

Town of Meridian Hills

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

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TOWN ADDRESSES SPEED CONTROL

The Town of Meridian Hills is a wonderful place to walk, jog, or ride your bike. Every day people are outside enjoying the neighborhood. With so many people on the roads at varying times throughout the day, we often forget how dangerous it can be to share the roads with motorists and pedestrians.

Many people have brought it to the Council's attention that motorists are not adhering to posted speed limits. The Council has asked the Town Marshal to have deputies step up the

enforcement of the posted speed limits throughout the Town. In fact, each deputy has been asked to run radar and monitor stop signs on every shift, unless conditions or circumstances do not allow.

The Town is taking the topic of speed control very seriously. With the daylight hours getting shorter, and school in session, it is important to address this problem head-on. Please remember that the school zones post a speed limit of 25 during the posted school hours.

We have a combination of young drivers rushing to school, parents hurrying to pick up or drop off a child, people racing to work, and many motorists simply passing through the Town. Interestingly enough, most

of the stops so far have been to residents of the Town!

The Town of Meridian Hills is a great place to live, and although a roads primary



purpose is to move vehicles, the motorists must recognize that they are in a residential area and share the roads with walkers, joggers, and bikers. A \$155 speeding citation is an expensive lesson. Please set an example and obey the posted speed limits.

- By Helen Carroll



Results of Drainage Study

The Town Council recognizes the issue of water drainage as a major area of concern for the Town. Meridian Hills, as its name implies, is full of little hills and valleys, while at the same time harboring some very flat lowland. The

Town Council commissioned Cecil Whitaker, the Town Engineer, and Schneider Corporation to conduct a drainage study of the Town, including a topographical analysis. The purpose of the study was to identify general drainage

characteristics of the Town, locate problem areas, and provide a cost estimate to address each. Nine specific areas were identified with costs ranging from \$2,200 to \$58,000, with an aggregate estimate of \$156,000.

Continued on page 2

ADMINISTRATION

Town Council

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979-5646

Katherine Ivceovich
251-0404

Abbe Hohmann
251-6227

Clerk Treasurer

William R. Nunery, MD
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Deputy Clerk Treasurer

Mathieu Nunery

Town Attorney

Sue A. Beesley

Town Engineer

Cecil Whitaker, PE, DEE

Town Marshal

Michael S. Russo

www.meridianhills.org

MARSHAL'S CORNER

Taser Weapons

The Town Council recently approved the purchase of five Tasers, associated equipment, and the necessary training for the officers of Meridian Hills.

A Taser is a less-lethal energy weapon used by many law enforcement agencies throughout the country. It provides a police officer with a safe and effective weapon to subdue individuals that present a danger to the officer or a member of the public.

A Taser operates by firing a stunning jolt of electricity. The jolt stuns the individual for about five seconds. This allows the police officer time to take

control of the suspect.

Solicitations

The issue of aggressive solicitations has been brought to the attention of the Town Council. Residents have asked about ways to deal with unwanted solicitations in the Town.

There are no laws against solicitation in the Town of Meridian Hills. As a matter of fact, most ordinances on the issue have been



struck down by the courts. Following are some suggestions on how to deal with unwelcome solicitations:

1. It is best not to ever open your door to unknown individuals. If you decide to contribute to a solicitor, don't ever let them in your home.
2. A resident has every right to ask a solicitor to leave the property. If they do not leave, simply call 911, not the Town Police office.

Monon Trail Safety

The Monon Trail is recommended for residents to use rather than compete with vehicular traffic on the roads. One word of caution...do not leave anything of value in your car while parked on the trail. Don't invite someone to break into your vehicle.

Emergency Numbers

If a situation requires immediate or emergency action, always call 911, regardless of whether you need the fire department, ambulance, or a police response!

- Ted Butz

Recycling Programs

The Town of Meridian Hills is a great community right in the heart of a natural ecosystem. Marrott Park and Holliday Park are covered in trails to explore and enjoy nature. There is no better way to show your respect for the environment than to participate in the recycling program available to residents.



Call 747-2878

Or visit www.wm.com

For curbside recycling programs.

Enrolling in the recycling couldn't be easier. Waste Management offers curbside pickup and provides plastic bins to put your glass, cans, plastic and newspaper in. You don't even have to sort the materials!

Pickup is once a week on your normal trash day. The additional cost for this service is only \$11.85 a quarter, a rate contracted with the City of Indianapolis.

We are stewards of this land and need to set a good example for the next generation. Let's show that we, as a town, care about the environment and the future by signing up for this service.

Please call 745-2878, or visit www.wm.com for more information.

- Richard Most

"If the situation requires immediate or emergency action, always call 911."

Drainage Study Results

Continued from page 1

Further input will be needed to prioritize and budget for necessary repairs. It is clear, however, that the Town does not currently have the fiscal ability to address all the drainage issues identified, much those that have not been identified. The Town Council intends to work with the City as well as research alternate sources of funding through grants to address these issues.

- Helen Carroll

If you're interested in serving on a committee, please contact us!

- Kay Ivovich** - Streets & Thoroughfares
- Police & Safety
- Finance
- Abbe Hohmann** - Development Standards & Residential Construction
- Terry O'Brien** - Communication

Roadway and Sign Management Programs

Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer, has completed a thorough assessment of the streets and thoroughfares throughout the Town, as well as the traffic signs, at the request of the Town Council.

