



# CLERMONT TOWN NEWS

WINTER 2025

## Care for streets, pedestrians, mailboxes

Preserve the life of Clermont roadways by keeping leaves and debris out of storm drains. A clogged or restricted drain will cause water to back up and flood the street. When this happens during the winter, the water may freeze under the pavement and cause cracks, ultimately shortening the life of the streets.

From a safety standpoint, and in accordance with Marion County ordinance, do your best to clear the sidewalk adjacent to your property from snow and ice. This has become an issue along

Crawfordsville Road especially. The town asks all residents and businesses to do their part to keep sidewalks safe for pedestrians. Help your neighbors who cannot do so; ask a neighbor if you need help; or contact [admin@clermont.in.gov](mailto:admin@clermont.in.gov) to see if the town knows a volunteer who might assist.

With winter in full swing, consider buying reflective markers (usually orange or red fiberglass poles) to place anywhere there are obstacles that could be hit by a snow plow or other vehicle when snow obscures the edge of the

road. It seems a mailbox or two gets hit every year around town, so maybe add a few markers along your road. The mailbox you save may be your own.



## Bringing good cheer to Clermont

*Steve Dulworth, Police Chief*

We are fortunate and thankful for our relationship with First Responders Children's Foundation and CSX to donate gifts for Toy Express. Once again our department received 170 cartons of toys that we gave away at the Lions Club community Christmas party. There is nothing better than seeing a child's face light up seeing Santa and getting toys. Thanks to the Lions Club for hosting.

In this season of gratitude, I want to reflect on what makes Clermont such a wonderful place to call home. The season brings more than just the holidays; it's also a reminder of the strength we find in one another, the

value of looking out for our neighbors, and the importance of building a community where everyone feels safe, respected, and cared for.

The Clermont Police are deeply thankful for your trust, your partnership, and your willingness to work alongside each of us to keep our town safe. Crime prevention is not only the work of the police; it's a shared responsibility, whether it's locking your doors, reporting suspicious activity, or simply checking in on a neighbor. Every small act of vigilance helps protect the community we all cherish.

Our officers are proud to serve not only as guardians of safety but also as

caretakers of community spirit. We see the best of Clermont every day in the kindness of strangers, the generosity of volunteers, and the resilience of families who support one another.

As we gather with family and friends this holiday season, let's also remember those who may be alone or in need. A simple gesture, warm meal, friendly conversation, or helping hand can make a world of difference.

On behalf of the entire Clermont Police Department, I wish you and your loved ones a safe, joyful, and peaceful holiday. May your homes be filled with warmth, your tables with abundance, and your hearts with gratitude.



*Clermont Police Department, Santa Claus gave early Christmas presents to Clermont children.*

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Joe Shead is a 15-year member of the Clermont Lions Club and has been its president the past two years. Under his watch as president, the club has taken back full management of its community park, revived the storied Clermont Rodeo event, and had a surge in membership.

“We are committed to serving our community where there is a need. We give helping hands to those in need. Our service projects are performed by dedicated members from a vast educational, social, and altruistic group of volunteers across the community. Our club welcomes anyone with a desire to volunteer to help serve our community’s needs. We just ask that you want to help whenever, wherever the call for service in our community comes,” Shead said.

*If you have a neighbor you would like to see featured in the town’s communications, email [admin@clermont.in.gov](mailto:admin@clermont.in.gov).*

## From the clerk-treasurer’s office

*Larry Beiter, Clerk-Treasurer*

With a full complement of councillors for the whole year for the first time in my experience, my office was busy trying to keep up with their efforts while still managing the town’s routine financial and municipal affairs.

We were fortunate to add Grace Brenzek to our team. She has proved invaluable in handling daily financial and administrative duties. She has also become a resource to follow up on resident issues. Her efforts have allowed me to spend more time with our long-term budget concerns and support of the councillors on their projects, ensuring they have access to the funds they need.

Thank you to the Clermont Watering Team for keeping our

flowerpots and newly planted trees looking great. A special thank-you to Krystal Zimmerman for her time donated leading this group. We look forward to growing to keep pace with trees planted by the Tree Allies and new roadside beds. If you are comfortable driving a work wagon or hauling a bucket of water, email me at [clerk@clermont.in.gov](mailto:clerk@clermont.in.gov) if you have any interest in helping out.

Stop in during our office hours if you have questions or concerns, or to become more involved. The clerk’s office welcomes visitors on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. We have coffee, snacks, and a councillor or two to chat with on the second Monday each month. Other times can be accommodated by appointment.

## Presiding over a hands-on council

Town councillor Sue Topf has served as council president the past two years. She has lived in Clermont since 1974 and was appointed to the town council in 2021 (when COVID masks were still a thing). As president, she oversees council meetings and pays particular attention to town finances (supporting the work of the clerk-treasurer).

Topf said she enjoys having a greater understanding of how the town’s tax dollars are spent, being part of decision-making, and the small-town aspects of the council.

