



Town of Index Annual Newsletter and Consumer Confidence Report

July, 2010

This newsletter is published on an annual basis and is sent to residents and homeowners by the Town of Index.

Whether you've lived in Index for a few months or for several years, there is still much to learn about our town. Here is some information that might be of use to you.

Building and Land Use

Index requires Council approval and County permits for new construction over 10 x 12 feet, construction within critical areas, major remodeling, grading and filling, and a variety of other land uses. The process is as follows:

Contact the Town Hall to ascertain if the project requires approval.

- Complete any required paperwork and submit it, along with a \$75 filing fee to the Town Clerk/Treasurer by mailing or hand delivering to the Town Hall.
- Once the application has been deemed complete, a public comment period is opened if required, the Planning Commission reviews it if appropriate, and gives recommendations to the Index Town Council.
- After reviewing the application, the Council makes a determination. Some applications may only need the Mayor/Clerk approval if no critical areas are involved.
- If approved, the applicant receives a letter from the Town and moves forward with all permitting required by Snohomish County.

Please remember that all approvals and permits must be obtained prior to any work being started. If necessary the Town has the authority to place Stop Work orders on any unapproved activities, and fines or other penalties may be applied.

Burning

No burn barrels of any kind are allowed within the Town limits. A permit is required for any outdoor burning including recreational fires. Permits are free, and may be obtained through the fire department. All burning will be prohibited in the event of a burn ban. If you have questions regarding outdoor burning and permits, please contact the fire department at 360.793.0866.

Please call 911 to report any illegal burns, rather than calling local firefighters at their homes. Calling a person's home simply delays the response time.

Businesses

Businesses, including cottage industries in a home, within Town limits, must be licensed. You may apply through the Town Hall. Licenses must be renewed by January of each year, for \$10.00. Late fees will be applied for those businesses that do not renew. Please remember to notify the Town Hall if the business has been closed.

Contact Information for the Town Hall

Phone: 360-793-2488

Fax: 360-793-7998

Email: index@premier1.net

Mailing address: PO Box 88, Index, WA 98256

Physical address: 511 Avenue A

Contacting the Town Hall with Complaints or Comments

All comments and complaints must be received in writing, and no anonymous complaints will be addressed. Please do not contact Town employees at home unless there is a clear emergency.

Council

The Town of Index operates under a Mayor/Council government. The Mayor and Council members are elected or appointed and fill these positions without compensation. Council meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m., at the Old Fire Hall. Council members must reside within Index Town limits and be registered voters at that address. The public is encouraged to attend all Council meetings, and input is appreciated. Draft minutes of meetings are posted in the window of the Town Hall. Draft Ordinances are also posted in the Town Hall window for review and public comments. Please see the section on Staff and *Elected Officials* for a listing of current Council members.

Crescent Trail

The Crescent Trail begins near the railroad tracks on the west side of Index Avenue and ends at the Climber's parking lot. Many varieties of wildlife have been spotted there, and the path is mostly barrier free. The trail provides a pleasant place to stroll for residents and visitors alike, and is a nice place to cross country ski when the conditions are right. This old railroad right of way is for pedestrian use only and no motorized vehicles are allowed, with the exception of emergency vehicles and motorized wheelchairs. If you walk your dogs along the trail please remember to clean up after them. As with the rest of the Town limits, all dogs must be leashed or on voice command, even on the trail.

Disasters

While flooding is the most common disaster in the Index area, there are possibilities for others, including wildfires, earthquakes, landslides, and train derailments. All could potentially isolate Index residents. It is always wise to plan ahead by having emergency supplies on hand, and knowing what to do.

The Town of Index maintains a Disaster Plan that is available during normal business hours for review.

In the event of an evacuation, the Fire Department siren will sound a long, continuous alarm. Evacuation routes include traveling west on SR2 toward Zeke's drive in, east on SR2 toward Baring, using Avenue A toward Reiter Road if the bridge into Town is out, or using Index Galena Road up the North Fork of the Skykomish if the road to the highway is blocked. Further details on evacuation routes are available in the Disaster Plan.

