

Tom Schmitt, Councilmember Ward 4



Robin Arvanitis, Councilmember Ward 1



Kevin Connelly, Councilmember Ward 2



Rob Guetzloff, Councilmember Ward 3



Caleb Johnson, Councilmember Ward 5



Mike Troxell, Clerk-Treasurer



Randy Wyllie
Judge, Schererville Town Court

John Novacich honored with prestigious state award

During the recent Indiana State Parks Conference in French Lick, Schererville Parks & Recreation Director John Novacich received the Outstanding Professional Award.

"It was a surprise and such an honor," said Novacich, a Schererville resident who has been with the Schererville Parks & Recreation Department for 35 years.

"A lot of my peers in local parks departments nominated me for this state award," he said. "Jim Basala, CEO of the Lake County Parks, presented this award to me during the conference."

Novacich reflected on the many changes that have taken place since he joined the town's Parks & Recreation Department in 1989.

"We had eight parks with 38 acres of space back then. Today we have more than 250 acres of land, 28 parks, 20 playgrounds, a community center, skate park, splashpad and more than 11 miles of paved trails," he said. "We have also expanded our programs and events, which are now offered throughout the year."



From left to right is Tom Schmitt, Town Council Pres., Jim Basala, CEO of Lake County Parks, John Novacich and Mike Troxell, Clerk-Treasurer

The community benefits from parks and open spaces, said Novacich, who graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1979 with a degree in parks and recreation administration. "I have been able to utilize my educational degree." Novacich also has a professional certification from the National Recreation and Park Association.

Novacich noted that the award was also "a reflection of the great staff I've had at the parks department and the support of the town officials and other departments. You don't achieve this by yourself. I am fortunate to serve the community this long."



Keeping your dog and others safe

Many Schererville residents have dogs as members of their families. Keeping your dog and others in the community safe requires taking specific steps when your dog is outside.

Recently there have been instances where people have been chasing their dogs within town limits because the dogs weren't on leashes, said Schererville Deputy Chief Steven McNamara.

A Town Ordinance includes the following requirements:

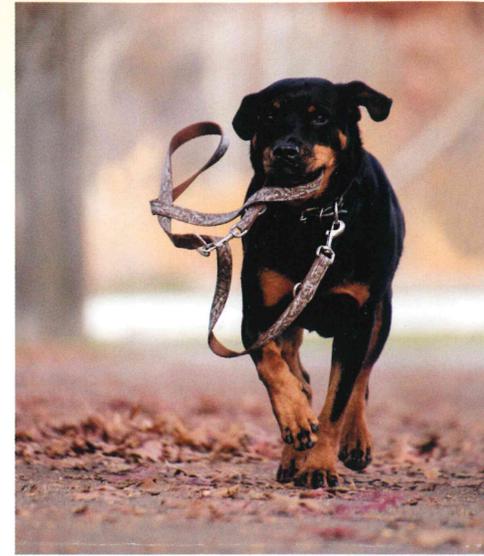
- Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet (6') in length.
- Dogs must be kept under control at all times.
- Dog owners/handlers may walk their dogs on-leash on the walking trails and are responsible for the dogs' conduct. Dogs must not cause a public nuisance, safety hazard, harass wildlife or damage landscaping. At the first sign of aggression or unruliness, the owner/handler must remove the dog from the designated area.

- Dogs are prohibited from being in any area of the parks outside of the trails. This includes, but is not limited to playgrounds, restrooms, picnic shelters, ball fields and tennis courts.
- Dog owners/handlers are responsible for picking up waste left by their dogs.
- Those community members who use service dogs are not bound by this ordinance.

This Town Ordinance also covers the installation and use of electronic fences, McNamara noted.

Owners who elect to install an electronic fence to contain animals on their property must adhere to the following criteria:

- All electronic fences shall be inside the owner's property, and a minimum of five (5') feet from sidewalks, adjacent property, or other public walkways.
- Batteries shall be checked on a regular basis.
- No animal that is deemed vicious shall be contained by this type of fencing.



- Owners are responsible for adequate training and restraint for this type of fencing.
- Although the Town of Schererville includes an Animal Control Department, the Animal Control Officers don't handle wildlife calls for possums, geese, raccoons, etc., McNamara added.

Teen programs offer lots of activities at the Dyer-Schererville Library

"We are pleased to announce the appointment of Justina as the new Teen Librarian/Assistant Manager at the Dyer-Schererville Library," said Beth Alyea, Branch Manager of the Lake County Library branch located at 1001 W. Lincoln Hwy in Schererville.

