

NORTHSIDE NEWS

Connecting Residents with their City Government.



A Note from Natalie

Your Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate

Happy (last day of) March!

Apologies for the delayed newsletter this month. You could say March has been madness!

Indianapolis has been busy welcoming both Spring and Basketball lovers alike into our beautiful city all month. I appreciate residents' continued excitement, care, and patience as we have navigated this exciting month. It has been wonderful to see so many eyes on Indy!

In this newsletter, you will find crucial information surrounding vaccinations, 2021 construction, and more. Please reach out if you have any questions.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive these monthly newsletters, please feel free to send them this sign up link:
<https://forms.gle/8PiAQJ1gEZiXThLr7>.

Your Neighborhood Advocate,
Natalie van Dongen

RESOURCES

Report potholes, abandoned vehicles, stray animals, & more through the Mayor's Action Center [317.327.4622](tel:317.327.4622) or [Request Indy Online at maps.Indy.gov/RequestIndy](https://maps.Indy.gov/RequestIndy)

Community Office Hours:
[Suspended indefinitely.](#)

MNA Contact Info:
Email (preferred) - Natalie.vanDongen@indy.gov
Phone - [317.408.1991](tel:317.408.1991)



ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATES

Beginning March 31st, the Marion County Public Health Department is urging all residents 16 and older to visit ourshot.in.gov or call 2-1-1 to sign up for their COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

All three COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the United States underwent rigorous testing and proved to not only be safe, but also highly effective at preventing COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths. Receiving any of these vaccines will greatly reduce the risk of serious illness due to the virus. Health leaders recommend that residents take the first vaccine available to them.

Residents in need of transportation to a vaccine appointment can call 1.888.IUHEALTH (1.888.484.3258) and choose option 9. Homebound individuals can arrange for a vaccine brought to them through the State of Indiana's Homebound Indiana program. People who are interested can contact their local Area Agency on Aging at iaaaa.org or by calling 1.800.986.3505.

Those who previously tested positive for COVID-19 are still encouraged by medical professionals to receive the vaccine, as contracting the virus may only provide limited protection. Residents can be expected to feel some side effects after receiving the vaccine, which can include a fever, chills, tiredness, headache, or aching at the injection site. These side effects are normal signs that your body is building protection and typically go away in 24-48 hours.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

PROJECT INDY

Project Indy, Mayor Joe Hogsett's youth jobs program, is a location-based, online job portal for youth and young adults, ages 16-24. When a young person registers on Project Indy, they are immediately connected to jobs within a small radius of their home - making it easy to ride a bike or even walk. On top of that, there are 187 employers who are registered on Project Indy and eager to hire young people! Since Project Indy kicked off, there have been over 9,000 young adults hired. You can get started today at projectindy.net or on the Project Indy Jobs app.

"COPING WITH COVID" BROCHURES AVAILABLE

The City of Indianapolis recently launched the "Coping with Covid" campaign - a campaign established to raise awareness surrounding the impact Covid-19 has had on our communities' mental health and provide resources for those struggling. To learn more about the Coping with Covid Campaign, visit: www.indy.gov/copingwithcovid

If you represent a school, library, community center, healthcare facility, or business and would like to have physical Coping with Covid brochures available for your respective organization, please email me at Natalie.vanDongen@indy.gov or fill out [this form](#). I would be happy to distribute brochures to you. I have thousands!

Direct link to form: <https://forms.gle/XfEyeo6QYo3yFpCe7>

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

2021 CONSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

This week, Mayor Joe Hogsett and the Indianapolis Department of Public Works announced the construction projects included in the 2021 Capital Infrastructure Program.

Construction projects in this year's capital plan include:

- 33,807 linear feet of new sidewalk
- 37,460 linear feet of rehabbed sidewalk
- 10,162 linear feet of new trails
- 855 new ADA ramps
- 157.6 lane miles of street rehabilitation
- 30,473 linear feet of new storm sewers
- 11 bridge projects, including 3 new bridges and 8 bridge rehabilitation projects

View the full 2021 Construction Season list and map, showing where work will be completed this year.

For the 2021 construction season, Indy DPW has programmed \$124.9 million in transportation projects and \$42.6 million in stormwater infrastructure projects for a total capital projects investment of \$167.5 million.

Major construction projects expected to begin in 2021 include:

- The rehabilitation of the Kessler Boulevard bridge over the White River. This \$6.2 million investment extends the life of the five-span bridge that hasn't been rehabilitated in over 25 years. This project also includes new sidewalks and street lighting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

2021 CONSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT (CON.)

- Storm drainage improvements in the Brendonridge neighborhood. The \$2.2 million investment will alleviate flash flooding and ponding water concerns throughout the neighborhood.
- The second and final phase of the Fall Creek Trail expansion. This \$2.7 million investment will connect with the Fall Creek Trail Phase 1 project at Burdsal Parkway to the White River Trail at Indiana Avenue. This project includes a new pedestrian bridge across Fall Creek, high visibility crosswalks, and a separated multi-use path along Montcalm Street. Once complete, the Fall Creek Greenway will provide a regional connection from Downtown Indianapolis to Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park.
- A two-lane roundabout at the Southeastern Avenue and Rural Street intersection. Also included in this \$9.2 million investment is street rehabilitation for Southeastern Avenue and other surrounding streets, additional sidewalks and ADA ramps, a multi-use path, and bike lanes.

For more information on major transportation and infrastructure projects visit indy.gov/DPW.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

FOOD COMIDA RAWL 317

The Office of Public Health and Safety announced the creation of Food|Comida|Rawl 317: A Vision for Nourishing and Sustaining Our Indianapolis Communities. The project is an effort to better understand the consumer and food value chain experience in Marion County. Working throughout 2021, partners from the Indiana University School of Sustainable Food Systems Science, CollaboCreative, Butler University, and the Kephrrw Institute will collect and analyze information from residents, local food businesses, and nonprofit organizations, as well as examine the secondary data and food environments throughout each of the 25 City-County districts in Indianapolis.

The project team invites residents to participate in the project by going to foodcomidarawl317.com and clicking the “Take the Survey” button to take the household survey. Weekly prizes will be awarded to residents who complete the different sections of the food experience form. In addition to the household survey, project partners will convene stakeholders to learn more about the challenges, successes, and connections between food system actors and businesses in Indianapolis.

To ensure that the breadth of cultures, neighborhoods, and people who participate in the food system are engaged through this effort, language translation is available for the website and paper copies of the Food Experience Workbook can be requested online.