



Indian Lake Borough

Office of the Mayor

First, let me apologize for the length of this newsletter. I have been delinquent over the winter months in not publishing my winter newsletter so there is a lot of information to get out.

Last weekend notwithstanding where we had snow, gradually improving temperatures cause us to look forward to another fun and hopefully safe summer season at Indian Lake. While I publish much of the same information each year, I ask you to please review the following information carefully. If nothing else, it should serve as a useful refresher to ensure that all understand the “Rules of the Lake.” Your cooperation and compliance will ensure that the summer season will be fun and safe for all.

NEW ORDINANCES

Fishing: The Borough Council approved an Ordinance Regulating Fishing on Indian Lake. The text of this Ordinance is published on the Borough Website. Here is a brief summary.

1. Property owners and those in their immediate household are certainly permitted to fish (with a valid PA Fishing License) either from their dock or from a properly registered and licensed boat. No fishing permit from the Borough is required. If on a boat, ID is recommended so that Police can validate that you are in fact a property owner.
2. Guests of property owners, when accompanied by a property owner or member of their household, do not need a permit to fish. Again, a valid PA Fishing license is required for anyone who is fishing.
3. Guests of property owners, when NOT accompanied by a property owner or member of their household, may fish provided that they have a Guest Fishing permit and a valid PA Fishing License. Each property owner is entitled to receive one guest fishing permit and can obtain this permit from the Borough Office. The cost is \$5.00. The guest(s) may fish from the property owner’s dock/shoreline or from a properly registered and licensed boat. Where multiple guests are using the same guest permit, they must be on the same boat or fishing from the same property.

This Ordinance was deemed necessary to ensure that the funds expended to stock the lake with fish benefit property owners and their guests.

Parking: While passed last year, a reminder regarding restrictions on parking in the Borough is appropriate. While all are encouraged to review the text of the Ordinance, which is posted on the Borough website, here is a brief summary. It is illegal to park a vehicle:

1. On any paved or unpaved road or street within the Borough.
2. On the shoulder or berm except during the months of May to October for “Event” parking such as a party or gathering of friends/family at your home and where you provide prior notice of the event to the Indian Lake police department.
3. In front of a public or private driveway
4. Or trailer at the public launch ramp (note: If you park here blocking the ramp or access to it or the docking area owned by the marina, your vehicle and/or trailer will be towed.
5. On a park lot property without the consent of all Park Lot property owners, which includes the Borough.

6. Within an intersection or within 20' of an intersection.
7. Within 30' of the approach to a stop sign, yield sign or traffic control signal located at the side of the roadway.

These are but some of the more significant restrictions to parking that you need to be aware of. Please be certain to inform your guests of these restrictions, which are primarily designed to ensure that unsafe traffic conditions do not develop due to parked cars encroaching our already narrow roads. They are also necessary to ensure that our Borough Road Maintenance crews can perform their jobs. Our goal is not to write parking citations and with your cooperation our officers will not have to.

SPEEDING IN THE BOROUGH

As the summer months approach and more of our part-time residents return to the Borough, pedestrian and vehicle traffic on the roads increases and for that reason speeding within the Borough creates a significant safety issue for all concerned. While those wishing to walk/bike are encouraged to use the hiking/biking trail in the Borough, you are free to use the roads; however, please do so responsibly (as most of you do). Remember that the primary purpose of the roads is for vehicular traffic. As such, please be sure to stay to the side of the road facing on-coming traffic. Please remember to wear bright or reflective garments and if walking in the early morning or evening, be sure to take a flashlight so that you can be seen by motorists. If walking with your pets, please remember that all pets are required to be on a leash at all times when outdoors.

Those driving within the Borough are asked to be especially mindful of their speed and watch out for pedestrians. The posted speed limit in most places around the Borough is 30 mph. There are many blind hills and curves where extra caution is necessary. Also, the sub-zero temperatures have caused the pavement to heave in a number of places throughout the Borough leaving "speed bumps". Please be extra cautious as a result.

Fair warning – I have instructed our Police Officers 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 and resulting increases in your insurance rates, but rather to deter speeding so as to ensure that the roads remain safe for vehicles and pedestrians alike.

GOLF CARTS AND ATVs

Under the PA Vehicle Code, no unregistered vehicle, which includes ATVs and Golf Carts, are permitted on the roadways. You are however permitted to cross the road at 90 degrees to get to the other side and are permitted to travel on the side of the road provided that **the entire vehicle is off of the roadway**. While this is not possible everywhere, there are a number of trails throughout the Borough. If you don't know where they are, please link up with someone that does. If you don't know anyone, contact me at mayor@indianlakepa.us. Regardless, please be certain to not trespass on private property. This includes the golf courses and the airport. Those trespassing will be charged by the property owner for defiant trespass. Avoid the headache and be courteous and respectful of the property rights of others.