"Justina is dedicated to engaging with the local teenage community and providing programs that cater to their interests and needs. Our teen programs are intended for individuals aged 12 to 18," Alyea added.

The Teen Advisory Board (T.A.B.) remains an excellent forum for communication, where members can exchange ideas for teen programs and earn volunteer hours, she noted. Each meeting typically concludes with a gaming session. Teens are invited to join T.A.B. meetings on December 30 and January 27 at 5:30 p.m.

On December 12 at 5 p.m., teens are welcome to get into the winter spirit by participating in a Pretzel Log Cabin building challenge. Registration is required for this event.

Additionally, teens can drop in on December 14 and December 21 at 3 p.m. for holiday gift-wrapping assistance. Select supplies will be available, but participants are encouraged to bring boxes for their gifts.

On January 6 at 5 p.m., teens can start the New Year off organized by prepping a bullet journal for 2025. All necessary materials, including journals, will be provided; registration is required.

"We will also be launching a Teen Book Club on January 13 at 5 p.m., with our first book for discussion being *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer," Alyea said. "If you have already read the book or feel it may not be for you, please still feel free to attend! We will have time at the end of the discussion to share thoughts on other titles we are reading or wish to read."

For any questions regarding these events, please contact Justina at (219) 322-4731 or visit the library's website www.lcclin.org/events for more information and to register.

Town of SCHERERVILLE
FOUNDED 1848
Welcomes You

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All events at SCHERERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER, 500 E. JOLIET ST. unless otherwise noted

CSRI PAINTING SERIES WITH SCHERERVILLE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 4:30-5:30 P.M.

We invite participants of the Cooperative Special Recreation Initiative to join Schererville Parks and Recreation for a fun and creative session! Decorate cookies or create beautiful watercolor paintings in a supportive and inclusive environment. These classes are designed for participants with special needs. **Please note this is NOT a drop-off event. Caregivers are required to stay.**

The fee is \$10 per class. Register at www.schererville.org.

SNOOPY PAINTING CLASS (FOR ALL AGES)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 6-8 P.M.

Look out below! Snoopy and Woodstock are sledding your way! Grab your best pal and join us for a fun-filled evening where you can paint your very own Snoopy and Woodstock masterpiece with instructor Chris Hnatusko. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned artist, come and enjoy a creative night with us.

The fee is \$30 for residents/\$36 for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

BUDDY THE ELF'S BREAKFAST BASH COOKING CLASS (FOR AGES 4-7)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 4-5 P.M.

Welcome to Little Chefs, where young culinary artists embark on fun-filled cooking journeys! In this exciting program, kids will explore the magic of the kitchen as they whip up a variety of delicious and creative dishes. Join us for a mix of creativity, fun and tasty food, and watch your little chef's skills and confidence grow.

Buddy the Elf's Breakfast is all sweets and candy, but your child will learn how to make a real breakfast, including such delicious dishes as Candy Cane French Toast, Elf-Sized Fruit Parfaits and a Holiday Oatmeal Bar.

The fee is \$25 for residents/+20% for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

BUDDY THE ELF'S BREAKFAST BASH COOKING CLASS (FOR AGES 8-12)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 6-7:30 P.M.

Step into the world of cooking with our Master Chefs program designed for young culinary enthusiasts ready to take their skills to the next level. From cooking and assembling challenges to food competitions, participants will learn techniques and presentation skills. Each session is a journey into the world of culinary excellence where young chefs transform into kitchen maestros.

Buddy the Elf's Breakfast is all sweets and candy, but your child will learn how to make a real breakfast, including such delicious dishes as Candy Cane French Toast, Elf-Sized Fruit

Parfaits and a Holiday Oatmeal Bar. The fee is \$25 for residents/+20% for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

HOLIDAY POTTERY PAINTING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 6-9 P.M.

Join us for an evening of creativity and festive fun at our Holiday Pottery Painting event. This highly anticipated program WILL sell out and space is limited, so be sure to register early!

Participants will get to choose from one of three holiday-themed pottery molds - Red Truck with Christmas Tree; Camper with Christmas Tree; and Family Sedan with Christmas Tree. Our friends at Gratefully Painted will guide you as you bring your holiday masterpiece to life. Whether you're creating for yourself or gifting someone special, this is the perfect way to celebrate the season!

The fee is \$50 for residents/\$57.50 for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

2024 CRAFTS AT THE CROSSROADS CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Get ready for a festive day of shopping and fun! With more than 75 talented crafters showcasing their unique handmade items, you're certain to find the perfect gifts for everyone on your list, plus enjoy delicious treats from our food trucks while you shop! Admission and parking are free. There are also more than 75 free raffles! Bring your family and friends for a day filled with holiday cheer and creativity!

