

STRIVING HIGHER

Town of Dyer

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Town Council

Alan Brooks, President
 Mary Tanis, Vice President
 Eric Schultz
 Robert Starkey
 Steve Kramer

Clerk-Treasurer

Debbie Astor

Town Manager

Tom DeGiulio

Town Departments

**Town Council &
 Town Manager's Office**
 865-6108

Clerk-Treasurer's Office
 865-2421

Public Works
 865-4222

Police Department
 865-1163

Fire Department
 865-4226

Parks & Recreation
 865-2505

Social Media

Follow us for announcements!
[Facebook.com/TownOfDyer](https://www.facebook.com/TownOfDyer)

The Town purchases our Lake Michigan potable water from Hammond thru the Town of Highland. We pay Highland for the water and a transport fee. Hammond supplies treated water to Munster, Griffith, Highland and Whiting in Indiana. We are supplied from Highland.

Currently the Town pays Highland \$.50/1000 gallons for treated water and \$.3123/1000 for transportation costs to our system. We receive delivery at Main Street and transport the water into our system at the Calumet Ave storage and pumping facility. In December 2020, the Hammond Common Council, at the request of the Mayor and the Hammond Water Works Department, requested that effective January 2021 that the wholesale rate they charge to their wholesale customers be increased to \$1.90/1000 gallons. The proposed rate would increase each year until it reached a rate of \$2.30/ 1000G. These increases would have a significant financial impact on all Dyer water bills. These increases would be 'Tracked' into our existing rate structure. The \$1.90 proposed increase would impact our system with an additional \$700,000 in costs. This impact would have increased each year as they move to the proposed \$2.30/1000G.

Dyer has joined with Munster, Highland, Griffith and Whiting to sue the Hammond Water Works and City of Hammond to renegotiate a fairer increase for our communities. This situation is very fluid (no pun intended). We are working tirelessly to resolve this dispute. We have a Court date of March 1st and 2nd.

Hopefully this will be resolved soon.

Other News

On other fronts there is good news. The Fire Station II, Police and Parks storage facility is almost ready for full occupancy. We are completing interior wiring for communications equipment, a natural gas service line for the generator and waiting for a few pieces of specialized equipment. The Fire Department will begin operations within the next few weeks. When the weather breaks the fencing for the station will be installed. This fence will match the fence installed at the Calumet Ave Pumping Station. This summer the Emergency Preemption Signals will be installed on both 213th and at the EMS facility on Hart Street.

Elsewhere in Central Park, work continues on the concession stand and restrooms. The fourth ball field is complete. Field lights will be delivered and installed in the coming weeks. The first storm pond is complete and functional.

The next contracts that will be put out to bid are for:

- The landscaping of the Fire Station
- The new entrance to Central Park, including a landscaped round-a-bout and an extended parking area east of the Fire Station and north of the ball fields. The parking area maybe built in stages depending on costs. Our goal is to complete the entire project at once.
- The core area of the ball fields will be completed with connecting paths, lighting, playground equipment near the concession stands, and landscaping.

These improvements will substantially complete the planned improvements for the north half of the park.

Text Program

We have a new text code for the Town of Dyer! If you have already subscribed with the previous code you will NOT need to subscribe again. For Town updates and information please subscribe by texting **DYER** to **219-215-4304**. Please contact the Town Hall with any questions.

2021 Hazardous Waste Schedule

You must be a Lake County resident to participate. All collection dates are from 9am—2pm. Latex paint is no longer accepted.

March 27th: Lake County Fairgrounds
889 Court St., Crown Point

April 24th: Hudson Campbell Center
455 Massachusetts, Gary

May 22nd: Hobart Public Works
340 S. Shelby St., Hobart

June 5th: Whiting Public Works
1915 Front St., Whiting

July 24th: Munster Public Works
508 Fisher St., Munster

August 21st: Highland Public Works
8001 Kennedy Ave., Highland

September 11th: Lowell Middle School
19250 Cline Ave., Lowell

October 2nd: Griffith Public Works
134 S. Colfax St., Griffith

*October 23rd: Hammond Public Works
601 Conkey St., Hammond

*Shredding event, 9am –1pm. 4 paper bags only.

