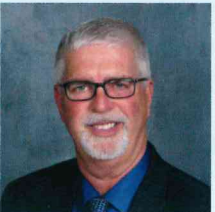


Rob Guetzloff, Councilmember Ward 3



Robin Arvanitis, Councilmember Ward 1



Tom Schmitt, Councilmember Ward 4



Kevin Connelly, Councilmember Ward 2



Caleb S. Johnson, Councilmember Ward 5



Mike Troxell, Clerk-Treasurer



Randy Wyllie
Judge, Schererville Town Court

Don't feed feral cats in Schererville neighborhoods

Feeding feral cats can lead to an unsustainable increase in their population, according to the Schererville Animal Control Department. When food is readily available, these cats tend to reproduce more frequently, resulting in a higher survival rate for kittens.

This can lead to several negative consequences, such as increased disease transmission, a growing number of cats in the area and conflicts with neighbors due to noise and mess.

Here are some reasons to consider NOT feeding feral cats in our community:

- **Population Explosion:** Providing a consistent food source can lead to larger litters and higher survival rates for kittens, causing the local feral cat population to grow rapidly. We have already seen this happening in several subdivisions over the past few years.
- **Impact on Wildlife:** Feral cats often prey on native wildlife to supplement their diet. An increasing cat population poses a significant threat to birds and small mammals.
- **Health and Disease Risks:** Feeding feral cats can attract more of them to the area, some of which may be unvaccinated. This can result in the spread of diseases and parasites among the cats and potentially to household pets.
- **Attraction of Other Pests:** Leaving food outside can also attract rodents and other pests, leading to various issues, including disease spread. If food is left out, many other wild animals may come to eat it as well.
- **Neighbor Conflicts:** An uncontrolled feral cat population can lead to problems such as spraying, fighting, and general messiness from food containers, creating tension with neighbors. Many residents are frustrated with the abundance of feral cats in the area and have reported concerns to animal control and the

If you feed ...



... don't let them breed.

It's incredibly kind and generous to give food to cats you see wandering in your neighborhood. But we have more than 30 million community cats across the United States, and the more they reproduce, the more challenging it is to care for them.

If you feed stray or feral cats, please help get them sterilized. Many communities have low-cost or free spay/neuter services for community cats, and some even offer help with trapping and transportation.

For more information, visit humane.org/feralmap and humane.org/affordspay.



police in an effort to stop people from feeding them.

- **Reliant on that Food Source:** If the food suddenly disappears, they might struggle to hunt effectively, making them vulnerable.

By understanding these implications, we can work together to address the issue of feral cats in our neighborhoods more effectively.

How the Schererville Animal Control helps control feral cat population

The Schererville Animal Control partners with Pet Friendly Services of Indiana through their Community Cat Grant program, which supports the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) initiative for community (feral) cats. Throughout the year, we receive a limited number of vouchers for this program to aid our

continued on back page

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 on approximately 115 miles of streets throughout Schererville. This doesn't include U.S. 30 or U.S. 41, which are maintained by the Indiana Department of Transportation State Highway Department.

Main roadways are plowed and salted first. These streets are usually pre-treated with a brine solution before a winter storm hits. This helps keep the snow from packing and freezing to the pavement. When plows are dispatched to begin plowing, they spread road salt behind each truck using a spinner. Drivers need to keep a minimum distance of 50 feet from the plow to avoid having the salt strike their vehicles.

After the main roadways are completed, the plows begin on the secondary tier streets, usually the main entrances into subdivisions. The Public Works Department finishes by completing the third tier streets within the subdivisions - streets that service the residents of that street and their visitors. The Public Works Department always attempts to keep these streets open, making one or two passes up and down them during a snowfall event. However, pushing the snow back to the curb line is usually not completed until the snow has stopped falling and the main streets and secondary streets have been completed.

Plow trucks must clear snow on streets to the curb line, and that sometimes causes snow to be plowed into cleared driveway entrances. The streets must be clear 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 for the Public Works Department. They are wider than most streets which allow them to hold more snow. They also have more driveways. This leaves less area for the snow to be pushed to the side when clearing the road.

To help with snow removal efforts, we ask residents and businesses to **NOT** shovel snow from driveways into the street. The snow should be pushed to the sides of the driveway. Shoveling snow into the street causes ice patches, creating a hazard for drivers, and increases the amount of snow that may come back into your driveway during street plowing.

Please help keep fire hydrants clear of snow. This will assist the Fire Department if an emergency arises. Public Works employees are usually not available to do this until after the snow has been plowed from all streets.

