



The Schererville Crossroads



What's Happening in Town

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FEBRUARY

- 7 Park Board 6 p.m.
- 14 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 19 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 22 2018 Health & Wellness Fair, Schererville Community Center 3-7 p.m.
- 26 Board of Zoning Appeals 6 p.m.

- 5 Plan Commission 6 p.m.
- 7 Park Board 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 6 p.m.
- 29 Flashlight Egg Hunt, Community Center, ages 8-13, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- 30 Good Friday – Town Hall closed

MARCH

- 1 Board of Safety Study Session 5:30 p.m.; Board of Safety 7 p.m.

APRIL

- 2 Plan Commission 6 p.m.
- 4 Park Board 6 p.m.
- 5 Board of Safety Study Session 5:30 p.m.; Board of Safety 7 p.m.
- 11 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.

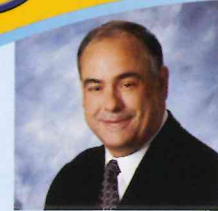
Schererville Street Signs Upgraded With Help of Grant

Modernization of the town's street signs now makes traveling throughout Schererville easier. Town officials obtained a \$500,000 grant from the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program through the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC). This grant allowed the Public Works Department "to inventory and replace all the signs in town that did not meet the standard for reflectivity, letter sizes and height from the ground," said Jeff Huet, Public Works Director.

"This brings the town current with federal and state regulations found in the Manual for Universal Traffic

Control Devices," Huet said. The new standards are designed to make the signs easier for an aging population to read and include the use of upper and lower case letters on the signs rather than all capital letters, he noted. The minimum size for street signs is also larger.

Crews started replacing the signs this past fall and completed most of the work by the end of November, Huet said. "There were a few mistakes on the signs, but we got replacements," he said. "We did miss a few things, but over the next year, we will identify what was missed and get it up to standard."



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

Upgraded 911 Dispatch Center

In October 2015, the Towns of Schererville and Cedar Lake consolidated their 911 dispatching with the formation of the SOUTHCOM dispatch center located within the Schererville Police Department. In 2017 renovations and upgrades were made to the dispatch center and radio systems that yielded communications improvements for both towns and their respective public safety agencies, said Dan Gin, Schererville IT Director.



"Most notable of the improvements was the transition of radio systems from localized VHF systems to the State of Indiana's Hoosier SAFE-T radio network," Gin said.

The SAFE-T network is a statewide, interoperable public safety communications system for first responders and public safety officials, he explained. There are radio sites in each of the state's 92 counties and 4 radio sites in Lake County alone.

"Police, Fire and EMS personnel in Schererville and Cedar Lake can communicate with each other all throughout the county," Gin said. Numerous other agencies throughout the state operate on the SAFE-T system including local police and fire, the Indiana State Police and Department of Natural Resources. The network allows Schererville Police and Fire to communicate with other agencies via the state's mutual aid channels.

"The transition to the state's radio network has vastly increased the footprint of

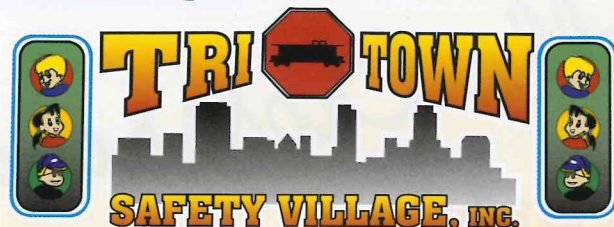
coverage for our first responders," Gin said, adding that in 2017 the SOUTHCOM dispatch center received approximately 69,000 combined 911 and non-emergency calls.

Upgraded 911 Dispatch Center in Schererville Police Dept. Provides Communication for First Responders

The center is staffed by dispatchers who are certified in EMD (emergency medical dispatch), EFD (emergency fire dispatch), and CPR. In addition, the dispatchers participate in training and receive certificates from the FBI's National Crime Information Center; Indiana State Police IDACS (Indiana Data and Communications System) and the IAED (International Academy of Emergency Dispatch), Gin said.

About Dan Gin, IT Director, has an extensive background in IT that includes experience in local government and SMB consulting. He is a graduate of Purdue and holds a Bachelor's degree in Information Systems. Originally from Chicago, he now calls Northwest Indiana his home. He manages the Town's IT staff and provides technical oversight to technology implementations throughout the Town of Schererville. He is also in charge of technology for the SOUTHCOM PSAP.

Sponsor a Class Program at Tri-Town Safety Village



Tri-Town Safety Village at 1350 Eagle Ridge Drive in Schererville teaches children the importance of safety in the vital areas of fire, police, railroads, gas and electric services. "This is primarily accomplished through field trips at the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade levels," said William Jarvis, executive director of the Tri-Town Safety Village.

"Our awarding-winning facility has state-of-the-art technology and some of the best instructors in the field," Jarvis said about the potentially life-saving programs offered by the non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

In addition, the Safety Village features several child-sized buildings, paved streets, working traffic lights, a train depot

complete with an antique caboose and a Survive Alive House that simulates an actual fire with smoke.

"We are reaching out to local businesses and private individuals with the *Sponsor a Class Program* to better serve areas that have been hit hard by school budget cuts," said Jarvis. "Our costs are \$5 per student, and there's no charge for teachers and adult chaperons."

