

Town of Meridian Hills

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

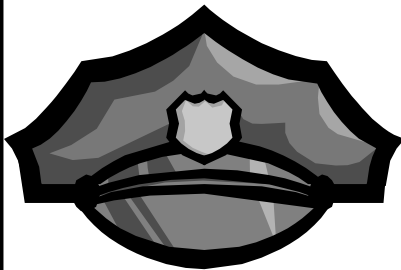
SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

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EXPERIENCED TOWN POLICE

Many residents may not know the qualifications and experience of the officers that serve the Town of Meridian Hills. Following are highlights of the more interesting parts of our officer's history.



Marshal Mike Russo has over 30 years experience in law enforcement, was a senior manager at the Sheriff's Department under multiple different administrations and retired from there with the rank of Captain. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Indiana University

and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, a prestigious multi-week school that only a handful of professionals attend each year. For a number of years, Mike was also a reserve firefighter for the Washington Township Fire Department and served as the Reserve Division Commander.

Over 15 yrs ago, Mike was instrumental in saving of a young man's life after a traffic accident at 73rd & Pennsylvania. The accident severed blood vessels in the child's throat and he was quickly bleeding to death. Single-handedly, Mike stopped the flow of blood from his wounds using his hands alone until Fire Department paramedics arrived. Working together, they were able to

get the child to a trauma center in a condition where surgeons could save his life. Weeks later, this child walked into the Fire Station to thank them.

Deputy Andy Jacobs is one of the most senior employees having spent a number of years working in Meridian Hills as a deputy for the late Town Marshal Martin Robbins. Andy is highly experienced in law enforcement communications and works the overnight shift for the Sheriff's Department.

Sergeant John Maloney is a seasoned detective in the Sheriff's Homicide & Robbery Unit. He investigates violent crimes every work day and has successfully prosecuted many dangerous felons.

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Personal Safety Seminar

On April 28th, the Town offered a Personal Safety Seminar at Park Tudor School hosted by our own Sergeant Matt Grimes. Sergeant Grimes discussed personal security tips for daily living that could reduce your chances for becoming a victim of crime. Attendees of the seminar

felt it was very worthwhile. Although we live in a wonderful community, the dominant messages to prevent crime were:

- *Immediately* report suspicious activity by calling 911
- *Always* lock your home, garage and car.

- Keep valuables out of sight.
- Don't post personal info from your mailbox

Special thanks to Sergeant Grimes, Stephanie Crossin and Kay Ivcevich for organizing the event!

POLICE

Emergency 9-1-1
Non-Emergency 327-3811
Answering Mach. 253-5678

ADMINISTRATION

Town Council

Terrence O'Brien, President
979-5646

Katherine Ivcevich
251-0404

Abbe Hohmann
251-6227

Clerk Treasurer

John Taylor
459-7708

Town Attorney

Sue A. Beesley

Town Engineer

Cecil Whitaker, PE, DEE

Town Marshal

Michael S. Russo

meridianhills.org

MARSHAL'S CORNER

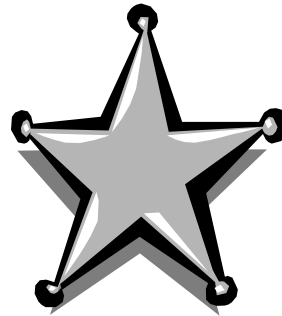
School has started again and I want to remind all residents and visitors to pay close attention while driving. Deputies will be monitoring speed not only in school zones, but also roads traveled by parents who hurriedly drop off their children. And, at the request of residents we will make sure school busses obey the speed limits, especially on 75th Street.

As you may be aware, this summer we continued to experience thefts from unlocked personal vehicles left in driveways and open garages. Please, make sure your cars are locked. Remove visible items that are easy to steal (CD's, cell phones, purses). Close and lock your garage, and be sure to call us at

253-5678 to let us know when you leave your home for vacation or other extended periods. Vandalism also took its toll on some residents, especially those living east of Meridian Street. Please call 911 to report anything suspicious. Your alertness and watching out for your neighborhood is an critical factor in the safety of Meridian Hills.

