

E-NEWS JUNE 2012 INDIAN LAKE BOROUGH

E-News is simply a brief report on current Indian Lake Borough issues, and E-News is posted on the Indian Lake Borough Web site as well as distributed by email. E-News will be repetitive at times but repetition is a method used in the learning process.

Here is the link to Indian Lake Borough web site some of you requested:

www.indianlakepa.us

At Indian Lake, as the musical lyrics go, "June is busting out all over". As you ride around the lake and drive around the lake, it is a pleasure to see the flowers, the hanging baskets, the fresh mulch and the new landscaping. Thank you residents. Also, in keeping with the baseball season, Mother Nature threw us two curve balls - an unbelievable rain event of 3+ inches in one hour and a hailstorm that deposited hail stones the size of marbles on our decks, porches, driveways and roads.

LONG TERM FINANCING

Council should receive copies of the signed final legal documents in July and the payment schedule has already begun.

LAKE/ENVIRONMENT - Lynn Shimer

1. Bill Kirkpatrick did the weed treatment on June 18th for Elodea and pond weed and our lake was closed to lake activity June 18th and June 19th . We thank the following volunteer who patrolled the lake:

Jim and Patti Dewar, Paul and Natalie Cornez, Roger Haynes, Weldon and Dawn Lovely, Bob and Patty Marhefka, Nelson Migdal, Don and Gay Reed, Forrest and Gloria Schucker, Don and Suzann Williams and our police Dept.

2. Remember do not feed the fowl life... The amount they defecate into our lake and lake side properties is unbelievable- an adult goose defecates 1 ½ lbs of waste per day.

3. DEP was sent our application for a lake draw down and we have received approval. Rather than do two consecutive lake draw downs, council will work with the dam engineers and DEP schedule for Phase III. The drawn down will be either this fall or next fall. We will immediately let our residents know the status when our engineers and DEP inform us.

DAM UPDATE - Paul Cornez

The applications (3 of them) for the work on the final phase of the dam remediation project are nearly ready for submittal to the various permitting agencies. The three required permits are for the actual work on the dam, from the Division of Dam Safety, Department of Environmental Protection. For the relocation of the water line from well number 99-1, from the Division of Water Quality, Department of Environmental Protection. The third required permit is for the Erosion and Sedimentation (NPDES) plan.

The Bid Documents for the work are essentially complete and will probably be issued at

the end of July, pending the above mentioned permitting.

We have obtained the permit to lower our Lake this year, which will we do so IF the above mentioned permits are obtained and the remaining Flowage Easements are obtained in time to perform this work this year. Any delays will result in NOT lowering the Lake this year but lowering it and doing the work in 2013.

FLOWAGE EASEMENTS/EMINENT DOMAIN - Bob Hanson

A total of 465, all but 70, easements have been signed and recorded. The promised waiver, of any language that might be interpreted as restricting construction in the expanded easement area, has been adopted by the Borough and is being filed on top of the easements as well. All that is left to do on the remaining 70 is filing eminent domain Declarations of Taking so that we can get DEP permits to do the work and move on. DEP is reviewing the paperwork 'in good faith', but has been emphatic that no permit will be issued until all easements are in hand.

The eminent domain process should be swift and straightforward. The Borough files a Declaration of Taking. A property owner may protest within 30 days, but only that the Declaration is improper or unnecessary. With the DEP position in writing and 465+ other property owners concurring that we are taking appropriate action, it seems likely that in this first part we will prevail.

Then we can get our permits.

For a period of ~5 years a property owner can challenge that the value of the property has been diminished by the taking of the easement. We feel this challenge is not likely to be successful either, since our actions are saving the lake and, unlike other types of easements, flowage easements do not restrict use in any way (as further emphasized and clarified by the waiver...). Win or lose, however, this part could be costly in terms of legal fees. Let's hope we can avoid that. Further enriching lakefront property values at the expense of back-lot taxpayers just doesn't seem very fair.

ROADS AND MAINTENANCE - Terry St. Clair

As most of the residents know, we had large rain storms over the Memorial Day weekend. The golf course registered close to 3 inches of rainfall in a short period of time. This was probably the worst washout since 1995. Our short handed road crew has been stretched to the limit with this and replacing new water lines on West Shore Trail. A lot of the road berms are still washed out and will take some time to repair. A large percentage of Borough residents had some kind of water runoff damage, which is understandable since the ground just cannot absorb that volume of water in a short period of time. We appreciate your patience, but Borough residents having necessary drinking water naturally takes precedence over drainage remediation.

As a reminder, unfortunately the Borough will not come onto private property to do any work or cleanup. Our limited Tax dollars and Borough policy will not allow it. It is the Borough's responsibility to maintain the roads and to do its best to keep the ditches and culverts cleaned out. Since this last storm, we have decided to use a larger R4 stone in the

ditches which are prone to washout. The larger stone will stay in place a lot better than the #3 stone which they had been using.

