



# The Indian Trail Blazer

*A Great Community Since 1907*

## Indian Trail named in Top Ten Best Towns for Families by



*Family Circle Magazine*, one of the most widely read monthly magazines in the world, has announced the results of its exclusive survey identifying Indian Trail as one of the top ten best towns and cities across the country for Families. The top ten communities featured in this annual roundup of perfect places to call home combine affordable housing, good neighbors, green spaces and A+ public school systems.

They partnered up with On-board Informatics to assemble an initial list of 1,700 cities and towns with populations between 15,000 and 150,000. The list was narrowed down to nearly 800 localities with high concentration of households with an average income of \$75,000. *Family Circle* then assessed which places best

met their family-friendly criteria which included:

- Affordable homes
- Quality Schools
- Access to health care
- Green Space
- Low Crime
- Financial Stability

The localities were ranked from top to bottom. *Family Circle* then selected the ten winners from among the highest-rated towns. According to the President and First Lady Michelle Obama, the key to successful communities is hard work and determination of people who live there. Each of the towns honored is made up of forward thinking parents, teachers and students who are passionate about their hometown, dedicated to bettering their children's futures and involved in advancing their local

school systems. Indian Trail's schools were recognized by the implementation of such programs as partnering with private medical groups to ensure treatment for students who don't have health insurance and integrating dual language classes in grade school.

Indian Trail conducted its own survey in October of 2008 and asked 3,500 citizens their perception of the town. The respondents were most positive about Indian Trail being a good place to raise children and that it is a safe place to live. It is no secret locally that Indian Trail has always been thought of as a family-friendly town. Interim Town Manager Peggy Piontek said "This honor of

being named in the top ten best towns for families now confirms it



*Water melon eating contest at Town Hall.*

nationally." To read more about this national recognition, pick up a copy of *Family Circle's* August 2009 issue on newsstands July 8th.

## Indian Trail has a Balanced Budget!

The Indian Trail Town Council adopted the FY 2009-2010 Town Budget on May 26, 2009. The adopted budget is the result of budget work sessions and the Public Hearing. The operating budget provides resources for the Town's daily needs and addresses the concerns expressed by citizens in the October 2008 Town Survey. The top three citizen concerns identified in the survey are:



1. Maintain and Improve Roads
2. Increase the number of Union County Sheriff's Officers
3. Purchase of land for Parks and Greenways

Funds for road improvement will continue to be accumulated for the third year in a row. The Engineering Department, under the direction of the Town Engineer, Scott Kaufhold, has developed a five year Powell Bill Projection to address road problems and the use of Powell Bill and Road Improvement funds.

Five new law enforcement officers have been added to the budget to address law enforcement issues. The Town will have a total of eighteen officers during the upcoming

ing fiscal year. We will have fourteen patrol officers, two sergeants, one community resource officer and one lieutenant. If the need for additional officers is deemed necessary, the Council has

indicated this could be addressed later in the year.

As was previously established for the Road Improvement Fund, Council has directed staff to designate one half cent of the Ad Valorem taxes received to a Park Fund. Last year the Council, made a one-time appropriation for Park funds. However, this year Council established a permanent revenue stream as indicated above for the sole purpose of parks. Marsha Sutton, the Finance Director for the Town stated "This budget was able to address the top three concerns expressed by the citizens in the 2008 Town Survey without resulting in a tax increase for the upcoming fiscal year."

This budget maintains the current tax rate of \$0.145 per \$100 of assessed valuation of real and personal property.

To view the Town Budget on line visit [www.indiantrail.org](http://www.indiantrail.org)

Save the date! This event, not to be missed, is scheduled for Sat. Oct. 10, 2009. It will be held on the front lawn of the Indian Trail Elementary School. What can you look forward to?... Free rides for all ages, live entertainment, games, contests and more! We welcome back all our

fabulous bakers and encourage new entrants to our annual pie-baking contest. The categories are apple, berry, and pecan. Choose one category or compete in

all three. Pies must be dropped off at the Town Hall (time to be determined). Children can again play in the hay by participating in our needle-in-the-haystack contest (a variety of candy & gift certificates will represent the needle). And remember to start thinking of ideas for our pumpkin decorating contest. The pumpkin categories will

be funniest, scariest, and most creative. New for 2009 we will be having a bike parade and decorating contest and a largest pumpkin contest. Entry forms for all contests can be found on our website at [www.indiantrail.org](http://www.indiantrail.org). All entries must be received no later than Friday Oct. 2, 2009.

