



# Indian Lake Borough

Office of the Mayor

## Mayor's Newsletter – November 2, 2012

### **2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT RESCHEDULED TO THIS WEEKEND!**

The first annual Indian Lake trunk or treat event was a great success. While we attempted to hold this event last weekend, the weather did not cooperate. As a result, this event has been rescheduled to SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>. Kids should meet at the Lodge at 11:45 am. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour Saturday night.

Similar to last year, we will have three hay wagons for kids and adults and will travel from the Lodge to Peninsula Drive, proceed around the Peninsula to Palmer drive, up Palmer drive and return to the Lodge. The procession will be escorted by the Indian Lake Police Cruiser and an emergency vehicle from the Shanksville Volunteer Fire Department.

For those along the route, we will periodically chirp the sirens to let you know we are getting close. I encourage all of those who will be in the Borough to support this rather unique approach to trick-or-treating for our little ones at the lake (whose numbers are growing!).

Those not along the hay wagon route can participate in the “Trunk or Treat” and provide treats for the kids at the lodge from the backs of their cars upon our return of the Hayride. Last year, many decorated their trunks or the backs of SUV's in Halloween themes and provided candy to kids on their return. The Indian Lake Police will be providing a brief “stranger danger” talk to the kids and Sean Daniels, the Captain of the Fire Department will do a brief talk on fire safety.

Thanks again to my wife Susie for planning this event. Many thanks also to Pat and Terry St. Clair of Indian Lake resort for their assistance in providing the meeting location and a trailer. Thanks also to thank Scott Swank and my brother Geoff for providing the other trailers we will use. I also want to thank our fire department in advance for supporting this event. Please remember them during their next fund drive.

Thanks also in advance to all of our residents that will come out to make this a great event for the kids of Indian Lake Borough.

### **HURRICANE SANDY – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

With the declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor in response to Hurricane Sandy, I was forced to review our emergency management plans, which were prepared by Councilman Bob Hanson. Bob took the lead in forwarding the EMC notice in my absence to residents through the Borough website, via e-mail and through Gay Reed's e-mail hotline. I thank Bob for stepping up and getting this notice out.

Prior to the storm's arrival, I discussed with members of Council the risks and benefits of potentially opening the valve to the dam to reduce the lake level by as much as 18” thereby diminishing the impact of the anticipated significant rain event not only to residents but the folks downstream. Ultimately, we determined that this was not necessary.

Once the storm hit, I surveyed many of our roads and cleared a few downed trees that were across the roads. Beyond some runoff damage and a brief power outage, the Borough appears to have come through mostly unscathed. That said, I do have concerns relative to the impact of an extended loss of power and our ability to operate our sewer plant and provide water should the power be out for more than several days. I will address these issues with Council so that we can better address these contingencies in the future.

### **POLICE PROTECTION**

As many know, we were forced to substantially reduce our Police budget this year. We hired two part time officers and anticipate bringing on a third in the next few days. We have stretched our budgeted hours to provide as much coverage as possible; however, we have had a few issues arise. We were stricken with a wave of vandalism over the summer and have recently had reports of an attempted break-in.

Because of concerns expressed by residents, which I share, I have proposed to the Borough Council that we increase our Police Budget slightly to provide more coverage per week. This proposal was received favorably, will not result in a tax increase, and I appreciate the cooperation of the members of Council. That said, please understand that we do not have 24 hour per day coverage. This would require 5 full-time officers, which would have a significant budget impact. Moreover, even with an officer on duty, there is a lot of ground to cover within the Borough limits. As a result, take reasonable steps to protect your homes and out-buildings.

To address concerns regarding emergency call-out, we have revised our policy to permit Somerset 911 to dispatch our part time officers when off duty in the event of an emergent situation. This is now possible because two of our part-time officers live within minutes of the Borough. In the past, both of our officers had a 30 minute transit time just to get to the Borough making such call-outs inefficient and too costly.

As far as coverage, we provide Police coverage every day as permitted by our budget. Some have suggested incorrectly that we do not have police coverage at night. While we don't usually have coverage all night, we do routinely schedule early and late evening shifts on a rotating basis. Even where police are not on duty, a call to 911 will result in the dispatch of one of our part-time officers who can be on-site in as little as 15 minutes.

I have also received complaints that residents are not getting responsive communication when they leave messages on the non-emergency police line. I believe this has been addressed, although to be sure, I have reinforced the need for our officers to log every call and the response both on our internal call logs as well as in the state-wide police C-NET system. If you are not getting a response from our Police Department, please contact me directly (by phone at 754-5639 or by e-mail at [mayor@indianlakepa.us](mailto:mayor@indianlakepa.us)) or contact Theresa at the Borough office (754-8161 or by e-mail at [office@indianlakepa.us](mailto:office@indianlakepa.us)). That said, if you have an emergency, need to report criminal behavior, wish to report some other incident and need police dispatched, please call 911.

### **WINTER SAFETY REMINDERS**

**Roads:** As winter is approaching, residents are reminded to be especially cautious traveling the roads as they can be quite slippery. Also consider that you may unexpectedly encounter pedestrians, plow trucks or school buses on the roads here in the winter. Please slow down as a means of keeping yourself and others safe. Our Police are on patrol and have cracked down on speeding in the Borough – they will continue to

do so. Please also ensure that boats and other vehicles are removed from the cartway of the roads (the berms) consistent with our ordinances. These impede the road crew's ability to effectively plow the roads and could result in damage to your boat or vehicle from the snow being thrown from the plow.

**Lake Activities:** Because the Borough is not lowering the lake this fall, access to the lake for a variety of winter activities such as ice fishing, cross country skiing and snowmobiling will be permitted this winter. That said, exercise caution. Be certain of the thickness of the ice before proceeding onto the lake. Be aware that many residents are using "bubblers" around docking structures to preclude ice formation. Even where the ice forms adjacent to these areas, it is usually significantly thinner. While our local fire department has a device specifically for accessing a person that has fallen through the ice, let's not create a reason for them to use it! For those who snow-mobile, remember that you may not travel down the roadway or on the hiking/biking trail and please be respectful of our golf courses.

**Winterizing:** If you don't anticipate visiting the Borough this winter, make sure you properly winterize your home. A heating system failure with resulting frozen pipes will no doubt be followed by flooding once the pipes thaw out. Not only does this cause significant damage to your home, but the noticeable increase in water usage causes the Borough to waste time looking for a water line break. Help yourself and help the Borough by ensuring that your home is prepared for winter.

#### **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE**

Unless you don't have a television, I think all understand that there is an important election coming up next week. I encourage all, regardless of your party affiliation, to remember to make the effort to get out and vote next Tuesday – November 6<sup>th</sup>. If you vote here in the Borough, the polling location is at the Borough Building.

#### **SVFD CASH BASH**

Thanks to all of our Indian Lake residents that came out for the Shanksville Fire Company's fall Cash Bash. Thanks also to David Perez for DJ'ing the event for free. The event was a great success and from all reports, everyone had a great time. Special thanks to Terry and Pat St. Clair for not only donating the banquet hall at the Lodge, but for providing the food served at their actual purchase cost. Their significant contribution made this event especially successful (financially) for the department. On their behalf, I thank you!

In service to the Borough,

*Mike*

Michael Miscoe  
Mayor