



Indian Lake Borough

Office of the Mayor

June 2019

Indian Lake Lot Owners and Residents:

Here are the latest items of information, updates and reminders:

WATERCRAFT SECURITY

As some might have heard, we had an incident at the conclusion of the Memorial Day weekend on the lake that illustrated the need to offer a few reminders to property owners.

A property owner's Jetski was taken without authorization during the day Monday (possibly Sunday as well), and later on that evening (Tuesday morning at approximately 1:30 am) by three individuals from outside the Borough. They drove the Jetski on the lake after dark recklessly according to reports from at least one resident and upon return to the area of the Indian Lake Marina, which is near the breast of the dam, the driver apparently turned too quickly and all passengers were thrown into the water. They swam to shore leaving the Jetski in the water running and turning circles (apparently, the safety lanyard was not worn by the driver, which would have shut the motor off in such a circumstance). Another resident noticed the Jetski on the water, still running in circles and with no visible operator, the following morning at approximately 7:00 am. A call was placed to 911. We responded as if a drowning incident had occurred. Three dive teams responded along with our police chief and members of the Fish Commission. While the owners of the Jetski were quickly identified based on the PA Registration data on the Jetski, contact with them was frustrated because we did not have current contact (phone) information. To avoid this issue in the future, we request that all property owners ensure that their contact information is updated with the Borough office. Please be sure to include your cell phone numbers so that in the event an emergent situation arises, Police can get in touch with you quickly. Regarding this event, I am happy to report that Chief Bellak's investigation led to identification of the perpetrators. Once all were accounted for confirming no one had drowned (thankfully) although significant charges against all individuals are pending.

This event also illustrated the need to secure the keys to your watercraft. For those that use the Marina's docking or launching/storage services, the Marina has installed a drop box for you to drop off your keys. The Marina also installed additional lighting to permit better imaging of the docking area. All, regardless of where you dock your boat or PWC should be sure to secure your keys so that such a situation does not occur in the future.

DISPLAY OF LOT/STREET ADDRESS NUMBERS

As another reminder, the Police Department again requests your cooperation with installation of either LOT #s or your street address number both on the road and on the lakefront (for those with lakefront lots) as required by Borough Ordinance. This permits us to more quickly respond to an emergency. For those that have already done so, we thank you

RADAR SPEED TRAILER DEPLOYED

Some of you may have noticed the Radar Speed Trailer deployed at various places throughout the Borough. We obtained this \$9000 piece of equipment from another department that was no longer using it for \$500. After some cleanup and paint, we deployed this unit prior to Memorial Day weekend. So far, the feedback has been positive as it provides a visual reminder of your speed and encourages operators

to slow down. Based on the success of the deployment, we will consider the cost/benefit of purchasing permanent speed warning signs to deploy at key locations throughout the Borough. Those with input on this can e-mail me at mayor@indianlakepa.us.

While we are on the subject of road safety, with the summer months upon us, we are already seeing many residents enjoying the ability to walk/run/bike on the roads of Indian Lake. To keep everyone safe, Chief Bellak and the other officers of the department are focused like a laser beam on speeding. As consistently advised, our Police Officers have been instructed to strictly enforce the posted speed limits and they are doing so. If you speed, you will be cited for a speeding violation. While our officers do not wish to write citations, or cause you to get points on your license, they are committed to deterring speeding to ensure that the roads remain safe for vehicles and pedestrians. If you are walking, running, or biking on the roads, be responsible and keep to the side of the road facing traffic.

BOATING REGISTRATIONS

Be sure to check that your PA and Indian Lake boating registration is up to date. You should be displaying a 2020 or 2021 sticker. If either your PA or Indian Lake sticker is a "19" or older sticker, it is out of date.

BOATER SAFETY CERTIFICATION:

As a reminder, Boating Safety Education Certificates **are required:**

- For **ANY PERSON** operating a personal watercraft;
- For persons born on or after January 1, 1982, a Boating Safety Education Certificate is require to **operate boats powered by motors greater than 25 horsepower.**

Approved permanent Boating Safety Education Certificates for Pennsylvania residents must be issued by the PA Fish & Boat Commission. Out of state boaters must have a certificate issued for a course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).

Consistent with this State requirement, anyone **under the age of 37** needs to have a Boating Safety Certificate to operate a power boat with a motor greater than 25 horsepower and **all operators of a PWC** (jet ski) must have passed the Boating Safety Education Course. This certificate must be in your possession when operating a PWC or (if required) when operating a power boat. Those needing certification can take the course on-line from one of several vendors. The following is provided only as an example: (<http://www.boat-ed.com/pennsylvania/>)

REQUIRED BOATING SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

Be sure to check your watercraft to ensure that you have the appropriate safety equipment. You must ensure that you have sufficient personal floatation devices (based on the number of passengers), an up to date fire extinguisher (yes – they expire), and a signaling whistle or horn on your boat. The Fish Commission, who also patrols the lake, and the Police department regularly checks for these safety items. The Fish Commission certainly issues citations where deficiencies are identified.

WEEKEND / HOLIDAY BOAT OPERATION:

While most operators appear to be following the requirements of the revised Boating Ordinance according to reports from our officers, they have requested that I remind you of the requirements of the Boating Ordinance relative to stationary or slow-speed operation. Officers have seen boats at anchor in traffic lanes causing traffic congestion. For the upcoming holiday weekends, such issues can create dangerous situations that I am sure we all wish to avoid.

