



Indian Lake Borough

Office of the Mayor

May 2, 2014

With gradually improving temperatures and rainfall that is ever so slowly restoring the lake to its normal pool level, we are looking forward to another fun but safe summer season at Indian Lake. At the risk of being redundant, please review the following information so that the season can be fun and safe for all.

SPEEDING IN THE BOROUGH

As the summer months approach and more of our part-time residents return to the Borough, pedestrian and vehicle traffic on the roads increases and for that reason speeding within the Borough creates a significant safety issue for all concerned. While those wishing to walk/bike are encouraged to use the hiking/biking trail in the Borough, you are free to use the roads; however, please do so responsibly (as most of you do). Remember that the primary purpose of the roads is for vehicular traffic. As such, please be sure to stay to the side of the road facing on-coming traffic. Please remember to wear bright or reflective garments and if walking in the early morning or evening, be sure to take a flashlight so that you can be seen by motorists. If walking with your pets, please remember that all pets are required to be on a leash.

Those driving within the Borough are asked to be especially mindful of their speed and watch out for pedestrians. The posted speed limit in most places around the Borough is 30 mph. There are many blind hills and curves where extra caution is necessary. Fair warning - the Police Department will issue speeding citations to those who travel in excess of posted limits. Our goal is not to write citations but rather to deter speeding so as to ensure that the roads remain safe for vehicles and pedestrians alike.

BOATING SAFETY

As we approach boating season, a few reminders are appropriate. According to the PA Fish & Boat Commission regulations, some adults, even those operating conventional power boats, need to take the Boating Safety Course and obtain your Safety Certificate. The following is from the PA Fish & Boat Commission web site:

Boating Safety Education Certificates are required:

- *To operate a personal watercraft;*
- *For persons born on or after January 1, 1982, to **operate boats powered by motors greater than 25 horsepower.***

Approved permanent Boating Safety Education Certificates for Pennsylvania residents must be issued by the PA Fish & Boat Commission. Out of state boaters must have a certificate issued for a course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).

Therefore, anyone **under the age of 32** needs to have a Boating Safety Certificate to operate a power boat with a motor greater than 25 horsepower and all operators of a PWC (jetski) must have passed the Boating Safety Education Course. Additionally, make sure that you maintain sufficient personal floatation devices, a fire extinguisher, and a signaling whistle or horn on your boat. The Fish Commission, who also patrols the lake, regularly checks for these safety items and issues citations where deficiencies are identified.

For those who anticipate inviting guests to the lake, it is the lot owner's responsibility to ensure that anyone they permit to use their boat is properly licensed and aware of the boating rules of Indian Lake. **The boating ordinance provides for fines against a lot owner in cases where a guest violates a provision of the boating ordinance.**

Those needing certification can take the course on-line (<http://www.boat-ed.com/pennsylvania/>)

A reminder of a few of our Lake-specific boating rules is appropriate as well.

1. The lake traffic pattern is COUNTER-CLOCKWISE.
2. All powerboats must remain at least 100 feet from the shoreline or any dock or watercraft. In the narrow areas of the lake, you may have to give way to boats towing skiers and tubes in order to maintain 100' of separation.
3. Jet Ski operators are reminded that operation of a Jet Ski within 100' of a boat, moving or not, is illegal. DO NOT "jump the wake" behind a moving boat.
4. No boat may be operated above wake speed prior to official sunrise or after official sunset. If operating at night, be sure to check the operation of your navigation and marker lights.
5. Every watercraft on Indian Lake requires a boating permit. Permit applications were mailed in February to all residents who had a boat permitted last year. **Remember, the Borough Ordinance requires that a boat must have a valid PA and Indian Lake Registration sticker to even be placed on the lake.** We have asked the Marina and other boat storage facilities to assist us relative to enforcement of the ordinance by not placing a boat on the water unless it has a valid registration sticker. So that we can avoid any last minute rush as well as the potential of a citation, please take a moment and get your Lake registration application along with the necessary proof of insurance and PA Boat registration information into the Borough office.

Remember that if you are bringing a new boat (includes non-powered boats such as kayacks, canoes, as well as sail boats) onto Indian Lake, that boat must be inspected and measured for length by the Police Department in order to receive a Indian Lake Boat Permit sticker. To arrange to have your boat inspected, please contact the Police Department on the non-emergency line - (814) 754-3231. As our officers spend little time in the office, you will likely need to leave a message. You can expect an officer to return your call at the end of the current shift or at the beginning of the next. You may also e-mail your request to police@indianlakepa.us. Please be sure to provide a phone number so that an officer can contact you.

