

Town of Meridian Hills

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

AUGUST 21, 2011

STATE OF THE TOWN

Responsible governance allowed the Town of Meridian Hills to continue to make progress on many issues despite a difficult economic period in 2010. Following are some of the many accomplishments completed last year:

- Completed resurfacing of 75th Street from College to Pennsylvania and new traffic signs with \$102,000 received from Federal Stimulus Funding
- Installed high-grade thermal reflective material for center striping of 75th Street
- Installed high-grade thermal reflective material for edge striping of 75th Street as a traffic calming measure and an effort to reinforce a separation of

vehicle and pedestrian traffic



- Installed high-grade thermal reflective material for stopbars on all streets that feed onto 75th Street
- Installed 1 new decorative streetlight on Pennsylvania and approved 2 new decorative streetlights adjacent to new Town Entry Signs on Meridian Street
- Installed 13 new deco-

rative street name signs approved in 2009 and 15 approved in 2010

- Sponsored the "Great Meridian Hills Clean Up" with resident volunteers
- Updated the Roadway Management Program and Approved \$28,000 for 2010 Road Maintenance Projects

- Implemented new policy regarding Town Police and part-time jobs

- Funded new Town Police computer

- Received positive audit from State Board of Accounts and notice that Meridian Hills was the only town auditor reviewed that did not have any debt

- Met with DPW and successfully lobbied City of Indianapolis to agree in 2011 to pave 75th Street between Monon & College and stripe for bike path, pave Meridian between 64th

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PROGRESS WITH DPW

Last fall, the Town Council met with Ryan Vaughn, President of the City-County Council, David Sherman, Director of the Department of Public Works, and other DPW officials to discuss projects the City intends to complete with funds from the sale of the water utility. Many of the projects within or adjacent to the Town of Meridian Hills are the direct

result of years of ongoing requests from the Town Council that were unanswered due to lack of available funds. Following are some of the projects in the Town that are in different stages of completion:

- **Resurface Meridian, from Kessler Blvd to 86th Street** (We requested they pave the

shoulders with a top surface rather than a sub-surface, and add turn lanes at Williams Creek Blvd/79th Street)

- **Resurface 75th Street between Monon and bridge east of College** (We requested they pave the shoulders with

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POLICE

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

ADMINISTRATION

Town Council

Jim Rush, President
257-1886

Terry O'Brien
979-5646

Walter Freihofer
253-5556

Clerk Treasurer

John Taylor
459-7708

Town Attorney

Sue A. Beesley

Town Engineer

Jay Vorisek, PE

Town Marshal

Michael S. Russo

meridianhills.org

NEW STREETLIGHTS

Through a partnership with the City of Indianapolis, the Town Council has added an additional eight streetlights to the four already replaced over the last couple years. There are now a total of twelve new decorative-style streetlights throughout the Town that have been replaced as funding allowed. In some instances, the existing poles were found to be substantially rusted and in need of replacement due to safety concerns. IPL recently modified the method to determine the installation costs, effectively reducing the cost to the Town by up to 75%. Installation costs were shared with the City of Indianapolis, and subsidized with contributions from residents.

The streetlights, leased from IPL, are called "Washington-style" with fluted pole. This style of streetlight was approved as the Town Standard Streetlight, with installation subject to available funds. The new lights can be seen adjacent to the Town Entry signs on Meridian St. at 80th



St and at 64th St., on Meridian Hills Blvd. just east of 73rd and Spring Mill, at Williams Creek Blvd. and Pennsylvania, and up and down Meridian Street.

The new fixtures have high pressure sodium bulbs (orange/white light) rather than mercury vapor bulbs (blue/white light) due to required federal standards.