Monthly Meeting Calendar

Feb 9	Park Board w/ Study Session	6:00 pm
Feb 11	Town Council	6:00 pm
Feb 11	Redevelopment Commission	6:30 pm
Feb 11	Town Council Study Session	7:00 pm
Feb 17	Stormwater Board	6:00 pm
Feb 22	Utility Board	6:00 pm
Feb 25	Police Commission	6:00 pm
March 1	Plan Commission w/ Study Session	6:00 pm
March 1	Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00 pm
March 9	Park Board w/ Study Session	6:00 pm
March 11	Town Council	6:00 pm
March 11	Redevelopment Commission	6:30 pm
March 11	Town Council Study Session	7:00 pm
March 17	Stormwater Board	6:00 pm
March 18	Police Commission	6:00 pm



**Meetings are subject to change,
call (219) 865-6108
for confirmation.**

Livestreaming

Although the meetings are now officially open to the public, with the social distancing requirements still in place and limited space, we are pleased to livestream the meetings at **[Livestream.townofdier.com](https://www.livestream.townofdier.com)** (YouTube). Meetings are subject to change. Please contact the Town Council Office at (219) 865-6108 with any questions. Agendas and packets for the Town Council meetings are posted on the website calendar prior to the meeting at www.townofdier.com.



Code Corner

Sec. 8-131 Schedule 2 - Parking Prohibited After Snow is Two Inches Deep.

Pursuant to Section 8-53 et seq, all streets in the Town of Dyer shall have parking prohibited thereon after snow is two (2) inches deep. (Ord. 81-8, Schedule 2, 4-1-81)

It is critical to not park on the road when there will be more than 2 inches of snow. Our Public Works crews work hard to clear the roads of snow and if cars are parked, it deters them from doing so.





DYER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2020 YEAR END REPORT

Total Calls/ Responses: 1,72

Total Man-hours: 9,534

Average Personnel Per Call:
5.53

Fires:

Structures: 11

Cars: 5

Brush: 4

Dumpster: 1

Other: 28

Medical:

Ambulance: 1,187

MVA: 78

Transports: 14

Comm/Cit. Assist: 132

Rescue: 6

Medical Agency Assist: 3

Miscellaneous:

False alarms: 120

Mutual Aid: 33

CO Alarms: 30

Gas Leaks: 27

Investigations: 20

Severe Weather: 16

Hazmat: 1

Washdown: 2

Other- Dispatch Error: 4

Utility: 15

Other: 2

Township Calls: 42

Prevention / Community Outreach:

The annual prevention activities and Open House were heavily impacted by the pandemic. The department continued to provide as much information and education as possible with the restrictions to social distancing, masks and lock downs. While not able to educate in large groups, extra time was made on calls to explain safety and fire prevention issues as they were noted. This was not a new concept, as it has been done previously. It was intensified during the pandemic.

Worked with local businesses both new and existing with fire safety including but not limited to inspection of hood testing, sprinkler and alarm testing, and inspections. Answered questions and requests for information related to fire safety and codes.

Continued participation in the State sponsored smoke detector give away/ instillation program that started in October 2019. However, it has also been limited related to the pandemic constraints.

Equipment Maintenance and Testing:

All vehicles annual service completed, including but not limited to Oil and filter changes, preventive maintenance, pump testing, aerial ladder testing and repairs as needed. Annual testing including but not limited to SCBA's, Ground ladders, hydraulic and electric extrication equipment, gas monitors, and breathing air compressors.