Prizes will be awarded for all contests. There will also be face painting and tattoos for the little ones and activities throughout the day for all. Vendors will abound

with delicious goodies and beautiful and unique items available for purchase. We are still accepting applications for any vendors or organizations wishing to participate. For more information visit our website @ [www.indiantrail.org](http://www.indiantrail.org) or call Trena or Susan @ 704-821-8114.



# Indian Trail Parks Master Plan takes Shape!

The Indian Trail Parks Master Plan is well underway! The Plan began with the Parks Plan Steering Committee, formally the Parks, Tree, and Greenway Committee. This Steering Committee serves as an advisory group for the Park Plan and is designated as a citizen board to oversee the development of the Plan.

The Plan kicked off with a bang in late April with a stakeholder meeting. This meeting was designed to receive input from local agencies and organizations that may be able to assist Indian Trail in forming crucial partnerships for park development. This meeting consisted of regional Park Planners, representatives from Union County Public Works, local utility companies, Union County Public Schools, the Indian Trail Athletic Association, among others.

Parks Master Plan consulting firm HNTB, in coordination with the Planning Department, hosted a series of public input meetings through the month of May and early June. Held in 4 locations throughout the community: Bonterra neighborhood, Hemby Bridge Volunteer Fire Department, Brandon Oaks neighborhood, and the Brookhaven community; these public meetings were designed to receive local input on potential park types, locations, and answer community questions. As part of the public input process, the Parks Master Plan made available an online community survey, asking specific questions about Indian Trail citizens' recreational habits, locations, preferences, and ideas for future parks. Approximately 390 citizens answered the survey with the following results:

- The median age of survey respondents was 26-45.
- Of the total survey respondents, 67% were female.
- 54% of the survey respondents have lived in Indian Trail for 1-5 years.
- The average Indian Trail Citizen recreates about 6-10 hours a week, with most citizens recreating on Saturday.
- 69% of Indian Trail citizens would like to see greenways and walking trails developed

in Indian Trail.

- The top two recreational programs survey respondents would like to see offered in Indian Trail are:
  1. Family recreation/outdoor adventure programs
  2. Special events and festivals.
- The top four actions citizens would like to see the Town initiate are:
  1. Develop new and connect existing walk/biking trails.
  2. Purchase land to develop athletic fields/recreation facilities.
  3. Develop new nature trails/nature centers
  4. Develop multi-purpose indoor athletic activity centers.

A special thank you to all those who took the time to answer our online Parks Master Plan Survey! Now that the public input process is coming to a close the Planning Department, along with HNTB and the Park Plan Steering Committee, are working diligently to form the draft Parks Master Plan. Stay tuned for more Park Plan news by visiting the Parks Master Plan homepage at [www.indiantrail.org](http://www.indiantrail.org). Please contact Environmental Planner Hillary Pace at [hkp@planning.indiantrail.org](mailto:hkp@planning.indiantrail.org) for any questions or comments on the Parks Master Plan.



*Parks Plan Stakeholders Meeting earlier this spring.*



## Stormwater Services GREEN Corner:

### Indian Trail Stormwater Services-Summer Stormwater Tips

As temperatures warm up and activities move outside, Indian Trail Stormwater Services would like to remind you of the following Stormwater tips:

- Dispose of your motor oil properly by using appropriate containers and disposal facilities.
- Protect our water supplies by properly maintaining your septic system.
- Used paint does not belong in the storm drain. Dispose of old paint and paint cans properly and avoid cleaning paint brushes under outside water faucets.
- Pick up after your pet. When taking your dog for a walk, bring along pet waste bags.
- Wash your car on the grass so the lawn will absorb any soap and keep it from going down the storm drain. Never empty your soap bucket down the storm drain.
- In a recent North Carolina survey, over 62% of respondents think stormwater is treated...think again! The water that goes down the stormdrain is unfiltered and feeds directly into our rivers, lakes, and streams. Remember, only rain goes down the stormdrain. Please visit the Indian Trail Stormwater Services website at [www.indiantrail.org](http://www.indiantrail.org) for more information.



# Make Recycling a Daily Habit

**Did you know that a typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk, and 26 gallons of bottled water a year? That's a lot of containers that can all be recycled!**

Recycling is the simplest and easiest way to preserve the Earth's valuable and finite resources. It only takes a few minutes to rinse out a can or bottle and place it into the appropriate recycling bin. The Town encourages all residents to do their part to preserve our resources by offering free curbside recycling pick-up. Here is the when, where, what and how of recycling.

- When:** Your recycling will be picked up on your regular service day by a separate truck. All recycling must be at curbside by 7 am for pick-up.
- Where:** Place your recycle bin curbside next to your trash cart.
- How:** Place your recyclables in the town issued bin. You may use a store bought bin that is similar in make and size of the town issued bin. (Additional recycling containers must be rectangular in shape.)



