ISSUE 40

WINTER 2013



TOWN OF INDIAN HEAD

SMOKE SIGNALS

Town Happenings

A lot will be happening around Town this Winter! Come out and enjoy a few!

Town Meeting: Town Meetings are the 1st Monday of every month unless it happens to fall on a holiday. The Winter Town Meetings will take place on Mon. Dec. 3, Mon. Jan. 7, and Mon. Feb. 4, at the Village Green Pavilion 7:30pm.

Community Activities Committee: Tuesday Jan. 8, 7pm Village Green Pavilion.

Indian Head Business Association: Wednesday Feb. 13, 8:30am Dales Smokehouse.

Planning Commission: Tuesday Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 19, 7pm Village Green Pavilion.

Economic Development Commission: Wednesday Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, 7pm Village Green Pavilion.

Green Team: Thursday Jan. 10, Feb. 14, 7pm Back room at the Senior Center.

Annual Tree Lighting Program: Tuesday Dec. 4, 7pm Village Green Pavilion. Holiday music from the bands and choruses from I.H. Elementary, General Smallwood and H.E. Lackey students, refreshments, Santa, and more! Free admission-Everyone Welcome!



Gingerbread House Making Class: Friday Dec. 7, 6pm to 10pm and Sunday Dec. 9 1pm to 5pm,Village Green Pavilion. Adults & children 5 yrs. And older – Class size limited. $12/single or $14/pair (each additional person $2.00, maximum four persons per house) Fee includes 1 house set, icing bullets & icing bags, students bring their own decorations. Pre-registration required. **Registration and payment deadline is Friday Nov. 30.**





Community Dinner & Memorial Ribbon Ceremony: Saturday Dec. 8, 6pm to 8pm, Village Green Pavilion. To place ribbon orders, call 240-375-4061 or email karen@townofindianhead.org The ribbon deadline to place orders & RSVP for dinner is Wednesday, Dec. 3 $2.00 donation per ribbon or 6 for $10.00.

Annual Holiday Festival & Craft Fair: Tuesday Dec. 11, 6pm to 9pm, Village Green Pavilion. Admission: $1.00 each/all ages. Live entertainment: Hope You Dance Children's Dance Studio, Welcome First Baptist Church WDOGS Puppet Team, special live musical entertainment. Children's Activities. Homemade refreshments, hot apple cider.



The Painter Family Running Antique Trains. Gingerbread house contest. Crafts for Sale. Photos with Santa for $1.00 each. All donations and proceeds collected to be given to NETS (Neighbors Eager to Serve) Program.





Annual IH-VFD & RS Santa Run Through Town: Sunday Dec. 23, starting around 5:30pm



Annual Christmas Tree Removal: Every Wednesday beginning Dec. 8 thru Jan. 30. Place discarded tree curbside with regular yard waste. Tree must be free of decorations.

For additional information on Town events call Karen at 240-375-4061 or email karen@townofindianhead.org or call the Town Hall at 301-743-5511.



Mayor's Message by Dennis J. Scheessele

The holiday season is fast approaching. Halloween has come and gone with a minor influence of Hurricane Sandy. We have celebrated Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Now we're looking forward to the many holiday activities leading to Christmas and New Years Day.

Before I discuss the upcoming holiday activities let me provide some updates on activities around town. As you are aware, the change in seasons has brought the leaves down in massive quantities. As a result, the Public Works crews have begun the annual leaf vacuuming. So, if you rake your leaves to the edge of your lawn, the Public Works crews will vacuum them up and haul them away. Please don't rake your leaves into the road, or storm swales.

The Indian Head Rail Trail is becoming increasingly popular and we are trying to get more of the trail users off the trail and into town to visit our businesses and other recreational attractions. To achieve this, we partnered with Charles County Department of Recreation to place two information kiosks on the trail. One is located near the Arthur Ross Road crossing and the other is at the beginning of the trail at Mattingly Avenue. These kiosks list the businesses and attractions in town and provide a keyed map of their locations. As a result more cyclists are getting off the trail and using town streets to visit our businesses and attractions. Most of the increased traffic is on Strauss Avenue, Blair Road, and Mattingly Avenue. So drive carefully, be alert for cyclists, and "share the road" with them.