Training:

Annual trainings included, Haz-Mat, ground ladders, forcible entry, multiple EMS topics, and SCBA's. Other training in driving, pump operations, aerial operations, hose line deployment, search and rescue, extrication, firefighter safety, hydrant connections, water supply, and ropes and knots just to name some. A training was done with social distancing, masks and small groups. Training was suspended for one month early in the pandemic. Supplemental computer training was used to offset the lack of in person education. Training was done and continues on the pandemic, infection control, sanitizing of equipment and facilities.

New Facility:

The new building that is a multiuse facility will be complete January 2021. The fire department will be relocating between the last week of January and the first week of February. The delays related to utility limitations. The schedule delays were related to the pandemic. The fire department will occupy the 4 large drive thru bays, a day room, office and restroom and shower areas. There is an extractor for washing ppe and hose/ppp dryer allowing firefighters to wash gear after fires and limit exposure to carcinogens. The increase in size allows for better access to apparatus and opportunities for training.



DYER POLICE DEPARTMENT



2020

Year in review: The Police Department oversees many areas within the town structure. The department is responsible for the following services: Police, Records, Crossing Guards, Code Enforcement, and Animal Control. The police department is staffed by 32 sworn officers, 3 civilian full-time staff members, 1 part-time staff member and 5 crossing guards. In 2020, the PD handled over 9,300 calls for service. Dyer officers participate in many task forces and assignments such as SWAT, Homeland Security, Major Crimes Task Force, K-9, School Resource Officer, and Traffic Enforcement. During the past year we added an additional dog to our K9-unit welcoming new K-9 Odin.



2020 Records Lower Crime Rates For Dyer

Below is our official crime reports as submitted to the state. It reflects overall lower crime rates compared to 2019. In 2020 we saw a reduction in overall crime. We had a slight increase in Thefts. These low crime rates are the key element to achieving the safe town status. Dyer has enjoyed a Top 5 ranking for safest town for many years and the PD believes the excellent relationship with the community plays a large part in keeping our community safe.



Uniform Crime Reporting

Classification	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Homicide	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Robbery	3	5	6	2	6	3	6	3	0
Assault	37	43	43	41	45	32	38	44	25
Burglary	26	17	14	20	16	22	12	7	0
Theft	248	167	169	161	150	96	122	51	53
Stolen Auto	18	13	5	8	15	19	13	22	4
Total	334	245	237	232	232	172	192	127	82

Statistics

Category	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Calls for Service	9755	9666	9758	9384	10145	10123	10481	10078	9317
Arrests/Offenses	651	525	524	763	909	637	585	571	630
Accidents	415	422	496	479	515	512	495	442	333
Citations	2344	2709	2171	1817	2542	2850	2612	2764	2255
Warnings	1988	2676	3712	2697	4726	4711	5431	5814	3577
Training Hours	1393.75	1628.25	2085.75	4000.75	2033.5	3014	2696.5	4175	2367.25
Traffic Stops	4343	5716	5979	4885	7272	7305	8155	8510	6408
Homeland Security Checks	2206	7086	5620	8377	7767	4242	3649	3170	2314
Ordinance Violations	279	500	598	591	658	450	472	392	339

Community Policing

Community Policing Division: This division includes Code Enforcement, (2) School Resource Officers, and a Community Service Officer. During the course of the day this division will handle a wide range of calls such as animal problems, bike patrol, community events, school issues, code enforcement, and D.A.R.E. Our K-9 "Kolt", a black lab, is partnered with School Resource Corporal Brian Kissinger. They are assigned to our Schools (Kahler, Protsman, and Bibich). Corporal Jerry Patrick is also assigned as a School Resource Officer for the Lake Central School Corporation. This division has hosted several events in the past such as National Night Out Against Crime and Women's Self Defense classes. COVID-19 restrictions hampered many planned public events for 2020. We added Drive-Thru Santa that was a huge success. Weekly, they conduct Senior Outreach Program calls to registered seniors living on their own. They have also assisted in many of the community functions including Summer Fest, Parks Programs, Youth Sports Groups, and Chamber of Commerce events just to name a few. During the summer when school is out the School Resource Officers also utilize Bike Patrol to interact with the community.



