



Indian Lake Borough

Office of the Mayor

Mayor's Newsletter

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

We have placed into service our new (to us) Police cruiser obtained from Seven Springs Borough. After taking care of some maintenance issues, our new (dark blue) Ford Expedition police cruiser is now in service patrolling the roadways. All are reminded to keep to posted limits as the Police have been instructed to strictly enforce the speed limits. We have many residents that walk, bike, or run on the roadways and folks speeding throughout the Borough creates a significant safety hazard given the many blind corners and hills in the Borough. The lake is a place for all to relax – please do so while driving. Slow down and enjoy the beautiful scenery, you might not only have a more enjoyable trip through the Borough but you might just avoid an auto or pedestrian accident.

TRAFFIC SIGNS STOLEN

The Borough has been subject to a wave of vandalism/theft over the past few weeks where individuals have stolen over a dozen street signs from around the Borough costing the Borough well over \$1000. Residents are asked to contact Police if they witness any suspicious behavior.

LAKE SAFETY

It seems that no matter how often we remind folks to enjoy the lake responsibly, there continue to be complaints associated with the reckless behavior of a few. There have also been complaints by those who were subject to inappropriate forms of critique by other boaters in response to perceived infractions. While it is appropriate for anyone to point out unsafe boating practices when such events arise, I would ask that you do so constructively and politely. Otherwise, simply get the hull number (PA registration number from the boat), a description of the driver and details regarding the behavior, location and time, and forward this information to the Police Department. A recent incident was reported where an individual shouted obscenities and threats at another boater who was accompanied by minor children. There is no excuse for such conduct. Please be respectful of others as well as children. We all want the ability to enjoy the lake and to do so, all must act responsibly. Be constructive if you intend to point out something unsafe to a boater who maybe doesn't realize what they were doing was wrong.

That said, before we head into the Labor Day weekend, I hope you will take a moment to review some of the rules of the lake:

1. We continue to have problems in the narrow sections of the lake. These areas of the lake are barely wide enough for two boats, especially if those boats are pulling skiers, wakeboarders or tubes. If following one of these boats, be sure that you don't attempt to pass, especially on the left. To do so, you must maintain 100 feet of separation which will put you on the wrong side of the lake in the path of oncoming traffic. If following a skier, tuber, wakeboarder etc. and the person falls in front of you – slow to no wake speed until you are clear. Consider that the boat in front will have to turn to return to the downed skier and may turn either way to avoid traffic. Where possible, this turn should occur towards the shoreline and only after the boat has slowed down. Regardless of the direction of the turnout, there is often no room to pass. Doing so

anyway not only puts the downed skier in danger, but may also put you in the path of oncoming traffic. Slow down in these circumstances so that all (including you) can avoid an accident.

Where two boats traveling in the same direction are towing skiers/tubers toward a narrow portion of the lake, the trailing boat should slow down so that only one boat at a time is proceeding through the narrows in each direction. Boats and jet skis not towing skiers should slow until other traffic clears. This avoids congestion as well as an unsafe situation in the event of a downed skier/tuber requiring the towing boat to have to reverse direction to pick up the downed skier/tuber.

Finally, if pulling an inner tube through the narrows, keep a straight track in this portion of the lake. "S" curves are not appropriate in these narrow areas as there is little enough room as it is.

2. **No Wake Speed:** If traveling at no-wake speed, or if operating a non-powered boat such as a canoe or kayak, please do so **close to the shoreline**. Slow traveling boats and other watercraft in the middle of the lake create a substantial safety hazard to those towing skiers since in most areas of the lake there is little or no room to get around you without traveling too close to shore or on the wrong side of the lake into oncoming traffic.
3. **Above Wake Speeds:** You may not travel at above wake speed within 100' of the shoreline. While 100' is not that far, I have witnessed boats within 30-50' of the shoreline traveling at high rates of speed. Not only do you risk damage to your own boat by hitting a stump, you create an unacceptable risk of hitting someone swimming near the shoreline.