In the last newsletter, I told you about two grants that the town received for two trail related projects: the Indian Head Connector Trail from the Village Green to the beginning of the Indian Head Rail Trail and the Trail Head Plaza and Picnic Shelter on the Village Green. On October 24th, the Town received notification of award of a second $40,000 grant for the Indian Head Connector Trail. Additionally, the Economic Development Commission is in the process of developing a fund raising program to assist with funding the Trail Head Plaza and Picnic Shelter project. The Town has hired an Engineering Consultant to do the engineering, design, and preparation of construction drawings for these two projects. The construction drawings for each of these projects need to be reviewed and approved by the separate funding agencies.

During the upcoming General Assembly legislative session, mayors and municipal officials along with the staff of the Maryland Municipal League will lobby the delegates and senators for reinstatement of Highway User Revenue (HUR) money (primarily gas taxes and vehicle registration fees) to municipalities. We may need your help in this effort to send letters to our delegates and senators asking them to restore HUR money to municipalities to pay for road repair, maintenance, and reconstruction. And stop diverting HUR money to support non-highway programs.

That is enough talk about business. Let's talk about the coming holiday season. The Christmas season is fast approaching and we're looking forward to the many holiday festivities leading to Christmas and New Years. In the days and weeks ahead, the Community Activities Committee has scheduled and organized many activities and celebrations. There will be gingerbread house making classes, tree-decorating and caroling parties, the annual tree lighting celebration, and a holiday craft festival. Many of these events will include holiday music. You can read more about these events in the pages of this newsletter.

The Christmas season is a time for enjoying the peace and joy of the holidays and sharing holiday greetings and fellowship with family, friends and neighbors. It is a time for celebrations, parties, and exchanging gifts with family, friends, and neighbors. This year the economy is still slow. All of us are experiencing some hard times, some more than others. But we can still celebrate the joyous spirit of the Christmas season and party with family and friends. Perhaps the celebrations and parties may be a little more modest than in the past, but they can still be joyful and uplifting. Some families, who have experienced harder times, will find it difficult to enjoy this Christmas season. So, I encourage you to give whatever you can to the charity of your choice to help these families have a happy and blessed holiday season. It doesn't matter how much you can give. Every contribution will help these families to enjoy a happier holiday season.

The Mayor, Council and staff of the Town of Indian Head wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

TOWN OF INDIAN HEAD OFFICIALS / BOARDS / PERSONNEL

Mayor
Dennis J. Scheessele

Council
Edward "Ed" W. Rice, Vice Mayor
Randy L. Albright, Councilman

Town Manager
Ryan L. Hicks

Planning Commission
Richard Allen, Chair
Thomas S. Blake, Sr.
Warren Bowie
Wayne Higdon
Bryan Leslie
Michael Pellegrino
Mary Thompson

Board of Zoning Appeals
John Bloom, Chair
Rose Chase
Edward Joell
Rickie J. Posey

Economic Development Commission
Peggy Palmer, Chair
Thomas Boone
Dave Dixon
Pennie Drinkard
Pam Hundley-Hayes
Mike Jones
Betsy Wallman

Ethics Commission
Mark Hobgood
Larry Oliver
Lexie Oliver

Town Hall Staff
Annie Brady
Town Clerk
Ginger Foster
Finance Officer
Diane Campbell
Deputy Finance Officer
Karen Williams
Community Affairs
PFC John Riffle (#482)
Community Police Officer
Richard Wilcher
Code Enforcement
Eric Woodland
Head of Operations
Calvin Barnes
Field Supervisor
EAST, Inc.
Water/Wastewater