The Roadway Management Program identifies the condition of the roads, as well as the priority for repair. A two year maintenance program has been submitted to the Council, and the recommendations for 2005 maintenance have been approved.

A separate but related analysis of the traffic signs throughout the Town was also conducted. The Sign Management Program included inspecting every sign and measuring the reflectivity as well as

the appropriate installation height required to be compliant with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Code Devices and the State of Indiana. A program for some replacements and repairs has been recommended at a projected cost of \$4,515. Additional funding is being researched in order to complete the proposed recommendation, including available grants from the State of Indiana.



- Helen Carroll

Visit

www.meridianhills.org

- Biography -

Cecil Whitaker

Cecil Whitaker, Engineer for the Town of Meridian Hills, is a graduate of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and presently Vice President of Schneider Corporation.

He has been active in environmental engineering for 30 years, working extensively in Indiana on significant projects including wastewater, storm water management, water systems, and park development. Mr. Whitaker is a great asset, and the Town is very fortunate to have him as our Town Engineer.

RESULTS OF RESIDENT SURVEY

In the April issue of the new Town of Meridian Hills newsletter, we issued a survey inviting residents to voice your opinions and raise issues that you feel are important. The response was not overwhelming, but those that did respond were passionate.

The number one issue was an interest in sidewalks offering greater access to the parks and the Monon Trail. Drainage

issues came in a close second, and a town recycling program came in third.

As a result of the survey, the Council commissioned the Drainage Study covered on page one. We also investigated recycling programs and quickly realized we could not negotiate a better contract than the city of Indianapolis, but would make an effort to inform residents of the available programs.

The Council will continue to study the issues, and solicit the input of the residents of the Town.

Visit www.meridianhills.org to stay updated on the regular meeting agendas and minutes. You can use the "Contact Us" feature or drop a note in the mail to the Town Hall at 7404 N. Park Avenue., Indianapolis, IN 46240.

- Terry O'Brien

HOW SENATE BILL ONE WILL AFFECT TOWN FINANCES

The State of Indiana passed a piece of legislation in January that will greatly affect the finances of the Town of Meridian Hills.

Senate Bill One essentially uses the 2003 calendar year as a barometer and locks that budget into place, allowing only for a minor cost of living increase for future years. While on the surface this may sound like a good bill, it greatly restricts the ability of municipalities to set a budget based on current needs rather than selecting a random year retroactively.

The problem is that 2003 was a lower than usual budget for the Town of Meridian Hills. In fact, the town operated at a deficit for the year. In municipal finance, this would not normally be an issue, but our Town will need a new police vehicle in 2006, and this new bill does not allow for an adjustment in the tax levy to accommodate this one time expense. It does not allow the Town to adjust the levy to address any road, drainage, sign or other issues that may arise. The 2003 budget is a very tight budget that simply allows for minimum ongoing maintenance of the Town's roads and current programs.

The Town Council will continue to work within our current budget parameters, work with the City of Indianapolis, and explore possible grant money available for Hazard Elimination projects and Town Beautification projects.

Please contact us with any additional questions or concerns regarding this important piece of legislation, and how it will affect the services the Town of Meridian Hills can provide to its residents.

Town of Meridian Hills
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www.meridianhills.org

Phone: 253-8743

Fax: 253-8741

Calendar of Events

Town Council Meetings — 7:30pm

September 13, October 11,

November 8, December 13

September 26

Second Presbyterian Blood Drive

8:00am — 12:30pm

October 31

Halloween

Please be Careful!

November 2

Election Day

Don't forget to Vote!

November 4

Second Presbyterian Women's Bazaar

9:00am—2:00pm

This newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee for the Town of Meridian Hills. If you are interested in contributing to the newsletter, or sponsoring future newsletters, please contact Terry O'Brien at 979-5646 or Helen Carroll at 722-4350.

This newsletter is sponsored by:

Helen Carroll

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722-4350



*Town of Meridian Hills
Established 1937*

Did You Know...

The Town of Meridian Hills is located in such a wonderful natural environment, we have the opportunity to see all kinds of wildlife. It's not uncommon to see deer, pileated woodpeckers, beavers, and even coyotes! Yes, there have been recent sightings of coyotes, a smaller relative of a wolf.



Continued

The bottom line is to scare the coyote and make it keep its natural wariness of people.

Martin McCormick writes in Outdoor Indiana that negative re-enforcement be used when you encounter a coyote on your property. Always let the coyote know that it is not welcome.

- Let it know it has been seen. Wave your arms and stamp your feet.
- Place yourself between it and children, especially younger ones who don't know how to react to a wild animal.
- Make loud noises, throw rocks, or spray with a garden hose.
- Never turn your back or run from a coyote.
- Never attempt to feed a coyote or befriend it. They are not pets; they are wild animals and should be treated as such.

Continued in next column

First Congregational Church

Memorial Garden

Many residents in the town have probably noticed the work recently completed on the front lawn of the First Congregational Church just north of 71st Street on Pennsylvania.

The beautiful new Memorial Garden is designed to be a peaceful place to rest, relax and meditate. Please visit this garden, and call 275-5397 if you have any questions about this new and beautiful addition to the grounds of the church.