

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2021

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Celebrate 'America's National Night Out' at Redar Park

Join the Schererville Police Department for the 16th annual National Night Out Against Crime campaign from 5 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 3 at Redar Park, 217 Gregory St.

You can enjoy refreshments provided by food trucks and listen to the live music performed by "The Frito Pact Band", a three-piece band led by singer/guitarist Greg Bosak. There will also be a K-9 demonstration featuring Patrol Officer Diego Alvarez with Hawk; Patrol Officer Jake Parker with Bosco; and Detective Anthony Buonadonna with Juno. In addition, the University of Chicago Aeromedical Network (UCAN) helicopter will make a landing at 7 p.m.

"This event is designed to generate public support and participation for law enforcement and anti-crime programs," said Schererville Police Chief Peter Sormaz.

"School supplies – including backpacks filled with such items as pencils, crayons and notebooks – will be offered to the first 500 kids who register when they arrive at this annual event. There will

be a small pop-up tent where the kids can register," Chief Sormaz said.

"These supplies, donated by citizens and businesses from the community, are appropriate for children entering Kindergarten through 5th Grade this coming school year," he added.

Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch in the United States, the National Night Out Against Crime began simply in 1984 with neighbors turning on their porch lights and sitting in front of their homes, Chief Sormaz said.

"That first National Night Out involved 2.5 million residents across 400 communities in 23 states. In 2016, National Night Out involved 38 million residents in 16,000 communities across the United States," he added.

One of the newest traditions is using blue bulbs in porch lights that are left on throughout the night.



What's Happening in Town



JUNE

- 9 Celebrate Schererville Festival, Redar Park, 5-11 p.m.
- 9 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 10 Celebrate Schererville Festival, Redar Park, 5-11 p.m.
- 11 Celebrate Schererville Festival, Redar Park, 5-11 p.m.
- 12 Celebrate Schererville Festival, Redar Park, 2-11 p.m.
- 12 Celebrate Schererville Parade 5-7 p.m.
- 13 Celebrate Schererville Festival, Redar Park, 2-10 p.m.
- 16 Schererville Market 2021, Scherwood Park, 3-8 p.m.
- 21 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 28 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6 p.m.
- 25 Movie in the Park "Arachnophobia", Redar Park, 5-8 p.m.

JULY

- 1 Board of Safety Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 2 Schererville Fireworks 2021, Rohrman Park, 5-10:30 p.m.
- 5 Independence Day, Town Hall closed
- 5 Plan Commission Meeting 6 p.m. (Subject to change)
- 7 Schererville Market 2021, Scherwood Park, 3-8 p.m.
- 7 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 14 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 19 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 21 Schererville Market 2021, Scherwood Park, 3-8 p.m.
- 23 Party in the Park "Hocus Pocus" Movie Night, Redar Park, 7-10:30 p.m.
- 26 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6 p.m.
- 30 58th Schererville Chamber of Commerce Corn Roast, Redar Park, 4-11 p.m.
- 31 Crafts at the Crossroads Handmade Craft Show, Schererville Community Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

AUGUST

- 2 Plan Commission Meeting 6 p.m.
- 3 16th Annual National Night Out, Redar Park, 5-9 p.m.
- 4 Schererville Market 2021, Scherwood Park, 3-8 p.m.
- 4 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 5 Board of Safety, 7 p.m.
- 11 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 7 p.m.
- 14 Touch-A-Truck, Redar Park, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Safe Haven Baby Box, continued from front page

The Baby Box, which also has a battery back-up, is heated, cooled and ventilated, he said. When the box is opened on the exterior of the fire station, a silent alarm is activated. The exterior door automatically locks when a newborn is placed inside, setting off several different alarms that are monitored 24/7, Chief Patterson said.

"Dispatch is also notified. Schererville firefighters go to the box's interior door inside the station and retrieve the infant. The baby is checked and taken to a hospital," the chief said.

According to the Indiana's Safe Haven Law, the child is discharged from the hospital to the Department of Child Services to be placed for adoption.