Town Website
www.townofindianhead.org

Fire Department By: Chief Jeff Williams

The holiday season is full of busy days and nights for all as we try to find time to shop, attend gatherings and plan time for family. With all these tasks, this time of year is suspect to many short cuts as we try to meet the required time frames and schedules we have set for ourselves. We get so busy and caught up in the hustle and bustle of this time of year that we tend to pay less attention to the details and take many shortcuts when heating our home, cooking for the Holidays and decorating for the season which can result in tragedy. With this time full of family, food and good times we forget to practice good Fire Safety procedures and also forget that this time of year can be the most dangerous and devastating for fire damage, injuries and even deaths. In an effort to make this time of year incident free and safe for all, the Indian Head Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Inc would like to offer the following Fire safety tips to all:

Home Heating:

The leading cause of residential fires during the winter months is heating appliances and the misuse of these devices. The following are some safety tips that need to be observed when using any form of heating devices within you home.

- Be sure to follow the manufacturer's operating and maintenance instructions.
- When buying a space heater, be sure to look for the UL or FM testing laboratory label. This ensures the heater has been tested by a safety laboratory and certified.
- Ensure the heater is equipped with an emergency tip-over device. This will ensure that if the heater is knocked or tipped over it will shut off automatically.
- Be sure to use only the appropriate fuel in these heaters, using the wrong or inappropriate fuels can lead to an explosion, fire and serious injury.
- If you use a fireplace for heating your home be sure to have it professionally cleaned and inspected each year.
- Always use a fire screen and burn only appropriate materials.
- Be sure to properly dispose of the ashes in a metal container and store it away from your home.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

Carbon monoxide is an odorless and tasteless gas that can make you and your family members sick and can even cause death. Some symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache and dizziness, nausea, convulsions, respiratory arrest which can lead to death.

Carbon monoxide is caused by the incomplete combustion of fuel products such as fuel oil, propane, natural gas and even the log in your fireplace. If you heat your home with any of these types of fossil fuels please follow these simple tips to help keep your family safe;

- Be sure to install at least one Carbon Monoxide Alarm in your home.
- These devices should be placed either outside in the hallway or in the sleeping areas of the home.
- Purchase a device that is electric with a battery backup to ensure they work in the event of a power failure.
- Should your detector go into alarm, leave your home as is and contact the fire department. By opening windows and doors in an attempt to ventilate the home, the fire department could get false readings on their meters.
- Be sure to replace the battery in these devices annually just as you would in a smoke alarm to ensure their operability.

Cooking Safety:

Cooking equipment, most often a range or stovetop is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. In addition, cooking equipment is also the leading cause of unreported fires and associated injuries this time of year. Here are some cooking safety tips to help keep you and your family safe in the kitchen.

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Be sure to stay in the kitchen when you're frying, broiling or baking any food. If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, have an adult watch the cooking or turn the stove off.
- If you're simmering, roasting or broiling, be sure to check it regularly and use a timer to remind you of cooking times.
- STAY ALERT! Be sure to be well rested and try to stay away from alcohol to reduce your chances of fatigue and altered mental status.
- Be careful around the burners and heating elements, keep all potholders, oven mitts and other combustibles away from the heat.
- Wear short, close fitting or tight rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle over the stove burners and can catch on fire.
- Be sure to have a Kid-Free Zone around the stove and oven. This is an area of 3 feet and prevents children from getting to close to the appliances and possibly getting burned.