Please note that because of damage caused during the 2006 flood, Index Galena Road is not currently available as an evacuation route. Once the road has been reopened, this information will be updated and the road will once again be utilized.

During a disaster, the Town Hall will operate as an Emergency Operations Center.

Again, the most important thing a person can do to survive a disaster is to prepare in advance.

Dogs

Licenses are required for all dogs living within Town limits. Licenses cost \$10.00 for altered dogs and \$25.00 for non-altered, with licenses renewed each January. If late, a \$5.00 fine per month will apply as well as infractions from the animal control officer. If a dog is not licensed after receiving infractions, the animal will be impounded. Applications are available at the Town Hall, and proof of rabies vaccinations must be attached. There is no fee to replace a lost or damaged tag.

Besides the licensing requirement, there is also a leash law in effect. Dogs must be on a leash and/or under voice command in public areas. Please keep control of your pets at all times for their safety as well as for the safety of others.

At this time cats are not required to be licensed.

Any animal control issue may be directed to the animal control officer at the Town Hall (see Contact Information in this newsletter). Please do not call the officer at home. The phone line is regularly checked. If there is an animal emergency such as a bite, please call 911.

Faxes and Copies

These services are available at the Town Hall with a charge of .10 per page for copies and \$1.00 for received faxes. Currently there is no charge for faxes sent.

Fireworks

Index Municipal Code 8.24.010 states in part that it is unlawful for any person or persons to ignite, fire, or discharge any firecracker or other fireworks of any name or kind within the corporate limits of the Town of Index, with the exception that on the fourth day of July, legal fireworks only may be ignited from within one's own private property. These legal fireworks must terminate or fall to earth also on that same privately owned property. Please be aware of fire and safety hazards.

Index Municipal Code requires all legal fireworks to be discharged on private property, or on the apron directly in front of private property. Debris must fall on private property and not on streets, the river bank or river, or on any other public property. A penalty clause will be strictly enforced, with violations resulting in infractions from deputies. Litter must be cleaned up, and no fireworks will be allowed other than New Years Eve and the 4th of July, without permission from the Town for a special event. It is advisable that you review the ordinance in full if you plan on using fireworks.

Please clean up all firework debris.

Flags

The Town of Index is required to fly the United States Flag and a flag honoring missing servicemen. Unfortunately, due to repeated thefts of the POW/MIA flag, Index cannot fly the POW flag outside. Instead, it is displayed inside the Old Fire Hall.

Floods

Information on flood preparation, flood elevation certificates, the National Flood Insurance Program, and flood plain management is available at the Town Hall. Flood maps created by the Federal Emergency Management Act are also available for review.

If you have done a flood elevation certificate on your home, please file a copy at the Town Hall.

As Index flood history demonstrates, being alert to the dangers of flooding and having a plan in case of any natural disaster can make all the difference. Please consider creating an emergency preparedness plan for your family, and make sure the Town has up-to-date contact information.

The Town has benefited from many volunteers, who not only attend meetings dedicated to emergency management, but also volunteer to sandbag and perform other duties during active flooding. Thanks to all those sandbaggers who consistently show up during the nasty weather to work hard in order to help others.

Junk Cars

Local, County, and State codes address the problems of junk cars parked in public right of ways. The definition of a junk car is that it meets three of the following conditions: it is three years old or older, is extensively damaged, is inoperable, and has an approximate fair market value equal to the approximate value of its scrap. Those parked in violation will be tagged for removal if they meet the strict application of the standards set for junk vehicles. The owner will be notified and given a reasonable opportunity to remove them. If they are not removed in a timely fashion, they will be towed at the owner's expense. This policy will be applied in a uniform, non-discriminatory manner. At this time the Town does not regulate junk vehicles on private property.

The Library

Sno-Isle Library System brings the Bookmobile to Index, parking by the Index School on the second and fourth Thursdays, from 2:50 to 4:00 p.m., and 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. During the school year only, the Bookmobile is also available the second and fourth Mondays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Library cards are free and applications can be obtained from the Bookmobile, any Sno-Isle Library, or on line at www.sno-isle.org.

