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### DECEMBER

- 13 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 14 Board of Safety 7 p.m.
- 18 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 25 & 26 Christmas holiday – Town Hall closed
- 27 Special Town Council meeting 6 p.m.
- 29 New Year's Eve holiday – Town Hall closed

### JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day – Town Hall closed
- 3 Park Board 6 p.m.
- 8 Plan Commission 6 p.m.
- 11 Board of Safety 7 p.m.
- 17 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.



## Façade Program helps revitalize seven businesses along Joliet Street

Schererville's Façade Program helps revitalize the downtown area with building improvements that bring in new businesses, investment and economic development. Recently the program provided funds to improve the exteriors of seven businesses located on Joliet Street:

- Titak Photography, 1619 Junction Avenue
- Lakeside Inn 2, 210 E. Joliet Street
- Haircrafters, 149 E. Joliet Street
- Maki Insurance, 27 W. Joliet Street
- Anthony Kastelic, Explorers Club, 105 E. Joliet Street
- Smierciak Land Surveying, 116 E. Joliet Street, and
- The Schererville Chamber of Commerce, 122 E. Joliet Street

According to the program guidelines, the building improvements should preserve and enhance the unique character of the downtown district and provide an area that better enhances the quality of life for Schererville residents. The applications are reviewed by an advisory committee then considered for approval by the Redevelopment Commission (RDC), which consists of the five members of the Town Council.

The program provides two funding options for applicants pursuing façade improvements to existing commercial

buildings in the downtown corridor including an area along Joliet Street between Roman Road and Austin Avenue. Through the Façade Matching Grant Program the RDC can provide a 1/2 matching grant for the cost of eligible façade improvements with a minimum of \$500 for a \$1,000 project budget and a maximum amount of \$15,000.

The Façade Incentive option allows the RDC to provide an incentive equal to 25% of the total project cost not to exceed \$50,000 per application. These Incentive funds could be in the form of a loan or forgivable loan, or a grant program as negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

The program's first grant paid 50% of a \$17,400 project to improve the south façade of Larry Titak Photography.

A \$14,150.30 grant for Lakeside Inn 2 helped owner David Jaroszewski make exterior renovations including a new door, windows and stucco siding.

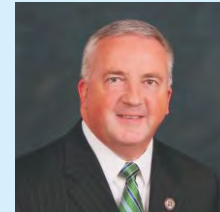
Town Manager Robert Volkmann said the town uses money from a tax increment financing district or economic development income tax proceeds to fund the program.



Rob Guetzloff, Councilman Ward 3



David DeJong, Councilman Ward 1



Kevin Connelly, Councilman Ward 2



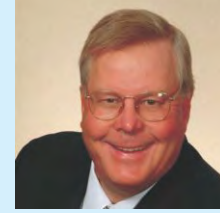
Tom Schmitt, Councilman Ward 4



Mike Troxell, Councilman Ward 5



Janice Malinowski, Clerk-Treasurer



Kenneth Anderson, Judge, Schererville Town Court

## New museums at Tri-Town Safety Village to honor veterans, firefighters



Photo Courtesy of The Times

By early summer, two new museums – one honoring America's veterans and the other the history of fire-fighting – will bring more educational opportunities to Tri-Town Safety Village, a four-acre site at 1350 Eagle Ridge Drive in Schererville supported by the Towns of Dyer, Schererville and St. John.

The Veterans Museum will honor all branches of the United States armed forces so that "students and the community will understand the sacrifices made for our country," said William Jarvis, executive director of the Tri-Town Safety Village. Tom Clark, an award-winning social studies teacher at Lake Central High School, will serve as the museum's curator.

Military memorabilia featured at the 1,200-square foot museum will include uniforms, photos and letters that are part of Clark's Gold Star Project collection. His U.S. history students explore military records to ensure the names of those men and women are properly enshrined on war memorials while preserving their personal histories for their families. Dating back to World War I, the Gold Star flag and lapel pin symbolize that sacrifice and are presented to the families of the fallen. This museum's two-story look provides space for the military displays to hang from the ceiling, Jarvis said.

"Watch for information on the fourth annual Veterans' 3K/5K/10K Walk Run at the Tri-

Town Safety Village that will honor veterans and raise money for the museum," said Janice Malchow, a Lake Central School Board member who represents the Tri-Town Safety Village.

