

THE SCHERERVILLE CROSSROADS



*Official ribbon-cutting for
Pennsy Trail phases 2 & 3 set for Aug. 15*



This 3.5-mile trail extension was made possible by \$4.85 million in federal transportation grants awarded to the Town of Schererville. Dyer Construction was awarded the bid.

"The trail has been very popular judging by the amount of people already using the trail," Novacich said.

There's a HAWK signal where the trail crosses Main Street. Pedestrians and cyclists press a button at the crossing that activates a yellow flashing light to warn traffic in both directions that someone will be crossing the intersection. The light changes to red for safe passage. When the crossing is cleared, the red light flashes, then stops to signal traffic to proceed, Novacich said.

There's also a separate, gated signal for those using the trail at the CN railroad crossing, he added.

Trailheads are located at Plum Creek Park, Junction Avenue north of the Schererville Town Hall, and near the police department.

The final phase of the Pennsy Greenway Northwest Trail through Schererville will be funded through the state's Next Level Trails Program grant of \$2.91 million. This 2.26 mile part of the trail will start from Rohrman Park going southeast to the Schererville town limit at Clark Road, south of 93rd Street.

Because part of the trail goes through unincorporated Lake County, the Town of Schererville will collaborate with Lake County Parks to complete this section of the larger, regional Pennsy trail system. When completed the trail will start in downtown Lansing, Illinois and continue to

In the 1990s, the Pennsy Greenway Trail was just a line on a map. At 9 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 15, a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opens Phases 2 & 3 that now link up this popular trail from Main Street in Munster all the way to the 9/11 Memorial at the Schererville Police Department parking lot at 25 E. Joliet St.

The ceremony will take place at that location, said John Novacich, Superintendent of the Schererville Parks & Recreation Department.

Phase 2 runs from Main Street to 213th Street and Eagle Ridge Drive behind Briar Ridge. Phase 3 continues with a separate pedestrian crossing over the CN (Canadian National) railroad tracks, proceeds under the U.S. 41 bridge and connects to the existing trail at Wilhelm Street.



Tom Schmitt, Councilmember Ward 4



Rob Guetzloff, Councilmember Ward 3



Robin Arvanitis, Councilmember Ward 1



Kevin Connelly, Councilmember Ward 2



Caleb Johnson, Councilmember Ward 5



Mike Troxell, Clerk-Treasurer



Randy Wyllie
Judge, Schererville Town Court



What's Happening in Town



AUGUST

- 7 Rhythm + Rock with Dick Diamond & the Dusters, Redar Park, 5-10 p.m.
- 11 Redar Park Rendezvous with Food Trucks, Redar Park, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 12 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 14 Rhythm + Rock with Libido Funk Circus, Redar Park, 5-10 p.m.
- 15 Ribbon-cutting ceremony, Pennsy Trail (near 9-11 Memorial), 9 a.m.
- 15 Touch-A-Truck (Sensory-Friendly), Redar Park, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 17 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 21 Rhythm + Rock with Echoes of Pompeii, Redar Park, 5-10 p.m.
- 24 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6 p.m.
- 28 Evening Under the Stars, Redar Park, 7-9:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 3 Board of Safety Study Session, 5:30 p.m.; Board of Safety, 7 p.m.
- 4 Schererville Fireworks 2020, Rohrman Park, beginning at dusk (tentative)
- 7 Labor Day, Town Hall closed
- 7 Plan Commission Meeting 6 p.m.
- 9 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 11 9-11 Memorial Service, Schererville Police Department, 7-8 p.m.
- 12 57th Schererville Chamber of Commerce Corn Roast, Redar Park, 4-11 p.m.



RHYTHM + ROCK FREE CONCERTS

REDAR PARK, 217 GREGORY ST.

FRIDAY, AUG. 7 • 5-10 P.M.

EATURING DICK DIAMOND & THE DUSTERS

FRIDAY, AUG. 14 • 5-10 P.M.

EATURING LIBIDO FUNK CIRCUS

FRIDAY, AUG. 21 • 5-10 P.M.

EATURING ECHOES OF POMPEII

Enjoy music performed by bands as well as gastronomic goodies offered by food trucks at these free summer concerts at Redar Park. Beer and wine are permitted during the festivities. Lawn chairs or blankets are absolutely encouraged! For more information, log on to www.schererville.org.

REDAR PARK RENDEZVOUS

TUESDAY, AUG. 11, 11 A.M. – 2 P.M.

REDAR PARK, 217 GREGORY ST.

Come visit our food trucks for some tasty treats! And don't forget to do the social distancing shuffle!! For more information, log on to www.schererville.org.

AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS

FRIDAY, AUG. 28, 7-9 P.M.

REDAR PARK, 217 GREGORY ST.