Enacted in 2000, Indiana's Safe Haven Law allows people to anonymously surrender their healthy newborn babies without fear of

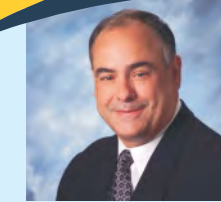


arrest or criminal prosecution at any fire station, police station or hospital as long as the child appears to be 30 days old or less and unharmed. The Safe Haven Baby Box provides 100% anonymity to ensure a safe surrender of the baby, Kelsey said.



THE SCHERERVILLE CROSSROADS

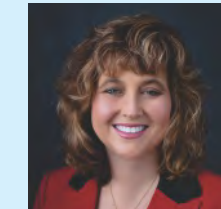
Vol. 8 Issue 3 • June / July 2021



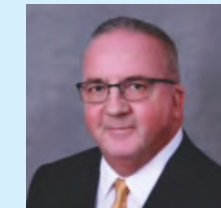
Rob Guetzloff, Councilmember Ward 3



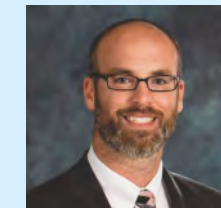
Tom Schmitt, Councilmember Ward 4



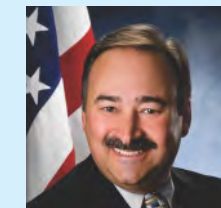
Robin Arvanitis, Councilmember Ward 1



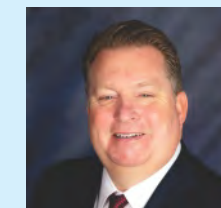
Kevin Connelly, Councilmember Ward 2



Caleb Johnson, Councilmember Ward 5



Mike Troxell, Clerk-Treasurer



Randy Wyllie, Judge, Schererville Town Court

Safe Haven Baby Box now located at Schererville's Fire Station #2

Thanks to generous community support, a Safe Haven Baby Box is now located on the east side of Schererville's Fire Station #2, 280 Plum Creek Drive. This Baby Box provides an environment that permits a parent in crisis to safely, securely and anonymously surrender a baby if she or he is unable to care for a newborn, according to Monica Kelsey, founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes.

Dedicated during a ceremony May 4, this Safe Haven Baby Box is the 66th in the nation and the 57th located in Indiana.

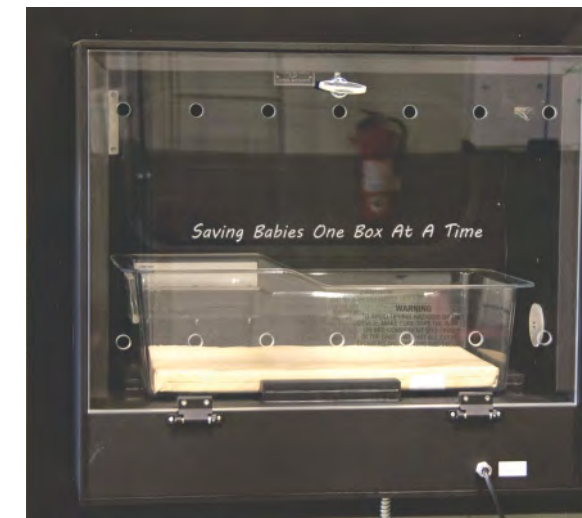
Following a blessing by the Rev. Mick Kopil from Valparaiso-based St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Kelsey told those gathered at the dedication "Safe Haven Baby Boxes works hard to ensure that every parent knows that this last resort option is available to them. We are proud to partner with Schererville. There is no doubt that Schererville is taking a proactive approach to infant abandonment in our country."

Much of the \$26,000 raised to cover the cost of this Safe Haven Baby Box came through the efforts of the Tri Kappa Associate Chapter of Dyer, Schererville and St. John. Colleen DeVries, a charter member, first brought the idea to the organization and was honored at the dedication.



"This is one example of how it takes a small army to get us to the finish line, and we are grateful for all the support and love that was given to make this box become a reality," Kelsey said.

Many community members, businesses and organizations from the Tri-Town area also embraced the project including \$2,500 donated by the Schererville Town Council last September, said Schererville Fire Chief Robert Patterson.