If interested in replacing the existing streetlights in your neighborhood with decorative streetlights, residents must donate 80% of the cost of the installation, with the Town to pay the remaining 20% and coordinate installation. However, with the new pricing structure, a streetlight will now average one thousand dollars rather than three to four thousand based on the prior method. The costs vary based on location and the amount of trenching that is required. For additional information, please contact Terry O'Brien at 979-5646.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Town of Meridian Hills was the **ONLY** town in Indiana reviewed by one auditor with the State Board of Accounts that didn't have any debt!!!

MEETING WITH DPW

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a top surface rather than a subsurface, and stripe the shoulders for pedestrian and bicycle use



- **Repair Bridge at 6400 North Meridian Street**
(We requested they use "Texas" railing to allow for visibility of White River)
- **Repair Bridge at 7600 North College**
(We requested they use "Texas" railing to allow for visibility of Williams Creek)
- **Stop bars on Streets Intersecting with Meridian**
- **Reflective Pavement Markers & Speed Limit Signs on Meridian Hills Blvd**
- **Study intersection at 75th & Spring Mill**
(To see if a control device to help traffic on 75th turn south on Spring Mill is warranted)
- **Drainage**
We continue to work with DPW to address ongoing drainage issues in the Town that they are responsible for and are receiving funding for. **We recently learned that some of our drainage issues have been approved and are moving forward!!!**

The City of Indianapolis and the Department of Public Works assured the Town of Meridian Hills that they will cooperate on projects that are of interest to our residents.

STATE OF THE TOWN (CONTINUED)

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& 80th and add turn lanes at 79th and at Williams Creek Blvd, repair 6300 Meridian bridge, repair 7600 College bridge, add additional reflectors on Meridian Hills Blvd, and review the intersection of 75th & Spring Mill for improved traffic flow

- Successfully lobbied Division of Forestry to perform over \$5,200 of tree work at no cost to the Town
- Implemented immediate pot hole repair facility for second year
- Approved Balanced Budget for 2011
- Town increased cash position by \$66,609 from 1/1/10 to \$395,011 balance

These accomplishments could not have been done without the hard work and dedication of your elected officials, the many contributions of time and talent from volunteer residents, and the continued guidance of our qualified professionals. We are extremely fortunate to

have such knowledgeable, experienced and dedicated professionals working on behalf of the Town.

Following are some of the issues the council may consider in the upcoming year:

- Implementing Right-of-Way Encroachment Licenses
- Applying for Stimulus Funds to pave 75th from Pennsylvania to Spring Mill
- Re-classifying Pennsylvania so it will qualify for future state or federal funding
- Continuing to study improved shared access on Town roads
- Compile Town streetlight, street-name sign, & traffic sign inventory and standards
- Exploring grant opportunities & alternative funding
- Fundraising
- Installing additional Decorative Street Name signs

- Installing additional Decorative Streetlights
- Exploring changing 75th Street's name to "Meridian Hills Drive"
- Studying resident requests for street closures to improve traffic management
- Restructuring Town Committees
- Studying the future of Holliday and Marott Parks
- Recognize the 75th Anniversary
- Work with the City of Indianapolis to complete the agreed upon improvements in 2011, and lobby them to improve the bridge at 7800 Spring Mill and address drainage issues.

We'll continue to manage your town with fiscal responsibility, fairness, communication, and opportunities to participate. We'll work to improve the livability, public safety and quality of life for all residents. On behalf of the Town Council, thank you for your confidence and the opportunity to serve you.

FUN FACT

What are "RPMs?"

To a traffic engineer, an RPM or a "raised pavement marker," is a traffic safety devise. They are the small plastic reflectors imbedded in the asphalt to identify a center or edge line. They improve visibility in inclement weather, and serve as a physical marker to the painted line. (Notice blue ones on 75th Street adjacent to the fire hydrants!) RPM's are not to be confused with "Bott's Dot's", the NON-reflective markers used to provide the same tactical feedback to drivers when they move across travel lanes. Bott's Dots are named after Dr. Elbert Botts, a California DOT engineer credited with developing them.