(Continued on Page 4)

CIVIC EVENTS CALENDAR

American Legion Meeting
2nd Wednesday of each month - 8:00pm
Senior Community Center
301-283-0105

Western Charles/Indian Head Chapter 126 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) meets the 1st Thursday of each month (Except July & August) 301-743-9445 or 301-743-3055

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

St Mary's Star of the Sea Church
Sunday Services 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00am
Saturday Services 5:00 pm
Confessions Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30pm
Special Devotions 7:30am mass on the 1st Friday and 1st Saturday of each month

Indian Head Baptist
Sunday School 9:15am
Sunday, Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday Bible Study 6:00pm
Thursday Prayer Meeting 6:30pm

St James Episcopal
Sunday 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30am
Sunday School 9:45am

Indian Head Church of the Nazarene
Sunday School 9:45am
Sunday AM Worship 11:00am
Sunday PM Worship 6:00pm
Wednesday Adult Bible Study 7:00pm

Indian Head United Methodist Church
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 11:00am

Indian Head Assembly of God
Sunday Prayer 9:15am & 5:30pm
Sunday School 10:00am
Sunday Worship 11:00am & 6:00pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm

Greater Spiritual Fellowship Community Church
Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Worship 11:00am
Tuesday Discipleship Training 7:30pm
Thursday Bible Study 7:30pm

Congregation SHA'ARE Shalom
Services 1st Friday, 2nd & 4th Saturday every month. 301-645-4606
www.shaareshalomsomd.org

Indian Head Worship Center
Sunday Christian Education 9:30am
Sunday Morning Service 11:00am
Sunday Youth & Young Adult Service 6:30pm
Tuesday Bible Study 7:30pm
Friday Evangelical Service 7:30pm

Fire Department By: Chief Jeff Williams

- If a fire on the stove occurs, please remember the following:

⇒ **Stay calm.**

⇒ **Smother the fire by placing a lid on top of the pan.**

⇒ **Turn the burner off and allow the pan to cool completely before removing it from the stove.**

- If a fire occurs in the oven, leave the door closed as fresh air will cause the fire to accelerate. Turn the oven off and allow it to cool completely before opening the door.

Decorations:

- Be sure to purchase and use only UL or FM approved indoor and outdoor lighting and decorations.
- Be sure all electrical cords are in proper working condition with no frayed or damaged areas.
- Never attempt to repair any lighting or extension cords; this could cause a fire due to a short circuit.
- Never overload electrical outlets, all the manufacturer's strongly recommend not to link more than three strands of lights together on one extension cord or power supply.
- Be sure to connect all lighting to the extension cords before plugging the cord into an outlet to reduce a power surge on the electrical system.
- Check all wiring periodically, they should never be warm or hot to the touch. If they do become warm or hot, you should disconnect them immediately and replace them.
- Be sure to turn off or unplug all lighting and decorations when you're not at home or go to bed.
- **Never leave holiday lighting unattended.**

Candles:

- Try to use the jar type as they are enclosed and less likely to tip over.
- Make sure they are out of the reach of children and pets.
- Keep them away from all flammable or combustible material.
- Ensure they are not in the path of egress or block the way out of your home.
- Be sure to blow them out whenever you leave your home.

Christmas Trees:

According to the United States Fire Administration, during the past 5 years U.S. fire departments have responded to an average of **250 home fires** that started with Christmas tress per year. **These fires caused an average of 14 deaths, 26 injuries, and $13.8 million in direct property damage annually.**

- When using a live Christmas tree be sure to choose a freshly cut one. The needles should be green and hard to pull off the branches.
- Tap the tree on the ground and see if the needles fall off, if they do the tree has begun to dry out and could be a severe fire hazard.
- Before setting the tree up in your home, cut one to two inches off the trunk to allow the tree to draw water from the stand more evenly.
- Be sure to use a stand with a base for better balance and a deep water reservoir to immerse the trunk. This will allow for ample water helping to keep the tree fresh.
- Be sure to check the water level daily and add water as needed.
- Keep the tree away from all heat sources such as fireplaces, heat registers and portable heaters to prevent it from drying out.
- Be sure to set the tree up out of traffic areas to prevent it from being knocked over and from blocking your exit from the home in the event of an emergency.
- Be sure to dispose of your tree property before it dries out by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.
- If you are using an artificial tree, be sure that it has the UL or FM label on it.
- **NEVER use candles on a Christmas tree.**

Did you know?