### Paper Products

Including any inserts delivered with the newspaper. Magazines, catalogs, phone books & corrugated cardboard. **How:** Tie newspaper in bundles or place in brown paper bags or place *alone* in recycling bin. Corrugated cardboard must be cut down to fit within the recycle bin. **Not Accepted:** Newspapers in plastic grocery bags or mixed with other recyclables in the same recycle bin. Cereal boxes, soft drink boxes, and shredded paper. Glossy or wax coated cardboard.



### Glass Bottles & Jars

Food and beverage glass. All clear, brown, green bottles and jars **How:** Remove lids and rinse out prior to placing into recycling bin. **Not Accepted:** Mason jars, crystal, mirrors, ceramic cups or plates. Light bulbs, window glass and flower pots.



### Plastic Containers

Soft drink, milk or water jugs, liquid detergent, shampoo & conditioner. Containers must have recycling code of 1 or 2. **How:** Remove lids and rinse out prior to placing into recycle bin. **Not Accepted:** Plastic motor oil or transmission fluid containers or plastic bags.



### Aluminum, Steel, and Spiral Cans

Beverage, soup, fruit, vegetable, and spiral cans such as biscuit cans. **How:** Rinse cans. **Not Accepted:** Metal other than cans.



Remember, recycling has a profound impact upon our Earth and helps maintain it as a healthy and sustainable place for future generations.

**For more information visit [www.indiantrail.org](http://www.indiantrail.org) or call (704) 821-7578**



## Opportunities to Serve Your Community

There are many opportunities to get involved in the Town of Indian Trail whether it be through participating in an appointed board or committee or volunteering for one of the many town events. These opportunities to serve your community typically only require dedicating one evening a month for appointed positions or part of one day for a town event.

### Appointed Positions in the Town

The Town has two appointed Boards and five appointed Committees. They are:

- Planning Board
- Board of Adjustment
- Transportation Advisory Committee
- Stormwater Advisory Committee
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Parks, Greenway, and Tree Advisory Committee
- Event Advisory Committee

All of these appointed positions are for a three year term. The Town advertises for upcoming vacancies in February for Committees and in

April for the Boards unless there are early vacancies associated with unfinished terms. The Town currently has two vacancies - one on the Transportation Advisory Committee and another on the Board of Adjustment. Information on these vacancies and how to apply can be found at [www.indiantrail.org/boardsandcommittees.php](http://www.indiantrail.org/boardsandcommittees.php) or call the Planning Department at (704) 821-5401.

### Volunteering

The Town organizes eight town events throughout the year. Some of these are produced in collaboration with active civic groups in Indian Trail. All events are family oriented and have earned a special place in the hearts of the residents of Indian Trail. Participating in the town events is a great way to get involved in the community.

There are always volunteer opportunities available for each event. Information regarding Town Events can be found on our website at [www.indiantrail.org](http://www.indiantrail.org) or call Town Hall at (704) 821-8114.

## From the Town Engineer's Desk

In the fall of 2008, the Town Council initiated the first ever Citizen and Business survey. The number one concern identified was the need for better roads. Currently the Town maintains just 8 out of 185 miles of roads within corporate limits. This is about to change. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Town will assume maintenance responsibilities for an additional 30 miles of subdivision streets, bringing our total to nearly 40 miles. The funding source for this comes from state street-aid allocations known as Powell Bill funds. Indian Trail is one of over 500 municipalities across the state that receive Powell Bill funds which are for maintaining, repairing, constructing, reconstructing, or widening of local streets that are the responsibility of the municipalities. Routine maintenance and annual resurfacing work will be scheduled with the aid of a pavement condition evaluation that was conducted last summer. This evaluation provides a condition ranking off all 185 miles of streets on a scale of 0 – 100.



The Engineering Department is also working with MUMPO (Mecklenburg Union Metropolitan Planning Organization) and a number of consultants on planning and design work for intersection, street, and sidewalk improvements. Current projects include: Faith Church Road & Unionville Indian Trail Road Intersection, Indian Trail & Old Monroe Road Intersection, Indian Trail Road, The Chestnut Connector, Rogers Road Sidewalk, Unionville Indian Trail Road & Sardis Road Sidewalk, and Indian Trail Road Sidewalk (Colton Ridge to Coventry).

A number of storm drainage projects are either in design or under construction as well. To date, nearly 30 projects have been completed ranging from repairing sinkholes resulting from failing pipe systems to replacing large culvert systems that were destroyed in heavy storms. If you have any questions regarding streets or storm drainage, please call the Engineering department at 704-821-1314.

