

e-News 1 June 2010

Life is Good at Indian Lake...

The Lake is full. Some debris still exists but is manageable; I've not heard of any issues with boating. Our first big weekend of the year gave us nearly perfect weather and the boats and skiers and tubers and PWCs were out in full force. The Fish and Boat Commission was visibly present to help keep us safe, and likely enjoyed the weekend on the water as well. No issues were reported.

We will have our own new but used Police patrol boat on the water shortly; we plan to pick it up this week. I'd like to personally acknowledge Mayor Miscoe's work, persistence and patience in arriving at what seems to be a solid solution that meets our needs, and affordably.

Other Changes

The slalom ski course will be back this year, but at the north-west end, near the stumps [but not too near...]. The **ski club** reports that the equipment, including some new parts, should be installed this coming week, perhaps as late as the 12th.

In addition to the legendary ice-cream, the **Marina** will have a food-cart serving hot-dogs, fries, chicken fingers and other deli snacks. They will also be open later on Fridays (until 6) and Saturdays (until 8) to better serve us. The Marina also reminds that their gas, at least currently, is still **ethanol-free**. While I am not voicing an opinion of the recent controversy, a controversy exists for boats, and buyers should be aware.

The **Indian Lake Golf Club** will be serving breakfast for members and sponsored guests **on weekends only** this summer. Breakfast hours are from 8:00 to 11:00 A.M. Again, Weekends only.

Somerset Area Ambulance Association

The Borough supports the Somerset Area Ambulance Association and recommends that residents and property owners also consider becoming members. Membership may save you \$ if you ever need the service, but more importantly it can help ensure the service is there when you need it. It helps defray the costs for all. Their annual membership drive is underway and a subscription is a modest \$30 individual and \$40 family. A copy of their flier is available on the web site or by [<clicking here>](#).

Road Paving

Council has approved contracting with New Enterprise Stone and Lime Co. for this summer's budgeted road paving work.

Roads to be **paved** are: Peninsula from Palmer north to North Shore Trail/Indian Lake Drive; West Shore Trail Extension near Pueblo Path, towards the dam.

Roads to be **sealed** are: Indian Lake Drive, Kiowa, Seneca Path, Cherokee Lane and the remaining portion of Peninsula Drive (that which is not being paved).

The paved roads will also be re-bermed.

If you have personal paving needs you might wish to contact New Enterprise for a quote as it might be cost effective while they are in the neighborhood...

Advisory Committees Update (rerun)

Council approved formation of 3 Advisory Committees; one on Business/Commerce Development (business@indianlakepa.us) to foster creation of something like a Chamber of Commerce for local business interests; the second is a Community Events Committee (community@indianlakepa.us) to explore building a stronger sense of community and a 4th "Holiday" weekend between July 4th and Labor Day with a Lake focus; the third is a Recreation Committee (recreation@indianlakepa.us) to explore new parks, playgrounds for our kids/grandkids, and other recreational opportunities. Each of these Advisory Committees will be run by the community members, with support from Council as needed and requested. Charters and membership will be posted to the Borough web site under a new tab Borough-->Committees. Feel free to contact them, using the e-mail addresses provided above, and let them know your ideas.

Flood Insurance and the New Floodplain Ordinance

Recap... We have obtained clarifying flood elevations, and it is good news. 2284 is the number to remember; if your property is above this elevation it will be out of the floodplain. If your property and structures are inside the floodplain but your home's ground floor is more than 18 inches higher (2285.5 feet), your insurance rate should be reduced. Structures are each insured separately and "accessory buildings" to residences and workplaces generally do not have to be insured. Garages, sheds, etc., are accessory buildings and we should be able to add boat houses to the list of exceptions. Of course, that will be up to a lender.

What's new... Our new DRAFT Floodplain Ordinance is currently under review by PEMA and FEMA. [A copy is also posted to the web site under the **Borough->INFO->Town Meeting 2010** tab or the **NFIP** tab, or by [clicking here](#)] It appears it will be left to us to locally enforce, most likely by our Zoning Officer. It also dovetails with the current DEP Encroachment permitting process, as lakefront structures are by definition in the floodplain/floodway and covered by both.

Everyone could be impacted by the new Floodplain Ordinance as it will need to be reviewed in detail for any new building permits. It appears that building [or major rebuilding] on a handful of properties may simply be cost-prohibitive under the new ordinance and insurance scheme. If you are concerned or just confused about some detail or impact on a specific property, drop us a line with your question and we'll try to help get you a solid answer.

Emergency Operations Plan (rerun)

FEMA is requiring that we update our EOP this year. This is our 'emergency preparedness' plan to be implemented in the event of a disaster. To complete this we need some help. We need to inventory residents with **SPECIAL NEEDS** [Hearing Impaired residents, Non-English speaking residents, Disabled Residents, Individuals requiring Ambulance for transportation], **EQUIPMENT** we might be able to lay our hands on [Cranes, Trucks, Dozers, Excavators, Water Buffalos, Loudspeakers, 2-way and Amateur Radios, etc., that people may have], **SUPPLIES**, and **SERVICES**. We need to capture this info now, taking our

time, and updating it periodically, so we can jump into action when the time comes. These blank lists of items are posted on the web site [under **Borough->INFO->Town Meeting 2010**] and input will be accepted in any form you like. Information on this portion of the EOP will NOT be made public and will be distributed only based on demonstrated need-to-know.

This item is a repeat as we have gotten no responses so far.

Water Tank Painting

A contract has been placed for painting of the Peninsula Water Tank. This should occur in the next couple of weeks and be completed before the 4th of July weekend. This event will likely be used as our first major real use/test of the new SwiftReach/911 System. This system is a telephone calling, text messaging, e-mailing robot employed to contact you any way possible to get you a message. The primary driver for this system was a state drinking-water mandate that says we must notify users whenever we do maintenance on our water lines/equipment. [The system we chose to do this, SwiftReach/ 911, not only can do this well, but can be used for any/all community notifications and will be factored into our Emergency Action and Operations plans, too.]

We want to thank you for cooperating on sign-up for this new system and thank you for your patience in advance as we test on startup. **New users** are asked to sign up via our web site via the new link on the main page. This link/page can be used for changes as well.

Fireworks

The good... The Indian Lake Fireworks display will be Saturday, July 3rd. The rain date will be Saturday the 10th.

The bad... Some fireworks are being set off in advance of the 4th celebration. We're not talking sparklers or smoke-bombs, but more like rockets and small quantities of C-4. It is occurring more often than in the past, and at all hours of the night. This activity is not neighborly. It is also illegal per our state and local laws.

The ugly... What these illegal fireworks could turn into if this soft appeal to discontinue is not heeded. This is not a threat, just a fact of life and statistics. Statistics say someone will get hurt sooner or later by illegal fireworks in the hands of amateurs (perhaps under an influence). Life's little lessons say that concerned citizens have a way of prevailing when the safety of their families, or a good night's sleep, are threatened. Sooner or later the complaint will be specific and someone will get caught.

The request... Please leave large, loud, illegal pyrotechnics to the professionals.

Thanks for your time. Enjoy, and be safe.

Bob H.

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