Local Meetings

AA meets Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Fire Hall.

The Index School Board meets the third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the school.

The Fire District 28 Board of Commissioners meets the second Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at the fire department.

District 28 Volunteers meet each Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire department.

The Index Town Council meets the first Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Fire Hall.

The Planning Commission meets the last Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Sportsmen's Club meets the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Sportsmen's Hall.

The Historical Society meets the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Pickett Museum.

Notary Services

Town Clerk Lisa Stowe is a notary public and offers these services on a donation basis to area residents. Please note that these services are available during Town Hall hours only.

Old Fire Hall

The Old Fire Hall is available for meetings and special occasions, for a nominal fee. An application form must be completed and arrangements made for the key prior to use. Please contact the Town Hall well ahead of your planned activity to check availability and complete the paperwork.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission meets the last Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, and meetings are open to the public. The Planning Commission reviews building and land use applications, as well as drafting land use related ordinances, comprehensive plans, and critical area management. Please see the section on Staff and Elected Officials for Planning Commission members.

Recycling

Residents do not need to separate glass, plastic, or paper for recycling. Use the big blue totes for "co-mingled" collection, and separating will be done at the recycling facility. Please rinse out your bottles and cans, and note that cardboard pizza containers are no longer accepted because of food remains. Please flatten all cardboard and put recycling next to your trash on alternate Friday mornings. Contact the Town Hall if you need a toter.

Services

Sno. Co. PUD: 425-783-1000
Sno-Isle Library (Sultan): 360-793-1695
Index Fire Dept.: 360-793-0866
Index Post Office: 360-793-2344
Index Community Church: 360-793-1087
Everett Herald: 425-339-3000
Aquarian Tabernacle Church: 360-793-1945

Town Hall: 360-793-2488
General Store: 360-793-0693
Index School: 360-793-1330
Index Sportsmen: 360-793-1426
Index Historical Society: 360-793-1534
Friends of Heybrook: 360-793-1534

Sidewalks

Residents are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of sidewalks adjacent to their homes and businesses. This includes making sure sidewalks are free of snow and ice. The Town is not responsible for clearing or repairing sidewalks.

Snowplowing

Index maintains its streets with a utility truck and snowblade. If the snow gets too deep for the truck, the County takes over plowing. Unfortunately, during the plowing process, some vehicles and walkways may be blocked. Clearing the berm created by the snowplow remains the responsibility of the homeowner, although the Town will do its best to accommodate special needs.

Open alleys can be difficult, if not impossible to plow, but all attempts will be made to do so

Residents are responsible for not blocking streets or snowplows with vehicles, and are also responsible for snow removal from any sidewalks in front of their homes.

Staff and Elected Officials

Clerk/Treasurer: Lisa Stowe
Maintenance Supervisor: Bill Cross

Water Distribution Manager: Kim Peterson
Animal Control Officer: Bob Foster

Mayor: Bruce Albert

Council members: Bob Hubbard, Karen Sample, Patrick Woods, Pete Gott, Sean Horst

Planning Commission members: Bill Cross, Leigh Christianson, Martin Kenney, Caroll Cochran

Streets, Sidewalks, and Alleys

Streets and alleys belong to the Town, although many unimproved streets and alleys have been used for years by residents, for storage and landscaping. While Index currently allows this, residents should be reminded that no permanent structures are allowed. In addition, the Town of Index will always have priority use of any of these areas and may at any time require buildings and/or landscaping to be removed either by the property owner or at their expense. Please keep this in mind before investing in landscaping or building.

Sidewalks are the responsibility of adjacent homeowners, including maintenance and clearing as needed. Please refer to the section, 'Sidewalks'.

Thrift Store

The Town Hall and the rocks in front of it do not constitute a thrift store. Please do not leave boxes, bags, etc., of second hand items. This material does not get distributed to locals, nor does it get taken to a thrift store. It goes straight into a dumpster, and does nothing but create more work for the Town.

