

# NORTHSIDE NEWS

Connecting Residents with their City Government.



## A Note from Natalie Your Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate

Well, folks... it is December!

In roughly two weeks we will be welcoming 2021 with open arms. This holiday season will likely look different than others for a number of reasons: maybe you are staying home or maybe your will be greeting friends and family wearing your finest face masks. No matter how you choose to celebrate, I wish you a safe, healthy, and happy end of the year. I am thankful for all members of this community & I am grateful for our City's togetherness, collaboration, and courtesy in a year unlike any other.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Your Neighborhood Advocate,  
Natalie van Dongen



## RESOURCES

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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)

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Community Office Hours:  
**Suspended indefinitely.**

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

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

## CDC HOLIDAY RECOMMENDATIONS

What does the CDC recommend for gatherings during this holiday season?

The simple answer is to avoid gatherings outside of your immediate household. CDC has also published other recommendations to follow while participating in public and family gatherings. For these and additional CDC recommendations check the CDC Web site. Below are a few to consider:

- Stay home if sick.
- Wear masks in public settings, anywhere you will be around other people.
- Before you go, call and ask what COVID-19 prevention strategies your destination is using.
- Take precautions – like wearing a mask as much as possible when not eating and maintaining a proper social distance if you are dining with others who don't live with you.
- Maintain a social distance of 6 feet or more in any entryway, hallway, or waiting area.
- When possible, sit outside at tables spaced at least 6 feet apart from other people.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds when entering and exiting. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Remind guests to stay home if they are sick or believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Consider keeping a list of guests who attended for potential future contact tracing needs.
- Host your gathering outdoors, when possible. If this is not feasible, make sure the room or space is well-ventilated (for example, open a window).
- Arrange tables and chairs to allow for social distancing. People from the same household can be in groups together and don't need to be 6 feet apart – just 6 feet away from other families.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

## CDC HOLIDAY RECOMMENDATIONS (CON.)

- If planning activities for adults and/or kids, consider those where social distancing can be maintained, like sidewalk chalk art, or frisbee.
- When guests arrive, minimize gestures that promote close contact. For example, don't shake hands, do elbow bumps, or give hugs.
- Consider providing masks for guests or asking them to bring their own.
- Consider providing hand sanitizer in addition to clearly marked hand washing areas.
- Make sure there is adequate soap or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol available in the restrooms and encourage guests not to form a line at the door.
- Use single-use hand towels or paper towels for drying hands so guests do not share a towel.
- Limit the number of people handling or serving food
- Encourage guests to bring their own food and drinks.
- Limit people going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled.
- If serving any food, consider identifying one person to serve all food so that multiple people are not handling the serving utensils.
- Those preparing and/or serving food should wear a mask and food serving gloves.
- Use single-use options or identify one person to serve sharable items, like salad dressings, food containers, and condiments, so that multiple people are not handling the items.
- Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands after removing gloves.
- Use disposable food service items including utensils and dishes, if available.

Visit [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and search "holiday" for more information.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) and Indy Parks will accept live Christmas trees for recycling at multiple drop-off points in public parks throughout the city. Beginning Friday, December 25, 2020 through Sunday, January 31, 2021, residents can drop off live trees at eight different locations.

Trees must be free of ornaments, tinsel, tree stands and all other decorative materials. Trees should be dropped off only at the specially designated area within the park, and only between dawn and dusk.

Drop-off locations are as follows:

- Broad Ripple Park (1610 Broad Ripple Avenue)
- Ellenberger Park (5301 East St. Clair Street)
- Garfield Park (2432 Conservatory Drive)
- Krannert Park (605 South High School Road)
- Northwestway Park (5253 West 62nd Street)
- Perry Park (451 East Stop 11 Road)
- Riverside Park (2420 East Riverside Drive)
- Sahm Park (6801 East 91st Street)

The Indianapolis live tree recycling service recycles trees for sustainable landscaping resources, such as mulch and soil blends. Last year 7,234 Christmas trees were chipped by Park Maintenance. The mulch and soil blends are used across Indy Parks in the spring. The live tree recycling program is not for commercial use, and is solely for Marion County residents.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

## WINTER WEATHER DRIVING & SAFETY TIPS

In the winter, weather conditions can make driving difficult by making roads wet and slippery. Drive safely in the snow by following these tips:

- Tire check: Have your tires and traction checked by a specialist. Check and maintain your tires' air pressure weekly throughout the winter.
- Steer into the skid: If your car starts sliding, turn slightly into the skid, slowly let off the gas, and begin gently pumping the brakes. Do not turn in the other direction or slam on your brakes
- Slow down: Do everything more slowly and more gently than you normally would. This will help you keep traction on an icy or wet road.
- Pull over if necessary: If you cannot see or control your vehicle, or conditions are too dangerous for safe travel, pull over.