Great Meridian Hills Clean-Up

Dozens of Meridian Hills residents volunteered to pick up trash and trim bushes along Meridian Hills Blvd between Meridian and Illinois Street on Saturday, April 23rd during the Great Meridian Hills Clean Up! Police closed the street to through-traffic for the safety of the volunteers, and coffee and bagels were on hand. Unfortunately, there was plenty of trash to pick up, but the highly traveled street looked much better after several hours of hard work. Volunteers even had a brush with Mayor Ballard, who stopped by to thank everyone for contributing their time and effort to the cause. Thanks to Meridian Hills Country Club for volunteering their hard-working crew and equipment for the event, and special thanks to the dedication and tireless efforts of Christy Scofield and Shirley Fry for organizing the event as part of the Keep Indianapolis Beautiful's annual Great Indy Clean Up.

75th Anniversary in 2012

The Town of Meridian Hills will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2012! Although settlement of the area began much earlier, the Town was incorporated in 1937. If you'd like to serve on a "75th Anniversary Committee" to help recognize this event for our community, please contact Terry O'Brien at 979-5646.

meridianhills.org

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

www.meridianhills.org

Phone: 459-7708
Fax: 334-0955

Calendar of Events

Regular Council Meetings - 7:00pm

September 13, November 8

September

- 3 "Kenya Carnival,"
Second Presbyterian Church,
2 - 6pm, \$8 kids, \$15 adults,
253-6461
- 5 LABOR DAY
- 6 "N2 Neighborhood Network Meet
ing," N2 Publishing, 5 - 7pm, FREE,
brandon.powell@n2pub.com
- 16 Park Tudor Football vs. Lutheran
High School, Park Tudor, 7pm
- 23 Park Tudor Football vs. Cardinal
Ritter High School, Park Tudor,
7pm
- 24 "Jubilee Jam Parish Festival,"
St. Luke Catholic Church,
Noon - 10pm, FREE, 259-4373

October

- 4 "Family Friday Night Campfire,"
Holliday Park, 6:30-8pm, \$5,
327-7180
- 10 COLUMBUS DAY
- 14 Park Tudor Football vs. Shenan
doah High School, Park Tudor, 7pm
- 10 - 22 "Hauntless Halloween," Holliday
Park, 5:45 - 8pm, \$7 adult, \$5 kids
under 12, FREE for 2 and under,
327-7180
- 30 "Holliday Park Fall Festival,"
Holliday Park, Noon - 5pm, FREE
- 31 HALLOWEEN - *Drive Carefully*

November

- 8 ELECTION DAY - *Vote!*

HELP ELIMINATE HAZARDS

Did you know as a property owner, that you are responsible for maintaining the right-of-way adjacent to the street in front of your house? This includes mowing the lawn, removing snow, ice and debris from the sidewalks, keeping fire hydrants accessible, removing fallen branches, and trimming overgrown bushes and trees. This is especially important for residents that have a speed limit sign, a stop sign, or some other traffic safety device in your yard. If your bushes or trees obstruct the view of a traffic sign, a line-of-vision, or access to a fire hydrant, **YOU** could be liable and named in a lawsuit if there is an accident.



To ensure the safety of all residents including your family and neighbors, please aggressively trim your trees and bushes in the right-of-way to keep the traffic signs, lines of vision, and fire hydrants free from obstruction. Please check out the "Town Partners" page of meridianhills.org if you need to hire someone to help you address the bushes and trees on your property. Working together, we can eliminate hazards to make our neighborhood a safer place to live and play.

Phone Numbers

- Call Before You Dig - 8-1-1
- Mayor's Action Center - 327-4622
- Mosquito Control - 221-7440
- Permitting - 327-8700
- Pot Holes - 780-1555 x 116
- Power Outage - 261-8111
- Street Lights Out - 261-8111

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.

Town of Meridian Hills
7390 Holliday Drive East
Indianapolis, IN 46260

Return To Sender

meridianhills.org

*Town of Meridian Hills
Established 1937*