

# NORTHSIDE NEWS

Connecting Residents with their City Government.



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

Happy February!

Consider this newsletter an early Valentine's Day card! I hope you are doing well and staying warm as we navigate our second month of 2021.

We have added over 75 new emails to the newsletter distribution list since January! I hope all who are receiving this newsletter for the first time find it informative. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the topics covered.

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>.  
The more the merrier!

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](tel:317.408.1991)

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

## NORTH DISTRICT IMPD PUBLIC MEETING

Save the date!

Join North District Commander Wolley on February 18th at 6pm for a virtual district community meeting. During this meeting, North District will lay out crime statistics from the last year and go over current challenges, objectives, and priorities. There will also be a Q&A portion of the meeting.

Register by following this link: <http://bit.ly/northcommunity>

## "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](http://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](mailto: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

## WINTER WEATHER/SEVERE COLD PREPAREDNESS

The Office of Public Health and Safety offers the following tips to help residents stay safe during severe winter weather:

- Prepare your car for cold and wintry weather.
- Check on family and neighbors who may be vulnerable to cold temperatures
- Pack an emergency road kit to be kept in your vehicle for the season, including a blanket, first aid kit, non-perishable food, and phone charger
- Brush up on your winter weather awareness terms – learn the difference between a watch, warning, and advisory [here](#).

Always use safe home heating practices:

- Replace filters in central heating systems
- Set up space heaters at least three feet away from heat sources
- Ensure flues and chimneys are clear before using a fireplace or wood stove
- Never use a stove or oven for heating

Winter Driving Tips:

- Check conditions before your trip and plan accordingly
- Slow down
- If you start sliding, turn slightly into the skid
- Know when to quit

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## 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 Kephwrw 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](http://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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

## ANIMAL CARE SERVICES: STRAY ANIMALS

As winter approaches, Indianapolis Animal Care Services (IACS) is asking the public for cooperation and assistance as the shelter works to prioritize emergency intakes such as cruelty, injured, abandoned, and bite cases.

Currently, IACS staff is working in two shifts as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19. By splitting the team, staff work in the same groupings, so if someone were to quarantine after exposure to the virus or a positive test, the number of people exposed would be minimized. The approach also limits the number of team members in the building; the shelter is not a very large space, which makes social distancing difficult.

IACS is still accepting stray or found animals, but is asking residents to take a few steps before making an appointment to bring the animal to the shelter:

1. Check for a collar and tag. Some pets have a collar with the phone number stitched in.
2. Post a photo and information of where the pet was found on Indy Lost Pet Alert, NextDoor, your neighborhood social media group, and your social media accounts. Most lost and stray pets tend to stick close to home.
3. Take the animal to the nearest vet clinic to check for a microchip.
4. If there's a microchip, contact the owner and reunite the pet with its family. If there's no microchip, hold onto the animal (if you can) and continue searching for its owner. The shelter offers resources to help residents hold onto stray or lost animals until the owner can be found.

If an animal needs to be surrendered to the shelter, an appointment can be scheduled by emailing [iacsintake@indy.gov](mailto:iacsintake@indy.gov).



# ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

## ANIMAL CARE SERVICES: COLD WEATHER

As temperatures start to drop, IACS would also like to remind pet owners of the dangers that cold weather can pose to animals. It is against City-County ordinance (Sec. 531-401) to leave animals outside when temperatures are at or below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, or if a wind chill warning has been issued for the city. You could face fines or jail time if you fail to properly care for your pets in cold weather.

Here are a few tips to keep your pets safe and warm:

- The best place for your pet is inside, but if kept outdoors, your pet must have access to dry shelter. A structure with space to move around will help shield animals from the cold winter air.
- Keep animals warm and safe by using straw in outdoor shelters. Blankets and towels draw moisture and don't provide as much insulation and warmth as straw.
- Animals are just as susceptible to hypothermia and frostbite as you are. Bring them inside as often as you can and, when nature calls, accompany them when they venture outdoors.
- Keep water available outside and check the dish every few hours to make sure it hasn't frozen over.

Consider investing in a heated water dish to avoid the hassle of a frozen water bowl.

If you are concerned about the safety of an animal in your neighborhood, contact the Mayor's Action Center online at [www.indy.gov/RequestIndy](http://www.indy.gov/RequestIndy), by using the Request Indy mobile app available for iPhone and Android.

You can also call the MAC at 317-327-4622; however, the Request Indy app and website are available 24 hours

For additional information on Indianapolis Animal Care Services, please visit: [indy.gov/acs](http://indy.gov/acs).