Patrol Division

Patrol Division: The patrol division is staffed by 23 uniformed officers. They provide round the clock patrol coverage on 12 hour shifts (Days, Nights). Patrol responds to emergency and non-emergency calls. They are responsible for traffic enforcement, crash investigations, neighborhood patrol, criminal arrests, booking and transporting prisoners among many other daily assignments. In 2020 the Division responded to over 9,300 calls for service and covers 6.2 square miles of town limits. The Patrol Division has two day shifts and two night shifts. K-9 "Rocco" is assigned to nights and K-9 "Odin" is assigned to days.



Investigations Division

Investigations Division: This team of 3 investigators is on call 24/7 and is responsible for evidence collection and investigations of all crimes occurring in town. These are general case detectives and investigate reports ranging from financial crimes to homicides. The division investigated over 199 cases in 2020. The investigators are also members of the Northwest Indiana Major Crimes Task Force which primarily investigates Homicides in Northwest Indiana. This Division also has a Tactical Officer assigned to the division. The TAC officer focuses on crime reduction by utilizing proactive patrolling and crime data analysis.



Department of Public Works

2020

Street Department

- ◆ Chipped and collected 680 tons of branches
- ◆ Collected 250 tons of leaves from streets
- ◆ Collected 79 tons of road debris
- ◆ Crack sealed 3.9 miles of roadways
- ◆ Continued to mow and maintain rights of ways
- ◆ Continued maintenance of detention/retention ponds
- ◆ Continued mosquito abatement
- ◆ Coordinated all aspects of road projects
- ◆ Continued maintenance program on street lights
- ◆ Continued maintenance and repairs of sidewalks
- ◆ Continued maintenance and replacement of signs
- ◆ Installed speed humps on Deer Creek and Flagstone Drive

Water Distribution

- ◆ Repaired 23 water main breaks
- ◆ Repaired 15 hydrants and 50 b-boxes
- ◆ Continued hydrant flushing and valve exercising programs
- ◆ Continued backflow maintenance program
- ◆ Completed IFA Water Loss Audit

Storm Water Collection System

- ◆ Continued preventative maintenance program
- ◆ Maintained site per IDEM MS4 program

Sanitary Collection System

- ◆ Continued preventative and corrective maintenance program on sanitary lines and manholes
- ◆ Continued analyzing continual inflow and infiltration problems in specified sections of the Town

Water Treatment

- ◆ Pumped 529,575,000 gallons of water for 2020
- ◆ Conducted all required IDEM testing

Wastewater Treatment

- ◆ Treated 684 million gallons of wastewater
- ◆ Removed 2,061 tons of sludge for land application
- ◆ Conducted all required IDEM testing

Building Services

- ◆ Continued maintenance of all Town buildings
- ◆ Provided cleaning & sanitizing of all Town buildings



The Public Works staff consists of 28 full-time and two part-time employees.

Standard number of hours worked last year: 58,297

Overtime hours necessary for emergencies: 2,495

Time allocation for the DPW

Operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant - 7,153 hours

Operation and maintenance of the water station and distribution system - 7,707 hours

Operation and maintenance of the sanitary collection system - 4,505 hours

Operation and maintenance of streets and parkways - 5,832 hours

Operation and maintenance of the stormwater collection system - 5,211 hours

Leaf pickup, chipping, mowing, landscaping and branch removal - 5,407 hours

Snow plowing and salting of streets, sand parking areas - 1,550 hours

Parks and Recreation

During 2020, the Parks and Recreation Department started major construction at Central Park with all work being done on the north end. Construction consisted of a 4th ball field, changing the baseball field to a multi-use ball field, new walking paths, retention pond, ball field lighting and a concession stand/restroom building. Additionally, design plans are being worked on for the inner core area (area between the four ball fields). This includes plans for a playground with pour in place surfacing material, connecting pathways, batting cages, low maintenance landscape beds and added parking areas for the north parking lot. These projects are planned to be completed by Fall 2021 and are funded with the 2019 and 2020 Park Bonds.

