



The Thunderbird



The Official Newsletter of Indian Lake Borough, Somerset County, Pennsylvania

DAM REMEDIATION UPDATE

We anticipate advertising Phase II, Part 2 in the spring of 2009. This involves grouting the existing tow drain to eliminate the seepage that presently exists. This will require the drilling of approximately 250 holes on the downstream embankment, (ranging in depth from 80' to 10') and filling with concrete under pressure. This work will require us to draw the lake down approximately 20-30 feet. **We plan on beginning this drawdown on September 1, 2009.** The reason for this significant drawdown is to bring the water level down below the old drain, which will prevent the concrete from being washed out, and allow us to get an effective seal. We have forwarded a request to the Lake Stonycreek Board of Directors, to draw their lake down 5' to bring their pool level below our drain elevation. This is a critical aspect of the dam remediation process that will ensure the integrity of our lake into the future.

You can be assured that we will not draw the lake down any more than is necessary to complete the grouting work properly. Once the grouting process is completed (anticipated to be December 2009), the Borough will close the valve and bring the water level up to the 12' level from the normal pool level, until the ice clears from the lake in March of 2010.

We will continue to remind our residents of the **September 1st drawdown schedule**, and make you aware of any changes that may arise.

DEP GENERAL PERMIT- 11 APPROVAL

On January 12, 2009 the Department of Environmental Protection Southwest Regional Office had approved the General Permit 11 (GP-11) that the Indian Lake Borough applied for on September 22, 2008.

Within the approval, there are a few stipulations that you must be aware of. The approval is for maintenance of the existing boat docks only. The maintenance of seawalls and dredging has been sent to the Army Corp. of Engineers for the Federal Approval which is required for these proposals. What this means is that all property owners that had sent in their pictures and/or drawings into the Indian Lake Borough Office on or before September 22, 2008 have been approved to do maintenance work on their docks only. If the repair work involves replacement of the entire dock structure, an approved building permit from the Indian Lake Borough Office is required before any work begins. If you are planning to replace one or two boards and/or re-painting or water sealing the dock structure, a building permit from the Borough Office is not required and you may start your project at any time.

The second and final stipulation that was included in the GP-11 involves removal of trees. Trees cannot be cut down between March 31 and November 16 due to the endangered Indiana Bat that will crawl behind the loose bark of trees. If your repair work requires a tree to be cut down, while a tree cutting permit from the Borough is required, such a permit cannot be granted during the period of March 31 through November 16 based on the DEP restriction.

If you are not sure when you sent your pictures and/or drawings in to the Borough Office, just call the Borough Office at 1-814-754-8161 and I can check my files to let you know when your information was received at the Borough Office. If I am not in the office, please leave me a message with your name, lot number, and a phone number where I can reach you. I will find your information and let you know.

Dean Snyder
Zoning Enforcement Officer

2009 BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAX INCREASE

As many of you are probably aware, Borough Council had many tough decisions to make in preparing the 2009 Budget. One of those difficult decisions was the need for a tax increase to meet our debt service obligations associated with the ongoing dam remediation project. Your 2009 Borough/County Real Estate Tax notices will reflect a 2.5 millage increase, bringing the total Borough mills to 13. Council is continuing to actively seek any financial assistance, including from the recently passed federal spending bill that might be available through the state or federal government.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Since adoption of amendments to the Borough Zoning Ordinance, a number of issues have arisen that need to be addressed so that the zoning ordinance is clear, understandable, and enforceable.

To address these issues, the president of Borough Council, Mr. Michael Miscoe, appointed a committee to review each section of the ordinance. The members of the committee are Mr. Miscoe (chair), Mr. Moore (member of council), Dean Snyder (zoning enforcement officer) and two public members; Mr. Carl Chapman and Mr. Ron Petrina. To ensure that this process is as transparent as possible, beyond advertisement as required by the state Sunshine Act, information will be posted on the Borough website. The kickoff meeting will be held on Thursday February 26, 2009 at the Borough building. Meetings will be held thereafter on the first and third Thursday's of the month. Work is anticipated to be complete by the end of June. The timing of completion of the committee's work is purposefully designed to allow publication of the proposed amendments during the summer months to permit as much community input as possible. Lot-owners and full/part-time residents are encouraged to attend the committee meetings and offer input.