She says people may not realize how “hands-on” Clermont council members are. They do not only attend meetings and make decisions for others to carry out. They often go far beyond to volunteer their personal time to meet with people and contractors,

conduct research and planning, manage complex special projects, and even perform manual labor—like inspecting holiday decorations, watering town plants, and fixing lights. Their collective actions save taxpayers thousands of dollars every year thanks to their willingness to serve.

Topf wants people to know the councillors work well together and are good stewards of the town’s finances.

“We can discuss everything and come to a consensus. We work together as a unit. Although sometimes our opinions differ, we can come to a satisfactory conclusion because we have mutual respect for each other and the citizens of Clermont,” she said.

**Scan to read  
holiday message  
from councillor Topf**





# Tree Allies' first year

*Mallory Abel, Allies Chairperson*

What a first 12 months for the Clermont Tree Allies as we've worked alongside neighbors to make Clermont greener, healthier, and more beautiful!

We planted three new trees at the "Welcome to Clermont" sign on Crawfordsville Road, hosted our first Arbor Day Photo Contest,

and connected with residents at the Lions Club Car Show. We also were in the Town Parade and Festival with a float featuring live trees and handed out native seeds, seedlings, and educational materials while spreading the word about our mission and events. One highlight was hosting Clermont's first community tree sale. Altogether, through our plantings and the

success of the tree sale, 35 trees were added in the Clermont area.

We're proud of what we have accomplished in just one year and are excited for what's ahead! If you have questions, ideas, or want to get involved, reach out anytime at [treeteallies@clermont.in.gov](mailto:treeteallies@clermont.in.gov).

Here's to another year of growing great things in Clermont!

**Top-Right:** Students learned to do tree leaf rubbings at the Tree Allies booth at the Robey Fall Festival in October.  
**Others:** The Allies joined the Clermont Parade.

## Upcoming Power Company Tree Trimming

Members of the Clermont Tree Allies met with the AES Line Clearing Department in December to discuss the utility's upcoming tree trimming projects in town.

The company provided assurances it will abide by ANSI A300 pruning standards and not engage in tree topping except in rarest cases.

It will provide an ISA-certified arborist to serve as foreman and AES staff will also have a stronger presence during the projects. AES delayed work in town until mid-January to provide Clermont residents an extended opportunity to discuss trimming of their trees. Residents with concerns should

contact AES at 317-261-8182 or [aesindianatreetrimming@aes.com](mailto:aesindianatreetrimming@aes.com) as soon as possible. Inform them that you refuse the trimming of your trees until you can speak with their arborist. You should expect a phone call and potentially a site visit by the arborist to take a look and discuss the situation with you.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Erin McNulty has lived in Clermont for 13 years. She and her husband moved here when they fell in love with their affordable 1920s home and how Clermont occupies the perfect spot between the city and suburbs. She is now in her second year as president of the Robey Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO).

### How did you get involved with the PTO?

I previously volunteered while my first child attended Robey after we moved to Clermont in 2012. With a nine-year age gap between my kids, there were a couple years we were not at the school. When my second child went to kindergarten, I told her about all the fun things we would do at school (Santa Shop, Winter Carnival, etc.). I then discovered they no longer had those activities post-COVID. The PTO didn't have the volunteers or chair members needed to host such big events. My husband and I then rejoined the PTO her 1st grade year and we asked if we could bring back some of the activities and were told yes, if we made it happen. So we did!

PTO has had very low attendance post-COVID, and we are working on getting more parents/guardians involved. This year I was blessed with a good support board, but



*Students playing at Robey Fall Festival*



*McNulty (far right), her husband, and other Robey PTO officers deliver popsicles to students after the annual Robey Relays event.*

we have many open positions still available!

### Why do you serve?

I serve because I know I am making a difference in my community. With over 700 kids in the elementary school I know we are making memories for the students and their families. We are currently running my favorite event—Santa Shop—and seeing how excited the kids are to shop for their families as a surprise is very heartwarming.

### What kinds of activities does the PTO do these days?

Our PTO does so much! With our money we are able to host events like a fall festival, a pool party, and a Santa Shop experience. We also help pay for field trip transportation, host school dances and a talent show, fund parent breakfasts, support the Robey basketball program, donate to school clubs, and contribute to teacher classrooms and school needs as they arise. We are always open to hearing new ideas on how we can provide low-cost/free

experiences for families and bridge the gap between home and school.

### How can the people of Clermont be involved?

If you have children who attend Robey, come out and support our events! We can also always use more volunteers. It takes an effort to host our events, and I know the great memories I have with my oldest child in school. I just want to give that opportunity to other families. If you don't have children attending, you can also follow our Facebook page to learn about our dine-to-donate events that give a portion back to the school.