Always carry an emergency road kit in your car. It should include these supplies:

- Tools, including jack, lug wrench, shovel
- Chains or traction tires
- Extra car fluids, including oil, washer fluid, antifreeze
- Non-clumping kitty litter, sand, or de-icer
- Reflectors and flags
- Road maps
- Extra warm clothes, boots, hat, and gloves
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Cell phone and car adapter
- Rechargeable flashlight
- First aid kit
- Matches or lighter
- Battery jumper cables
- Extra food and water
- Blanket/sleeping bags

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

## DROP-OFF RECYCLING LOCATION UPDATES

The City of Indianapolis is actively seeking to expand its community recycling drop-off program by adding sites, especially in areas of the city currently under-represented. These are the large roll-off containers into which Indy residents can place their recyclables, free of charge.

This critical service to our community helps improve Indy's historically low local recycling rates as well as increase overall equitability and sustainability for neighborhoods.

Crews with the Department of Public Works are committed to the regular service/pick-up of recyclables at each of the sites and the cleanliness of the surrounding area. Site proposals for new recycling locations should have space approximately 80 feet long by 40 feet wide to accommodate the roll-off boxes, plus plenty of extra clearance for vehicle access.

If you are interested in partnering with the City on this important initiative, you can go to <https://www.indy.gov/activity/find-a-recycling-drop-off-location> for a map of existing locations or email [Lindsay.Trameri@Indy.Gov](mailto:Lindsay.Trameri@Indy.Gov) to schedule a site consultation.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

## LIFT INDY ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Joe Hogsett announced the Near North Corridor as one of two new Lift Indy areas for 2021, each to receive an anticipated \$3.5 million in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding over the next three years. Lift Indy is a comprehensive community development investment program aimed at propelling revitalization in Indianapolis neighborhoods.

Due to the scale of the COVID-19 crisis, Lift Indy was expanded from one to two neighborhoods, each of which will receive approximately \$3.5 million investment of HOME and CDBG dollars to help address the impacts of the pandemic. The Polis Center at IUPUI assisted the Department of Metropolitan Development by providing available data and potential factors to measure the impact of the pandemic on neighborhoods across Indianapolis. Place has a tremendous impact on health outcomes, economic mobility, and recovery, so this new approach aims to shift existing tools and resources to address the neighborhood-level, long-term impacts of the crisis. This strategic investment of public funds aims to support the growth of economic development opportunities, the preservation and development of quality affordable housing, creative placemaking, availability of social services, infrastructure, public amenities, social engagement, and other aspects of quality of life that make up a complete neighborhood.

The Near North Corridor joins three previously designated Lift Indy neighborhoods: Monon16, the Old Southside, and East 10th Street. To identify the Lift Indy areas, the City of Indianapolis used data provided by the Reinvestment Fund to identify locations where a multi-year commitment of funding would drive market activity and investment, while supporting comprehensive neighborhood revitalization. Projects were selected from a pool of applicants and then chosen by a selection committee consisting of leaders from the City, non-profit, and business communities.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

## LIFT INDY ANNOUNCEMENT (CON.)

Near North Lift Indy-supported projects and programs:

- The Excelsior will be developed by NNDC, with financial investment from IHCDA and IU Health, creating 80-units of affordable workforce rental housing and a neighborhood services center at 22nd & Illinois. The land was acquired through INHP's equitable transit-oriented development fund.
- NNDC will also develop Capitol Gardens, in partnership with INHP and IU Health, at 21st & Capitol which will include a 108-unit mixed-income apartment project, 30 townhomes for home ownership, and more than  $\frac{3}{4}$ -acre of community gardens and greenspace.
- We Bloom's Recovery Café Indy is a Peer Recovery Community providing wholistic and inclusive support to individuals desiring to heal and grow through any recovery challenge by offering connections to community-based resources, recovery circles and classes in the School for Recovery, including the development of a culinary and barista training program.
- Expansion and enhancement of the Indiana Plan program, providing of pre-apprenticeship training, mentoring, and job placement services to increase opportunities for minorities, women, and disadvantaged individuals in the skilled union construction trades.
- A homeowner repair loan program and homebuyer education administered by INHP. An additional neighborhood will be announced in early 2021.

To read more about the Lift Indy program, visit [indy.gov/activity/lift-indy](http://indy.gov/activity/lift-indy).