



The Schererville Crossroads



What's Happening in Town

Like us on Facebook Follow us on Pinterest

DECEMBER

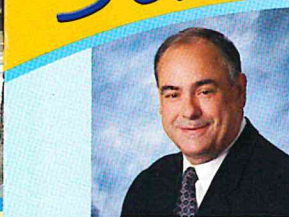
- 12 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 15 Christmas Craft Show, Schererville Community Center, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 17 Bedtime Christmas Stories, Schererville Community Center, 6-7:30 p.m.
- 17 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve holiday, Town Hall closed
- 25 Christmas holiday, Town Hall closed
- 28 Special Town Council meeting 6 p.m.
- 31 New Year's Eve holiday, Town Hall closed

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day, Town Hall closed
- 2 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 5 Family Snoops "N" Snapshots, Schererville Community Center, 1-3 p.m.
- 7 Plan Commission Meeting 6 p.m.
- 16 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 21 Martin Luther King Day, Town Hall closed
- 28 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 4 Plan Commission Meeting 6 p.m.
- 6 Park Board Meeting 6 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.



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

Republic Services: Recycling faces challenges

For decades, China has been the largest importer of the world's recycled products with the United States accounting for 40 percent of that total. However, in 2017 China announced efforts to clean up that country, including dramatic changes in what is now acceptable.



James Metros, Republic Services Municipal Manager for Northwest Indiana, said that major policy shift called "the China Sword" means our recycling habits need to change. Republic Services holds the contract for Schererville's garbage and recycling collection.

Those changes took effect in March of this year and have already driven up costs and resulted in changes to meet these new standards at most recycling facilities in the United States, he noted.

Americans have become "lazy recyclers" because China would take any kind of product including contaminated items, according to Republic Services. In fact, 68.3 million Americans place non-recyclable contaminated items in the recycling. Those contaminated items include cardboard pizza boxes that have sauce or other food on them and plastic milk cartons that haven't been rinsed out and dried.

Metros said the immediate impacts include slowing down the processing speeds on the sorting lines to improve the quality of sorted material. That means more staff will need to be hired to sort recyclables. In addition, the garbage industry must

increase self-inspections to further reduce contaminations.

In addition to finding new markets in the United States for recycled products, Metros said public education about what to recycle and how to recycle is vital. The following

information from Republic Services will help Schererville residents help that effort:

WHAT TO RECYCLE:

ALWAYS recycle the following items:

- Paper
- Plastic
- Metal
- Cardboard

NEVER recycle these items:

- Diapers
- Garden hoses
- Shoes/clothing
- Food waste
- Yard waste
- Plastic bags

SOMETIMES glass can be recycled

HOW TO RECYCLE – 'Empty/Clean/Dry'

- Empty: Remove any remaining food or liquid contents before placing it in a recycling container.
- Clean: Lightly rinse the recyclable item to remove any remaining residue.
- Dry: Gently shake out excess water or let the recyclable item air dry before placing in a recycling container.

Volunteer in Policing (VIP) Program enhances teamwork, community involvement

Any community's greatest asset consists of its people, and a barometer of that value is the willingness of the people to volunteer. The Schererville Police Department recognizes the importance of volunteers and the valuable contributions they provide through the Volunteer in Policing (VIP) program.

VIP is designed for individuals who wish to volunteer their time as members of the Schererville Police Department, said Cpl. Timothy Arvanitis. "Our goal is to enhance the quality of life in the Town of Schererville by working as a team," Cpl. Arvanitis said. "As a Police VIP volunteer, you become a member of our team."

Volunteers are individuals who perform services without pay. They augment the SPD, but don't replace paid staff positions. They aren't sworn members of the police force

and don't have the authority or duties that would classify them as police officers. All have been selected for a volunteer position by the SPD and are expected to perform a minimum of 32 hours per month. As "authorized volunteers" those in the VIP program complete a background investigation and fingerprint identification check.

"The VIP application process takes about 12 weeks to complete," said Cpl. Arvanitis. That process includes completing an application, attending a mandatory Citizen's Police Academy, being issued a Police VIP identification card and going through a placement interview.

"The Police VIP is made up of the integral components which form the Schererville Police Department's volunteer base," he noted.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO REVITALIZE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Today the Town of Schererville lies at the junction of U.S. Route 30 and U.S. Route 41.

But, Schererville traces its rich history to trails that Native American tribes – including the Pottawatomie and Fox – carved out of the wilderness and where they hunted and fished for centuries before Europeans came here. This land at the southern tip of Lake Michigan long ago earned the name “crossroads.”

Indiana became a state in 1816 and in 1832 much of the northwestern part of the state was purchased from the Native American tribes. Historical records from that time



indicate the Old Sauk Trail became known as the Main Road and was “matted with thick, green spongy grass, and almost surrounded by boggy marshes, where fallen rotted trees and matted leaves had dammed the swamps into bodies of water resembling lakes...”.

