

e-News 16 October 2010

Fall Colors

Today's trip around the Lake showed that we still have some scenic fall foliage to enjoy. The scenery still has some green, though many trees have already dropped their leaves. The vivid color should last at least through the next week or so. There was no traffic on the Lake other than a few low-flying geese and ducks adding to the splendid fall setting, mirrored by the glassy surface. Despite the cold, it was a good day for pictures ... and hot chocolate. The Lake really is an awesome place.

No Lake Drawdown

No e-News is good e-News. The silence over a Lake drawdown this year has been due to the fact that there is none scheduled. This is considered 'good' news because repeated drawdowns have damaged the health of other lakes, and we would like to not repeat it here. Some residents were hoping for a drawdown so they could leave their removable docks in over the winter, but it ain't happenin'... Last winter showed that it can be very risky leaving docks in, even with a drawdown (fact, not advice).

If you still need help removing docks, you can get help from the Marina or Beaner Marine.

Boat Storage - Reminder

As the boating season winds to an end, people are continuing to ask questions about the Borough's rules on storage. Ordinance 144 says: **Winter boat storage is permissible in a garage or accessory building. Winter external storage of boats between October 1 and May 30 of the following year is permitted provided that the following requirements are met.** These are summarized from Ordinance 144; don't shoot the messenger... :

- a) boats may **not** be stored along the public roadway or in an area that is within the Borough road easement;
- b) boats to be stored must have a current Pennsylvania Boat License affixed;
- c) where boats are stored on a trailer, the trailer must have a valid Pennsylvania registration and license plate;
- d) In commercial zones only, boats must be shrink-wrapped and screened from view;
- e) **No** storage is permitted in Parks;
- f) There are no restrictions/regulations in an Agricultural zone.

Safe, hassle-free winter commercial storage is also available, such as at the Marina or Beaner Marine.

Police Security Watch - Reminder

Some residents ask the Police to periodically check on their property while they are gone for long periods (such as 'snow-birds' during the winter). I was asked to remind everyone that there is a form you can fill out for this and we have put it on the web site for your convenience under **Borough->INFO->Permits and Applications:**

<http://indianlakepa.us/dotnetnuke/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=FFIgnaU7SIM%3d&tabid=57&mid=382>

Budgets and Taxes

It is Budgeting time again. Council will hold a Budget Workshop on October 27th to review 2009/2010 actual data and to plan budgets for next year. Council has 'reportedly' been 'quoted' as saying that "taxes are going to go up to 30 mils". This is not correct, or even realistic. Taxes may need to be increased a few mils or so next year. To cover the dam expense going forward, the Planning Commission has projected (August 2008 Study; on the web site...) that taxes **could** go to as high as 25 mils over the next decade **if** we cannot encourage some new development and **if** we cannot curb our legal expenses. I certainly hope we can do both, and would view not being able to do either as a failure.

I get accused of being an alarmist when I mention this. My only point in bringing it up is that if we wish it to turn out differently, we need to do something different, and soon. Encouraging development (more income) and curbing litigation/legal costs (less expense) are things that we can do to help. Keeping taxes the same and paying the increased costs another year out of our cash reserves works, too. Other creative ideas welcomed. Don't shoot the messenger.

I thank you for your time.

Bob H.

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