



St. John Township Trustee & Community Center provide much-needed services, programs

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, notes St. John Township Trustee Cathy Lareau.

Many activities and programs take place at the St. John Township Community Center, located at 1515 W. Lincoln Highway in Schererville. The community center features the trustee's office, meeting rooms, a food pantry, a hall that can accommodate 180 people, a gazebo and deck and an increasing number of social, educational and assistance programs.

"Anyone who lives within the township who is having financial difficulties can seek assistance with such things as rent and utility bills," Lareau said. "Come to our office and fill out an application. No one can be denied an application although we do have state guidelines we must follow."

These services are "not just a band-aid. We help with financing, build on basic needs and provide guidance," she said. "My job is making sure people's necessities are met."

Lareau works with other organizations to help township residents receive assistance. Those organizations include the Schererville Civic Fund, the Lake County Community Services and the Northwest Indiana Community Action agency.

"We also have a food pantry and all the items are donated by residents, businesses and a wide host of organizations throughout the community," she said.

One of the programs Lareau started for the Township's clients is a clothing and household goods shopping spree at the St.

John Township Community Center.

"The township residents are very generous. They bring in clothing and household items, and we host a free shopping spree," Lareau explained.

"We also work with schools to help families whose children qualify for free lunches," she said. "School supplies for those students are also available here at the start of the school year."

Another partnership, with Ivy Tech Community College, promotes occupations in the trades.

"Interested people can obtain certificates for trade positions and get help with tuition through Ivy Tech and the township," Lareau said.

And on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, GED or General Education Development classes are held at the St. John Community Center for those adults who are working toward their high school diplomas. The GED credential can be used to pursue a college education or career advancement.

In an unincorporated area of St. John, there's a park that is currently vacant as well as a cemetery acquired from a private donation that is maintained through Township funds, Lareau said, adding, "We have pauper graves at the cemetery and can help with funeral expenses."

St. John Township also provides fire services for unincorporated areas of the township, Lareau said. "We contract with other fire departments."

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Tom Schmitt, Councilman Ward 4



Bob Guetzloff, Councilman Ward 3



David DeJong, Councilman Ward 1



Kevin Connelly, Councilman Ward 2



Mike Troxell, Councilman Ward 5



Janice Malinowski, Clerk-Treasurer



Kenneth Anderson
Judge, Schererville Town Court

Newly-elected officials to take office in January

Five newly elected officials will be sworn in at Town Hall on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. These officials are:

Michael A. Troxell, Clerk-Treasurer; Rob Guetzloff – Ward 3; Robin Arvanitis – Ward 1; Caleb S. Johnson – Ward 5; Randy Wyllie – Town Judge.

A Special Town Council meeting will be held after the ceremony at 12:00 p.m.

Michael Troxell, who served 20 years on the Town Council representing Ward 2 (1996 – 2007; 2012-2019), was elected Clerk-Treasurer, replacing Janice Malinowski, who is retiring at the end of 2019.



Randy Wyllie



Robin Arvanitis



Caleb S. Johnson

Rob Guetzloff was re-elected for a sixth term representing Ward 3.

Robin Arvanitis and Caleb S. Johnson are newly elected officials to the Town Council. And Randy Wyllie is the newly elected Town Judge.

St. John Township Trustee

continued from front

The St. John Township Trustee's Office is open from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. To contact the trustee's office, call (219) 865-2705.

Activities abound at Community Center

Social and nutritional programs take place regularly at the Community Center.

For example, senior citizens who are 60 years of age and older meet daily and receive Meals on Wheels from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, in partnership with Lake County Community Services.

"There's a hot lunch every day that costs \$2.25 per day. The participants play cards, BINGO, pinochle and board games," Lareau said. "This is a great opportunity for them to socialize."

Transportation is also provided by the St. John Trustee's office, she said.

"Other times of the week, there are other senior groups and community groups that meet here," Lareau said. "Every month we have United For Families Network meeting here."

This is a new initiative of the Lake Area United Way that's focused on bringing together non-profits, faith-based organizations and service providers that share a common mission of supporting struggling working families in Lake County, according to the Lake Area United Way website.

The St. John Township Community Center hall which has a 180-person capacity "can be rented by the hour or they can have a banquet. It can be rented for special events such as birthday parties, baby showers, wedding showers and wedding receptions, with packages available" Lareau said.

Those booking the hall for baby or wedding showers or birthday parties can bring their own food.