Businesses can also help! Last year local businesses Tin's House, Dairy Queen, and Chapman Heating and Cooling donated \$500 to our PTO basketball program. In May, I reached out to local businesses to donate for our Teacher Appreciation Week and was humbled at the amount we were able to raise to make raffle baskets for our hardworking teachers. I would love to be able to do that again in May 2026! All donations are tax-deductible!

To partner or donate, email [robeypto@gmail.com](mailto:robeypto@gmail.com).



## Report code violation concerns to county

In sports, they often say the best defense is a good offense. Likewise, reporting code violations promptly can help get issues corrected before they grow into larger ones. Nip problems in the bud and report county ordinance violations online at [request.indy.gov/citizen/s/](http://request.indy.gov/citizen/s/) or via the

RequestIndy mobile app. This includes zoning violations (such as auto sales, repairs, or storage business operations at a residence or other unpermitted property), unleashed or loose dogs, excessive event noise, outdoor storage of trash or inoperable vehicles, and abandoned or blighted properties.

# Town maintenance a labor of love made sweeter by volunteer helpers

Town councillor Kim Sauro serves as facilities maintenance commissioner. She has lived in town since 2013 and joined the council in 2023 to be more involved and draw on her experience in procurement, construction, and landscaping. Her duties include keeping the town hall, police station, Miller Park, Clermont Cemetery, town maintenance barn, and town-managed roadsides in order. She also makes sure the flowers, banners, and decorations along Crawfordsville Road are taken care of.

Since entering her role, she says she has learned more about budgeting, project management, and community organizing.

“Every role does come with its challenges, and serving as a council member is no different. Overcoming obstacles, whether it’s budgets or differing opinions, strengthens my leadership abilities. It also helps by making my success even more meaningful,” Sauro said. “The best thing I enjoy about this role is driving the gator around town while working on small projects and meeting our residents and interacting with them. It feels great to meet neighbors on a personal level, to talk and understand their needs and concerns.



**Above/below:** IU Health employee-volunteers made roadside planting beds in a day of service coordinated by town councillor Kim Sauro.

These interactions help me tailor our efforts within the town to benefit the people that make up our community.”

Sauro says maintenance is never-ending and that she could not do it all without the help of volunteers.

“Our small town budget constraints leave us relying on volunteers to help shape the town into a community where you can sense a source of pride as you drive through it,” she said. “The spirit of community, benefiting people in the future, and knowing that you have a part in shaping our town really have helped make a difference in Clermont.”

If you have a few hours that you could dedicate from time to time, Sauro would like to hear from you. Painting, fixing holiday lights, helping with flags and banners, watering flowers, tinkering on small tools and equipment, and many more opportunities to serve always exist.

Remember, in the world of a small town, even the smallest actions can have the biggest impacts.



PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S.POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*  
Local  
Postal Customer

## Beware: Tree topping illegal

Did you know that the common practice of tree topping is illegal in Marion County? Clermont also passed its own ordinance in 2023 that forbids anyone from topping trees in town (public or private property).

Topping disfigures trees and creates large wounds that leave them susceptible to disease and insects, shortens their lifespan, and spurs weakly attached branches. In Clermont, topping is defined as the severe cutting back to stubs of limbs, branches, or stems larger than three inches in diameter, or more than two years old, at an

indiscriminate location. It is not synonymous with tree trimming or pruning in general. The maximum fine for tree topping in Clermont is \$500 for each offense.

When you hire a tree service in Clermont, inform the company or individual that it is illegal for them to top your trees and they should be prepared for a possible fine by the town if they do so. If they do not know what topping is, direct them to the town's website for the ordinance.

*Scan to read  
about tree topping  
on Clermont website*



## Officer honored

State Senator J.D. Ford presented copies of Senate Resolution 12 to the family of late Clermont policeman David Sutton. The resolution memorialized him for honorable service to the town for 20 years, until his passing in 2024.

## Join town meetings and events in 2026

### MEETINGS, CHATS

Tree Allies meetings in 2026 will be at 6 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month. Town council meetings will be at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month. Clermont Chats will be 9-11 a.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

### ARBOR DAY, TREE PLANTING WEEK

Arbor Day is April 24, and Tree Planting Week in Clermont will be April 26 through May 2. The Clermont Tree Allies will host an event to observe the occasion. Subscribe to town emails or follow on Facebook for event details when they are released.

### COMMUNITY YARD SALE

The town council has set the third weekend in May for a community yard sale. Those in town who wish to have a spring yard sale should do so on May 15-17

to take advantage of increased promotions by the town in 2026. Residents may have a yard sale on any or all of the dates, and there are no set hours.

The town is open to coordinating promotional efforts with nearby subdivisions and neighborhoods.

If you have questions, suggestions, or would like to register your yard sale, please email [admin@clermont.in.gov](mailto:admin@clermont.in.gov). You do not need to be a resident within town limits to register.

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Clermont Police Department will host a community event at Lions Club Park at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4. The fun, family friendly event aims to bring Clermont residents together with law enforcement to build relationships and take a stand against crime.