- About 3,500 Americans die each year in fires and about 20,000 are injured.
- 80% of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over $990 million in damage annually.
- Smoke alarms increase your chance of surviving a fire in your home by 50%
- Every home should have at least one smoke alarm installed on each floor.
- Per manufacturers specifications, all smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

The Indian Head Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. By following these basic safety tips, you and your family enjoy a Fire Safe Holiday Season. For more information on Fire/Life Safety or if you have any questions contact the fire station at 301-743-3900 or 301-753-9400.



Town of Indian Head Useful Information

Holiday Closings

Town Hall, Public Works and the Community Affairs Office will be closed on the following day this quarter in observance of the holiday listed:

Christmas Holiday
Friday December 14 (Closing at 1pm)
Tuesday December 25
New Years Holiday
Tuesday January 1
Martin Luther King Day
Monday January 21
Presidents Day
Monday February 18

If you have a water or sewer emergency after hours, call 301-743-2222 to report your emergency. On-call Town personnel will be contacted and the problem will be handled accordingly.

After hours non-emergency type problems can be reported by leaving a message on the Town Hall office number 301-743-5511. Be prepared to furnish your name, address, phone number and brief, but detailed description of the type of problem. Water cutoffs for non-payment are not considered emergencies and are only handled during Public Works regular business hours.

Town Codes

- **Burning**—No burning is allowed within the Town limits.
- **Animal Control**—Dogs and cats must be kept on the owner's property unless properly restrained. The Charles County Animal Control provides animal enforcement within the Town. Call 301-932-1713 if you have a problem.
- **Abandoned or Inoperative Vehicles** are prohibited within the Town and may not be kept on the street for more than 24 hours or on private property, with certain exceptions. Call Code Enforcement at 301-743-5511 ext. 101 with any questions.
- **Property Maintenance**—Every dwelling and lot shall be kept free from trash and garbage. Weeds and grass must be cut and kept shorter than 10 inches.
- **Building Code**—The Town has an adopted building code. Any new construction or remodeling, including, but not limited to porches, fences, sheds and garages, requires inspection and a building permit from the Town.

Town Meetings

1st Monday every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Green Pavilion. Televised 8p.m. first two Fridays each month on Comcast Channel 190. meetings will also be televised on CCGTV on Mondays at 10am and Wednesdays at 7pm. Comcast channel 95 and FIOS channel 10.

Town Hall

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Phone Numbers
Ofc: 301-743-5511
Fax: 301-743-9008

Recycling/Yard Waste

Solid waste products such as glass jars and bottles, newspapers, plastic bottles and metal cans will be picked up at the curb every Wednesday within the Town of Indian Head. Place these items in your recycling bin—no need to separate them.

Yard waste will be collected on Wednesdays, year-round, weather permitting. Grass clippings and leaves must be placed in brown paper bags or in a trash container marked "Yard Waste" and placed at curbside. Brush must be bundled and must not be any longer than four feet (4') in length. Individual pieces of brush must not be any larger than six inches (6") in diameter. Bulk Trash can now be scheduled year-round on Wednesdays. Fee of $50 (cash or money order **ONLY**) per scheduled pick-up must be paid in advance at time of scheduling at Town Hall. All items must be curbside by 7:00am on the prescheduled pick-up day but not earlier than 48 hours prior to pick-up day.

Utility Rates

The Town bills for utilities on a quarterly basis. Please make note that you will be receiving a bill four times a year (July, October, January and April). ***You are encouraged to make an estimated payment monthly toward your quarterly bill.*** For more information you can call Town Hall at 301-743-5511

Water & Sewer Rates
Minimum rate for all residential customers **$ 70.40**
(per dwelling unit per quarter) plus
$6.85 for every 1,000 gallons used
Minimum rate for all commercial customers **$ 212.80**
(per unit per quarter) plus
$6.85 for every 1,000 gallons used

Bay Restoration Fee
$15.00 to State of Maryland Comptroller's office for the Bay Restoration Fund

Trash Rates
Residential/Multiple Residential Rate: ***$ 80.00 (per dwelling unit per quarter)*** - Billed quarterly for twice a week curb-side pickup and one (1) recyclable products pickup per week.