Towing of Cars

Cars parked so they block fire hydrants, stop signs, cross walks, or obstruct through-traffic on public streets or alleys will be towed per Index Municipal Code 12.08. Obstructing means parked so as to not allow two lanes of traffic on streets, or one lane of traffic on alleys or streets that normally only have one lane of travel. The owner will be notified and given a reasonable opportunity to remove blocking vehicles, and if they are not removed in a timely fashion, they will be towed at the owner's expense.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways to help out within Index. The following are some volunteer suggestions.

The fire department can use volunteers as both firefighters and medical responders. Training is provided, and is an excellent way to help others in need. For more information contact the fire department (see the *Services in Town* section).

The Special Events Committee no longer exists, but there is always hope that someone will want to take this on and start it up again. This committee used to arrange Fireworks, egg hunts, decorations, tree lightings, and other community events that brought residents together. For more information contact the Town Hall.

The Historical Society is a great place to volunteer if you have an interest in keeping history alive for this unique town. Please contact David Cameron at 360-793-1534 for more information.

Voter Registration

Forms are available at the Town Hall for no charge.

Warm Water

Some residents prefer to drink warm water. Please remember that warm water is water that has been sitting in your hot water tank and cannot be guaranteed potable. You are encouraged to drink water cold from your taps, or if you want to drink your water warm, boil it first.

Water and Garbage

While Index at times may be able to assist you in turning off the water to your home, it remains the homeowner's responsibility to know where the water meter and water turn off valves are in case of emergencies or freezing temperatures. Maintenance Supervisor Bill Cross has found most of the meters but would love to know where all of them are, so please let him know where your meter is.

Residents must pay monthly water and garbage bills. If a bill has not been paid in two months, a late notice is mailed. At three months a fine is added and a shut off notice is mailed. Even if water has been shut off for non-payment, the monthly charge continues to accrue as residents pay for the availability of the service, not the actual water. All billing policies are detailed in the water Policy and Procedure forms, available at the Town Hall. Currently it is \$47 for water and one can of garbage, and \$60.50 for water and two cans of garbage per week. A charge of \$7.00 is added to accounts with extra garbage.

It is difficult for Town employees to keep track of tenant and homeowner turn-over. If you are a homeowner or tenant, please make sure the Town is informed when changes occur that might affect billing.

Index enjoys some of the purest water in Washington, piping it from underground springs through a gravitational system to your home (please see the Consumer Confidence Report included at the end of this newsletter). Constantly monitored for purity and quality, the water is tested regularly, with results available at the Town Hall.

If the water needs to be turned off for repairs or maintenance, a sign will be posted at the Index General Store, at the Town Hall, and at the kiosk near the Town Hall. It is the responsibility of residents to check for these postings, although in times of emergencies the Town will make every effort to contact those with special needs. Due to the very nature of emergencies however, it is always prudent to be prepared with a three day supply of water available. If you would like information on emergency preparedness, please contact the Town Hall. In the near future the Town may have access to a large banner that will be more visible for emergencies.

If you have a hot tub please make sure you install a backflow device.

Remember, water is a precious resource so please conserve when possible.

PLEASE do not leave outdoor soaker hoses running beyond the needed watering period (usually a 2 to 3 hour soak once or twice a month for deep watering is plentiful).

Please do not water the streets. If it is raining or wet, turn off the automatic sprinklers.

For best water efficiency, please look at where water may be wasted. Pay attention to leaks and how landscape is watered. Please do not use water timers during the months of October through April. A reasonable goal for each residence is to attempt to cut back water usage by ten percent.

Garbage is picked up early on Monday mornings, and if Monday is a holiday it will usually be picked up the next day. Please have your containers marked with your street address and placed on the street edge. Size limit is 32 gallons. If garbage is not picked up due to inclement weather, it will be picked up at the next regularly scheduled time, with no charge for extra cans.

Occasionally your garbage pick up may be missed for various reasons. If this happens, contact the Town hall, and the Clerk will get hold of Allied Waste.