The UPS Store in Schererville printed the flyers the chapter used to promote the fundraising. In addition to employees of the Schererville Public Works Department, three area companies donated time and materials for the Baby Box installation and were also honored at the dedication – Thomas Broerjtes, president of United Services/1-800-Board Up; Christopher Gonzales, operations manager of Alert Alarm; and Mike Szany of Szany Electric, Chief Patterson said.

continued on back page

Police Department anticipating CALEA accreditation

The Schererville Police Department is anticipating its third re-accreditation by CALEA®, the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, following a four-year review in February and a three-day virtual on-site assessment that took place in April.

"During that time, two CALEA assessors reviewed our department's compliance in four basic areas – policy and procedures, administration, operations and support services," said Police Chief Peter Sormaz. "Members of the community also had an opportunity to offer comments during a public information session that was held virtually because of the pandemic."

The department "is now waiting the final accreditation status," Chief Sormaz said.

In 2011, the Schererville Police Department was CALEA designated for the first time. CALEA accredited the department again in 2017, he said.

The four-year process involves annual on-line reviews by CALEA



compliance service managers, Chief Sormaz added.

CALEA was created in 1979 with the support of the International Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Sheriff's Association (NSA), the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

"The purpose of CALEA is to improve the delivery of public safety services, primarily by maintaining a body of standards developed by public safety practitioners that covers a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence," Chief Sormaz said.

In other news, Chief Sormaz reported that during the April 24 National Drug Take Back Day people turned in 356 pounds of prescription medication at the Schererville Police Station.

"That is an amazing amount!" the chief said. "This event is conducted annually at the police department, and on behalf of the police department, I want to thank everyone who supported the initiative and/or turned in their unused prescription medication."



scherrerville parks & recreation

CELEBRATE SCHERRERVILLE FEST

JUNE 9-13
REDAR PARK, 217 Gregory Street
For the first time EVER....Schererville Parks introduced the Celebrate Schererville Fest MEGAPASS! The wristband, good for all five days, is available for purchase online only at www.schererville.org through June 9 for \$50. Whether you purchase a MEGAPASS or individual tickets, you can enjoy the new rides provided by Modern Midways this year!!

Festival hours are 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9, and Thursday, June 10; from 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Friday, June 11; from 2 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Saturday, June 12; and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday, June 13.

You'll find a wide range of activities including BINGO games operated by the The Knights of Columbus Council 12177 from 6-10 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday and from 6-11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Bring your appetite because there'll be food and beverages for all ages. Those 21 and older can also enjoy refreshments at the Beer Garden operated by Firefighters Local 4279 from 5-11 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; from 5-11:30 p.m. on Friday; from 4-11:30 p.m. Saturday and from 4-10 p.m. on Sunday.

Enjoy the line-up of bands appearing on stage:
* Wednesday, June 9 – Vintage Postcard 5-7 p.m./Chronic Flannel 8-11p.m.
* Thursday, June 10 – PRX 5-7p.m. / Dick Diamond 8-11p.m.
* Friday, June 11 – Saturday June Band 5-7:30 p.m./Mr. Funnyman 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.
* Saturday, June 12 – Nate Venturelli 4:30-7:30p.m./Echoes of Pompeii 8:30-11:30 p.m.
* Sunday, June 13 – Salted Coffee Band 4-6 p.m. / Nicole Jamrose 7-10 p.m.

SCHERRERVILLE'S "AMERICA STRONG" PARADE

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 5 P.M.
Roman Road & Joliet Street

Americans of all shapes and sizes have shown amazing strength during one of the most difficult times in our nation's history! The Schererville Parks Department and the Town of Schererville invite you to roll up those sleeves, show your strength and celebrate all who make "America Strong" during the 28th annual Schererville Parade. All businesses, schools, churches, groups and organizations are invited to join us in this time-honored event. The parade steps off at 5 p.m. at Roman Road and Joliet Street and ends at Redar Park.

SCHERRERVILLE MARKET

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAYS, JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 3 - 8 P.M.
SCHERWOOD PARK, 500 E. Joliet St.