"For weddings, we have Lencioni Catering from Lynwood providing the menu. There's a bar package available also," she said. "We have also had weddings at our gazebo and the deck provides a wonderful extension for parties."

Lareau said the many opportunities to provide services and special activities for the community "is very rewarding."



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Lu Ann Franklin
Editor



GRINCH-MAS COOKING CLASS

THURSDAY, DEC. 12, 4-5 P.M. (AGES 4-6) & 6-7 P.M. (AGES 7-13)

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Christmas?...No Grinch-mas!! Is your child Grinch-obsessed? Would he or she love to cook with the "nasty-wasty" Mr. Grinch? Schererville Parks introduces Grinch-mas Cooking Class. Your child will learn to cook/create their own Grinch food along with the Grinch.

The fee is \$16 for residents/+10% for non-residents. The maximum limit per class is 24.

Sign up at www.schererville.org.

CRAFTS AT THE CROSSROADS CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY, DEC. 14, 9 A.M.-3 P.M.

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Schererville Parks is giving one last chance to check everyone off your list with gifts that are truly unique. All are CRAFT ITEMS at this show. No vendors, no direct sellers. Just pure handmade crafts created by those throughout the surrounding Crossroads region.

There will be 75-plus crafters, food trucks, free raffles, a balloon artist and face painter. FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING!

BEDTIME CHRISTMAS STORIES (FOR AGES 5 & OLDER)

MONDAY, DEC. 16, 6-7:30 P.M.

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Boys & 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 beverages will be provided to all participants. Dress in your PJ's, bring your sleeping bags and pillows for a relaxing good time. THIS IS A FREE EVENT.

Sign up at www.schererville.org.

CHRISTMAS COOKING CLASS

TUESDAY, DEC. 17, 4-5 P.M. (AGES 4-6) & 6-7 P.M. (AGES 7-13)

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Christmas? Cooking? For KIDS!?!? YOU BET!!! This class is all about getting your youngster's hands in the kitchen and cooking some holiday goodness! The joys of Christmas cooking shouldn't be limit to just Mom and Dad. Kids LOVE to cook, too!

The fee is \$16 for residents/+10% for non-residents. The maximum limit per class is 24.

sign up at www.schererville.org.

'Twas AN ELF BEFORE CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18, 6-8:30 P.M.

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Calling all Cotton-Headed Ninny Muggins! Do you love everything Elf? How about Santa!? Schererville Parks is having an all out ELF party in celebration of Christmas!

This "Elfmas" will feature sugar cookie decorating; Santa & Grinch meet-and-greets; a sweet treat bar; flashlight Christmas Scavenger Hunt; hot cocoa and a FREE movie (Elf on the big screen.) This is a PRE-REGISTERED, TICKETED EVENT! There is a maximum limit of 150. There are two packages available: the Santa Package and the Elf Package.

The Santa Package fee is \$12 for residents/+10% for non-residents and includes 3 sugar cookies to decorate, Santa & Grinch meet-and-greets, sweet treat bar, flashlight scavenger hunt and the hot cocoa bar.

The Elf Package is \$6 for residents/+10% for non-residents and includes the sweet bar, hot cocoa & Santa & Grinch meet-and-greets.

Sign up at www.schererville.org.

CHRISTMAS GINGERBREAD HOUSES (FOR AGES 7-13)

THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 5-7:30 P.M.

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Christmas is almost here!! Don't miss out on this delicious class. Participants will get to create their own Gingerbread houses, enjoy a pizza dinner and watch a Christmas episode.

The fee is \$20 for residents/+10% for non-residents. There's a maximum limit of 30. Sign up at www.schererville.org.

KIDS NIGHT OUT – SUPERSIZED (FOR AGES 4-10)

FRIDAY, JAN. 3, 5:30-10 P.M.

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Kids Night Out – PARENTS NIGHT OFF!!! Have your kids enjoy an evening without parents to ruin the fun! This KNO is SUPERSIZED! Kids will enjoy supersized games, activities and more! Each child will also be served dinner.

The fee is \$17 for residents/+10% for non-residents. There's a maximum limit of 24.

Sign up at www.schererville.org.

COMMUNITY CONNECT

MONDAY, JAN. 13, 6 P.M.

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Calling all crafters, vendors, food vendors, food trucks, businesses, entrepreneurs!! You don't want to miss this!! We are looking to connect with you! This is your chance to "GET IN THE KNOW" about all of Schererville's Shindigs. At this "connect" we will debut 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 attend.