This years paving contract was awarded to New Enterprise last week. The paving this year will include East Fairway, Indian Drive and the Christian Center Road. The main Indian Drive road from the Christian Center to Peninsula will be done with a scratch and leveling course and a top wearing course. We have started a new policy that on all main roads, we are going to add an extra 2 feet of pavement width to all inside curves. This will make it safer for bicycles and motorcycles who constantly have to navigate the loose shale that has been pushed back onto the road as motorists cut the corners too close. The main Indian Road will be closed for approximately two days while this work is going on. Please watch the newsletters and web site, as we will post these closure times when we are notified. It will most likely be after the Fourth of July and before August 10th.

Thank You - Terry St.Clair

BOAT LICENSES

*****Theresa and council thank you for your patience this year*****

There are 10 general licenses left for sale.

Included with your licenses were the boating rules for Indian Lake. These were also listed in our mayor's newsletter. Please review these, and also post the rules in your home and/or on your boat so that your family and relatives and friends and guests are familiar with these regulations. Our goal is for our boaters to have a safe experience on the lake within the context of enjoyment.

GARBAGE/TRASH - (repeat and current)

Remember no trash pickup on Monday September 3 which is Labor Day. It will be picked up on September 4th.

Residents have two options – either contract for garbage service or take your garbage “home” with you.

Reminder – do not use private dumpsters or your neighbor's garbage cans, or vacant property, or borough's property to dump your garbage. It is a theft of service and you will receive a citation if reported.

WATER/SEWER - Bob Hanson

Well #2/Buckstown Tank: The boil-drinking-water notice is still in effect. The digging is essentially complete and the new plumbing [a few new valves and fire hydrants] is in place. It needs to be connected to the pump house, filled and tested, and then disconnected while DEP mulls over the permit request. The work was done 'in-house' by our own workforce, augmented by Carl Chapman and Jake. CME engineering did some in-process checks. Everything so far has gone smoothly, and at a considerable savings.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Floodplain Management

Ordinance 160, and the new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) - Bob Hanson

After a delay of 2 years FEMA has issued our new high-res, digital FIRMS which will become effective September 19, 2012. In conjunction with these new maps will be a new Floodplain Management Ordinance, Ordinance 160, replacing Ordinance 55. FEMA and their Pennsylvania counterpart, PEMA, have endorsed new Ordinance 160. With Council's approval, Ordinance 160 was advertised in the Daily American on May 31, 2012 and at the June 13, 2012 council meeting, Ordinance 160 was adopted. Via Ordinance 160, in conjunction with the new FIRMs, Indian Lake Borough will be in compliance with this latest federal mandate, allowing residents to obtain FEMA-backed flood insurance.

The new maps are under the **INFO** then **Flood Insurance Maps** tabs on the web site. Ordinance 160 is under the **INFO** then **Ordinances** tabs.

POLICE - Mike Miscoe

We have one part time police officer, Mark Custer, on duty and a new "used" vehicle. At the June 13, 2012 council meeting, council ratified a motion to hire another part time police officer, Richard Brant. He will begin his duties when his new uniforms and patches arrive.

REMINDER: obey the law, and for the safety of others and for your own safety, abide by the legal speed limits posted in our borough. The police will enforce the posted speed limits.

REPEAT REMINDER - Study the boating regulations that were sent out by our mayor in his news letter, that are posted on our web site and that were included with you boat license information.

SKI SLALOM COURSE

There is no "perfect" place to locate the ski course, and every year, Council receives comments about the placement. The overall process - the Ski Club must get a permit from the Fish Commission to place the ski course on Indian Lake and there are three locations that the Fish Commission has approved. After getting the permit Council's process is:

- 1.- The Indian Lake Ski Club requests permission to put the slalom course on Indian Lake per the permit by the Fish Commission.
- 2.- Council reviews the placement and the insurance policy provided by the Ski Club
- 3.- After this review, Council approves the request with the restriction that the ski course and buoys have to be placed in a different location every two years.

We appreciate your input. If you have additional comments, refer them to Theresa (office) and to Robert Oates, President of the Ski Club.

BOROUGH OFFICE TELECOMMUNICATION UPGRADE - Bob Hanson

Big words. Little effort. Pretty big deal... We received an offer from Comcast for High-Speed Internet, Cable and Telephone that will save us more than \$3000 per year and give us greatly expanded features, capability and bandwidth. A portion of the savings will be spent upgrading the Office computers and Wi-Fi network, precluding the need to budget for that over the next few years. The existing infrastructure (less the current phone service) will remain intact and be used as a backup. All at a cost savings of \$1000 to our budget.

FIREWORKS JUNE 30TH

Don't forget the Service Corp's annual fireworks display will be Saturday, June 30th. As in the past, the fireworks will be launched just after dark from the breast of the dam on the Marina side. There will be festivities during the day at the Marina and the Somerset County Community Band will begin playing in prelude at 8:00 p.m. Rain date is July 7th.
ENJOY !!

In your service,

Patricia Dewar

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