Please call me with any questions!

- Marshal Mike Russo



WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Members of the Meridian Hills Town Council attended a Walkable Community Workshop hosted by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization on June 17th from 8am - noon. The Town requested the event take place at Park Tudor in order to focus on the Town of Meridian Hills as an example.

Mark Fenton and Megan Hoyt, nationally recognized speakers from Seattle led the discussion, which was followed with a few walks in the area and a brainstorming session to discuss possible improvements to create a better walking environment. There were a number city officials in attendance and the event was very worthwhile. Let us know if you have any thoughts regarding walkability in your Town.

Town Entry Signs

Like a front door to your house, the Town of Meridian Hills has a number of main entry points called "gateways." We've recently had conversations about improving our gateways, including our Town entry signs, and we're interested in your thoughts!

Our current entry signs are beginning to deteriorate and may need replacement soon. We've discussed the possibility of more substantial monument-style signs with landscaping to complement them.

Related issues we've discussed include gateway locations, long term maintenance, and of course funding. The Communications Committee has identified seven possible gateway locations that could include up to twelve entry signs as part of a long range project. We've also discussed the possibility of using a limestone or granite that could tie in with some of the churches and schools in the Town and differentiate us from the brick signs at both Williams Creek and Windcome to our north.

With our extreme budget limitations, we're exploring all avenues of funding. However, improved gateways and new entry signs may not be possible without outside funding. We've secured the volunteer services of a local architect to help design new signs, and we've applied for a "Keep Indianapolis Beautiful" grant in the hopes of receiving outside funds, but we're also considering an appeal to residents for supplemental funding.

Let us know your thoughts on our gateways and entry signs, and if you would be interested in donating funds to improve our front door! Please call Terry O'Brien at 979-5646 with any questions or email tobrien@obrienauto.com.

"Current Entry Signs are deteriorating and may need replacement soon."

Animal Control

Please be considerate of your neighbors and the many pedestrians and bicyclists throughout our Town. In Marion County, dogs are required to be on a leash on public streets or rights-of-way. If you encounter an aggressive dog that poses an immediate threat or emergency, please call 911. If you'd like to report an owner or a dog that chases walkers or bikers in the street, please call the Mayor's Action Center at 327-4622 and an Animal Control officer will respond within 48 hours. Thanks for your cooperation!



Current Town Entry Sign

EXPERIENCED TOWN POLICE *(Continued from page 1)*

Before his promotion and transfer to Investigations, John worked the north east side of the county as a road patrol officer for many years.

Deputy Al Kasper is retired from the United States Army. During his time in service to his country, he was trained as a Criminal Investigator and he spent years working high profile drug cases for the Federal Government. In addition, Al was re-activated into the Army after the 9/11 attacks to serve on the personal protection team for the Secretary of the Army. Full time, Al is the Director of Safety & Security for the Metropolitan School District of Pike Township.

Deputy Chuck Deblaso is a member of the Sheriff's Department SWAT team and was instrumental in capturing two armed felons in the Arden neighborhood a few months ago, one of which was a suspect in a recent murder.

Sergeant Matt Grimes is assigned to the evening shift for the Sheriff's Department and is entrusted with supervising officers in a quarter of the county each time he works. Before that, this decorated veteran spent a number of years in the Crime Prevention Unit teaching citizens how to protect themselves



Radar Trailer on Town Streets

and interact effectively with law enforcement.

Deputy Jeff Lumpkin is a college trained engineer and the son of a highly respected retired ranking IPD officer. Jeff is a licensed instructor pilot, amateur radio operator and a recognized expert in electronic surveillance measures in addition to his over 20 years of experience serving Meridian Hills as a police officer. Jeff's unique knowledge in surveillance and electronics have resolved many sticky situations through the years.

Sergeant Jan Kistler spent over a decade working the streets on the northwest side as a Sheriff's Deputy and a Sergeant and now supervises the investigation of hit & run and fatality accidents. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force and serves the Sheriff as a member of the prestigious Honor Guard.

