



CLERMONT TOWN NEWS

SUMMER 2025



Clermont Tree Allies and friends planted trees near the town sign on Crawfordsville Road for Arbor Day and Tree Planting Week. Clermont earned Tree City USA status for the first time.

Turn over a new leaf

The best time to plant a tree was yesterday, but the next best time might be this fall when you pick up a new tree from the Clermont Tree Allies' tree sale. The group will partner with an Indiana tree nursery to offer quality, native trees for sale to residents to plant on their property. Subscribe to emails on the town website to be notified when orders open in late summer.

Town meetings now available via livestream

Clermont now livestreams its public meetings. Details on how to join online are available at [in.gov/towns/clermont/government/meetings](https://www.in.gov/towns/clermont/government/meetings). The public is still encouraged to

join meetings in person for the best experience. The livestreams will not be managed for two-way communication for online attendees.

Local barber throws block party

My Dad's Barbershop (9060 Crawfordsville Road) threw a block party for the town in its parking lot in May. The shop provided food and drinks, games, music and even free haircuts. Other area businesses and

organizations had booths and donated raffle prizes.

Veronica Bates runs the shop of three barbers, including her dad (Ron), who is a former U.S. Navy barber. They are from the west

side and love Clermont for its small-town feel and neighborly connections. The shop boasts many family photos that show their history and give a feel for what they love and do.



Clermont Police to host National Night Out community event

Police Chief Steve Dulworth and the entire Clermont Police Department invite you to their National Night Out community event from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5, at Clermont Lions Club Park.

The fun, family friendly event aims to bring Clermont residents together with law enforcement to build relationships and take a stand against crime.

Lions Club to revive Clermont Rodeo

Mark your calendar for September 20 when the Clermont Lions Club invites you to join the annual Clermont parade and festival. Returning this year is the Clermont Rodeo, which will reestablish itself as the oldest rodeo in Indiana and one of the oldest east of the Mississippi River.

This year's rodeo will be the 70th and is being run in memory of longtime Clermont resident Joe Miller, who was a lifetime member of the International Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association and a lifelong Clermont Lions Club member, contributing to the rodeo for six decades.

The 2025 rodeo will be a full, eight-event sanctioned rodeo held the evening of September 20 following the parade and festival earlier in the day. The club hired Three Bar J Rodeo, run by Mike Johnson, to host the event this year. At age 15, Johnson competed in the rodeo and cherished his memories of Clermont and Joe Miller and his wife, Elsie.

Community and local business support has helped restore parts



of the Clermont rodeo arena and grounds, with special thanks to Dave Wilson of White Oak Construction. The club says more volunteers are still needed for tasks such as cleaning concessions and ticket booths, removing weeds and debris, assembling bleachers, and painting to revitalize the area. Workdays will be set up for volunteers, so check out the Clermont Lions Club Facebook page for opportunities.

The club would be honored to recognize your support as a sponsor through event signage, announcements, and promotional materials to ensure that the thousands of expected attendees know your commitment to Clermont and its traditions. Contact club members Nancy Baxter or Samantha Snyder (nancybaxter1011@yahoo.com, samsnyder19@protonmail.com) to explore sponsorship or donation opportunities.

Get involved with Clermont Old-Fashioned Day

SEPTEMBER 20

Plan to be in town all day the third Saturday in September as the Clermont Lions Club puts on its annual parade, festival, and rodeo. The town council encourages you to invite family and friends and to be part of the festivities in one way or another.

PARADE

The parade will step off at 11 a.m. at the intersection of Raceway and Crawfordsville roads, proceed down the main streets in town, and conclude at Lions Club Park. Special appearance: Ben Davis Marching Band. You can participate in the parade! Call 317-833-2435 or email nancybaxter1011@yahoo.com for information on how you can be in the parade.

FESTIVAL

The club is seeking vendors and food trucks for the festival that begins immediately after the parade in Lions Club Park. Homemade crafts and direct sales are welcome. Reach out to clermontfestivalvendors@gmail.com for vendor space or questions.

RODEO

The Clermont Rodeo has been an acclaimed event, attracting riders and fans from across Indiana and beyond. Rodeo promoters and riders are interested in seeing the event return, and there is growing anticipation for its comeback this fall. Share the word far and wide that the rodeo is back! Tickets go on sale August 1. Contact the club to buy them.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Nancy Baxter is one of Clermont's most dedicated community volunteers. She has been in the Clermont Lions Club for 20 years, but in years past, she was on the town council and was often seen on Crawfordsville Road tending to plants and flags, cleaning parking lots, weeding, and overall enhancing Clermont's charm and livability.