Once the committee has completed the draft of the amendments; the planning commission review, public comment, and approval process outlined in the Municipalities Planning Code will begin. All residents are encouraged to participate in this process.

AVOID COSTLY WATER LINE BREAKS!

Recently, during an extremely cold period, a serious water shortage occurred. On a weekend in January, we began receiving calls from some of our residents, reporting low water pressure and some having no water at all. After investigating the problem, our Borough employees found the 250,000 gallon storage tank along the Buckstown Road empty. They immediately began searching for a break in the main line. After failing to detect a line break, they began a door to door search looking for water escaping from unattended homes. They found a total of 4 homes that were flooded with water. The line breaks were internal to these homes and were caused by the homeowner's failure to either heat the structure or shut off service and winterize the lines.

The Borough will, at no cost to the property owner, disconnect and reconnect a resident's water service once a year. By taking advantage of this service, the affected residents could have avoided the extensive damage to their homes and the Borough could have avoided the costs, which all property owners must bear, associated with the manpower involved in searching for the break as well as the cost associated with the loss of 250,000 gallons of treated water. At this point in time there is no financial penalty associated with failing to take the necessary steps to avoid a line break in your home; however, because of the expense associated with such a substantial loss of water, if the problem persists, it may become necessary to impose the costs on the property owner who failed to take proper precautions.

To get your water shut off or turned back on, the Borough asks that you call the Borough office at 814-754-8161 at least 24 hours prior to the time you are requesting the water to be shut off.

BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION CLASS

Once again, the Indian Lake Borough Police Department will be offering the Boating Safety Education Class so people can acquire their certificates. This will be held on May 23rd and May 24th each day from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon. Please call 814-267-3776 to register or stop by the office for a class registration form. For others who cannot attend, please check the PA Fish and Boat Commission web site for on line testing at www.fish.state.pa.us or 1-888-723-4741 for classes in your area.

BOAT LICENSE FEE SCHEDULE

The 2009 budget has incorporated the following boat license fee schedule for the upcoming year:

Primary Powered	\$ 50.00	General	\$600.00
Primary Non-Powered	\$ 15.00	Replacement License Fee	\$ 20.00
Secondary Powered	\$150.00	License Transfer Fee	\$ 50.00
Secondary Non-Powered	\$ 15.00		

2009 BOATING LICENSING INFORMATION

Again, the Borough Office will only be accepting and processing boat license applications via the U.S. Postal Service for the 2009 Boating Season. By doing so, it will not only save you time by not having to wait in line but will also be easier for the office personnel.

Applying by mail is fast and easy. Just send:

- Your completed application.
- A copy of your state registration card for any powered watercrafts.
- A copy of your certificate of insurance liability (for powered watercrafts and sailboats)
- A check or money order for the license fees.

The Borough will process your application and you should have your licenses within twenty days.

Prior to the initial or first registration of a boat for use on the waters of Indian Lake, the boat shall be measured by the Indian Lake Borough Police Department for compliance with the length limitations. The Police Department shall make such measurements within thirty (30) days of the Borough's receipt of the application for a license for the boat, by appointment only. Please call 814-267-3776 to schedule your appointment.

Placement of your Indian Lake Borough License is to be behind the PA Fish and Boat Commission registration license.

BOATING REMINDER FROM OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Last year we noticed that some of the boats were traveling in a clock wise direction on the lake. Indian Lake Borough Boating Ordinance No. 116 requires that **all boat traffic must maintain a left hand or counter-clock wise pattern at all times**. When you purchase your boat licenses each year, you are provided with a synopsis of the boating rules and regulations for both the Borough and the PA Boat and Fish Commission. As a responsible boater, it is your responsibility to know these regulations, so please take the time to review them. If you wish to have a complete copy of the Boating Ordinance, please contact the Borough Office and one can be provided to you at a minimal cost. Please help keep your lake safe by reviewing these rules each year.

WINTER SNOW PLOWING

Here are some important reminders to help the Borough Crew with their snow plowing efforts:

Vehicles which remain parked on the roadway not only inhibit the effective clearing of snow, but they are also a hazard to plow operators and other motorists. If a vehicle is seriously impeding the safe use of the road, the Borough will have it removed at the owner's expense.

When clearing your driveway entrance, snow should be piled on the side of the driveway toward which the snow will be dragged by the plow. If piled on the other side (the side from which the plow approaches) the snow will be dragged across your driveway entrance. Never shovel snow directly onto the roadway, not only is it a hazard to other motorists, but more than likely it will end up being plowed back across your driveway entrance.

