

e-News 21 January 2011

Banner Photos for Borough Web Site

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. The perfect width is between 880 and 900 pixels, and short enough that it won't take up much of the screen. It takes but a minute to update, and seasonal or topical pictures can add some spice to an otherwise boring page.

Just send the photo, along with any text or caption, and we can do the rest...

IndianLake-PA.Net Community Service Web Site Overhauled

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. The content hasn't changed much, but the look-and-feel, and most importantly the ease of maintenance, is greatly improved. The Indian Lake Info Network is not an official Borough site, and thus ads, plugs for local businesses, and controversial news/views are all fair game. Perhaps the most popular area on the old site was the 'News Archives' that contained all of the old **Smoke Signals** newsletters from the 60's and 70's that we could locate. They are under the News tab.

There is no 'private' content, no Discussion Forums or Surveys, so **registration is not required**.

Borough Building Code Official

Background: I've reported in the past that Somerset County Building Inspections, our designated BCO, has been under scrutiny over a case outside the Borough. Keeping you informed seems the minimum we should do; selecting another BCO seemed presumptuous at first (we should, after all, presume innocence), but two facts seem to dominate my thoughts on the topic. First, it is your money that pays for the permit and inspections, directly, and if we mandate you spend it with someone in particular, they should be above reproach; paying twice to be comfortable is dumb. Secondly, nearly 30% of the other municipalities in Somerset County have chosen to go a different route. At a minimum we should explore the choices; some are substantially less costly **to you** if you build.

Input received was mixed. Input we received can be viewed at:

[http://www.indianlakepa.us/dotnetnuke/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1_cBh6pb-pg%3d&tabid=64&mid=590]

Update: At our last Council meeting we voted (split 4-2) to "Opt Out" and to give you a choice without punishing SCBI. Mayor Miscoe has vetoed this action, at least for the near term, because he is uncomfortable as to whether each of us on Council fully understands all of the consequences of "opting out". Perhaps he is correct, and we will again discuss this at the next Council meeting. To prepare, a 'decision matrix' was created and is available at:

[<http://www.indianlakepa.us/dotnetnuke/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=D7H5zGRxulY%3d&tabid=64&mid=590>]

Another Commonwealth Court Ruling

Yesterday Commonwealth Court ruled on the last of the appeals before them; this one over the validity of the easement granted St.Clair Development for the boat docks at what used to be Pow Wow Pier. They affirmed the lower court rulings. I wish it were clearer that this were over...

[http://www.pacourts.us/OpPosting/Cwealth/out/2186CD09_1-20-11.pdf]

This leaves, barring further appeals, only the December 22, 2010 Commonwealth Court appeal ruling still 'open'; this ruling, if you will recall, remands two issues back to Judge Klementik; 1) should other bids, particularly Takacs' bid, be [have been] obtained and considered for the easement, and 2) should then Council President [Miscoe] have recused himself due to a conflict of interests.

There are also the 'newer' appeals open [Oliver Outdoor Furnace citation, Rohrich Garage citation, and no PRD for Kickapoo Phase II challenge]. I'm not sure if we're spiraling in, or spiraling out, or just going around in circles... The lawyers seem to love it.

Parking Off-Street, Please

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

An issue came to my attention today that I was not aware was brewing. Comcast has reportedly gone 'all digital', requiring a digital converter box for even basic service, catching consumers by surprise. Also, in revamping their channel lineups, they have moved a number of popular "TV" re-broadcast channels up into the higher-numbered channels where you will need a 'Premium Package' 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. Many residents away for the winter may not yet be switched, or even aware.

It was suggested that the Borough might intervene with Comcast as we have essentially granted them a monopoly/franchise. Before we can do that I, for one, need to better understand what is going on. I have only had 'digital' since I use Comcast for phone and internet; all I had to deal with was reprogramming my head that KDKA was now CH 191...

Drop us a line if you can help explain what is going on, and whether this really is something the Borough might need to address.

Thank you for your time.

Bob H.

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