You may not travel at above wake speed beyond 30 minutes after official sunset or more than 30 minutes before official sunrise. While you can take your boat out at night, you may only travel at below wake speed and must have appropriate lighting. **Jet skis are not permitted on the lake at all after sunset or before sunrise.**

4. **Traffic Pattern:** The traffic pattern on the lake is counter-clockwise. This means that you should not be traveling on the left half of the lake for any reason. Doing so will likely get you an expensive citation. This includes those pulling skiers and inner tubes. While fun to make those big "S" curves, do so on your half of the lake and be mindful of traffic behind you that is attempting to avoid you. The Indian Lake Police will enforce this provision of the Ordinance strictly and the fine is substantial. Let's all be responsible so that no-one's weekend is dampened with a fine or worse, an accident.
5. **Guest Operators:** If you have guests that will use your boat, remember that as a property owner, you can also be fined for their failure to adhere to the provisions in the Indian Lake Boating Ordinance. If allowing guests to use a jet ski, it is your responsibility to ensure that the operator possesses a valid PA Water Safety Certification card. Additionally, make sure your guests know general boat safety rules as well as the rules particular to Indian Lake before you throw them the keys.
6. **Exiting Docks:** When exiting your dock, if you intend to cross the lake to travel in the opposite direction, please be patient and wait for traffic to clear before blasting across the lake. While this should be common sense, it continues to amaze me how often this occurs.

7. Speed Limit: The speed limit on the lake is 40 mph. It is understood that some of these newer jet skis travel nearly 90 mph. I have seen boats traveling in excess of 50 mph as well. There is no reason to drive that fast on the lake and doing so is not only a violation of the Boating Ordinance subject to a substantial fine, but puts yourself and others in substantial danger.

Assuming the weather is good, we will no doubt have a busy weekend coming up and hopefully a few more fun weekends of boating before the weather effectively ends the boating season. Be respectful of others, follow safe boating practices as well as the Borough boating ordinance and hopefully we can put the 2012 boating season in the books as one that was both fun and without incident. For those not paying attention, the Police and Fish Commission will be out and will have zero tolerance for unsafe behavior.

**THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE RESIDENTS
ARROW ENTERPRISES/JOE MARKFERDING**

Many thanks to Joe Markferding and Arrow Enterprises for performing trash cleanup this spring. As a corporate resident of the Borough operating from the former Airpark complex, Joe and his crew performed trash cleanup along the roads from the Gun Club/Christian Center entrance all the way to Peninsula Drive this spring. Joe and his employees spent an entire day removing trash from the roadway and hauled away the refuse without cost to the Borough. It is hoped that his example might be the springboard for community cleanup efforts throughout the Borough. Those who are interested in volunteering for such a project next spring should contact me by e-mail at mayor@indianlakepa.us. While unfortunate that such a cleanup effort was necessary, Joe and his staff did an outstanding job and deserve our appreciation for their fine efforts.

INDIAN LAKE MARINA/MARK ALAIA

Thanks to Marc Alaia and Indian Lake Marina for providing free storage and docking for the Indian Lake Police boat this past year. At a time when our Police budget is extremely tight, Marc has been an outstanding corporate citizen and we appreciate his generosity.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EVENT

The Shanksville Volunteer Fire Department will be holding a "Cash Bash" at the Indian Lake Lodge on October 13th at 7:00 pm. For a \$20 ticket donation, you will not only receive a chance to win the grand prize of \$500, but also qualify to win \$50 and \$20 prizes. Additionally, you get dinner and drinks to boot. You can also play additional small games of chance. Please help support your fire department as this is one of the key fund raising events held by the Department each year and we are happy to have it here at the Lake. Thanks to Pat and Terry St. Clair for donating their beautiful banquet room and providing the food at cost. It is a great chance to get out, have some fun, and support a worthy cause. Please contact me to purchase tickets by e-mail at mayor@indianlakepa.us. For those that cannot attend, you can still buy a ticket and if you win, we will get your winnings to you. Otherwise, the Department would appreciate your donation. I truly hope to see strong support from the residents of the Lake at this event.

With kind regards,

Mike

Michael Miscoe
Mayor