GRINCH CANDY CANE HUNT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

FIRST HUNT FOR AGES 3-5 10-11 A.M.

SECOND HUNT FOR AGES 6-9 & AGES 10-12 11:45 A.M.-12:45 A.M.

Get ready for some holiday mischief and cheer at the Grinch Candy Cane Hunt where kids will explore the entire outdoor lawn at the Schererville Community Center in search of special candy canes for amazing prizes! (Rumor has it that more special holiday characters may even stop by to help with the hunt!) All child participants must be registered to join the fun.

There's so much for everyone to enjoy including the Grinch Meet & Greet; the Hot Cocoa Bar & Cookies; Reindeer Food Craft; Holiday Activity Packets; and the Magical Christmas Bell event which will send each participant home with their very own bell. Dress in your favorite holiday PJ's and join in the Holiday Costume Contest for a chance to win in our raffle. Looking for holiday treats and goodies for the whole family? The family-friendly vendors will be on hand to help you. The fee is \$15 for residents/\$18 for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org and don't miss out on this Grinch-tastic holiday adventure!

2024 BEDTIME CHRISTMAS STORIES (A FREE EVENT)

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

Gather 'round, families! Join us for a FREE magical evening of Bedtime Christmas Stories! Bring your coziest PJs, 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 free hot cocoa and cookies?

Registration is NOT required. We can't wait to see you there!

REINDEER TREATS & SANTA SWEETS COOKING CLASS (FOR AGES 4-7)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 4-5 P.M.

Welcome to Little Chefs, where young culinary artists embark on fun-filled cooking journeys! In this exciting program, kids will explore the magic of the kitchen as they whip up a variety of delicious and creative dishes. Join us for a mix of creativity, fun and tasty food, and watch your little chef's skills and confidence grow.

During this cooking class, our Little Chefs will create fun and whimsical snacks inspired by Santa and his reindeer including Reindeer Sandwiches, Elf Hats (fruit or veggie cones) and Christmas Tree veggie platters.

The fee is \$25 for residents/+20% for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

REINDEER TREATS & SANTA SWEETS COOKING CLASS (FOR AGES 8-12)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 6-7:30 P.M.

Step into the world of cooking with our Master Chefs program designed for young culinary enthusiasts ready to take their skills to the next level. From cooking and assembling challenges to food competitions, participants will learn techniques and presentation skills. Each session is a journey into the world of culinary excellence where young chefs transform into kitchen maestros.

During this cooking class, our chefs will create fun and whimsical snacks inspired by Santa and his reindeer including Reindeer Sandwiches, Elf Hats (fruit or veggie cones) and Christmas Tree veggie platters.

The fee is \$25 for residents/+20% for non-residents. Register at www.schererville.org.

YOGA MONDAYS (SESSION #1A)

MONDAYS, JAN. 27-MARCH 10 6-7 P.M.

Start your week with relaxation and rejuvenation in our next series of Yoga Mondays! Whether you're new to yoga or have been practicing for years, this class for those ages 10 and older offers something for everyone. Join our skilled instructor Lynn for a peaceful hour of poses and breathing

exercises that help enhance flexibility, balance, and inner calm.

The fee is \$43.50 for residents/+15% for non-residents. Registration opens on December 9. Register at www.schererville.org.

YOGA TUESDAYS (SESSION #1B)

TUESDAYS, JAN. 28-MARCH 11 6-7 P.M.

Embrace tranquility and strength in our Yoga Tuesdays class for ages 10 and older. From curious beginners to experienced practitioners, this class is your perfect midweek escape. Join our skilled instructor Lynn as she guides you through a series of calming poses and breathing techniques aimed at improving flexibility, balance, and overall well-being.

The fee is \$43.50 for residents/+15% for non-residents. Registration opens on December 9. Register at www.schererville.org.

DADDY-DAUGHTER SWEET MASQUERADE: A CANDYLAND BALL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 6-9 P.M.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 6-9 P.M.

Calling all Dads and Daughters! Get ready for an enchanting evening of candy-coated dreams, mystery and magic! Join us for our annual Daddy-Daughter Dance where the world of Candyland meets the allure of a masquerade! Dress in your sweetest attire, don your masks and get ready to dance!

The doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the magic begins at 6 p.m., with dinner and drinks featuring crispy chicken tenders, buttery sweet corn, mashed potatoes with gravy, a crisp side salad and a decadent ice cream bar. Enjoy dancing with music provided by a live DJ, and take part in fun dance games for prizes! There are unlimited photo booth sessions to capture every sweet memory and a professional photo included with each ticket pair. Daughters will also take home a special masquerade keepsake. Candyland crafts are available to take home and souvenirs are also available.

All ages are welcome and each attendee must have a ticket. Tickets are sold per person. Each child must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket. **Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.**

PLEASE NOTE -- Any food allergies or special food accommodations must be communicated to the Parks Department at (219) 865-5530 by January 24.

Registration opens on December 9. Register at www.schererville.org.



PERRY FERRINI DOG PARK UPDATES & MEMBERSHIP INFO

The Perry Ferrini Dog Park, dedicated to former Schererville Town Council member Perry Ferrini, is a haven for dog lovers and their furry friends. Located on West 91st Avenue and Mathews Street, the park offers more than two acres of fenced play space, with a separate area for smaller dogs. Amenities include benches, drinking fountains for dogs and humans, waste disposal areas, agility equipment, and more.

2025 Membership Registration

Dog park memberships for the 2025 calendar year open on January 6! Sign up at the Schererville Community Center, and enjoy a two-week grace period before 2024 fobs are turned off. **NOTE: 2024 Members must bring in their old fobs**

Membership Fees:

- Schererville Residents: \$60 for one dog; \$15 for an additional dog (limit two dogs per member)
- Non-Residents: \$100 for one dog; \$25 for an additional dog (limit two dogs per member)
- Replacement Fob: \$10

Required Documents for Registration:

- Dog Park Registration Packet (available online)
- Proof of Vaccinations: Rabies, DHPP, and Bordatella
- Dog Registration Tags (for Schererville residents only)

Payments can be made by check, credit, or debit card at the Community Center. Cash is not accepted.

Enjoy a full year of fun and activity with your canine companion! For more information or to download the registration packet, visit our website or contact us at kmorris@schererville.org or call (219) 865-5530, ext. 6107. We can't wait to see you and your pups at Perry Ferrini Dog Park in 2025!

SHELTER RENTALS WITH SCHERERVILLE PARKS & RECREATION

The Schererville Community Center, located at 500 E. Joliet St. with an entrance off Scherwood Greens Drive, is a hub of activity and community engagement. This 12,500-square foot facility is home to the Schererville Parks & Recreation Department and also serves as the heart of recreational programs, events, and gatherings for all ages.

From camps, painting classes and fitness programs to community events, this space is designed to accommodate a wide variety of activities. The center is available for rent and provides the ideal setting for events ranging from intimate workshops of 10 people to large gatherings of up to 250 guests.

Room Options and Amenities:

- Room A: A multipurpose room equipped with a sink, refrigerator, microwave, countertop, and access to a covered patio. Occupancy: 55.
- Room B: Multipurpose room with patio access. Occupancy: 100.
- Room C: Includes patio access, a full kitchen (stovetop, two ovens, microwave, sink, ice machine, and refrigerator), with the option to partition the kitchen. Occupancy: 100.
- Full Community Room: Combines the amenities of Rooms A, B, and C, including the kitchen, for larger events. Occupancy: 250.

Rental Details

- Dates are available to book up to 6 months in advance. Reservations cannot be secured without payment.
- For rental rates and more information, visit the "Schererville Community Center Brochure" or the Community Center Rental Page online at www.schererville.org
- To start the rental process, complete the "Community Center Rental Request Form" at www.schererville.org.

Explore the Facility

Take a Virtual Tour to explore the Community Center and visualize the space for your next event at www.schererville.org.

Whether you're planning a private celebration, corporate meeting, or community gathering, the Schererville Community Center offers the perfect space tailored to your needs.



continued on back page



SCHERERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE



DONATIONS GO TO ST. JOHN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2024
9AM- 1PM



LOCATION:
PARKING LOT
STRACK & VAN TIL
1515 US 41 SCHERERVILLE, IN



Thank you!
For your donation



All Non-Perishable Foods are Accepted

Monetary Donations Accepted

Non-perishable food, other items needed at Food Pantry. Donations of much-needed items for the St. John Township Community Food Bank include the following:

- Canned ravioli, canned chicken, beef stew, canned sloppy joe
- Peanut butter, jelly
- Cereal, instant oatmeal, crackers
- Instant potatoes, stuffing, rice/pasta sides, mac & cheese
- Hamburger Helper
- Cake mixes, cornbread mix
- Pancake mix, syrup
- Boxes of Jello, boxes of pudding
- Chips
- Ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce
- Applesauce, juices
- Canned yams, canned cranberries, canned pumpkin, canned pie fillings, canned fruit
- Dish soap, laundry soap, fabric softener, cleaning wipes
- Bodywash, deodorant (men & women), shampoo



What's Happening in Town



DECEMBER

- 2 Plan Commission Meeting/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, 5:30 p.m.
- 11 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 24-25 Christmas Holiday – Town Hall closed
- 31 New Year's Eve Holiday – Town Hall closed

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Holiday - Town Hall closed
- 2 Board of Safety Study Session, 5 p.m.; Board of Safety, 5:30 p.m.
- 6 Plan Commission Meeting/Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 8 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.

- 15 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Martin Luther King Holiday - Town Hall closed
- 20 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 27 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 3 Plan Commission Meeting/Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 5 Park Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 6 Board of Safety Study Session, 6 p.m.; Board of Safety, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Waterworks Board, Redevelopment Commission, Utility Board, Town Council 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Plan Commission Study Session 6 p.m.
- 24 Board of Zoning Appeals 6 p.m.

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SHELTER RENTALS WITH SCHERERVILLE PARKS & RECREATION

Planning an outdoor event? Schererville Parks & Recreation offers a variety of shelters for rent to accommodate groups of all sizes. Reservations and payments can be made conveniently in-person or online:

- **In-person:** Clerk-Treasurer Office, 10 E. Joliet St. or Community Ctr, 500 E. Joliet St.
- **Online:** at www.schererville.org.

Rental Fees and Policies

- **All rental fees are non-refundable**, and reservation dates cannot be changed.
- Waivers or fee reductions are at the sole discretion of the Park Board.
- Groups of **25 or more individuals** must secure a shelter permit to use any listed shelter.

Redar, Rohrman, and Stephen Park Shelters

Amount of People	Resident	Non-resident	In Town Non-Profit	Out of Town Non-Profit
Fewer than 75	\$90.00 + \$6.30 tax	\$180.00 + \$12.60 tax	\$45.00	\$90.00
75-150	\$180.00 + \$12.60 tax	\$360.00 + \$25.20 tax	\$90.00	\$180.00
Over 150 (Over 150 Usage is subject to Park Board Approval)	\$270.00 + \$18.90	\$540.00 + \$37.80	\$135.00	\$270.00

Plum Creek Shelter Note: Shelter Capacity is 75 people

Amount of People	Resident	Non-resident	In Town Non-Profit	Out of Town Non-Profit
75 or less	\$90.00 + \$6.30 tax	\$180.00 + \$12.60 tax	\$45.00	\$90.00

All Other Shelters Note: All other Shelter Capacities are 25 people

Amount of People	Resident	Non-resident
25 or less	\$30.00 + \$2.10 tax	\$60.00 + \$4.20 tax

Public Events

\$540.00 including one electrical panel (Redar Only) and a security deposit of \$250.00

- Only Redar, Rohrman, Stephen, and Plum Creek have electric.
- Bathrooms are open from April 15th thru October 15th
- Grills are not located at every park. Please call (219)865-5530 for a list of parks which have grills.
- Reservations/Payment of these shelters can be made in-person at the Clerk-Treasurer Office or Schererville Community Center or online.

Groups of 25 or more individuals are required to have a shelter permit in order to utilize the shelters listed above. Resident fees apply only to those individuals, groups, businesses, or organizations within the Schererville corporate limits. Residents representing non-Schererville groups, businesses, or organizations shall pay the Non-resident rate. Any waiver or reduction of rental fees shall be at the sole discretion of the Schererville Parks and Recreation Board.

Note Pavilions are subject to specific procedures for reserving them. The procedures for reserving pavilion use shall be:

Additional Details

- **Electricity:** Available at Redar, Rohrman, Stephen, and Plum Creek Parks.
- **Restrooms:** Open April 15 – October 15.
- **Grills:** Not available at all parks. Contact (219) 865-5530 for grill locations.
- **Resident Rates:** Apply only to individuals, groups, businesses, or organizations within Schererville's corporate limits.

Pavilion Reservation Procedures for 2025

- **Monday, January 12, 2025, at 8:00 AM:** Schererville residents, groups, businesses, and organizations may begin reserving shelters.
- **Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 8:00 AM:** Reservations open to non-residents on a first-come, first-serve basis.

All fees and deposits must be paid in full at the time of reservation.

Secure your spot today and make your outdoor gathering one to remember!