## Keeping it Safe

### Indian Trail Division of UCSO

Opening in July! Indian Trail residents will now have a local law enforcement satellite office located at 109 Navajo Trail (located behind Town Hall). This office will house deputies that work in our community providing face to face service for most law enforcement needs. There will be reception service during standard business hours while the deputies are patrolling our community. Deputies will be available to meet with citizens at this location when needed.

Sgt Chase Coble, states “*This local office will provide convenience to Indian Trail residents while allowing our deputies to accomplish administrative tasks locally.*” “*Our deputies sometimes have to travel to the main office in Wingate to complete adminis-*

*trative duties.*” Renovation of this local office started last spring with the deputies and others volunteering their time and talents keeping cost down to a minimum. The project was completed with a 48 percent savings of the budgeted amount.

The Town of Indian Trail and Union County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the following businesses for their donation of material and labor: Phil's Wood & Construction, Lowes Home Improvement of Indian Trail, Diamond Flooring of Indian Trail, Superior Painting, Monroe Paint & Decorating Center, Performance Automotive of Indian Trail, Pressley's Floor Covering of Monroe, and Lemmond Fixture & Cabinet of Indian Trail.



The Master Gardeners will be set up at the Market once a month. The first two visits were a great success! The Master Gardeners have covered the topics of water conservation through rain barrels, composting,

lawn care and more. What is the best way to find out what is in season? Well the Market has provided a few options for this. There is a biweekly newsletter released via email and posted on the website. This newsletter posts recent pictures of produce and goods sold at the market as well as features what is currently in season. You can also check the Farmers Market home page located on the Town of Indian Trail's website [www.indiantrail.org](http://www.indiantrail.org). There you can find a list of the vendors, directions on signing up for the newsletter, pictures of the market, updates on what produce is in season, and information on upcoming activities at the market. Be sure to come out to visit the market this summer!

Are you interested in eating locally grown and produced food? The Indian Trail Farmers Market is committed to help bring the residents of Indian Trail and the surrounding community the opportunity to shop local every Saturday. This not only benefits the people of Indian Trail but the local agricultural economy as well. The Market functions as a growers market meaning that all of the produce sold is actually grown by the farmer who is selling it. This is the first year for the Market so the beginning was small, but thanks to a committed group of farmers and vendors the word is getting out and the Market is seeing growth in both customers and vendors weekly. We are reaching the height of the season and it seems at this point that each week the farmers are bringing new vegetables and fruits to sell. In addition to produce you can find a variety of treats, baked goods, jams, and even some hand made crafts from local artists.

The Indian Trail Farmers Market has partnered with the Union County Master Gardeners to provide information on gardening, lawn care, and many other related topics.



A vendor selling blueberries at the market

## Remember it

**Town Council Meetings**— Are held the second (7:00 p.m.) and fourth (6:00 p.m.) Tuesday of every month in the Indian Trail Civic Building.

**Planning Board Meetings**— held the third Tuesday of every month in the Indian Trail Civic Building at 7 pm.

**Board of Adjustment Meetings**— held the fourth Thursday of every month in the Indian Trail Civic Building at 7 pm.

**Indian Trail Farmer's Market**— held every Saturday on the Town Hall front lawn from 8 am to noon.

**Family Fun Day** – Saturday, October 10th from 11 am to 5 pm at Indian Trail Elementary School on Indian Trail Road.

## Kid's Corner



It's July and gardens are beginning to really produce some beautiful vegetables.

If you don't already know it, gardening can be a wonderful experience to share with your children. There is a lot kids can learn about plants and nature from growing a garden, but more important is the quality time they get to spend with you while tending a little patch of earth. Through the seasons there are big projects and many opportunities for gardening with your kids that can fit seamlessly into your life. For some great ideas on how to go about it, check out the “Parents Primer” at [www.kidsgardening.org](http://www.kidsgardening.org). And make the most of those “gardening moments.”



Ralphie, the Town's Go GREEN Dog

## Tax Facts

Tax Bills are coming soon, here are some tips from the Indian Trail Tax Department

**DUE DATE:** All tax bills from the Town of Indian Trail are due September 1, 2009. You have until January 5, 2010 to pay without penalty. Postmark affixed by U.S. Postal Service will be accepted.

**FAILURE TO PAY:** Taxes are delinquent after January 5th and subject to garnishment of wages, levy on personal property and foreclosure proceedings.