As in the past, salt will continue to be spread on the main roadways. On the second and third tier streets, salt will only be applied to the intersections, curves and hills. All drivers should use caution when using the roadways under adverse conditions.

Town Ordinance 791 prohibits parking on the street when there is a snowfall of 2 inches or greater.

Your cooperation is always greatly appreciated so that the Public Works Department can maintain the streets in a safe, efficient and economic manner.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact us Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM until 3:30 PM at (219) 322-6688 or (219) 322-5486. If you need to contact us after hours or in an emergency, we can be reached through the Police Department at (219) 322-5000 (non-emergency number). Emergency numbers are (219) 322-2121.

New website, programs launching at the library!

"We are pleased to share some exciting updates for our library community," said Beth Alyea, Branch Manager of the Dyer-Schererville Public Library Branch, located at 1001 W. Lincoln Hwy in Schererville.


"We are launching a brand-new library website and events calendar to enhance your experience. Along with our recent improvements to the library catalog, these updates will make accessing resources and programs more convenient than ever," Alyea said.

Beginning in December, teens will have the opportunity to learn how to play *Magic: The Gathering* and start building their own decks. Participants will learn the fundamentals of standard Magic, create sample decks and explore strategic gameplay. This program is supported by donated supplies from MagiKids. The first session will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, with additional sessions scheduled through the spring.

Starting in January, the Dyer-Schererville branch will introduce an additional *Mother Goose on the Loose* session, held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. This storytime program is designed for children from birth to 23 months and includes rhymes, books, music, and movement to support early literacy development. Parents and caregivers of children in this age group are welcome to stay and connect during the subsequent New Parent and Caregiver Meetup.

We also offer specialized storytimes for children ages 2-3 and 4-5, tailored to their developmental stages.

Visit our website at www.lcpllin.com for more information. You can also subscribe to the LCPL newsletter to stay informed about these new technological features and upcoming library events.



**Town of
SCHERERVILLE**
FOUNDED 1881
Welcomes You

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Lu Ann Franklin, Editor



scherville parks & recreation

All events at SCHERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER, 500 E. JOLIET ST.

BINGO BEATS- MERRY CAROLS

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 11
6:30-7:30 P.M.

Get into the holiday spirit with a jolly round of music bingo! Instead of numbers, you'll be

listening for your favorite Christmas carols and merry holiday hits. Mark off the songs as you recognize them and shout BINGO! when you have a winning line. There will be festive prizes for the winners, holiday cheer for everyone and plenty of tunes to keep you humming all season long. Costumes, ugly sweaters and holiday spirit are encouraged! The cost is \$8 per person for residents and \$9.60 for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

CRAFTS AT THE CROSSROADS - HOMEMADE CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

Join us at the Scherville Community Center for a festive day of holiday shopping! With so many handcrafted and handmade vendors, this event is the perfect opportunity to stock up on unique last-minute gifts just 12 days before Christmas. **Admission is FREE!**

GRINCH CANDY CANE HUNT (AGES 3-12)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
10 A.M. TO 12:45 P.M.

Get ready for some holiday mischief and cheer at the Grinch Candy Cane Hunt! Join us at the Scherville Community Center where kids will explore the entire outdoor lawn in search of special candy canes for amazing prizes! The First Hunt for ages 3 to 5 will be from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Second Hunt for ages 6 to 9 and 10 to 12 will be from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The cost is \$15 for residents and \$18 for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

BEDTIME CHRISTMAS STORIES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 6-7:30 P.M.

Gather 'round, families! Join us for a magical evening of Bedtime Christmas Stories at the Scherville Community Center. Bring your coziest PJ's, pillows and sleeping bags as we snuggle up near the beautifully decorated Christmas tree for an enchanting story time led by Cindy Horgash and the Northwest Indiana Storytelling Guild. And what's a cozy night without hot cocoa and cookies? Don't worry, we've got you covered -- they're FREE for everyone! Admission is FREE!

SNOOPY PAINTING CLASS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 6-8 P.M.

Calling all Peanuts fans and art lovers! Get into the holiday spirit as we paint an adorable Snoopy masterpiece together. This class is open to all ages -- whether you're a beginner or a seasoned artist, you'll have a blast! All materials are provided! Just bring your creativity and a smile! The cost is \$30 per person for residents and \$36 for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

PRIMETIMERS PARTY - A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 11:30 A.M. TO
1 P.M.

