



Indian Lake Borough

Office of the Mayor

Indian Lake Lot Owners and Residents:

Without question, to say the weather this winter has been unusual would be an understatement. Notwithstanding the recent snowstorm, I am sure all are looking forward to a return of warmer temperatures. The following is an update on what has been going on this winter as well as some reminders as we approach what I hope will be another fun and safe summer season at Indian Lake. Your cooperation and compliance will ensure that the summer season will be fun and safe for all.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

PERSONNEL CHANGES:

Last month, we brought on two new part-time officers to the department. A swearing in ceremony was held at the start of our February Borough Council Meeting. Officer Andrews and Officer Knipple are both recent graduates of the police academy and have begun orientation training with Chief Bellak. They will soon be assisting with house checks, boat measurements and law enforcement duties in the Borough and out on the lake to ensure that all enjoy a safe community. Please join me in welcoming them to our community.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY:

I am happy to report that since my last report, Chief Bellak has investigated and solved two burglaries of homes within the Borough, responded to and extinguished a fire pending arrival of the fire department (his quick action prevented the fire from spreading and potentially consuming a significant portion of the house), and identified several open doors during the performance of house checks (residents were contacted and the subject homes were secured). The department has also responded to calls in nearby communities as part of the inter-municipal obligation between all departments in Somerset County.

CONTACTING POLICE:

If you have an issue where you need the Police dispatched (i.e. suspicious activity, traffic complaints, noise complaints, etc.) please call 911 so that an on-duty officer or the Pa. State Police can be dispatched. You may also contact Police on the non-emergency line - (814) 754-3231 - should you have any non-emergency issue requiring police intervention (boat measurements, house checks, etc.). You may also e-mail our officers for non-emergency issues at police@indianlakepa.us. Please understand that the police non-emergency line / answering machine and/or e-mails are checked only once or twice per day. All calls are recorded in our incident management system for tracking purposes to include attempted call backs and ultimate resolution of the issue. If you need emergency assistance or need to report criminal activity, please call 911.

BE GOOD NEIGHBORS

Indian Lake has always been a community where folks come to have fun. Unfortunately, consider that your fun might be a nuisance to your neighbors and with respect to fireworks, is also likely illegal. PA has very restrictive laws pertaining to the type of fireworks that may be used legally and these laws differ substantially from the laws in nearby states such as Maryland and

Virginia. Each year we receive noise complaints associated with not only loud music being played on the lake late at night, but the discharging of explosive fireworks (which are illegal in PA) at all hours of the day and night. Some have also felt the need to boat late at night at high speed – hooting and hollering along the way. Not only is it illegal to travel on the lake at above wake speed after dark, but such conduct is annoying at best, deadly at worst. As we now have a full complement of officers, police coverage will be expanded to hopefully preclude such conduct.

ROAD MAINTENANCE:

The Borough did receive the new truck authorized for purchase last year. This truck was purchased so that the Borough would be able to respond to heavy snows (instead of using the road grader), provide increased material hauling capacity and in the summer, provide us with the capability of doing our own berming instead of contracting this work out. The Borough sold its oldest work truck through Municibid consistent with our equipment rotation schedule for approximately \$7,500.00. Council is committed to ensuring that the roads and maintenance crew have functional equipment to serve the needs of the residents.

WATER:

With the freezing/thawing throughout the winter, we have experienced a number of water line breaks throughout the Borough including a break in one of our main waterlines on the Peninsula, which disrupted service to a number of residents. The Borough maintenance crew diligently addressed these problems on top of taking care of the roads. This extra effort at ensuring residents had both water and safe roads demonstrates the commitment of our employees.