In the Spring, we completed our 37-tree planting at Eberly Park. This project was assisted with an IDNR Urban Forestry Grant. These are mature, two-and-a-half-inch caliper trees. The planting consisted of a variety of species, such as, Sycamore, Tulip, Buckeye, River Birch and Cedar. Through a CommuniTree grant program, we received 40 native trees in the Fall. These trees are about one-inch caliper and were planted within the following parks: Green Meadows Park, Pheasant Hills Park, Northgate Park and Sheffield Estates Park. Additionally, Hearthstone Park received a 25 mature 1.75 caliper tree planting

Additionally, the Park Board entered/continued design contracts for various park improvements. These consist of: Cherry Hill Park- to include new playgrounds with pour in place surfacing, walking paths connections and all required drainage. Pheasant Hills Park- to include a walking path around current pond and connecting access to Cherry Hill Park. Elmer Miller Park- to include a splash pad facility. Autumn Chase Park- to include new playgrounds with pour in place surfacing, new walking path, water fountain, path connections, ADA parking spot and all required drainage. An application for the Land and Water Grant was submitted for the Autumn Chase Park improvement project.

Our recreation programs were held differently throughout the year due to COVID-19. Many of our programs were cancelled, but we were able to safely provide program/events during the summer. The newest event offered was the Dyer Community Market. Six Markets were held on selected Tuesday night at Pheasant Hills Park from 4p-8p. Attendees enjoyed a variety of vendors, such as, food, produce, crafts, brewery, jewelry and clothing, just to name a few. Other high attendance was seen at our Youth Summer Camps, Daddy Daughter Dance, Toddler Time Playdate classes, Movies in the Park at Northgate Park and our 3rd Annual Fall Family Fest. We are looking forward to continuing to offer these and many new family fun events, programs and trips for all participants. In 2021, be on the lookout for improved programing with our Youth Summer Camps, Camp Challenge Event, Kidz Zone at Summer Fest and previously mentioned Fall Family Fest and Community Market.

During 2021, along with the continued north end Central Park development and previously mentioned improvement projects, discussions will turn to improvement development of the middle and south end of Central Park, Heritage Estates Park, Northgate Park and Eberly Park.



Upcoming Recreation Events

If you would like to view our classes, special events, pictures and other fun things to do, check out our website: parks.townofdye.com or on our Facebook page: Dyer Parks and Recreation. Register online at: parksregistration.townofdye.com. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @DyerParksandRec. For more information, please contact Dyer Parks at (219) 865-2505. **Due to the Coronavirus, all dates and classes/events are subject to change. Please call for updated information.**

Yoga (18yrs. & up) – This class aims to improve your ability to relax while increasing strength and flexibility. Classes are 3/1-4/12 or 4/19-6/7 from 6:30-7:30. Fee: \$70

Little Dragons (4-6 yrs. old) – Young children will develop a growing mind and body to enhance memory and agility. Classes are 3/2-4/13 or 4/20-6/8 from 5-5:45pm. Fee: \$50

Wado-Ki-Karate (7yrs.-adult) – This class will give you the opportunity to improve concentration, self-esteem, achieve lifelong physical fitness and learn self-defense skills. Classes are 3/2-4/13 or 4/20-6/8 from 5:45-6:30. Fee: \$50

Cartooning (6-12yrs. old) - Learning to draw can be fun, especially when we create silly characters, funny expressions and draw sequences that tell a joke. Sessions are 3/2-3/30, 4/6-4/27 or 5/4-5/25 from 4:30-5:30pm. Fee: \$46