As a review, please be mindful of the following Ordinance requirements:

1. No Non-Powered Watercraft to include but not limited to Sailboats, Canoes, Kayaks, and Paddleboards shall be permitted to operate more than seven-five (75) feet from shore from eleven o'clock (11:00) a.m. until sunset **on weekends and holidays**.

2. No Watercraft of any kind shall be permitted to **maintain a stationary position** (anchor) more than seventy-five (75) feet from the shoreline so as to create an impediment to navigation between the hours of eleven o'clock (11:00) a.m. until sunset **on weekends and holidays**. When changing skiers/tubers, move out of traffic lanes to do so where the change will take a few minutes.

3. Powered Watercraft operating at no-wake speed or at speeds less than 10 miles per hour are required to slow to no wake speed and operate within seventy-five (75) feet from the shoreline between the hours of from eleven o'clock (11:00) a.m. until sunset **on weekends and holidays** so as not to create an impediment to the recreational use of the lake. Operation should be at least 40 feet from docks/shore to avoid those engaged in swimming.

The objective of these provisions, which are applicable only during peak periods of recreational use, is to preclude situations where slow/non-moving watercraft create traffic impediments to watercraft engaged in recreational use such as skiing, wakeboarding, wake surfing, tubing, etc. By keeping slow moving craft close to the shoreline during these periods, the potential for an accident or traffic issues will be diminished.

BUOY'S

According to the boating ordinance, a lakefront lot owner may install a buoy **no more than 40'** from the shoreline at a point perpendicular to the shoreline at the side property line. Before installing such a buoy, realize that a permit is also required from the PA Fish Commission. To the extent that a buoy is a "structure" as defined in the Zoning Ordinance, an encroachment permit issued by the zoning officer may also be required. In the past, there have been several buoys throughout the lake that have been installed well beyond the 40' limit. These can create safety hazards to boaters and skiers alike. If a buoy is identified as being beyond the 40' limit, Police will move it to the appropriate distance once. If the lot owner attempts to relocate the buoy back to a position in violation of the Ordinance, the Police will issue a citation in addition to confiscation/removal of the buoy.

LAKE SPEED LIMIT

While it is appropriate to review the rules regarding low speed boating, it would be unfair if we did not address high speed operation as well. **The speed limit on the lake is 40 mph.** Just as the Police Department has no tolerance for speeding on the roads, there is no tolerance for speeding on the lake.

A number of residents have reported that some PWCs, fishing boats, and other power boats are traveling the lake at excessive speeds (over 50 or 60 mph) – some well after sunset where no wake speed is required. As a reminder, watercraft are permitted to travel above wake speed from 30 minutes prior to official sunrise until 30 minutes until after official sunset. No wake speed is required at all other times.

Also, navigation lights must be displayed when operating before sunrise or after sunset. As a result, no watercraft such as PWCs (jet skis), paddleboards, kayaks, canoes, etc. may be operated before

sunrise or after sunset. One of the deaths that occurred on this lake years ago happened because of a violation of these safety rules.

ATV UPDATE:

Thus far, we have had no issues with respect to violations of the ATV ordinance. Operators using their ATVs on the roadway are doing so responsibly. Just a reminder, DOT approved helmets are required for operators and passengers, headlights/taillights must be on, the ATV must be registered as an ATV (no Golf Carts) have a current DCNR registration plate/sticker and insurance, operators must possess a valid driver's license, and all other traffic laws must be obeyed.

JULY 4TH WEEKEND

Fireworks are scheduled for Saturday July 6. Rain date is the 13th. This is one of our busier weekends on the lake so all are encouraged to have fun but do so safely. Those taking advantage of the ability to procure display fireworks in PA, please use these fireworks responsibly. **Also, be courteous to your neighbors.** While there are some notable fireworks shows that residents have put off over the 4th of July weekend, be mindful of the fire risk. Have fire extinguishers handy, be sure to use fireworks responsibly, be sure to point them in a safe direction where the risk of starting a fire is minimized **and cease use of noise making fireworks after 11:00 pm so as to avoid noise complaints.**

REGATTA/INDIAN LAKE COMMUNITY DAYS WEEKEND

As the chair of the planning committee, I have gotten great feedback from the Lodge/Marina and Golf course and anticipate a great event this year. This year's Indian Lake Community Days weekend will be August 9th, 10th and 11th. The lodge will have a kick-off event Friday evening with a live band, Northwinds and the Marina have events planned for Saturday leading up to a firework display Saturday evening. A more complete schedule is forthcoming.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Chief Bellak asked me to remind all property owners that even though the summer months are upon us, the department continues to conduct house checks for those that might be away during the week or longer. We also continue to conduct welfare checks of persons who live alone. Anyone wishing to take advantage of this service need only to contact the department by phone at (814)754-3231 or by e-mail at police@indianlakepa.us.

WELCOME TO THE NEW OWNERS OF THE INDIAN LAKE LODGE

The "Lodge at Indian Lake" is now open under new ownership. The new owners (Jason and Clay) have a background in the entertainment and restaurant business. Jason reported at the Annual Public meeting that they will be open Thursday through Sunday, that they have a new menu featuring fresh food items and have entertainment scheduled throughout the summer. They have plans to open the former WigWam pub as a high-end whiskey bar and also plan to be open through the winter! They will also continue to expand their banquet business and are updating the hotel if you need extra room for guests. If you haven't been to the Lodge lately, be sure to check it out and support them. Having been there myself, in addition to some cosmetic updating I have found that they are exceptionally focused on ensuring that guests have an enjoyable experience. Join me in welcoming them to our community!

/s/

Michael Miscoe

Mayor, Indian Lake Borough

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