Baxter has resided in Clermont for more than 53 years, and her children and grandchildren attended the local schools.

What encouraged you to join the town council?

Baxter: I wanted to be proud of my town. I saw the need to clean up areas that were neglected.

What is your proudest contribution or achievement while serving Clermont?

Baxter: I got Miller Park renovated. The weeds were so thick, no one knew there was a creek there! There were needles, empty beer and whiskey bottles, trash, and a mattress! Despite my busy schedule, with PTA, choir boosters, and raising kids, I dedicated my time and resources to improve Clermont.

What is one of your favorite Lions Club events?

Baxter: The parade. It brings unity, the kids, laughter, everyone coming together to celebrate.



Church aims for local impact

Clermont Christian Church has been an institution in town since its founding in 1853. In recent years, the church has become a part of Mt. Pleasant Christian Church, taking the moniker "Impact Clermont."

The church intends to stay in town and the "impact" it wants to have includes service to the community, such as providing for physical needs. The church partakes in a "Love Your Neighbor" event quarterly to pack meals for the hungry.

Campus Director Fenrick James says the church wants to "look

like heaven," where everyone is welcome. Each spring, the church participates in a prom for those with special needs. It hosted a MarioKart tourney for children in June, and on Thursday nights it offers a free adult co-ed basketball open gym (ages 18 and older) from 7 to 9 p.m.

The facility will be undergoing some remodeling, but it can host events for a modest fee, including the kitchen, gym, and meeting rooms.

Contact James at fjames@mpccministry.com for more information.

Roadwork wrapping up

The town's annual road projects are near completion. Residual work remains on Maple, Pine and Birch streets but will be done in July. Street Commissioner Tim Lambard thanks the town's road engineering firm (USI Consultants) and this year's roadwork contractor (Howard Companies) for their collaboration. USI identified town roads that needed attention according to the standardized

asphalt rating system (PASER). The town used grant

funds to save Clermont taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Future projects that Lambard is working on include curbing at road intersections to prevent asphalt deterioration due to cars cutting corners.



A look at the town's wild side

Clermont is an oasis among the suburban and industrial sprawl and still retains its once-rural flavor and connection with nature. You might notice it more in the town's three parks, but this spring wild animals have paid their human Clermont neighbors a few visits.



Since at least March, a wild turkey dubbed Henrietta has been trotting about town. The neighborhood near Dairy Queen is her most frequent haunt, though she has been spotted along Tansel Road a time or two, once seeming hungry for some Mexican fare. A local trail runner may have seen Henrietta roosting in Robey Park.



In June, a swarm of bees moved into town on Black Hawk Lane. Little did they know, someone else already lives there. After they descended upon the residents' oak tree, a friendly call was made to a local beekeeper found on the DNR's website, and the bees were provided a new hive to call their own within a few hours.



Colorful eastern box turtles regularly walk the woods around these parts, but one was waiting for the train at the south tracks one day this summer. A friendly passerby kindly informed it the train has not stopped for passengers here for many years and reminded it that, although slower, walking was a winning way to go.

Notes from the clerk-treasurer's office

Please welcome Grace Brenzek, who joined the town as a part-time clerk in February. She brings a wealth of experience in similar roles and has quickly become a valuable asset to the town.

Brenzek is primarily supporting the clerk-treasurer's office, helping to keep the town's finances in order and ensuring it meets state reporting responsibilities. She is also following up on resident inquiries, phone calls, and online-generated action requests to help the councillors keep on top of

concerns throughout town.

When she is not supporting the clerk's office, she has volunteered her time planting flowers and refurbishing the downtown area flowerpots. Stop by and say hello the next time you see her watering the flowers.

Also, feel free to stop in during town office hours if you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to become more involved in the town. The clerk's office welcomes visitors on the

second and fourth Mondays of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. There will be coffee, snacks, and a councillor or two to chat with on the second Mondays. Other times can be accommodated by appointment.

The clerk's office is currently focused on budget development for the 2026 calendar year. It is a great time to bring project ideas or concerns to your councillors to ensure they can adequately allocate funds to support next year's efforts.