The Borough Council continues to address issues with DEP regarding secondary contaminants (Manganese and Iron) at Well 2 and Well 99. While the combined levels of Manganese and Iron are just above the threshold where they might cause discoloration of the water, DEP has taken a hard stance – ordering the Borough to put a plan together to treat our water. DEP seems to favor a plan that would cost the Borough roughly \$1.5M. The Borough Council has authorized our solicitor to appeal the DEP order to the Environmental Hearing Board while Council continues to pursue other options. A proposal to provide in-home treatment to residents, which would have cost the Borough around \$100K was flatly rejected by DEP even though it would have resolved the problem and not created secondary problems (disposal of treatment/backwash sludge) that a central treatment option would create.

These issues aside, I want to assure residents that our water meets all federal water quality standards for drinking per the most recent report I have received. There is evidence of discoloration, which is caused by manganese and iron coming out of solution (oxidizing), especially for residents along West Shore Trail. I would point out that this was never an issue until DEP ordered us to chlorinate so as to comply with another ridiculous rule.

Bottom line, our water is safe for drinking and if you want to ensure that you have no discoloration, installation of a 5-micron carbon cartridge filter along with a water softening system isn't a bad idea given that there will always be some minerals in our water since it is from a well (softener takes care of this) and because sometimes, dirt gets into our waterlines due to line breaks (the filter takes care of this problem). The employees perform line flushes routinely to prevent buildup of sediment and/or iron that has come out of solution due to other treatment, but it is not possible to get it all out.

SPEEDING IN THE BOROUGH

Fair warning – our Police Officers have standing instructions to issue speeding citations **without warning** to those who travel in excess of posted limits. Our goal is not to write citations or cause you to get points on your license, but rather to deter speeding so as to ensure that the roads remain safe for vehicles and pedestrians alike.

BOATING REGISTRATIONS AND SAFETY

The Borough has mailed out the 2017 Boat Registration applications to all who had a watercraft of any kind registered last year. Please be certain to get your registrations filled out now so that you will have your stickers for the beginning of boating season. Who knows, we might have some amazing weather early this year that will permit an early start to the boating season. Don't run the risk of an unregistered boat citation because you procrastinated on sending in your registration application. Do it now so you don't have to worry about it later!

To obtain an Indian Lake boating permit, the following requirements must be met:

- 1) The boat must be registered in the name of an Indian Lake Lot Owner
- 2) The boat must have a valid PA Registration.
- 3) Proof of insurance coverage must be provided.

The Borough Ordinance requires that a boat must have a valid PA and Indian Lake Registration sticker to even be placed on the lake. We have asked the Marina and other boat storage facilities to assist us relative to enforcement of the ordinance by not placing a boat on the water unless it has a valid registration sticker. So that you can avoid a last minute rush as well as the potential of a citation, please take a moment and complete the registration application and get it sent in to the Borough. Registrations may be mailed or dropped off.

Inspection of Boats Being Registered for the First Time at Indian Lake:

Remember that if you are registering a new or used boat (includes non-powered boats such as kayaks, canoes, or sail boats) onto Indian Lake for the first time, your boat must be inspected and measured for length by the Police Department. The inspection report must be submitted with your Indian Lake boating permit application.

To arrange to have your boat inspected, please contact the Police Department on the non-emergency line - (814) 754-3231. As our officers spend little time in the office, you will likely need to leave a message. You can expect an officer to return your call at the end of the current shift or at the beginning of the next. You may also e-mail your request to police@indianlakepa.us. Please be sure to provide a phone number so that an officer can contact you.

BOATER SAFETY CERTIFICATION:

Boating Safety Education Certificates are required:

- To operate a personal watercraft;
- For persons born on or after January 1, 1982, 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).

Therefore, anyone **under the age of 35** 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 SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

Now is a great time to ensure that you are ready for spring. You must ensure that you have sufficient personal floatation devices (based on the number of passengers), a fire extinguisher, and a signaling whistle or horn on your boat. The Fish Commission, who also patrols the lake, regularly checks for these safety items and issues citations where deficiencies are identified.

LOT OWNER RESPONSIBILITY:

For those who anticipate inviting guests to the lake who use watercraft on the lake, it is the lot owner's responsibility to ensure that anyone they permit to use their boat is properly licensed and aware of the boating rules of Indian Lake. **The boating ordinance provides for fines against a lot owner in cases where a guest violates a provision of the boating ordinance.**

A reminder of a few of our Lake-specific boating rules is appropriate as well.

