

Town of Meridian Hills

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

TOWN RESIDENT SURVEY

Last year the Town of Meridian Hills created an ad hoc Town Planning Committee to study issues and make recommendations toward a long-term plan to increase public safety, im-



prove property values and resident livability, and create a stronger sense of identity and community for the Town of Meridian Hills.

In April, the Town sent out what we believe is the first ever Town-wide resident survey. Approximately 700 surveys were mailed to residents and 351 completed surveys were returned. That's an unprecedented return rate of over 50 per-

cent when a 5 percent rate is standard for a survey of this nature!

Topics on the survey included buried utility lines, street closures, decorative streetlights, decorative stop signs, town entry signs, roundabouts and activity paths/sidewalks. Residents were invited to prioritize their interests and make additional comments.

The Planning Committee studied the results of the survey and made recommendations to the council. The council has not acted on any of the recommendations. A sensitive issue with some included a recommendation to research the feasibility of a sidewalk on one side of 75th street. A special meeting was held to invite resi-

The complete results of the survey are posted on meridianhills.org

dents on 75th Street to share their thoughts. A sidewalk on 75th Street would never happen unless driven by strong resident support after several neighborhood meetings to engage residents, engineering feasibility, and available funding. A sidewalk on 75th will not happen any time in the next several years. The council will continue to study all the issues and recommendations from the committee.

Special thanks to the Town Planning Committee members who volunteered hundreds of hours researching, meeting, surveying, and presenting their findings. Committee members included Rose Scovel, Sue Welch, John Taylor, Mathieu Nunery, Bill Nunery, Laura Hays, and Terry O'Brien.

The complete results of the survey are posted on meridianhills.org.

Town Reduces Speed Limits

The Streets & Thoroughfares Committee recently completed a survey of the Town's existing speed limit signs. Some signs were inconsistent with our municipal code, while some streets that have become higher volume cut-throughs have inadequate signage.

In our ongoing effort to address speed control within the Town, the council recently passed an ordinance reducing speeds on side streets to 20 MPH, subject to legal review. Signs will be installed as funding and necessity allow. The City's streets remain unchanged, and Pennsylvania, 75th and

64th Street will remain 30 MPH, except in the 25 MPH school zone. Additional radar enforcement, letters to schools and churches, and an effort to redirect some of the township school buses are additional steps we've taken. Please be sure to stop at the stop signs and follow the speed limits.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Town Resident Survey	1
Lower Speed Limits	1
Financial Snapshot	2
Woodmont Condos	3
Mayor's Action Center	3
William's Creek Dam	3
Calendar of Events	4

POLICE

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

ADMINISTRATION

Town Council

Terrence O'Brien, President
979-5646

Katherine Ivcevic
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
590-5924

meridianhills.org

TOWN FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Like many small towns in Indiana, Meridian Hills operates on a very limited budget. Our primary responsibilities include police services and maintenance of over 11 miles of roads including snow removal, paving, pothole repair, crack sealing, traffic signs, striping, street lights, etc.

That leaves very limited funds remaining. Our clerk treasurer has met with the Department of Local Government Finance to review our receipts and make sure we are not overlooking any opportunities. Additionally, we established a Rainy Day Fund in 2004 and have set aside \$89,000 over the last three years.