The 1,200-square foot Fire Museum will resemble a red-brick firehouse from the early 1900's, Jarvis said. "This museum will show how fire departments fought fires from the early days to today. We're also looking to create a skyline of New York City when 9/11 occurred honoring those

who gave their lives in that terrorist attack," he said. Battalion Chief Bill Howe of the Schererville Fire Department serves as liaison with the Tri-Town Safety Village.

Old fire-fighting equipment will be on display at this new museum including fire extinguishers that consisted of glass globes filled with water that fire-fighters threw at the fire. Other exhibits will include a hose reel and pumper. "It's important for everyone who visits the Tri-Town Safety Village to understand how firefighters protect our homes and individuals, and their life-saving techniques," Jarvis said. "We're still taking donations to help build this museum."

Local unions are providing the labor to build the museums including the Roofers Union Local 26 and Carpenters Union Local 1005, he said. Other businesses donating their services and equipment used to construct the two buildings include Hyre Electric and Kurt Kropp Equipment Inc. The architectural firm of Carras-Szany Kuhn & Associates provided the architectural drawings free of charge, Jarvis said.

"This is only the beginning," the executive director said about the safety village that features an actual child-sized town consisting of houses, roads, mock businesses and lighting as well as a working railroad and street crossings.



## Two new officers join Schererville Police Department ranks

Two new officers joined the ranks of the Schererville Police Department, sworn in October 9 during the Board of Safety meeting. When Ashley Stevens and Scott Savich complete their law enforcement academy training, they will serve as probationary officers in the patrol division for one year, said Cpl. Timothy Arvanitis.

Schererville resident Ashley Stevens, 25, served four years in the United States Army and "is very excited about being a police officer," said Cpl. Arvanitis. Stevens attends the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield, Indiana, and will complete her training on February 21.

Scott Savich, 31, was involved in law enforcement in Crestwood, Illinois, said Cpl. Arvanitis. The Lowell resident will complete his training at the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Hobart in mid-January.

When their probationary patrol period is completed, Officers Steven and Savich will become third-class patrol officers.

## 'Hawk' becomes third K-9 thanks to community support

With the retirement of two of its active K-9's this year, the Schererville Police Department recently reached its goal of adding a third K-9 thanks to generous community support, said Chief David Dowling. "Patrol Officer Diego Alvarez is training with Hawk, a year-old black German Shepherd, at Vohne Liche Kennels for six weeks," the chief said.

Vohne Liche Kennels in Denver, Indiana, was founded in 1993 by United States Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Kenneth Licklider. A full-service K-9 training facility, Vohne Liche Kennels trains police and military service dogs for more than 5,000 law enforcement and government agencies.

When their training is completed, Hawk will be deployed as a search and rescue and drug detection dog, and will live with Officer Alvarez.



### The Schererville Crossroads

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Lu Ann Franklin  
Editor



### CUPCAKE AND CANVAS (ages 6-10) SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Have your child create his or her own painting on canvas. All materials needed to complete the take-home canvas are provided. Have your child enjoy a fun afternoon of cupcakes and paint! Deadline date to register is Wednesday before class or until filled. Instructor is Joey Zimmer.

Session 2 – Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017 1:30-3:30 p.m. Theme: Holiday

Session 3 – Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Theme: Frozen

Session 4 – Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018 2-4 p.m. Theme: Frozen

Limit – 4 minimum; 25 maximum

Cost: \$30 for residents/\$35 for non-residents

### ZOO LIGHTS AT LINCOLN PARK ZOO - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Spend an evening enjoying this holiday tradition at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo, featuring luminous displays and holiday season activities throughout the zoo grounds. Zoo admission is free. We'll depart on school buses at 3:30 p.m. from Rohrman Park and return at 10 p.m. The fee is \$13 for residents and \$15 for non-residents.

### CANDY CANE HUNT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 \* SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Kiddies can search the community center for hidden candy canes with a chance to find "special" candy canes for bigger prizes during different time periods for each age group. For those ages 3 to 5, the hunt takes place from 12:30 to 2 p.m., while those ages 6 to 9 can enjoy the fun from 2:30 to 4 p.m. After the hunt, youngsters will warm up with hot cocoa, a craft project and cookies. Limits per age group are 100 children (+1 parent). The fee is \$7 for residents and \$9 for non-residents.

