



Indian Lake Borough

Office of the Mayor

June 2018

Indian Lake Lot Owners and Residents:

Notwithstanding the substantial rainfall so far this year, many have managed to sneak out between thunderstorms and enjoy the lake.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Residents are reminded that the Police Department has a heart defibrillator in the Police cruiser and therefore can respond to emergency cardiac situations. If on duty, police are usually first on scene. When contacting 911 for a potential cardiac issue, be sure to ask that the police be dispatched as well. In such situations, seconds count.

- The Department conducted its first firearms training class for residents on Sunday May 20, 2018. The mix of classroom and live fire training was well received by the attendees. If you are interested in participating in this training, please contact Chief Bellak by email and include your name and contact information. Chief Bellak can be reached by e-mailing him at police@indianlakepa.us.

- Council authorized the hire of Officer Ray Wilhelm, who will be joining the department on a part-time basis initially. Officer Wilhelm comes to us with 5 years' experience as a military policeman with the PA Army National Guard and one year of experience with the Meyersdale police department. Unfortunately, Officer Wilhelm will deploy with his military police unit in the fall but we anticipate that he will rejoin the department on a full-time basis when he returns from his deployment. So far, Officer Wilhelm has been doing an excellent job and as part of the Department's stop and talk program, will make every attempt to get to know all lot owners and residents.

ZONING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Council has also authorized the hire of Anson Bloom to assist Dave Wood with enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Bloom comes with substantial experience in this area and will also be responsible for enforcement of the Nuisance Ordinance as the Borough Code Enforcement Officer. You can be assured that if a violation is detected, the property owner will be given an opportunity to correct the deficiency and thereby avoid a fine. Our objective is conformance with the Zoning and Nuisance requirements so as to maintain the appearance of the Borough - not write citations and impose fines.

SPEEDING IN THE BOROUGH

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, and with the summer months upon us, we anticipate 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 especially concerned with speeding, which jeopardizes the safety of all. As previously advised, our Police Officers have been instructed to strictly enforce the posted speed limits and they are doing so. 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 alike. If you are walking, running, or biking on the roads, be responsible and keep to the side of the road facing traffic. Let's have a safe Summer!

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE BOATING ORDINANCE

As you may have heard, Council passed and I approved a significant revision to the boating ordinance several months ago. Thanks to the Committee for all their hard work in bringing the boating ordinance up to date. Here is an outline of the more significant changes:

- Boating licenses are available for either a 1 or 2-year period. We hope that residents will be able to match the license period for their Indian Lake sticker with their PA Fish & Boat Commission registration, which is also two years. The application process is on-line and the submission of paper copies of your state registration, insurance etc. has been eliminated (the details still need to be submitted). These revisions are designed to decrease the administrative burden on you as well as the Borough's office staff. So far, the process seems to be working well.

- While not a change, it bears reminding that the traffic pattern is COUNTER-CLOCKWISE. That means that the shore-line on your right should be closer than the shore-line on your left. We have witnessed a few boaters not following this rule and where this occurs, it creates a significant hazard on the lake. Be certain that all operators are aware of the proper traffic pattern. When pulling someone on a towable tube and doing "S" maneuvers, be sure not to cross the center line of the lake with either the boat or the towable especially during high traffic times.

- Boaters are reminded that the **speed limit on the lake is 40 mph**. Many jet-skis, bass boats and other watercraft are capable of much higher speeds. If you own such a watercraft capable of higher speeds, throttle back and help keep the lake safe for everyone. Those that do not should understand that speeding on the lake, just like on our roads, will be strictly enforced.

- New Rules are established at Section 201.F of the Boating ordinance. The purpose of these rules, which are applicable on **WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS ONLY** from the Thursday before Memorial Day through Labor Day, is to keep the primary navigation lanes open for higher speed traffic and avoid a potential collision and resulting injury between boats at speed and slower or stationary watercraft. A violation of these provisions carries a \$300 fine. Here is a list of the changes:

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 with the exception of crossing the lake provided that the lake is crossed perpendicular to the shoreline and in an expeditious manner so as not to create an impediment to the recreational use of the lake.***

2. ***No Watercraft of any kind shall be permitted to maintain stationary position more than seventy-five (75) feet from the shoreline so as to create an impediment to navigation between the hours of from eleven o'clock (11:00) a.m. until sunset on weekends and holidays.***

Note: Some commenters were concerned that parking in coves with other boats would result in a violation. Because the area in these locations where boats usually tie up and park are not in the navigation lanes, such activity would not create an impediment to navigation and would therefore not be a violation. That said, be sure to park as deep into the cove as possible if you wish to remain stationary.

Note: Also, it is understood that in some cases, boats will need to stop to retrieve a downed skier. This would not be considered a violation – but be courteous and try to clear the navigation lane as quickly as you can. Also, in other cases, it is understood that a boat will remain stationary to change participants

that are engaging in towed activities. In such a circumstance, wherever possible, the boat should retrieve the prior participants and then move closer to shore to change participants in order to avoid creating congestion or an unsafe condition on the lake.