Join us for an enchanting evening of Big Band and swing music under the stars. The band Bopology boasts a line-up of talent from Chicago performing stylish swing and "Rat Pack" music. Lawn chairs or blankets are absolutely encouraged! Refreshments from food trucks will also be available.

There's still time to be counted in the 2020 Census

If you haven't participated in the 2020 Census, there's still time to be counted.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the original deadline has been extended, and your participation means so much to Schererville over the next 10 years. Federal dollars support education, health care, roads, public works projects, firefighting services and other vital programs.

Many state agencies also distribute funds to areas based on local population counts, including funding for local road and street improvements and distribution of money from the Indiana Library and Historical Boards to eligible public library districts.

Currently 79.4 percent of Schererville households have self-responded to the 2020 Census, with 70.9 percent of residents responding via the Internet. During the 2010 Census, 78.2 percent of households responded.

You can respond several different ways – using the paper form you received in the mail, by phone (in English at 844-330-2020) or on the Internet at <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond/responding-online.html>.

Now through Sept. 3, Census Takers will visit such group housing facilities as college dormitories, military barracks, nursing homes/assisted living facilities, group homes,

shelters, psychiatric facilities and correctional facilities.

Homes that have not responded to the 2020 Census will be visited by Census Takers from Aug. 11 through Oct. 31.

If someone visits your home to collect information for the 2020 Census, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. Census workers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo.

All responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and protected by law and cannot be shared.

It's important to know that the Census Bureau **will not** send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. In addition the Census Bureau **will never ask** for your Social Security number, your bank account or credit card numbers or money or donations. And the Census Bureau **won't** contact you on behalf of a political party.

Remember – whether you're 100 years old or one day old, you matter!



Emergency Hire Process adds two new officers to Police Department



Two new officers have joined the ranks of the Schererville Police Department as part of the department's Emergency Hire Process bringing the department to its authorized strength of 51 officers, said Police Chief Peter Sormaz.

Thomas Ruzga comes to the Schererville Police Department with 28 years of experience with the Gary Police Department. Iman White brings two years of experience with the East Chicago Police Department. Both probationary police officers joined the Schererville Police Department on June 29.

"We have hired officers who are already academy-certified," Chief Sormaz said, explaining that these officers have already been through training at the Police Academy.

"This is a huge cost saving for the town," Sormaz noted. When new recruits are hired, they are sent for 15 weeks of training at the Police Academy, then 14 weeks of field training. The recruits' salaries and cost of the academy and

field training are paid for through the department's budget, he said.

The Emergency Hire Process was initiated because "we had a lot of unexpected police officer retirements as well as other retirements where those officers are moving on to other careers," Chief Sormaz said about the vacancies that have been filled.

"The purpose of this is to put boots on the ground right away," he said.

Fifty applications were received, making Schererville one of the top two towns in Northwest Indiana to attract new police officers who are academy-certified, the chief said. After reviewing the applications, the Schererville Board of Safety voted at its May 21 meeting to extend conditional offers.

Probationary Police Officers Ruzga and White have completed a two-week in-house training period, Chief Sormaz said.

"We work 12-hour shifts 15 days a month," the chief said. "The officers will then be placed in an abbreviated field training program before they are released to work on their own in September."

Saratoga Playground open for the kiddies to enjoy



Located on the southeast corner of 77th Avenue and St. John Road, Saratoga Park is a small neighborhood gem. And now this park has a completely new playground.

"It's been well used over the years," said John Novacich, Superintendent of the Schererville Parks & Recreation Department. "This was the oldest playground in our system that has been replaced."

New equipment now sits on a poured-in-place rubber surface which is safer for children than other material, Novacich said. That equipment includes swings and slides.

"We have equipment for the 2-year old to
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MASKS REQUIRED

How to Properly Wear a Mask

Town of SCHERERVILLE
FOUNDED 1838
WELCOMES YOU

THE SCHERERVILLE CROSSROADS
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Lu Ann Franklin, Editor



Computer Use and Grab & Go Appointments

Now Available at All Locations!

Dyer-Schererville Library offers curbside delivery, much more

Have you missed being able to go to the public library? In addition to curbside delivery, phone reference, free outdoor WiFi, remote printing and online children's programs, Schererville residents now may take advantage of one-hour appointments to use the library.

"We miss seeing hundreds of patrons every day," said Chris Rettig, Manager of the Dyer-Schererville Branch, "but all branches of the Lake County Public Library are proceeding safely and cautiously, given the ever-changing challenges caused by COVID-19."

Appointments for one hour of computer use, printing, copy/fax/scan services or Grab & Go browsing are available by calling (219) 322-4731. Staff and patrons are required to wear facial coverings and observe social distancing for the health and safety of everyone in the building.

The library installed Plexiglas shields at service counters

and between computers, and limits the number of users to make a visit to the library as safe as possible. Patrons may also use a library card and 4-digit PIN at the self-service machine to check out their own materials.