### SNOW DAY IN THE PARK

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 \* SCHERWOOD PARK (500 East Joliet Street)

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Join the Parks Department for a day filled with family fun, games, vendors, hot chocolate and snow! FREE EVENT! Weather dependent! Interested vendors can contact the Parks office at (219) 865-5530, ext. 6103.

### DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 6-9 PM

### MOTHER-SON DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 & FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 6-9 PM

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Tickets are now on sale for these unforgettable "Descendants Costume Ball" evenings that sell out quickly. The festivities will include elegant castle turrets to explore or Hero or Villain masks to create, dinner catered by Capri's Pizza, dancing and dessert. Only 200 tickets for each evening will be sold and every child must be accompanied by an adult who has purchased a ticket. The price per person is \$23 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. Photographs, a photo booth and gifts are also available for an additional charge. Registration deadlines are Jan. 30 or until all tickets sold for the Daddy-Daughter Dance and Feb. 6 for the Mother-Son Dance. NO TICKETS will be sold at the door.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MAY TRIPS!

Tickets go on sale January 6 for trips this spring to Four Winds Casino and the Chicago Botanic Gardens. We'll travel to Four Winds Casino on Thursday, May 10, and to the Chicago Botanic Gardens on Thursday, May 24.

## 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 throughout Schererville, except U.S. 30 and U.S. 41 which are maintained by the Indiana Department of Transportation.

Main roadways are plowed first, followed by secondary tier streets (usually the main entry roads into subdivisions) and then third-tier streets within subdivisions and cul-de-sacs. Although the crews attempt to make one or two passes on the third tier roads during every snowfall event, the plowing usually isn't completed until the snow has stopped falling and the main and secondary roads are cleared.

Our trucks must clear snow on streets to the curb line and that sometimes causes snow to be plowed into cleared driveway entrances. We must clear streets 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. They are wider than most streets which allow them to hold more snow, and they also have more driveways. This leaves less area for the snow to be pushed in clearing the road.

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

As in the past, we will continue spreading salt on the main roads. Second and third tier streets will be salted at intersections, curves and hills. Please use caution when driving on roadways during adverse weather conditions.

Parking during a snowfall also requires cooperation. Please keep vehicles off the street during snowfall events so crews can more efficiently clear the streets. We are working to replace signs throughout the Town and although the No Parking signs may not be posted, Town Ordinance 791 prohibits parking on the street when there's a snowfall of 2 inches or greater. The snowfall parking restrictions signs will be replaced in the coming months. However, any vehicles parked on the street may be towed.

Your cooperation is always appreciated.



## Get help from AARP with tax filing appointments available at Town Hall

Every year, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation and electronic filing. Starting in February through mid-April, IRS-certified volunteers will be available at Schererville Town Hall, 10 East Joliet Street, on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help area residents with state and federal tax preparation. "The IRS gives us the software and computers," said Lynn Walsh, Lake County District Controller for AARP Tax-Aide. "We are not allowed to discriminate. We try to give preference to senior citizens and those with low incomes."

Appointments are necessary for the tax service, he said. One hour is scheduled for each set of returns with four slots available at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon. After one certified preparer completes the forms,

another checks the work, Walsh said. "We don't keep any records. We have to be really careful with identity theft. Those using this service go home with a copy of everything filed electronically."

Items to bring to the appointment include the following – last year's tax returns, a photo ID, all tax forms including 1099's and W-2's. "If you're going to itemize, bring mortgage interest information, car registration, medical bills, bank statements, information on stock sales," Walsh said. "We can't do complicated business or rental property tax returns."

Information about the tax service will be available soon at the town hall number, 322-2211, he said.

## Fire Department gains full-time firefighter/paramedic

Val Trevino, a Schererville resident, has joined the ranks of the Schererville Fire Department as a full-time firefighter/paramedic. He started with the department as a part-time employee in June 2016. Trevino's appointment as a full-time employee was approved by the Board of Safety and the Pension Board, said Chief Joseph Kruzan. "We are currently processing two more part-time employees for full-time positions," the chief said.