



TOWN OF MERIDIAN HILLS

Established 1937

P.O. Box 40437
Indianapolis, IN 46240
meridianhills.org

April 1st, 2015

Councilors

Walter Freihofer

Terry O'Brien

Kristina Frey

Clerk Treasurer

John Taylor

Special Edition Newsletter

Wednesday, April 1st

The weather has warmed up and there is so much going on in the Town of Meridian Hills. Please enjoy this Special Edition Newsletter that highlights some of the new projects within the town as well as some of our rich heritage.



Annexation Update

Town of Williams Creek

The annexation of the Town of Williams Creek has been approved by the Meridian Hills Town Council. The combined towns will enjoy better efficiencies for town picnics, office supplies and sunscreen. The formal annexation will take place on January 1, 2016. A likely new name for the combined town will either be the

Town of Meridian Creek or the Town of Williams Hills.

Although not geographically adjacent to the Town of Meridian Hills, the annexation of the following included-towns is currently underway: the Towns of Crows Nest, North Crows Nest, Rocky Ripple and Wynndale.

Pennsylvania Street Toll Road

Toll Booths to be Installed this Spring!

The Town Council recently approved designation of Pennsylvania Street as a Toll

Road. Six small booths that can serve both north and south bound vehicles will be installed at appropriate locations on Pennsylvania Street between Arden Drive and Williams Creek Boulevard this Spring. The initial collection of a \$.25 toll will begin July 1, 2015. Start saving your quarters!

Residents will be also be able to purchase an E-Z Pass for \$365 per vehicle. The anticipated revenue for the first seven years will pay for the installation of the new toll booths.



Goldfish in Williams Creek

Giant Fish Caught in Marott Park

An enormous goldfish was caught last month in a part of Williams Creek that runs through Marott Park. According to a representative with Indy Parks, the fish is a Chinese breed of Koi that can thrive in cold water and has the ability to grow to a size suitable to its environment. If left in an aquarium, the fish remains small, but given free reign in Williams Creek, the fish grew to an amazing 52 inches! The fish was likely placed in the creek last fall after the owner decided not to keep it. The fisherman has contacted a local taxidermist and plans to donate it to the Nature Center at Holliday Park for permanent display. Let's hope no one gets tired of their pet alligator!

Corner of 71st & Meridian

C-4 Commercial Rezoning Approved!

In the name of progress, the wooded lot on the northwest corner of 71st and Meridian Street has been recently rezoned to C-4 commercial classification to allow for a fast food restaurant.



Although the Town Council is working with the developer to limit light and noise pollution, the franchise has not yet been identified. The council is lobbying for a combined Kentucky Fried Chicken, Taco Bell, and Pizza Hut, all owned by YUM! Brands. The combination restaurant is often referred to as a "Ken-Taco-Hut", and offers a great variety of food. The new restaurant should open by September 1, 2015.

Holliday Park Wildlife



Uncommon Sighting

Although it's not uncommon to see a jackalope out west, sightings in the midwest are *extremely* rare. An amateur photographer taking a photography clinic at Holliday Park snapped this photo at the end of March before the animal darted off. The sighting was verified by other members of the clinic. Indy Park Officials have been notified and are keeping an eye out for additional sightings. To date, this is only the *second* sighting of a jackalope in Central Indiana in recorded history.

Meridian Hills Casino

Hearing for Riverboat Casino

A recent filing has been recorded with the State of Indiana to designate one of the tributaries of Williams Creek within the Town of Meridian Hills as a "river" to allow for the installation of a riverboat casino. The tributary runs through multiple lots off Williams Drive near 8000 north Spring Mill, recently purchased by the Pottawatomie Indian Tribal Council. As such, the Town has no jurisdiction over the designation of the waterway or the appointment of a gaming license by the state. The hearing with the state has not been scheduled at this time. The Town Council is working with casino representatives on naming rights for the poker room.



The Battle for Williams Creek

Meridian Hills Historical Society

Members of the newly formed Meridian Hills Historical Society recently discovered photos of the little known "Battle for Williams Creek" that took place in 1860.

During his early tenure as governor of Indiana, Oliver P. Morton believed that a Civil War was inevitable and began recruiting soldiers for the war effort. These mercenaries were soldiers-in-waiting and soon grew bored waiting for the declaration of war. A conflict north of Indianapolis - in what is now the Town of Meridian Hills and Williams Creek - began over disputed territory, and some soldiers traveled north to help in the effort. Troops set up camp on both sides of the creek, and held drills for months.

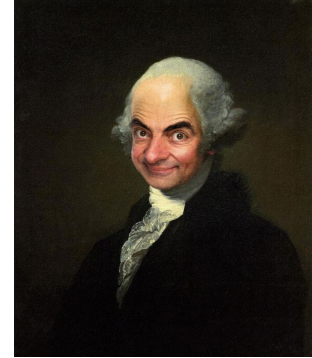
The bloodless conflict was soon settled, but not after a total of 79 shots were fired....thus the name of 79th Street. After the settlement, both sides of the conflict were invited to share an ale at the nearby cabin that eventually became Hollyhock Hill Restaurant in 1928. Another argument began over settlement of the bill, but was

quickly averted by the proprietor in the name of peace in the region. To this day, it is not uncommon to find musket balls near the creek bed as a result of the Battle for Williams Creek.

Founders Day

April 1st, 2015

April 1st also marks Founder's Day in the Town of Meridian Hills. Although the town was not incorporated until 1937, the region that eventually became the Town of Meridian Hills was granted to Meridian Phileas Hills, the namesake of the Town, from the U.S Government on April 1st, 1822.



Meridian P. Hills was a well-known speculator at the time, and thought the area was ripe for development. Writings from the period revealed that Hills longed to be an iron ore magnate and envisioned an industrial complex that rivaled the great mines further east. His dreams were quickly dashed when it was discovered that a navigable waterway was not available, nor was any iron ore, a somewhat critical element in his vision. Hills returned the land grant to the United States Government, where it was later appointed to a James Bonnell. Hills became one of the largest manufacturers of lichen in northwest Ohio, which is used to make realistic trees, shrubs and undergrowth primarily in model train diaramas. Although Meridian Phileas Hills moved on, he is the namesake of many developments in the area, including the Town of Meridian Hills.



April Fools!

The Joke's on You

Please, please, please tell me you realized this newsletter was an April Fool's joke before you reached this article! I hope you had fun reading this Special Edition Newsletter. Please direct any complaints or negative feedback to the *other* members of the Town Council!

Today is a reminder not to take things so seriously and to have fun once in a while. Enjoy the rest of the day!

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