NOTE FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Indian Lake Borough Police Department is not a 24-hour department. Therefore, if you need to speak with an officer, and it is not an emergency, but requires a quicker response than leaving a message at our office please use the Somerset County non-emergency number of 814-445-1525. For emergency situations, please use 911. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our department. Have a safe summer! Chief Dee Miller and Officer Shawn Hillegas.

LEASH LAW

During the last couple of years, the Borough Office and the Police Department have received more complaints concerning dogs running loose in the Borough. Borough Ordinance No. 5 states: "No domestic animals such as dogs and cats shall be kept upon said premises unless they are properly confined or ***maintained on a leash*** to prevent their roaming onto other property owned by other persons in the Borough and to prevent their making of noises offensive to other persons in the Borough." Should your pet be found roaming the Borough without being properly confined or maintained on a leash, a fine of up to \$300.00 can be imposed. This ordinance is necessary to ensure your pet's safety from attack by the unrestrained pets of others, as well as to ensure that everyone remains undisturbed on their property. Please be respectful of others and comply with the Borough leash law.

HIKING AND BIKING TRAIL BENCHES AND PICNIC TABLES

The public comment regarding the McIntyre Hiking and Biking Trail has been very positive. Two of the main comments we have had from numerous people, is that they would like to have benches located along the trail to rest and relax in the serene surroundings that the trail travels through. We have also had requests for picnic tables to be placed at a couple of the trailheads.

We are currently researching various designs, and deciding how many benches would be appropriate to be placed along the 2 ½ mile trail. We will be able to announce the cost of each item when the final design is established. There has been interest by some of our residents, to purchase a bench to be placed in memory or in honor of loved ones. For this application, we are considering placing the lettering indented into the wood to make it a permanent memorial. We plan to also make the bench and table sponsorships available to businesses as well. If you would like to donate or place a bench or table for any purpose, please call the Borough Office at 814-754-8161, for additional information and to have your name placed on the sponsor list.

FROM YOUR LOCAL SOMERSET AREA AMBULANCE SERVICE

If you are at your Indian Lake residence and call 911 for an ambulance, do you know which service the Somerset County dispatch center will send first? They will dispatch the same station that responded first to the September 11, 2001 crash of Flight 93 and the same ambulance service that stood by for over 3 days while nine coal miners were trapped underground in their amazing July 2002 rescue. That service is the Somerset Area Ambulance Association.

The annual membership drive begins in July of each year. The cost for a membership in 2008 was \$25 for an individual or \$35 for a family. Not only do membership donations continue to insure the financial stability and growth of this valuable service, but being a member will insure that there are no out of pocket costs to members for an emergency ambulance response no matter what type of insurance coverage.

Somerset Ambulance would like to thank Indian Lake Borough for their support and hope that we can continue our working relationship for years to come.

Donations and/or membership contributions should be sent to: Somerset Area Ambulance, P.O. Box 615, Somerset, PA 15501.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SHANKSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Sub Sales - February 28th and March 28th. You can sign up for subs at Ida's Country Store or Stonycreek Pizza before the 20th of each month; you can pick your sub up at either location or call one of your local firemen. They are made by the fireman on the morning of the 28th. Cost is \$6.00.

Recently, the Shanksville Volunteer Fire Department had Ice Rescue training on Lake Stonycreek. There were 20 members present for this training. They used the tools and sled to do some ice rescuing and braved the cold waters and cold air to hone their rescue skills in the event that they are ever needed at either of the lakes. Soon you can check out their web site for pictures.

The fire departments monthly meetings are the first Thursday of every month at the Fire Hall on North Street at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. This may give the community an idea of what they do and what needs to be done. The fire department has tallied all the training and hours for the month of January and they will present them at the next meeting. Also, Dan Black will be doing the budget.

The old fire hall on Main St. is for sale if anyone is interested.

VISIT THE BOROUGH WEBSITE TO STAY INFORMED

To improve our ability to keep all property owners informed, the Borough has obtained a new website. You can reach this new site at www.IndianLakePa.us. Our old site at www.Indian-Lake.pa.us now reflects you automatically to our new site. The new site is more easily updated and includes a calendar of all upcoming events so that you can more easily remain informed of what is going on in the Borough.