Continued on page 3



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. Town Ordinance 791 prohibits parking on the street when there's 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 the snow is removed. Any vehicle which is parked on said street when depth of now exceeds two (2”) inches may be towed away.”

Your cooperation is always appreciated.



CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY, DEC. 15, 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M. * SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
Looking for holiday gifts that are truly unique? Then bring your list to this ALL CRAFTS show where you'll find handmade items created by more than 75 crafters from all around the Crossroads region! There'll be no vendors, no direct sellers. Enjoy items from food trucks, free raffles, a balloon artist and a face painter. **FREE ADMISSION AND FREE PARKING!!**

BEDTIME CHRISTMAS STORIES

MONDAY, DEC. 17, 6-7:30 P.M. * SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
Boys and girls ages 5 and older 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 beverages will be provided to all participants. Dress in your PJ's and bring your sleeping bags and pillows for a relaxing good time. **THIS IS A FREE EVENT!**

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Do you have a passion for Christmas decorating? Now's your chance to join the competition during Schererville's Christmas House Decorating Contest. The contest is open to Schererville residents only. Awards will be by People's Choice, and the winners will receive a Schererville Holiday Christmas Package. The entrance fee is \$5. Keep these important dates in mind:

DEC. 19 – Deadline to register. Registration can be completed at Town Hall

DEC. 20 – From 6-9 p.m. Schererville Parks personnel will visit each registered house to document your hard work by taking photos, videos, etc.

DEC. 21-25 – Voting takes place on Facebook or in person at the Schererville Community Center

DEC. 26 – Winners announced on social media and published through local media

FAMILY SNOOPS “N” SNAPSHOTS

SATURDAY, JAN. 5, 1-3 P.M. * SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
Getting those winter blues? Snoopy from Peanuts is the perfect pick-me-up! Grab the entire family for this Snoopy painting class lead by Chris Hnatusko. All materials are provided with the fee of \$25 for residents/+ 10% for non-residents.

DINOS & DIVAS COSTUME BALLS * SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE - FRIDAY, FEB. 1 & SATURDAY, FEB. 9, 6-9 P.M.

MOTHER-SON DANCE - SATURDAY, FEB. 2, 6-9 P.M.

FAMILY BALL - FRIDAY, FEB. 8, 6-9 P.M.

Choose a date and get ready for a prehistoric evening at the “Dinos & Divas” Daddy-Daughter, Mother-Son and Family Costume Balls. Experience a night where Dinos and Divas rule complete with a dinner catered by Capri's, dancing, costume costumes and more. Photographs, a photo booth and gifts will be available and may be purchased for an additional charge (cash only, no ATM available). Costumes are highly recommended. Let your Jurassic imagination ROAR!! Tickets are now on sale for these unforgettable evenings that sell out quickly. 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/+ 10% for non-residents. Registration deadline for the Feb. 1 and Feb. 2 events is Jan. 29 or until all tickets are sold. Registration deadline for the Feb. 8 and Feb. 9 festivities is Feb. 5 or until all tickets are sold. **NO TICKETS** will be sold at the door. You can purchase tickets online at www.schererville.org.



The Schererville Crossroads

is a publication of the
Town of Schererville
10 East Joliet St.
Schererville, IN 46375

Printed by
Minuteman Press
2315 Wicker Ave.
Schererville, IN 46375

Lu Ann Franklin
Editor

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Continued from page 2

It was into this inhospitable environment that John Hack, the first German Catholic in the area, brought his wife and 11 children to settle in 1837. Eleven years later, Nicholas Scherer settled here with his family and his brother, Jacob. The Scherer brothers provided the land on which the first churches were built.

Many families struggled to survive in the Schererville area, a community named after Nicholas Scherer. Epidemics of diphtheria and scarlet fever ravaged entire families, and men froze to death along the roads seeking food for their families in the harsh winters.

Yet Nicholas Scherer believed the area could thrive. So did Aaron Hart, called “a wizard of land speculation”, who designed a system to drain the Cady Marsh to reveal rich land for farming and in 1865 reclaimed that swamp.

From 25 families who settled here in 1866, the community grew to include a school, churches, a post office, a blacksmith shop, a dairy, grocery stores and saloons. On September 5, 1911, the civil Town of Schererville was incorporated. Today, the Town of Schererville is home to thriving businesses, an award-winning school system, an active parks and recreation program and a population of more than 29,000.

For decades the Schererville Historical Society collected and catalogued photos and documents tracing the town's rich history. However, in recent years the membership has been unable to provide that vital service, according to Betty Jonas, one of the last Historical Society members. As a result those photos and documents are now stored at Schererville Town Hall, and need to again be catalogued for current and future generations to enjoy.

Volunteers are needed to resume that important role as a revitalized Schererville Historical Society. Those interested in volunteering should call Town Manager Robert Volkmann or Diane Horar, Administrative Assistant, at (219) 322-2211, ext. 1324. They can also be reached by email at rvolkmann@schererville.org and dhorar@schererville.org.