Also, with respect to ATVs/UTVs, unless you have the appropriate DCNR registration, which must be renewed annually, you may not legally operate these vehicles anywhere off of your own property. The Police Department will issue citations for those that operate illegally, not because we want to, but to ensure the safety of all. We had an unfortunate ATV accident last year by some who operated recklessly and while trespassing on another's property. We hope to avoid a repeat of such an incident this year.

BOATING SAFETY

No matter how many times these reminders are posted, what I see on the lake convinces me that it is not enough. First, Boater Safety Certification: According to the PA Fish & Boat Commission regulations, some adults, even those operating conventional power boats, need to take the Boating Safety Course and obtain your Safety Certificate. The following is from the PA Fish & Boat Commission web site:

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 33** 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** (jetski) 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.

Required Safety Equipment: All boaters are required to maintain 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.

For those who anticipate inviting guests to 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.**

Those needing certification can take the course on-line (<http://www.boat-ed.com/pennsylvania/>)

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.

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.
5. Every watercraft (powered and non-powered) on Indian Lake requires an Indian Lake boating permit. Permit applications were mailed in February to all residents who had a boat permitted last year. **Remember, 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 get your Lake registration application along with the necessary proof of insurance and PA Boat registration information into the Borough office.

Remember that if you are bringing a new boat (includes non-powered boats such as kayacks, canoes, as well as sail boats) onto Indian Lake, that boat must be inspected and measured for length by the Police Department in order to receive a Indian Lake Boat Permit sticker. 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.

While some will undoubtedly procrastinate, I would encourage you to take care of getting your application completed and sent to the Borough Office with any required proof of registration and insurance as soon as possible. For those that do procrastinate, you can go to the Borough office and obtain your boat license by paying an additional fee for "over-the-counter" service. Experience also has taught me that there are also some that will procrastinate and forget about their registrations until a holiday weekend. Please understand that our employees do not work on holiday weekends such as Memorial Day and 4th of July weekends and as a result, over-the-counter service will not be available on weekends. Boating without a current registration is not a solution. While I hope it is not necessary for the Police to issue a \$300 citation to anyone because they did not obtain their boating registration, I have instructed them to do so without warning as there are some that attempt to bring un-licensed boats on the lake. Please be responsible and get your registration completed now. There is no point in delaying.

A copy of the boating regulations is 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 will 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. If we can collectively achieve this goal we can be sure that ALL can have an enjoyable and safe boating season. Thanks in advance for doing your part!

BUOYS AND FLOATING RAFTS

The following is intended to remind all of the ordinance provisions relative to Buoy's and Floating rafts and to give anyone who is not in conformance with these standards the opportunity to take appropriate remedial measures as a means of mitigating the need for formal enforcement.

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 is also 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 buoy is moved back in violation of the Ordinance, the Police will issue a citation in addition to 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 encroachments, 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 similar to a floating dock.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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.

New Officers: Our Police force has also undergone some changes. Two of our officers have moved onto other assignments resulting in the Borough Council authorizing the hire of two new officers.

Officer Jim Rigby comes to us with 35 years of police experience in Ferndale, PA. He is an extremely dedicated professional and has done much to put our Department in order administratively. As the Officer in Charge of the Department he has updated our SOPs, implemented a computerized incident management system and has overhauled the administrative operations of the department. We are lucky to have found such a capable and professional officer.

Officer James Kistler, while a newly certified Police Officer, is also a full time commissioned officer (Captain) in the National Guard. He is an attack helicopter pilot who also serves as his battalion logistics officer. He has demonstrated the level of professionalism and responsibility that one would expect from a professional army officer and he brings that professionalism to the department.

These officers join Officer Michael Jacobs and Officer Richard Brandt, who have worked with the department for the past few years. All of our officers are responsible professionals who are serious about protecting your safety and they collectively hope that you will cooperate with them in achieving this goal. Don't hesitate to introduce yourself so that they can better know the people they serve.

New Police Cruiser: Our Department has taken delivery of a new Ford Explorer Police Interceptor unit, retiring the rather maintenance intensive Expedition that we obtained used from Seven Springs. We have also received new radios as part of the County upgrade to its radio dispatch system.

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. We have received a number of noise complaints in prior years 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. In fact, the late night discharge of fireworks has already begun this year.

With respect to music, all are reminded that we have a diverse community of all ages. After 11:00, please keep the noise down so that everyone, especially those with children, can enjoy a restful night's sleep. With respect to fireworks, because of the danger to persons and property as well as the fact that explosive types of fireworks are illegal in PA, all are asked to respect the law as well as your neighbors by refraining from use of such fireworks. If you witness illegal fireworks use, please contact Police and provide a location. The Police will issue appropriate citations to those who discharge fireworks illegally.

OUR CONTINUED THANKS TO INDIAN LAKE MARINA

Once again I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to Marc Alaia and the Indian Lake Marina for storage of 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 the next time you stop by the Marina. I also note that he recently took delivery of a number of new boats so if you are in the market for something new, please consider purchasing that new boat and supporting the Marina as well as all of our local businesses.

/s/

Michael Miscoe

Mayor, Indian Lake Borough