3. *Powered Watercraft **operating at no-wake speed or at speeds less than 10 miles per hour shall be 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.***

Note: While many like to enjoy a slow cruise around the lake at either no-wake or slightly above wake speeds, if traveling at 10 mph or less, slow to a no-wake speed and move to within 75 feet of the shoreline. Slow moving boats in the traffic lanes create congestion and potentially unsafe conditions.

4. ***Fishing.** No Watercraft shall be used for fishing more than fifty (50) feet from the natural shoreline from **eleven o'clock (11:00) a.m. until sunset on weekends and holidays.***

Note: We have been advised that scheduled fishing tournaments sometimes extend beyond 11:00 am on either weekends or holidays. Event organizers are responsible for notifying the Borough Council who can issue a "Special Purpose License" to participants for exemption of this provision for the duration of the tournament.

- **BUOYS:** While not a new provision, there have been a number of improper buoy's installed so a review of the Ordinance requirements for Buoy's is appropriate. Relative to the installation of floating buoys, the Ordinance contains the following requirements/restrictions:

*In order to protect swimming areas, all lake front Property Owners are permitted to install a floating buoy **not to exceed twelve (12) inches in diameter, yellow in color**, at a point in line with the owner's lot line **at a distance forty (40) feet from shore.** No other markers, including pennants, shall be used.*

Note: Remember also that installation of a buoy requires a permit from the Fish and Boat commission as well. Any buoys identified by police not meeting the above requirements will be removed by police and placed on your dock. Police will follow with a written warning to the resident. Re-installation not in compliance with the requirements of the Ordinance will result in a citation.

- **BOAT INSPECTIONS:** The requirements for measurement of boats has changed. Only boats being registered on the lake for the first time that have a placarded length (the length on your registration card from the state) that is within 12 inches of the length limit will require measurement.

- **LOT NUMBERS; MAINTENANCE OF DOCKS.** In order to permit to response to emergency calls on land while patrolling the lake, lot owners on the lake who have installed either a dock or a boathouse are required to post their lot number or 911 address as applicable at the shoreline in accordance with the following provision of the boating ordinance. The Police Department will be conducting a survey of lots not in compliance and will notify lot owners accordingly. We will provide 15 days to correct any deficiencies and non-traffic citations will be issued thereafter. Violations are subject to a \$50 fine.

*All **dock and Boat house** owners on the perimeter of the lake and tributaries shall display their 911 addresses in lettering not less than three (3) inches nor more than six (6) inches in*

height, facing the lake, so as to be easily read from a distance of 50 feet and shall maintain their docks and Boat houses in safe repair, with all parts securely fastened so that nothing can float freely into the lake.

CONTACTING POLICE:

If you have an issue where you need the Police dispatched (i.e. suspicious activity, traffic complaints, noise complaints, fishing violations, etc.) please call 911 so that an officer can be dispatched. For non-emergent issues such as scheduling boat inspections or house checks please call the non-emergency number for the Police Department at (814) 754-3231. You may also e-mail the Department for non-emergency issues at police@indianlakepa.us. Again, if you need emergency assistance or need to report criminal activity, please call 911.

ATVS AND SNOWMOBILES

Under recent changes to the PA Vehicle Code, ATVs, UTVs and snowmobiles (sorry, they did not include golf carts in the change) can be permitted on designated roadways subject to certain restrictions. Where permitted, the vehicle must have a valid DCNR registration, insurance, and both operators and passengers must wear an appropriate DOT approved safety helmet. In addition, permitted off-road vehicles must comply with posted speed signs and there are age restrictions for the operator as well. While these are just a few of the more significant requirements, your input is needed. Council is considering whether to permit such usage on our roads. If you have an opinion, please send an e-mail to me at Mayor@indianlakepa.us with a copy to council@indianlakepa.us so that we can test the mood of the residents. While this might be beneficial to residents, consider also that it opens up our roads to non-resident use as well.

FIREWORKS

As many know, the state of Pennsylvania has eased restrictions relative to the types of fireworks that can be used by private individuals. That said, please be careful. You certainly don't want to be responsible for burning down your neighbor's home or be found in violation of the nuisance ordinance. Remember that many like to enjoy a peaceful evening so avoid setting off fireworks after 10:00 pm.

Also, for those that do not know, weather permitting, the fireworks display put on by the Service Corporation will be on Saturday June 30th. Remember that on your way back to your dock, you are restricted to a no-wake speed.

Remember, we can be responsible and still have fun. If everyone follows the rules and operates their watercraft responsibly, we can all have a safe and enjoyable boating season.

/s/

Michael Miscoe

Mayor, Indian Lake Borough