Preschool Combo Bricks & Art (4- 5 yrs. old) - This class combines drawing and Bricks 4 Kidz. Preschool classes take place 3/3-3/31, 4/7-4/28 or 5/5-5/26 from either 9:30-11:15am or 12:30-2:15pm. Fee: \$105

Elementary Combo Bricks & Art (6-12 yrs. old) - This class combines

drawing and Bricks 4 Kidz. Elementary classes take place 3/3-3/31, 4/7-4/28 or 5/5-5/26 from 4:30- 6:30pm or 3/5-4/9, 4/16-5/7 or 5/14-6/4 from 9:30-11:30am. Fee: \$105

Toddler Time Playdate (Ages 18-36 months) – Join us for this 5 week playdate and enjoy hands on activities, stories, music, play interactive games and make a craft. Classes are 3/3-3/31 or 4/7-5/5 from 10-11am. Fee: \$47

Zumba (17 yrs. & up) – Take the “work” out of workout by mixing low and high intensity moves for a high calorie burning fitness class. Classes are 3/17-4/7 or 4/14-5/5 from 6:30-7:30pm. Fee: \$36

Painting Classes (Ages 5 & up) – All materials will be provided in these 16”x 20” step-by-step painting classes. Paintings include: “Spring Bunny” on 3/20, “Mom & Baby Ladybug” on 4/17 or “Tropical Flamingo” on 5/15. Classes are 2-3:30pm. Fee: \$30 each

Home Alone Class for Kids! (10-14yrs. old) – Children will learn the skills and gain confidence in order to be safe in their home and in public. Class will take place via Zoom Meeting Online 3/20 from 9-11:30am. Registration deadline is 3/5. Fee: \$32

Easter Egg Hunt (8 & younger) – To be entered into our 33rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt raffle, you must pre-register. Residents in the 46311 zip code are free and those outside the 46311 zip code is a \$5 fee. Hunt is 3/27 at 2pm sharp.

Kids in the Kitchen (Ages 6-8 for Jr. Kids & 9-12 for Kids) - Participants will learn about kitchen safety, etiquette, table-setting, recipes and have fun cooking with other participants during this hands-on class. Each week there will be two to three different kid friendly, themed meals to prepare and enjoy. Class is taught by our Professional Chef, Jason Delgado. Classes are 3/31-4/21 or 5/5-5/26 from 5-

6pm for Jr. Kids and 6:15-7:15 for Kids. Fee: \$52 per session

Soccer Shots (Ages 2 & early 3 year olds) – This soccer program will focus on character development. Classes are 4/8-5/27 from 5-5:30pm. Fee: \$120 + \$20 annual registration fee that will go towards the purchase of a soccer shirt & a prize at the end of each session. Register online at: www.soccershots.org/northwestindiana

Soccer Shots (Ages 3-5 & Pre-K) - This soccer program will focus on character development. Classes are 4/8-5/27 from 5:50-6:30pm. Fee: \$120 + \$20 annual registration fee that will go towards the purchase of a soccer shirt & a prize at the end of each session. Register online at: www.soccershots.org/northwestindiana

New Adventures Summer Camp - (ages 3-10 yrs. old) - We are now taking registration for our 6 week summer camp. Register by 3/1/21 for a discounted rate. Camp is 6/14-7/22 from 10am-2pm.

NEW! Spring Fling Craft Show - We will be having a Spring Craft Show at Pheasant Hills Park on May 15th. We are looking for vendors. Please call (219) 865-2505 if you are interested in being a vendor.

NEW! Zoom Spanish Classes for Kids- Adults (Ages 3 & older) - Learn conversational Spanish from a Language in Action, Inc. instructor via the interactive Zoom platform. Call for dates and times for these 6 week sessions. Fee: \$78 per session

NEW! Introduction to CrossFit, Introduction to Weightlifting for Women and Strength for Keen-Agers. Call (219) 865-2505 for details.