Sign up at www.schererville.org.

A VALENTINE NIGHTMARE PAINTING PARTY (FOR ALL AGES)

SATURDAY, JAN. 25, 1:30 – 3:30 P.M.

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Love is in the air or is this just a nightmare?? It's almost Valentine's Day! Celebrate your favorite love story with this Valentine Nightmare Painting Class, designed for all ages, and led by instructor Chris Hnatusko. All participants will get to create their own Nightmare painting and enjoy Valentine treats. All materials will be provided. There's a maximum limit of 50.

The fee is \$25 for residents/+10% for non-residents. Sign up at www.schererville.org.

FIRE & ICE DANCES

DADDY & DAUGHTER DANCE, SATURDAY FEB. 1, 6-9 P.M. & **SATURDAY**, FEB. 8, 6-9 P.M.

MOTHER & SON DANCE, FRIDAY, FEB. 7, 6-9 p.m.

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Tickets are on sale now for these "Smokin' Cool Nights" where dads and daughters and moms and sons can experience an event where FIRE & ICE clash!! Enjoy a catered dinner, dancing, dessert, games, crafts, fun photo booths and more! Photographs and gifts are available for an additional cost. (Cash only, NO ATM on site).

Each daughter will receive a tiara and take-home gift, while each son will receive a toy sword and take-home gift. Every child must be accompanied by an adult who has purchased a ticket.

Tickets are \$23 for residents/+10% for non-residents. This price is per person (child and adult) with no discounts.

Contact us at www.schererville.org.

VALENTINE COOKING CLASS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12, 4-5 P.M. (AGES 4-6)

THURSDAY, FEB. 13, 5-6 P.M. (AGES 7-13)

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER



TRI-TOWN SAFETY VILLAGE CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA
1350 Eagle Ridge Drive, Schererville, Indiana

Friday, December 13th, from 5pm to 9pm
&

Saturday, December 14th, from 4pm to 9pm

- 🍎 **Visit with Santa in the Caboose** 🍎 **Christmas Music Concert**
- 🍎 **Take a Ride on CN's Little Obie Christmas Train**
- 🍎 **Coloring Contest** 🍎 **Music at the Campfire**
- 🍎 **Tour the Veteran's Museum** 🍎 **Raffles for Prizes**

Grand Opening of the Fire Fighter's Museum will take place on Saturday, December 14th at 5pm.!

**Admission is \$3.00 and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to:
The Living Organ Donors GIFT OF LIFE HOUSE**



Gift of Life
TRANSPLANT HOUSE

Documentary series showcases important events & investigative reporting

Documentaries provide information and an opportunity to share ideas. Each month the Dyer-Schererville Branch of the Lake County Public Library, 1001 W. Lincoln Hwy (U.S. 30) in Schererville will present a different documentary as part of the "Debbie Downer Documentary: Serious Films for Smart People" series.

"If attendees feel like discussing it for a few minutes afterward or a few minutes before the next one, they are welcome to, but it's primarily a chance to watch a documentary," said Leea Yelich, branch librarian.

Registration is required. To register go online to www.lcpl.in.org/events or call (219) 322-4731. Refreshments will be served.

- **FRONTLINE: Myanmar's Killing Fields**
Monday, Dec. 9, 2019
7-8 p.m.

Secret footage going back years shows the effort to kill and expel Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar. With accounts from victims and a whistleblower within the military, the film examines evidence that security forces committed crimes against humanity. 56 minutes.

- **FRONTLINE: Blackout in Puerto Rico**
Monday, Jan. 13, 2020
7-8 p.m.

An investigation into FEMA's failure to provide adequate relief in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria in 2017 is showcased. This documentary looks at the roles Wall Street and a debt crisis fueled by the U.S. government have played in Puerto Rico's ongoing humanitarian and economic crisis. 56 minutes.

- **13TH**
Monday, Feb. 10, 2020
6 - 8 p.m.

Ava DuVernay's extraordinary and galvanizing documentary "13TH" commemorates National Freedom Day, which was celebrated on Feb. 1. The title refers to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which reads, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States." The progression from that second qualifying clause to the horrors of mass criminalization and the sprawling American prison industry is laid out by DuVernay with bracing lucidity. With a potent mixture of archival footage and testimony from a dazzling array of activists, politicians, historians and formerly incarcerated women and men, DuVernay creates a work of grand historical synthesis. 100 minutes.