While some will undoubtedly procrastinate, I would encourage you to take care of getting your application completed and sent to the Borough Office with any required proof of registration and insurance as soon as possible. For those that do procrastinate, you can go to the Borough office and obtain your boat license by paying an additional fee for "over-the-counter" service. Experience also has taught me that there are also some that will procrastinate and forget about their registrations until a holiday weekend. Please understand that our employees do not work on holiday weekends such as Memorial Day and 4th of July weekends and as a result, immediate service will not be available. Boating without a current registration is not a solution. While I hope it is not necessary for the Police to issue a \$300 citation to anyone because they did not

obtain their boating registration, I have instructed them to do so without warning. Please be responsible and get your registration completed now. There is no point in delaying.

A copy of the boating regulations is provided with each boating license. **PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THIS INFORMATION REGARDLESS OF HOW LONG YOU HAVE BOATED AT INDIAN LAKE.** If nothing else, it will serve as a good refresher.

The Police will patrol the lake to ensure that no one's safety is compromised. Again, our goal is not to write citations but rather to ensure that the lake remains a safe recreational environment. For those that routinely follow the rules – thank you! If you see someone that is not as knowledgeable about our rules, be polite and share your knowledge with them. Our goal is to ensure that all boaters will operate responsibly so that enforcement is not necessary. Remember that boating on Indian Lake is a privilege requiring all who exercise that privilege to do so according to the boating regulations. If we can collectively achieve this goal we can be sure that ALL can have an enjoyable and safe boating season. Thanks in advance for doing your part!

BUOYS AND FLOATING RAFTS

The following is intended to remind all of the ordinance provisions relative to Buoy's and Floating rafts and to give anyone who is not in conformance with these standards the opportunity to take appropriate remedial measures as a means of mitigating the need for formal enforcement.

BUOY'S

According to the boating ordinance, a lakefront lot owner may install a buoy **no more than 40'** from the shoreline at a point perpendicular to the shoreline at the side property line. Before installing such a buoy, realize that a permit is also required from the PA Fish Commission. To the extent that a buoy is a "structure" as defined in the Zoning Ordinance, an encroachment permit issued by the zoning officer is also required. In the past, there have been several buoys throughout the lake that have been installed well beyond the 40' limit. These can create safety hazards to boaters and skiers alike. If a buoy is identified as being beyond the 40' limit, Police will move it to the appropriate distance once. If the buoy is moved back in violation of the Ordinance, the Police will issue a citation in addition to removal of the buoy.

FLOATING RAFTS:

It is noted that a number of residents have installed floating rafts/swim platforms beyond the shoreline in front of their property. While these structures are not defined in the Zoning Ordinance, to the extent that they are an encroachments, an encroachment permit is necessary (granted by the Zoning Officer). Understand also that the Zoning Ordinance grants a permissive use area of only 30' into the lake for property bordering any residential district (R-1/Park). Please contact the Borough Zoning Officer to obtain the appropriate encroachment permit and remember that these floating rafts must be kept within 30' of the shoreline. Finally, if anchoring to the lake bottom (as opposed to tying them to something on the shoreline) you may additionally need a DEP Chapter 105 small project permit similar to a floating dock.

BE GOOD NEIGHBORS

Indian Lake has always been a community where folks come to have fun. Unfortunately, consider that your fun might be a nuisance to your neighbors and with respect to fireworks, is also likely illegal. PA has very restrictive laws pertaining to the type of fireworks that may be used legally and these laws

differ substantially from the laws in nearby states such as Maryland and Virginia. We have received a number of noise complaints associated with not only loud music being played on the lake late at night, but the discharging of explosive fireworks (which are illegal in PA) at all hours of the day and night.

With respect to music, all are reminded that we have a diverse community of all ages. After 11:00, please keep the noise down so that everyone, especially those with children, can enjoy a restful night's sleep. With respect to fireworks, because of the danger to persons and property as well as the fact that explosive types of fireworks are illegal in PA, all are asked to respect the law as well as your neighbors by refraining from use of such fireworks. The police will issue appropriate citations to those who discharge fireworks illegally.

CONTACTING POLICE

If you have an issue where you need the Police dispatched (i.e. suspicious activity, traffic complaints, etc) please call 911 so that an on-duty officer can be dispatched. As of April 9th, Michael Jacobs is the new OIC of the Indian Lake Police Department. Feel free to contact him on the non-emergency line - (814) 754-3231 should you have any non-emergency issue requiring police intervention. Please understand that the police non-emergency line / answering machine is checked only once or twice per day.

THANKS TO INDIAN LAKE MARINA

Once again I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to Marc Alaia and the Indian Lake Marina for storage of the Police Boat this past winter at no cost to the taxpayers. The Marina has also graciously provided docking space to the Borough at no cost. Be sure to thank Marc for his generosity to the Borough the next time you stop by the Marina.

/s/

Michael Miscoe

Mayor, Indian Lake Borough