Deputy Fred Coraz is a trained law enforcement K-9 handler and recently won an award in competition with his peers. Fred served for a number of years as a reserve officer for the Sheriff's Department before coming to Meridian Hills.

Deputy Harry Morris, a former United States Marine, has not only 20 yrs of experience in law enforcement but over 15 yrs as a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Washington Township Fire Department. He has a son who is now trying to follow in his father's footsteps.

Deputy Marshal Rick Batza's public safety career began with the Washington Township Fire Department in 1969 and retired as the Fire Chief in 1994. He graduated from the Marion County Sheriff's Acad-

- Biography -

Sue Beesley

Sue Beesley has more than 20 years of experience in the area of government services and public finance law. She earned her law degree from the Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington, in 1980 and her undergraduate degree from DePauw University in 1977. She was admitted to the Indiana Bar and U.S. District Court, Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana in 1980 and the U.S. Supreme Court in 1996. Beesley was Corporation Counsel to the City of Indianapolis and Marion County from 1992-1997. Prior to that she served as Assistant Corporation Counsel, law clerk for the Honorable George B. Hoffman, Jr., Indiana Court of Appeals, was former Deputy Attorney General, and former general counsel for the Indianapolis Local Public Improvement Bond Bank. Ms. Beesley is a great asset for the Town and we're fortunate to have her as our Attorney.

emy in 1972 and worked 20 yrs as a reserve deputy, serving as a Lieutenant in charge of street operations for over 80 officers. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Health Services Management from Indiana University and was one of the first Firefighter Paramedics in the State of Indiana in 1977. He successfully completed the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Maryland, the Fire Service colleague of the FBI Academy. He was honored to supervise Emergency Medical Services Operations for the 10th Pan American Games in Indianapolis during 1987. He has recently been promoted to Deputy Chief of Administration for the Wayne Township Fire Department.

The people Marshal Russo has chosen to protect the residents of Meridian Hills are not your average public safety officials but rather the cream of the crop. Please be sure to thank them for their service!

Town of Meridian Hills
P.O. Box 40437
Indianapolis, IN 46240

www.meridianhills.org

Phone: 459-7708

Fax: 334-0955

Calendar of Events

Council Meetings – 7:00pm

October 10, November 14,

December 12, January 9

September 24th

St. Luke Octoberfest from 6-8pm

September 25th

Indianapolis Symphonic Band
Holliday Park- Call 327-7180

September 29th - 30th

First Congregational Rummage Sale

October 2nd

First Congregational Blessing of the
Animals- 2pm. Call 351-0510

October 2nd

Family Fun Day at Holliday Park

October 13th

Second Presbyterian Woman's Gath-
ering - 11:15am - Call 253-6461

October 20th - 30th

Holliday Park Hauntless Halloween

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

meridianhills.org

Town of Meridian Hills
Established 1937

Sign Ordinance

We've all seen street corners cluttered with signs advertising everything from garage sales and open houses to vitamins and health insurance. In an effort to avoid such clutter, the Meridian Hills Municipal Code addresses appropriate use and placement of signs.

In general, advertising signs are not permitted on private or public property, utility poles, bridges, fences, buildings, or in the public right-of-way. Temporary signs for the sale and rental of real estate and the sale of personal property, such as garage or estate sales, are allowed with limitations.

Real estate signs no larger than six square feet can be displayed on a property and must be removed promptly upon completion of the sale or rental. Open house signs directing the public to the property may be used within a two block radius for a period of one hour before and one hour after the event.



A single permanent one square foot unlighted sign related to an allowed home occupation may be displayed on private property.

By providing information about provisions set forth in the Municipal Code, we hope to enhance the attractive residential nature of our Town.

-Helen Carroll

New Park Manager

Joe Schmid, a graduate of Purdue Wildlife Sciences and Chief Parks Ranger in Indy since 1979 is the new manager at Holliday Park. Be a Friend of Holliday Park and get involved by calling 475-9482.

Town of Meridian Hills

P.O. Box 40437

Indianapolis, IN 46240