From trinkets to treasures, goodies to foodies, one-of-a-kinds to unique finds – you'll discover it all at the Schererville Market at Scherwood Park this summer and fall. This quaint and cozy park is located east of downtown Schererville right off Joliet Street in front of the Schererville Community Center and Sherwood Golf. Check out the crafts, devour delicious treats from food trucks, enjoy live music, experience the scenery on the winding walking trail, re-live the history of the Hilbrich Log Cabin and so much more!
** Interested crafters & food trucks can email us at jbarnes@scherrerville.org for an application. **

TOP DAWGS CAMP (AGES 5-7 & AGES 8-11)

MONDAYS, JUNE 7-July 26 (NO CLASS ON JULY 5) 2:30-4 P.M.
SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Does your child have what it takes to be a TOP DAWG? Get your child involved in this team building, action-packed competitive camp. Kids will compete with each other and the summer staff playing their favorite games. Each camp is split into two age groups (5-7 and 8-11) and the games planned are appropriate for each age group. Please bring your own labeled water bottle.
The fee is \$60 for residents/\$72 for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

WEIRD SCIENCE CAMP (FOR AGES 6-12)

TUESDAYS, June 8-July 27 (NO CLASS ON JULY 6) 2:30-4 P.M.
SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

If your children love science, then this is the camp for them! The Weird Science Camp will provide hands-on experimentation from an array of topics – including chemistry, biology and physics – while providing lots of OOHs and AAHs!! All materials are provided. The fee is \$60 for residents/\$72 for non-residents. Sign up at www.schererville.org.

KIDS CAN COOK CAMP (FOR AGES 4-6)

THURSDAYS, JUNE 10-JULY 29 (NO CLASS ON JULY 8) 10:30 - 11:30 A.M.
SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

This class will introduce your young children to simple utensils, measuring and table manners. They will prepare snacks and desserts designed just for kids. Please inform the Parks Department two weeks in advance of any allergies.
The fee is \$70 for residents/\$84 for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

KIDS CAN COOK CAMP (FOR AGES 7-11)

THURSDAYS, JUNE 10-JULY 29 (NO CLASS ON JULY 8) 2:30 to 4 P.M.
SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

We'll help teach your kids to cook in this class that will show them how to use simple utensils, learn how to measure and about those important table manners! They will prepare snacks and desserts designed just for kids. Please inform the Parks Department two weeks in advance of any allergies.
The fee is \$85 for residents/\$102 for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

SCHERRERDAZE – ZOMBIE WEEK (FOR AGES 4-12)

MONDAY, JUNE 14 THROUGH THURSDAY, JUNE 17 9 A.M. to NOON
SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Is your child prepared for the Zombie Apocalypse?? Schererville Parks has just the training your kiddo needs! This summer camp provides hands-on training for any age to learn, survive and thrive when those ZOMBIES come a-chasing!! Each day, the kids in three different age groups will enjoy into science activities, crafts, sports, snacks and more – all centered on ZOMBIES!! THIS CLASS FILLS UP FAST. The fee is \$60 for residents/\$72 for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

ADULT CO-ED SAND VOLLEYBALL

WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 16 THROUGH AUGUST 4 6-8 P.M.
REDAR PARK & PLUM CREEK PARK

Players will enjoy a night out for 8 weeks of exercise and fun! Each team in the beginner/intermediate level will consist of 6 to 8 plays (equal gender ratio). Please register all team players with 1 designated contact person. Each participant must sign a waiver and release before the start of games. Each registered player will receive a T-shirt. The end of season tournament award includes \$200 for first place!
The fee is \$120 per team. Register at www.schererville.org.

KIDS NIGHT OUT – LIFE SIZE (FOR AGES 4-10)

FRIDAY, JUNE 18 5:30-10 P.M.
SCHERRERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Summer is here and KIDS NIGHT OUT is BACK!! It's the perfect opportunity for the kiddos to enjoy larger-than-life games, activities and more, with a movie as a finale on the BIG SCREEN! (And all without parents!) Dinner, dessert and snacks will be provided, too. Register now at www.schererville.org because this event will sell out.
The fee is \$19 for residents/\$22.80 for non-residents.