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Linda Straub is a retired nurse who has lived in Clermont for nearly 50 years. Her favorite thing about the Clermont community: the neighbors. While people have come and gone and other aspects of the town have changed, she has always found her neighbors to be kind and ready to offer a lending hand.

Even if you don't know her, you might have seen her riding a tricycle around town. She first took up the tricycle more than 15 years ago as a simpler way to make short trips around town and found the trike to be more comfortable and stable than a bicycle. It is a great form of exercise and socialization; she has ridden as far as Brownsburg and the Kroger on Rockville Road!

Straub recently answered the call to service and began volunteering with the Clermont Tree Allies. Trees have long piqued her interest, and she is glad to support the town's effort to care for trees and other natural resources.

Her advice for anyone new to Clermont: "This is a good place to live. Embrace change and go with the flow."

If you have a neighbor you would like to see featured in the town's communications, email admin@clermont.in.gov



Mosque offers resources to Clermont community

The Sabeel'ul-Faoz Islamic Association of Indianapolis is a Muslim community center founded in 2001 by a group of predominantly West African families. Since 2016, Sabeel'ul-Faoz and its more than 500 members have worshipped together at their mosque in Clermont on Crawfordsville Road.

Islam encourages participation in local communities and supporting those in need through charity and generosity, and so Sabeel'ul-Faoz has several new community initiatives underway or in the planning stages:

- **Food pantry:** Recognizing the large number of community members struggling to get by, Sabeel'ul-Faoz started a food pantry to help provide nourishing meals to its neighbors. The food pantry is open to the public on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month from noon to 2 p.m. at the mosque.
- **Free health clinic:** Preparations are underway to begin a health clinic, leveraging the training and expertise of a number of

health professionals in their membership to provide basic medical services at no cost to patients. The expectation is that it will be open once or twice per month, with details forthcoming later this year.

- **Other plans:** Also in the works are expansion of programming to serve all populations and opening a clothing pantry with free gently used clothing available to those in need.

Neighbors may have noticed celebrations taking place at the mosque in early June to mark one of Islam's major holidays, Eid al-Adha. Known as the "Feast of Sacrifice," the Eid commemorates the Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience and devotion to God. Muslims recognize the occasion with a special Eid prayer and by sharing a festive meal with family, friends, and those in need. They typically also wear their best clothing and exchange gifts.

Sabeel'ul-Faoz leaders emphasize that their events and resources are open to the entire community, regardless of faith.



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ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

*****ECRWSSSEDDM****
Local
Postal Customer

Helping to keep Clermont safe

Town councillor Frank Lemaire serves as police commissioner. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and has lived in Clermont for 36 years. He initially accepted the position of police commissioner and has continued with it because “I wanted to give back to the community,” he says.

The police commissioner’s primary function is to act as primary oversight and key liaison between the police chief and town council. Lemaire’s duties include providing monthly updates on the activities of the police force,

reviewing inventory records of town-owned security property, assisting in the investigation of resident/business complaints, monitoring performance of the police chief and staff, establishing policy standards, advocating for police department needs and concerns, ensuring that the police department follows up with council requests, and making policy recommendations to improve policing.

Lemaire recommends attending the monthly meetings of the town council to voice safety concerns.

Bicycle safety tips

Bicycling is a fun, healthy, and great family activity. During the summer, more people are biking through Clermont, particularly children. The town encourages all residents to do their part to help keep bicyclists safe.

- Ride in the same direction as traffic (the right side).
- Obey traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- Drivers should follow the speed limit and be cautious.

Find more tips at in.gov/towns/clermont/town-services/public-safety/bicycle-safety.



Indy Parks hears residents’ input on Robey Park

Clermont area residents provided input on future improvements to Robey Park at a public meeting held by the Indianapolis Parks Department at Robey Elementary in late June. The City of Indianapolis/Marion County is dedicating \$1 million toward the

city-managed 48-acre park at the southeast corner of Clermont, and the public was invited to share ideas and give direction on how to use the funds.

Projects discussed included a new restroom facility and park shelter, as well as upgraded sports courts,

parking lot, and nature paths.

The parks department will craft a site development plan based on the feedback. The plan is expected to be finalized by the fall so contractor bids can be taken before the end of the year. Construction to occur in 2026.