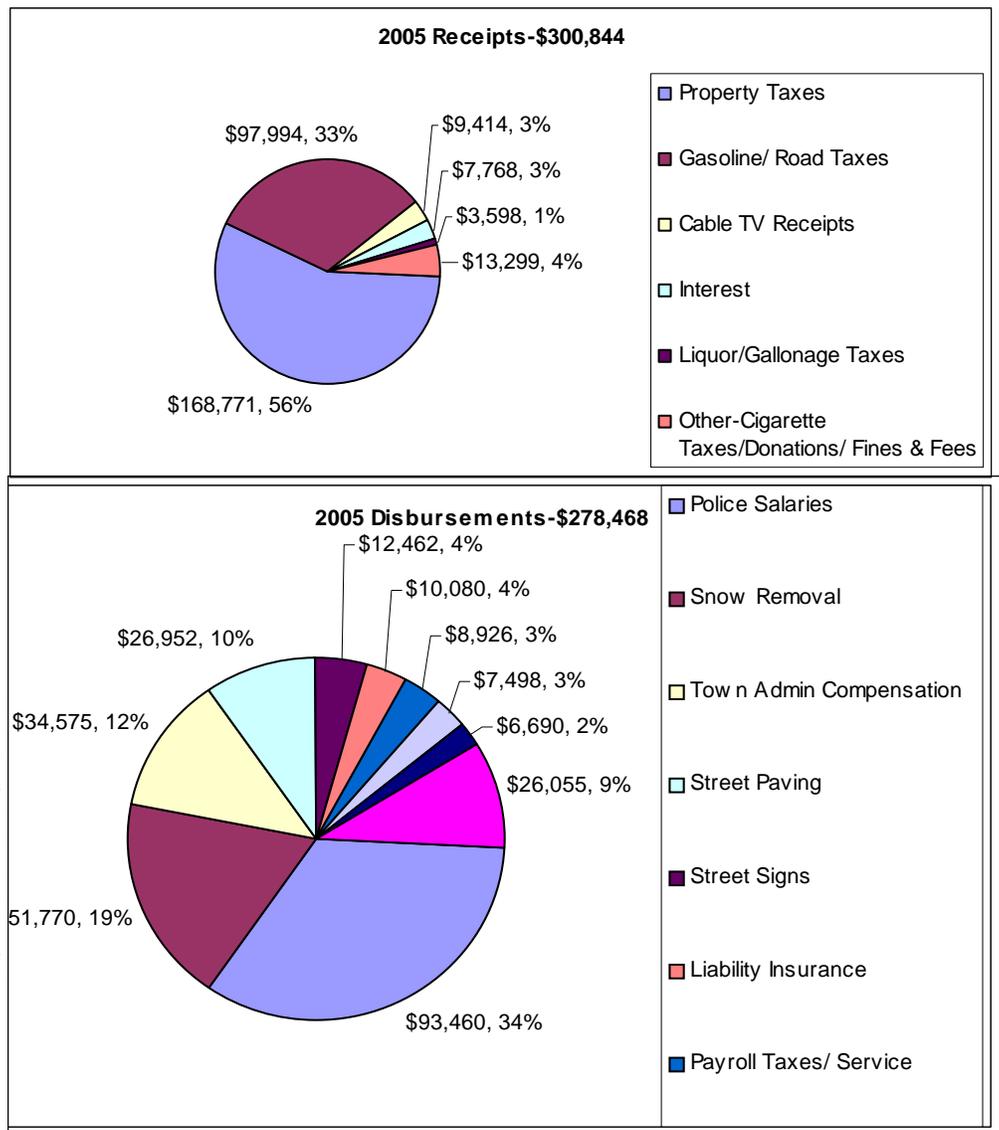


Legislation passed in 2004 set 2003 as a benchmark and limits any budget increase to a small percentage to allow for inflation. While this effort to control spending was well intended, it also came with some unintended consequences. It didn't take into consideration that 2003 was a deficit year for the Town with limited expenditures. In other words, our benchmark was a low spending year for the Town. When a large capital project or a new police vehicle is required, the funds will have to come out of our existing budget allowance.

We will continue to explore alternative funding measures and will continue to responsibly manage the business of the Town of Meridian Hills.

The 2005 tax rate for the town was 2.77356. That means for every \$1,000 you *pay* in property taxes, the Town receives just \$27.74! However, the Town does have other sources of revenue in addition to property taxes.

The charts at the right illustrate receipts and expenditures for 2005, with categories listed from highest to lowest just right of the charts. From a \$300,000 budget, the town spent about \$93,500 on police salaries. Additional police expenses include training, equipment, maintenance, payroll taxes, insurance, etc. The Town spent almost \$52,000 on snow removal and \$34,500 on administration compensation.



THE WOODMONT

Kosene & Kosene recently purchased the Woodmont property at Arden Drive & Meridian Street and are in the process of building 20 new low-maintenance homes.

The stately brick and cast stone exteriors, private terraces, gourmet kitchens and designer accents fit any style. The homes are open concept designs with spacious bedrooms and optional sun-

square feet, with two or three bedroom units with or without a study available.

The monthly maintenance fees range from \$398 to \$512. Presently, the pre-existing Woodmont, which has three buildings with four units each, and the new Woodmont development have separate homeowner associations which are in discussion to merge in the future.



rooms. Each building contains four units, two upper and two main level homes that range from 2,148 to 3,286

The model is open seven days a week. Contact your Realtor for additional information and professional assistance.