2010 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

2009 TO 2010 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT
TOWN OF INDEX INDEX, WASHINGTON

We are pleased to present the 12th Annual Water Quality Report. Under the guidelines of the State and Federal government, all water purveyors must provide their consumers with a report concerning water quality and operations. Our goal is to provide a dependable supply of safe drinking water; we also want you to fully understand our operations and activities.

Our source is located west of the Town of Index on a large private tract of land which is surrounded by lands under the ownership of the State of Washington. This location allows our source to be very protected from intrusion by trespass as well as minimal impacts from development or human activity. The Town of Index has operated a water collection site at this location for many decades and with recent improvements to the system should have an adequate source of water for decades to come. The exact size and specific details of the aquifer we draw from are unsure but the source is very consistent and reliable.

The Town of Index collects all of its drinking water from lateral wells which were installed in 2000 and 2001. These well pipes flow to a sealed vault and then water flows into our transport pipes and on into the main tank for dispersal into the water system.

Our system uses no power during any phase of the operation so power outages and other electrical difficulties are not a factor in the running of our system.

The Town of Index Water System routinely monitors for constituents in the drinking water according to Federal and State law. This report details the results of all Coliform monitoring for the period of July 2009 to May 2010.

All drinking water, even bottled water, can be expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. Below is an outline of testing:

COLIFORM TESTS

During the year 2009-2010 our Coliform tests were determined to be satisfactory. The Total Coliform Rule requires water systems to meet a strict limit for Coliform bacteria within all tested samples. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease causing bacteria. If Coliform bacteria are found, special follow up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If the allowed limits were exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by mail, public notice, newspaper, television, and/or radio. In Town we would post at the notice boards also.

In 2009 and 2010 all additional Federal and State required testing conducted was satisfactory; additional information on these tests may be obtained by contacting Town Hall.

The Town of Index does not treat or filter its water and therefore there are minimal needs for human intrusion into the system and its operations. I am pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets the federal requirements. We conduct regular tests for minerals and other components; these full test details are available for anyone wanting further information. None of the results of the past decade have indicated we are high in any specific area or are we near any limits as set by the government.

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people are more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These individuals should seek the advice from health care providers concerning drinking untreated and unfiltered water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply system, it will be necessary to continue with upgrades, maintenance and repairs. The Town water system attempts to work with all customers concerning expected shut off's and periods when water will not be available. It is best to always have extra water set aside for yourself and pets as unexpected problems do arise. Some of you will remember the summer of 1997 when we lost water service for three days due to a line break.

Some how we got through it. In those situations please be aware of the affect your water consumption has on the overall system.

If you have any questions concerning our water system and/or operations you may contact the Water System Manager / Kim Peterson, PO Box 393 Index, WA 98256 or leave a message at 360-793-2488. If you have an emergency concerning water delivery at your home you may call Kim's business number at 360-793-7767; please remember I am not able to assist you with billing questions or other such matters. All questions concerning billing and payments must be directed to Town Hall at 360-793-2488. If you have health concerns you should contact your health care provider or the Drinking Water Hotline # at 1-800-426-4791.

As a requirement of the State of Washington and Federal law we are required to report activities to limit waste and leaks of drinking water. The Town urges all residents and business to conserve water through the use of low flow devices in the buildings, controlled outdoor watering and limit use of water for activities such as car washing, watering and recreational activities.

As a 2010 report the system has identified meter installation as a "medium" infrastructure priority in regards to improvements, repairs and updates. All new services are required to be installed with a meter and backflow. All updates and repairs require installation of a meter and backflow. Funding for a complete upgrade for the system would have to be achieved through grants or loans. Meter reading is conducted for all "water intensive" businesses.

Conservation should be thought of as a matter of protecting over all resources not just basing your use on current availability.

PLEASE do not leave out door soaker hoses running beyond the needed watering period (usually a 2 to 3 hour soak once or twice a month for deep watering is plentiful).

Please do not water the streets by over sprinkling.

If it is raining or wet, turnoff the automatic sprinklers.

THANK YOU;
KIM PETERSON ■ WDM II, &
TOWN OF INDEX COUNCIL