Parks Programs

Continued from previous page

Love is in the air!! Have your little Valentines create their own special treats to celebrate the occasion.

The class for ages 4-6 has a maximum limit of 24, while the class for ages 7-13 has a limit of 30.

The fee for each class is \$16 for residents/+ 10% for non-residents. Sign up at www.schererville.org.

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

THURSDAY, FEB. 20, 3-6 P.M.

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

February is American Heart Month, so take care of yours and join us for an afternoon of valuable information and demonstrations that are good for you! There will be resource booths, screenings, lectures, massages, stress-relief techniques, healthy cooking demos and heart-healthy refreshment. This is a FREE EVENT!

Interested vendors can contact the Park office at (219) 865-5530, ext. 03. **

DINO BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, FEB. 22, 9 A.M.

SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Is your child a dinosaur-fanatic?? Does he or she love every bit of the prehistoric era? Schererville Parks is excited to bring dinosaurs to life with this yummy event --- Dino Breakfast!!

Each participant will enjoy a Jurassic-sized breakfast, Dino costume contests, Dino dance time, Dino crafts and coloring and Frankie the Dinosaur (a Giant Animatronic Dino)!! There will be a face painter & other vendors available with items for purchase. Please bring cash; there's no ATM available.

Children must be accompanied by an adult who has purchased a ticket. All participants are required to purchase a ticket. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.

There's a 200-person limit. The fee for ages 11 and younger is \$10 for residents/+ 10% for non-residents. For ages 12 and older, the fee is \$15 for residents/+ 10% for non-residents.

All registrants must be at the breakfast by 9:30 a.m. or risk missing out on breakfast entertainment.

For more information, log on to www.schererville.org.



What's Happening in Town

DECEMBER

- 11 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 12 Grinch-Mas Cooking Class, Schererville Community Center, 4-5 p.m. (Ages 4-6) & 6-7 p.m. (Ages 7-13)
- 16 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 16 Bedtime Christmas Stories (Ages 5 & older), Schererville Community Center, 6-7 p.m.
- 17 Christmas Cooking Class, Schererville Community Center, 4-5 p.m. (Ages 4-6) & 6-7 p.m. (Ages 7-13)
- 18 'Twas An Elf Before Christmas Party, Schererville Community Center, 6-8:30 p.m.
- 19 Christmas Gingerbread Houses (Ages 7-13), Schererville Community Center, 5-7:30 p.m.
- 24-25 Christmas Eve and Christmas, Town Hall closed
- 30 Special Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board and Town Council Meeting 6 p.m.
- 31 New Year's Eve, Town Hall closed


JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day, Town Hall closed
Swearing In Ceremony 11:00 a.m.; Special Town Council 12 p.m.
- 2 Board of Safety Study Session, 5:30 p.m.; Board of Safety, 7 p.m.
- 3 Kids Night Out – Supersized (Ages 4-10), Schererville Community Center, 5:30-10 p.m.
- 6 Plan Commission Public Meeting, 6 p.m.

- 13 Community Connect, Schererville Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 15 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Town Hall closed
- 25 A Valentine Nightmare Painting Class (All Ages), Schererville Community Center, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- 27 Board of Zoning Appeals 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 1 Fire & Ice Daddy & Daughter Dance, Schererville Community Center, 6-9 p.m.
- 3 Plan Commission Public Meeting 6 p.m.
- 5 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 6 Board of Safety Study Session, 5:30 p.m.; Board of Safety, 7 p.m.
- 7 Fire & Ice Mother & Son Dance, Schererville Community Center, 6-9 p.m.
- 8 Fire & Ice Daddy & Daughter Dance, Schererville Community Center, 6-9 p.m.
- 12 Valentine Cooking Class (Ages 4-6), Schererville Community Center, 4-5 p.m.
- 13 Valentine Cooking Class (Ages 7-13), Schererville Community Center, 5-6 p.m.
- 12 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 17 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 20 Health & Wellness Fair, Schererville Community Center, 3-6 p.m.
- 22 Dino Breakfast, Schererville Community Center, 9 a.m.
- 24 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6 p.m.



28th Annual
Mardi GRAS
CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, FEB. 21ST Dinner, Dancing & Fun

6pm to 11PM (Doors Open @ 5:30)

Villa Cesare Eagle Ridge Drive, Schererville

219-322-5412 • ScherervilleChamber.org