Suggested sponsoring levels including the following:

Sponsor 10 children for \$50; sponsor 20 children for \$100; sponsor 25 children for \$125; sponsor 50 children for \$250 and sponsor 100 children for \$500.

"All donations are greatly appreciated and 100 percent tax deductible," Jarvis said.

New Road & Pennsy Trail Projects Being Funded by INDOT

Thanks to federal funding, road improvement projects as well as extension of the Pennsy Greenway Trail are in Schererville's future. All the federal aid is funneled through Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) with the road improvements overseen by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT).

Three road improvement projects are on the books, said Jeff Huet, Schererville Public Works Director. They include Oak Street and Phase I and Phase II of the Kennedy Avenue expansion, he said. Phase I will go from U.S. 30 to Junction Avenue while Phase II is slated to run from Junction Avenue to Oak Street.

"A future phase will go from Oak Street to Main Street," Huet said.

Approximately 3.5 miles will be added to the Pennsy Greenway Trail in two phases once the parcels of land are acquired,

according to John Novacich, Superintendent of Schererville Parks and Recreation Department.

The trail's first 2.1 mile leg in Schererville debuted in October 2011 and was greeted by hundreds of people of all ages who biked, ran and walked the trail following the ribbon-cutting ceremony next to Redar Park. Phase II will take the trail from Main Street to 213th and Eagle Ridge Drive. Phase III will go from that location and connect with the existing trail near the Schererville Police Station at Wilhelm Street, Novacich said.

Letting or awarding a contract for construction is dependent on acquiring those parcels of land, he said.

The Pennsy Greenway Trail is envisioned to connect Illinois and Northwest Indiana communities from Lake to LaPorte counties.



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Editor



VALENTINE'S DAY COOKING CLASS (ages 3-5)

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Love is in the air, and your child can learn how to bake special treats for the holiday from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Limit - 4 minimum; 16 maximum

Cost: \$16 for residents/\$18 for non-residents

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 3-7 P.M.

February is American Heart Month, the perfect time to join us for an afternoon of valuable information and demonstrations to help keep you healthy. We'll offer resource booths, screenings, talks, massages, stress reduction techniques, healthy cooking demos and heart healthy refreshments. This is a FREE EVENT!

BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 9 A.M.

Bring your appetite and enjoy a complete breakfast catered by The Patrician served at 9:30 a.m. Kids will make their own "bunny bait" as we wait for the arrival of the Easter Bunny! Be sure to bring your baskets, too, because children by age groups will search the Community Center lawn for colorful eggs along with some "special eggs". There'll be plenty of photo opps! Deadline date to register is March 14 or until filled. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Limit - 200

Cost: Ages 11 and younger, \$8 for residents/\$10 for non-residents
Ages 12 and older, \$13 for residents/\$15 for non-residents

LEPRECHAUNS & LOLLIPOPS (ages 4-7)

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 4-5:30 P.M.

Your children can enjoy a story about Leprechauns, make a Leprechaun hat and create their own lollipops at this new program.

Limit - 4 minimum; 12 maximum

Cost: \$9 for residents/\$11 for non-residents



FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT (ages 8-13)

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 7:30-8:30 P.M.

This exciting moonlight child-only event lets kids use their flashlights to find prize-filled eggs scattered on the lawn of the Community Center. Be sure to bring a flashlight and bag. After the hunt, we'll have a pizza party and play BINGO. Doors open at 7 p.m. March 27 is the deadline to register.

Limit - 100 children

Cost: \$9 for residents/\$11 for non-residents

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE TRIPS

Register by February 18 for our trip to Four Winds Casino on Thursday, March 1, departing from Rohrman Park at 8:30 a.m. and returning at 4 p.m. You'll receive a \$10 food voucher and \$15 for slot play. A valid government-issued photo ID is required the day of the trip. The cost is \$25 for residents and \$27 for non-residents.

New this year! Join us as we visit Navy Pier for the Chicago Flower & Garden Show on Thursday, March 5. We'll depart from Rohrman Park at 8:30 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. The trip's cost of \$45 for residents and \$49 for non-residents includes admission to the show.



March 30 Deadline to Obtain Pet Licenses for Dogs, Cats

Pets are important members of the family, and the Schererville Police Department reminds residents that all dogs and cats need to have new pet licenses issued in 2018.

"Pet licenses can be purchased starting Jan. 1 through March 30," said Kelly Wynkoop of the Schererville Police Department. "Go to the Police Department, 25 E. Joliet Street, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m."

License fees are \$5 for each spayed or neutered dog and cat; \$10 for a cat that's not spayed or neutered and \$20 for each dog that's not spayed or neutered. Only cash or checks are accepted.

Wynkoop reminds pet owners to bring along current records of vaccinations including for rabies and distemper as well as records for spaying/neutering. "We do not keep vaccination or neutering records year to year. You must bring them in each year," she said.

After the March 30 deadline, there will be a \$10 late fee for each pet. Exceptions are if the dog or cat is a new pet or if the owner just moved into town, Wynkoop said.

Failure to obtain pet licenses will result in a fine of between \$25 and \$2,500, according to Town of Schererville Ordinance #1549. That same ordinance limits residents to owning not more than 5 dogs and/or cats.

For questions, please call the Police Department at (219) 322-5000.

