

## e-News 1 February 2011

### Smoke Signals

The Indian Lake/Lake Stonycreek Info Network web site [ <http://www.indianlake-pa.net> ] has been overhauled using the same software as the new Borough site. Perhaps the most popular area on the site is the 'News Archives' that contained all of the old **Smoke Signals** newsletters from the 60's and 70's that we could locate (30+). They are under the **News** tab.

Terry and Pat St.Clair were recently going through some records they had gotten from Jim McIntyre (original developer and author of the book "**The Lakes**") and found another incomplete set of 30+ issues; the great news is that between the two sets there are only a few gaps. These new ones will be scanned and added to the archives a few at a time over the next couple of months. Many thanks to Terry and Pat for sharing these.

### Election 2011

The Indian Lake/Lake Stonycreek Info Network web site also has added a tab for info regarding the 2011Municipal Elections at: <http://www.indianlake-pa.net/asp/Elections2011/KeyDates.aspx> . A listing of key dates for the May primary and November general elections are provided, and candidates may ultimately use this site to communicate as they wish, similar to what was done for the 2009 election. Election info will not be added to the Borough web site.

### Parking Off-Street, Please - Reminder

There have been reports from the snow plow operators that there are a number of cars parked on the roadway. This is dangerous as the cars may get hit by a plow or get plowed in and/or covered with snow. It is also a problem since our roads are not wide enough for on-street parking and two-way traffic even on a good day. Please be courteous.

### Comcast - More Info

An issue came to my attention last issue that I was not aware was brewing. Comcast is reportedly going 'all digital', **requiring a digital converter box** (or new digital transport adapter) **for even basic service**, catching consumers by surprise. **The full switchover will occur in ~mid-April** according to their local spokesperson who met with me today. Also, in some advance revamping of their channel lineups, they have **already** moved a number of popular "TV" re-broadcast channels up into the higher-numbered channels where you must have a converter box now to receive them. In particular, the channels mentioned to me were "Pittsburgh" channels like KDKA and WTAE. The switch-over has apparently not gone smoothly; not due to technical issues so much as communication (pun unintended...). Here is what I found:

- You **will** need a digital adapter, even for only the Basic Service. They are rent-free, but remain Comcast property.
- Even if your TV works with no box now [even on the high channels], it **will not**, come mid-April.
- Basic Service has been extended and will include **more**, not fewer channels. You will still not only get channels like KDKA and WTAE, but **also** channels like the Golf Channel and the Outdoor Channel. This will all be effective in April. Channel line-up cards come with the units, but they don't include the 'new' basic channels yet. I will try to get a 'new' one and e-mail it or post it on the web-site.
- If you had premium service/channels and a box before, you should be fine.

- If you can get to the Comcast building on Rt. 30 **before Friday, February 4th**, there are people there who can give you a box and handle all the paperwork. **After Friday** you can only do it by mail or a service call (at your expense). Friends and neighbors can do it for you but only with proper written or telephonic authorization.
- **NO** TV will work without a box of some sort after the mid-April final switchover.

Many residents away for the winter may not yet be aware of all this. Don't be surprised by the mid-April cut-off.

Visit the following link to learn more (you **do not** need to enter any of your account info to merely explore the info links and FAQs on the page...): <http://digitalnow.comcast.com> There is even a how-to video there.

### **Banner Photos for Borough Web Site -Reminder**

We've gotten a number of photos and have used each. If you have a photo you would like to see used as the 'banner' for the new Borough web site, please send it to me and we can crop and edit it to fit.

### **Happy Groundhog Day**

I don't think it makes it as a "Hallmark" Holiday, but well wishes mid-winter can't hurt. I'm going to go out on a limb, and certainly don't mean to upstage Phil, and predict 6 more weeks of winter weather here at the Lake. Wagers welcomed.

**Thank you for your time.**

Bob H.

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