1. The lake traffic pattern is **COUNTER-CLOCKWISE**. Just because you are fishing or at no wake speed, this is not an excuse for traveling in the wrong direction.
2. All powerboats must remain at least 100 feet from the shoreline or any dock or watercraft when operating at above wake speed. In the narrow areas of the lake, if you are not towing a skier or a tube, please be courteous and slow down and give way to boats that are towing skiers and tubes in order to maintain 100' of separation. Those towing a tube should give way to those towing skiers. While you may have to slow down, it will permit safe transit of these narrow areas. It also should go without saying that you should avoid making "S" curves in the narrow areas of the lake – there simply isn't enough room where other boats are present.

If you are operating at below wake speed, be courteous by traveling closer to the shore line (no closer than 40') to provide more room for those boats towing skiers/tubes that must travel at faster speeds.

3. Jet Ski operators are reminded that operation of a Jet Ski within 100' of a boat (moving or not) or within 100' of the shoreline at above wake speed, is illegal. **DO NOT** "jump the wake" behind a moving boat. While this may seem like fun in the moment, this is extremely dangerous. If the Police see it, you will be cited without warning.

4. No boat may be operated above wake speed more than 30 minutes before official sunrise or 30 minutes after official sunset. Before sunrise or after sunset, be sure to check the operation of your navigation and marker lights.

A copy of the boating regulations are provided with each boating license. **PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THIS INFORMATION REGARDLESS OF HOW LONG YOU HAVE BOATED AT INDIAN LAKE.** If nothing else, it will serve as a good refresher.

The Police will patrol the lake to ensure that no one's safety is compromised. Again, our goal is not to write citations but rather to ensure that the lake remains a safe recreational environment. For those that routinely follow the rules – thank you! If you see someone that is not as knowledgeable about our rules, be polite and share your knowledge with them. Our goal is to ensure that all boaters operate responsibly so that enforcement is not necessary. Remember that boating on Indian Lake is a privilege requiring all who exercise that privilege to do so according to the boating regulations. We need to work together so that ALL can have an enjoyable **and safe** boating season. Thanks in advance for doing your part!

BUOYS AND FLOATING RAFTS

Please be mindful of the ordinance provisions relative to Buoy's and Floating rafts.

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.

FLOATING RAFTS:

It is noted that a number of residents have installed floating rafts/swim platforms beyond the shoreline in front of their property. While these structures are not defined in the Zoning Ordinance, to the extent that they are an encroachment, an encroachment permit is necessary (granted by the Zoning Officer). Understand also that the Zoning Ordinance grants a permissive use area of only 30' into the lake for property bordering any residential district (R-1/Park). Please contact the Borough Zoning Officer to obtain the appropriate encroachment permit and remember that these floating rafts must be kept within 30' of the shoreline. Finally, if anchoring to the lake bottom (as opposed to tying them to something on the shoreline) you may additionally need a DEP Chapter 105 small project permit like a floating dock. The Borough, however, is not in the business of enforcing DEP regulations. With respect to Chapter 105, that is between the lot owner and DEP.

WELCOME TO THE NEW OWNERS OF INDIAN LAKE MARINA

Marc Alaia reported at our last Borough Council meeting that he has sold the Marina. The new owners, Messrs. Scott Miller and Ed Warshal, attended the meeting and introduced themselves to the Council and members of the public in attendance. In addition to welcoming the new owners to the Indian Lake community, I also want to extend heartfelt thanks to Marc Alaia and the Indian Lake Marina for storing the Police Boat this past winter at no cost to the taxpayers. The Marina has also graciously provided docking space to the Borough at no cost. Be sure to thank Marc for his generosity to the Borough and join me in welcoming the new owners.

/s/

Michael Miscoe

Mayor, Indian Lake Borough