**INTEREST:** On January 6, 2010, interest will be added at a rate of 2% for the month of January and an additional 3/4 of 1% on the first day of each month thereafter until paid.

**PERSONAL PROPERTY:** Appeals on value, situs, or taxability may be appealed within 30 days after the date of the notice. G.S. 105-317.1 (c)

**ESCROW/MORTGAGE ACCOUNTS:** The property owner is responsible for ensuring the full payment of this obligation. A tax notice is not mailed to a property owner if we have record of an escrow account. If funds are held in escrow to pay for a tax notice that you have received, please forward to the appropriate mortgage holder. If your mortgage holder has changed since the last tax year, please call the tax office at 704-821-8114.

**NOW AVAILABLE:** You can now use credit/debit cards to pay your taxes online at [www.paybill.com/indiantrail](http://www.paybill.com/indiantrail), or by calling 1-866-440-5242. Please note a convenience fee will be charged by a third party for using the service. Payments will still be accepted by mail or may be paid at Town Hall, 100 Navajo Trail, Indian Trail, NC with cash, check, or money order.

For more information, please call the Tax Department at 704-821-8114

# Your Garbage Service



Please help the town in an effort to keep your taxes as low as possible. The cost of residential garbage collection is one of the town's largest expenses. Cost savings in this area can really pay off. By following these simple guidelines you will aid us in this town-wide effort.

The Town provides one rollout garbage cart per single-family residence for once a week pick up. Rollout carts must be at roadside by 7am the day of your scheduled pickup. We strongly suggest putting the cart out the night before. Our contractor is only obligated to pick up the trash that fits within the Town provided rollout cart. Organic material including lawn debris, grass clippings, leaves, sticks, etc. are never permitted in your garbage cart. Placing any of these items in your garbage cart can result in the entire cart not being emptied. Also, piles of plastic bags or trash in other containers outside the Town provided cart will not be picked up in the near future. If you find you require a second rollout cart, that service may be purchased through our service provider, Action Garbage. Union County also has several trash and recycling drop-off locations including one near the Sun Valley High School on Wesley

Chapel Road. Remember, recycling helps reduce your weekly refuge and helps save your tax dollars.

Fee based pick up of non-household garbage and bulk items such as tires, furniture, appliances, carpet, construction debris, yard waste, hazardous waste, Christmas trees, etc. can be arranged by contacting Action Garbage (phone 704 821-7578) or by contacting any other waste provider.

Preparing for Fall? Great news, our service provider can help. Optional yard debris pick up service is a fee based service. The fee (payable in advance) is \$65 per year (October to October) with the homeowner purchasing a special rollout container from the town for a one time cost of \$65 each. Yard debris includes leaves, grass clippings, sticks, and limbs. In accordance with Union County Landfill rules, these items are not permitted to be mixed with the residential trash. So remember:

- All trash must be placed within the town issued rollout cart.
- Recycling helps reduce your weekly amount of garbage.
- Trash outside the Town provided rollout cart will not be picked up.
- Fee Based Bulk item pick-up is available through Action Garbage.
- Fee based Yard Debris pick-up is also available.

For more information contact Action Garbage Service

[comments@actiongarbage.com](mailto:comments@actiongarbage.com)

Phone: 704-821-7578

Fax: 704-821-0526

[www.actiongarbage.com](http://www.actiongarbage.com)



Our goal with this newsletter is to keep in touch and help keep you informed about issues, events, and projects in the Town. To help keep cost down and save our environmental resources, we offer a paperless newsletter that is emailed directly to your account when distributed. To sign up for this green option please email Keith Sorensen at [kas@planning.indiantrail.org](mailto:kas@planning.indiantrail.org), provide your name, mailing and email address.

## 2010 U.S. Census: Be on the lookout!



The U.S. Constitution requires the federal government to count the population every ten years and the U.S. Census Bureau is ready and prepared to meet the extraordinary challenge of ensuring that everyone is included! Be on the lookout for the U.S. Census Questionnaires, which will mail in **March 2010**.

United States  
**Census  
2010**

### IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Why participate in the Census?

- Data obtained from the 2010 Census will determine how many representatives a state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Every year, the federal government can allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- With information collected during the 2010 Census as a foundation, coupled with population estimates, economic data, and results from the American Community Survey, the nation will see how significantly the U.S. has changed since 2000. **More soon to come!!!**

PO Box 2430  
Indian Trail, North Carolina  
[www.indiantrail.org](http://www.indiantrail.org)



Town of  
**INDIAN  
TRAIL**  
north carolina

PO Box 2430  
Indian Trail, NC 28079  
[www.indiantrail.org](http://www.indiantrail.org)