COUNCIL MEMBER & ELECTION COMMITTEE FORMED

The Town Council formed an ad hoc Council Member & Election Committee at the regular August meeting. The committee will develop a recommendation for the Town Council regarding the number of council members needed to best serve the residents. If the committee determines additional councilors are necessary, they would research the election process and recommend whether elections should fall on the same years as the existing three positions or on alternate years. Additionally, the committee would make a recommendation regarding service at large or serving a district. And lastly, the committee would make a recommendation regarding salaries of any additional council members they recommend. Any committee recommendations must be voted by the council this year to apply at the next election. If you have any thoughts on the issue, please call John Taylor at 459-7708.

William's Creek Dam

The Indianapolis DPW approved a project last month to rebuild the William's Creek Dam, located on the William's Creek cutoff between White River and the inflow of William's Creek, just east of Westfield Blvd. and the Monon. The dam suffered a partial failure last year and this final replacement project will replace the temporary repair that was done at the time. The work will last for approximately four months. The project will require a coffer dam to protect the work area, which backs up to the Sherwood Village neighborhood. Veolia Water is working with DNR and Friends of White River to minimize potential environmental issues. For more information, please call Lou Ann Baker, VP of Communications with Veolia Water at 263-6572.

MAYOR'S ACTION CENTER

The primary duties of the Town of Meridian Hills are to provide police services and maintain over 11 miles of roads. Meridian Hills does not have a full time administration nor do we have any full-time employees.

Although our Municipal Code speaks to several issues, as an included town many of these issues are legally handled by the City of Indianapolis.

The City has invested a great deal in the Mayor's Action Center, and has even encouraged the Town to communicate with the City on certain issues through the Mayor's Action Center. It allows for improved communication to appropriate departments within the City. It also allows for greater accountability and a method for residents to track an issue until it is resolved.

Issues such as animal control, litter, trash pickup, etc. should be directed to the MAC. In addition, the City maintains several streets within the Town including Meridian, Spring Mill, 71st Street, and College. Any issues regarding these streets should also be directed toward the Mayor's Action Center.

With our limited budget, the Town's first step on many projects is to contact the Mayor's Action Center directly and follow through to see if we can't resolve through the City.

Of course, the members of the Meridian Hills Town Council have their numbers listed on the front of this newsletter and are *always* happy to take a resident's call!

Mayor's Action Center

327-4622

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 9, November 13, December 11

September

- 29 Park Tudor Homecoming, Carnival 3-5pm, Cookout 5pm, Park Tudor vs. Triton Central 7pm
- 30 Jack Brake 5K Walk/Run, 9am Park Tudor

October

- 1 "Blessing of Animals," 3pm
First Congregational Church
- 1 "Family Fun Day," 1-5pm
Holliday Park
- 3 "Medicine with a Mission," 6:30pm
Dr. Joe & Sarah Ellen Mamlin
Second Presbyterian Church
- 8 Indianapolis Symphonic Band,
Holliday Park, 2-5pm, FREE
- 8 Playground Grand Opening
Holliday Park, 3-6pm, FREE
- 19 - 21 Hauntless Happenings,
Holliday Park, 5:45pm - 9:30pm
- 21 Cantors Judith Meyersberg,
Stephen Richards, Janice Rogers &
Indy VoiceWorks concert, 7:30pm
Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation
- 31 Halloween - DRIVE CAREFULLY!

November

- 5 Fall Hike, 2-3pm
Holliday Park, FREE
- 7 Election Day - VOTE!
- 12 Boone County Community Jazz
Band, 2pm, FREE
Indianapolis Hebrew Organization
- 12 "Block Forum Series," 7:30pm
Eleanor Clift, contributing editor of
Newsweek & commentator on the
McLaughlin Group, \$20
Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation
- 23 Thanksgiving

Town Entry & Street Name Signs

In an effort to improve and better identify our community, the Town Planning Committee has recommended replacing our current town entry signs as well as our current street name signs as funding and priority allow.



The Council has not taken any action on the recommendations of the planning committee, but these are some examples the committee has reviewed.



The town entry sign was designed by Dennis Vessels, a professional architect who donated his services to the Town of Meridian Hills. The design incorporates an earth tone Indiana limestone to tie into some of the existing architecture

within the Town using a timeless dry stack style. The designs may have to be modified depending on available right-of-way, etc. Special thanks to Dennis Vessels for his substantial contribution to the Town as a non-resident! If you need a professional architect, please contact Dennis at 867-5242.

The street name signs would be similar to those in the Wholesale District or Lockerbie Square, using a tag to identify our community. The letters are white with a dark green background to differentiate our Town from the City of Indianapolis. Call me at 979-5646 and let me know what you think!

- Terry O'Brien

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

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

meridianhills.org

Town of Meridian Hills
Established 1937