Celebrate the magic of the season at our A December to Remember Primetimer Party! Join us for a festive afternoon filled with delicious food, joyful entertainment and holiday cheer! Enjoy a full-course meal, dessert, drinks and seasonal entertainment, all sponsored by local assisted living communities who love spreading holiday joy to our wonderful senior citizens. The cost is \$6 for residents and non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

THE ART OF WINTER ARRANGEMENTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 5:30-7 P.M.

Enjoy this Floral Design Class with step-by-step instruction from floral experts. You will receive hands-on guidance to make a floral arrangement to take home. The cost is \$60 for residents and \$72 for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

MOTHER-SON DANCES

DANCE #1 FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 6-9 P.M.

DANCE #2 SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 6-9 P.M.

Join us for a special evening just for moms and their boys! Enjoy a night of music, dancing and laughter as you make memories that will last a lifetime! This event will feature a DJ, dinner, photo opportunities and fun activities throughout the evening. Dress up and hit the dance floor for a night full of smiles, sweet movements and family fun! **Registration opens December 8.** Register at www.schererville.org.

DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCES

DANCE #1 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 6-9 P.M.

DANCE #2 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 6-9 P.M.

Get ready for a magical evening at our annual Daddy-Daughter Dance! Dads, grandpas, uncles and father figures are invited to share a memorable night with their special girls! Enjoy music, dancing, dinner and photo opportunities that will make this a night to remember. Dress your best and make lasting memories together on the dance floor! **Registration opens December 8.** Register at www.schererville.org.



HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 3-6 P.M.

LEVEL UP Your Health at the Health & Wellness Fair! In honor of American Heart Month, take care of yours and join us for a fun-filled afternoon of valuable health information, demonstrations and activities that are good for YOU! **Admission is FREE!** **Vendor applications open December 8 on** www.eventeny.com.





What's Happening in Town



DECEMBER

- 1 Plan Commission/Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 3 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 4 Board of Safety Study Session, 5 p.m.; Board of Safety, 5:15 p.m.; Fire Department Merit Board 6 p.m.
- 10 Waterworks Board, Stormwater Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 24-25 Christmas Holiday -- Town Hall closed
- 31 New Year's Eve -- Town Hall closed

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day -- Town Hall closed
- 5 Plan Commission/Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 7 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 8 Board of Safety Study Session, 5 p.m.; Board of Safety, 5:15 p.m.; Fire Department Merit Board 6 p.m.
- 19 Martin Luther King Day -- Town Hall closed
- 19 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 21 Waterworks Board, Stormwater Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 6:30 p.m.
- 26 Board of Zoning Appeals 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 2 Plan Commission/Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 4 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 5 Board of Safety Study Session, 5 p.m.; Board of Safety, 5:15 p.m.; Fire Department Merit Board 6 p.m.

- 11 Waterworks Board, Stormwater Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 23 Board of Zoning Appeals 6 p.m.

MARCH

- 2 Plan Commission/Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 4 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 5 Board of Safety Study Session, 5 p.m.; Board of Safety, 5:15 p.m.; Fire Department Merit Board 6 p.m.
- 11 Waterworks Board, Stormwater Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 23 Board of Zoning Appeals 6 p.m.

APRIL

- 1 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 2 Board of Safety Study Session, 5 p.m.; Board of Safety, 5:15 p.m.; Fire Department Merit Board 6 p.m.
- 3 Good Friday -- Town Hall closed
- 6 Plan Commission/Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 8 Waterworks Board, Stormwater Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 27 Board of Zoning Appeals 6 p.m.

Feral cats, *continued from front*

community in managing the feral cat population, available on a first-come, first-served basis. While our Animal Control Department doesn't address wild animals, we recognize that feral cats can present challenges, and we are working to tackle this issue.

If a Schererville resident wishes to report a problem with feral cats and is willing to help, please contact our Animal Control Officers at (219) 865-6992 to inquire about the availability of traps and vouchers. If we have these resources available, our Animal Control Officers will deliver a trap to the resident's home. The resident will then need to schedule an appointment with Munster Humane Indiana for the TNR procedure by calling (219) 922-3811.

After capturing a cat, the resident will transport it to Munster Humane Indiana, located at 421 45th Street. The TNR procedure includes sterilization, a rabies vaccination and ear-tipping, which serves as the



universal symbol of a sterilized and vaccinated outdoor feral cat. Once the procedure is complete, the resident must return the cat to its original location and release it.

We want to emphasize that Munster Humane Indiana provides exceptional service to the Schererville Animal Control Department. However, we are limited by the number of available vouchers throughout the year from Pet Friendly Services.

For more information, please contact our Animal Control Officers at (219) 865-6992 or email us at AC@schererville.org.