Curbside delivery of reserved items is offered at various times as are craft bags and coloring sheets for the kids. For hours and information about curbside service, visit www.lcpl.in.org/curbside or call the branch.

If you need something to read or watch but do not know what to request, library staff are eager to help! Lists of recent bestsellers and upcoming releases are available via curbside delivery by request. You may also call (219) 322-4731 or fill out a request form at lcpl.in.org/ask, describe what kind of books or DVDs you want, and staff will prepare a Surprise Bag of five titles for you to enjoy. Surprise Bags are available for all ages.

Saratoga Playground

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5-year old range and some components for older kids that are more challenging," he said.

In addition, parking and the playground now meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. A separate, accessible parking space was added off St. John Road, Novacich said.

In other news, the baseball fields at Rohrman Park, 6750 Rohrman Road, have reopened after completion of construction and field improvements.



New branch yard waste pick up policies now in effect

Starting Aug. 1, 2020, Public Works will follow department standards regarding branch pick up services, said Jeff Huet, Public Works Director. Please take some time to review the information below:

1. The Town of Schererville Public Works Department offers branch pick-up service, not tree removal service. Please limit the items left curbside for pick-up to trimmed tree and bush branches only.
2. While we encourage the eco-friendly methods such as mulching and composting to dispose of weeds, grass clippings, garden spoils and other such types waste, these items should be disposed with your weekly trash pick-up. They should be placed in the 95-gallon tote provided by Republic Services for trash pick-up service or in a supplemental container if needed. Do not leave these types of waste curbside mixed in with
3. Branches left curbside for pick-up are to be no larger than 6-inches in diameter. These are the limits of our chipping machines. Branches are to be placed in unidirectional piles in the parkway between the sidewalk and street. Branch piles placed in the street can create a traffic hazard and property owners can be cited for creating a hazard, so please keep branches off the pavement.
4. Schererville PW does not pick-up branches cut by contractors or tree cutting services. When a "for hire" service or contractor is employed to trim or remove branches and/or trees, they are expected to take the waste piles, trimmings and branches with them for disposal.
5. Tree services working within the corporate limits of our community are required to be

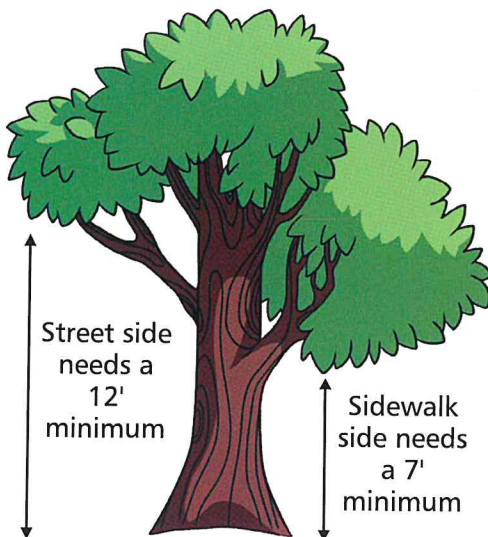
registered as contractors with the Planning & Building Department. This helps assure our residents that the contractors they are hiring carry the proper insurance coverage required by Town Ordinance.

6. Residents with frontage on both a subdivision street and on a main thoroughfare are required to leave branches on the lower volume subdivision street for pick-up. When branches are placed along the main thoroughfares for pick-up it is dangerous for our workers to safely perform their duties. We understand that there are many residents that live on main thoroughfares having no other option but to leave branch piles on the main streets, and we will continue to provide service to these properties. However, we will no longer expose our personnel to this additional risk when a safer option is available, that being the lower volume, lower speed limit subdivision street.

For more information go to: <https://www.schererville.org/branch-and-leaf-pickup-information/>

Homeowners need to follow regulations for landscaping, trees in the parkway

Town of Schererville Ordinance Number 1791, Title XVIII, regulates the maintenance and types of bushes, trees and landscaping on private property and along the street right-of-way and/or in the parkway between the streets and sidewalks.



Director of Public Works Jeff Huet said these restrictions are intended to allow for free access to pedestrians and vehicle traffic using these public corridors. "It is the homeowners' responsibility to maintain these items in a manner consistent with provisions of the Ordinance," Huet said.

These regulations are summarized as follows:

1. On the sidewalk side, any tree or bush overhanging the sidewalk must be kept trimmed to a height of no less than 7 feet above the walkway.
2. On the street side, any tree or bush overhanging the street must be kept trimmed to a height of no less than 12 feet above the street.
3. All trees, bushes and other landscaping must be maintained in a manner to allow for an unobstructed view of any regulatory or informational sign posted along the roadway for traffic regulation purposes. For example, traffic using the streets must be able to see SPEED LIMIT, STOP, and other traffic signs from a reasonable distance as they approach that sign.