On May 6, Patrol Commander Steven McNamara, 44, was appointed to the post of Deputy Chief of Police following the retirement of Jeff Cook. McNamara was appointed by the Schererville Town Council.

A Schererville resident for 21 years, McNamara started his law enforcement career in 1998 as a police officer with the Chicago Ridge Department in Illinois. He was hired by the Schererville Police Department in March 2000, appointed Evidence Manager in 2005 and then to the Detective Bureau in 2008. A year later, McNamara was promoted to Corporal and was responsible for road supervision as well as assigned to the bike unit. He was also the department's firearms instructor and field training officer. In 2017, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant within the Patrol Division and then to Patrol Commander in January 2020.

During his tenure with the Schererville Police Department, McNamara obtained a Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Administration from Trine University.

Two Police Officers promoted to new posts

Two members of the Schererville Police Department were recently promoted.

In addition to being the Deputy Chief, McNamara works closely with the Chief Peter Sormaz facilitating all operational and administrative functions of the department. In the Chief's absence, he fulfills the role and responsibilities of the position of Chief.

In addition, Police Chief Sormaz promoted Corporal Michael Bork, 34, to the position of Patrol Commander.



Michael Bork joined the Schererville Police Department on February 23, 2015, and began his police career as a patrol officer following his training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield, IN. He served five years as a patrol officer, working in a variety of assignments and received numerous certifications. Bork was promoted to Corporal in 2020. He is currently certified as a field training officer and rifle and firearms instructor. In addition,

Bork serves on the Northwest Regional SWAT team as an operator, SWAT firearms instructor, closed quarter battle instructor and coordinator.

Pennsy Greenway wins award

The Pennsy Greenway, Phase 2 and 3, has been named this year's winner of the Greenways Foundation's Outstanding Trail Project award.

"This award is to recognize outstanding new trail-based projects that opened during the calendar year 2020," said John Novacich, Superintendent of the Schererville Park Department. "The Pennsy Greenway was chosen over numerous trail projects throughout Indiana."

Officially opened last August, the trail completed the connection with Pennsy Greenway in Munster at Main Street and the existing Phase 1 portion at Wilhelm Street in Schererville.

"Congratulations to the Town of Schererville and all those who helped make the project a reality!" Novacich said.



THE SCHERRERVILLE 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

Eagle Scout project honors those who served in U.S. Military

For 17-year old Mark Metz, completing his Eagle Scout project to create a Military Wall of Honor at Schererville Town Hall provides both an opportunity to honor those who have served in any branch of the U.S. military and a place where area residents can display photos of loved ones. It also allows him to thank town officials and the leaders of Scout Troop #532 for their support and encouragement.

"This project was suggested to me by one of my Scout leaders and mentor, Bob Jurgeto," said Metz, a St. John resident who recently finished his junior year at Lake Central High School. "I want to thank him for being my coach and helping me along with this project. I also want to thank Scout Leader Todd Schmidt."

Encouragement also came from Town Manager Robert Volkmann. "I wanted to do this because Mr. Volkmann was very passionate about getting it done," Metz said.

To create the Military Wall of Honor, Metz built three 4-foot by 5-foot frames from wood and filled them with cork. Next he fastened

the three boards to a wall at Schererville Town Hall. Finally, a "Hometown Heroes" sign flanked by patriotic stars will be placed above the boards.

"I am thankful for the men and women who have served our country. I would like to honor them," said Metz.

To complete the Military Wall of Honor, area residents are invited to bring photos of those who have served in any branch of the U.S. military "from all different time periods," he said. "Preferably these would be 5x7 inch photos or smaller. They will be attached with thumbtacks or staples. We hope to be finished in a couple of weeks."

Metz, who started as a Cub Scout, said, "It would mean a lot for me to have this big of an achievement, to reach the rank of Eagle Scout. It's a great honor and accomplishment that will help me in the future."

That future includes going to college "possibly Purdue," Metz said. "I am still deciding on a major."