Commercial Rate

Category I	Dumpster (4cu yds)	$495.00 per qtr
Category II	Maximum 2 cans (per unit)	$95.00 per qtr
	Each additional can	$46.00 per qtr

All residential and commercial units within the Town of Indian Head shall avail themselves of the Town's curb-side trash collection service.

Indian Head Elementary School Important Dates & Information

December 4 - **Family Math & Common Core Night 6-8pm**

December 5 – **2 Hour Early Dismissal—No Three's Program**

December 10 - **Interims Issued**

December 13 – **Big Event!!!**

December 18 – **Title I Financial Literacy Parent Workshop 6-7pm**

Winter Concert 7pm

December 21 – **2 Hour Early Dismissal—No Three's Program. First day of Winter.**

December 24—January 1 –Winter Break– Schools Closed



Indian Head VFD Events

Drive-Thru Fried Chicken Dinner- Mondays, December 3, and February 4. From 10:30am until 1:30pm. Menu: 1/2 fried chicken, parsley potatoes, green beans, roll, butter, and beverage. $8.00 per plate. Carry out only. Call ahead to place your order: 301-753-9400 or 301-743-3900



Texas Hold'Em Tournament—Fridays, December 14, January 18, February 15. Doors open at 6:00pm, play starts at 8:00pm. Payout determined by the number of players. Registration $150 ($5,000 in chips). Add-on $40 ($2,000 in chips) Register before 7:30pm and receive an extra $1,000 in chips. Must be 18 to play, 21 to drink, ID required. Open to the first 160 players. Beverages, snacks, and hot sandwiches provided with registration fee. Side tables available when doors open. Call 301-753-8011 or email poker@ihvfd.com

Annual Tree Lighting Program

Tuesday, December 4

7:00pm

Indian Head Village Green Pavilion

Holiday music from the bands and choruses from I.H. Elementary, General Smallwood & H.E. Lackey students. Refreshments, Santa & More!

Free Admission—Everyone Welcome!

For Information call 240-375-4061



Community Dinner & Memorial Ribbon Ceremony



Saturday, December 8

6:00-8:00pm

Indian Head Village Green Pavilion

To place ribbon orders, call 240-375-4061 or email karen@townofindianhead.org

Deadline to place ribbon orders & RSVP for dinner is Wednesday, Dec. 3

$2.00 donation per ribbon or 6/$10

Menu: Roasted Turkey, Baked Ham, Savory Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Candied Yams, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Giblet Gravy, Cranberry Relish, Rolls & Butter, Pumpkin Pie & Apple Pie, Iced Tea & Coffee



Annual Holiday Festival & Craft Fair



Tuesday, December 11 6:00-9:00pm

Indian Head Village Green Pavilion

Live Entertainment

Hope You Dance Children's Dance Studio

Welcome First Baptist Church WDOGS Puppet Team



Special Live Musical Entertainment

Children's Activities



Homemade Refreshments

Hot Apple Cider

The Painter Family Running Antique Trains

Photos with Santa $1.00 Each

ADMISSION: $1.00 Each/All Ages

All Donations & proceeds collected to be given to NETS (Neighbors Eager to



Gingerbread House Contest

Crafts for Sale

For more information call 240-375-4061 or email

karen@townofindianhead.org



TOWN OF INDIAN HEAD

4195 Indian Head Highway
Indian Head, MD 20640
Phone: 301-743-5511/301-753-6633
Fax: 301-743-9008
www.townofindianhead.org

PRSRT STD

U.S. Postage Paid

Waldorf, MD



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«Address4»