

# NORTHSIDE NEWS

Connecting Residents with their City Government.



## A Note from Natalie

### Your Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a healthy and celebratory holiday season.

I am very excited to share today's newsletter, as I am hoping this year brings forth more opportunities to connect with each and every one of you and your respective neighborhoods/organizations. Though this newsletter is primarily sent to neighborhood leaders and representatives at this time, I would like to make it directly available to any and all residents who may find it helpful.

I have created this sign-up portal for residents to add their email to my distribution list:

<https://forms.gle/8PiAQJ1gEZiXThLr7>

I apologize for the strange link. I tried to make it as short as possible for easier copying. Please spread far and wide!

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

## A NOTE REGARDING NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING ATTENDANCE

Though the Mayor's Neighborhood Advocates are not attending in-person meetings at this time, I am more than happy to attend virtual neighborhood meetings or provide updates in advance. Going into the New Year, I will be clearing out my existing calendar invites, given that many are outdated and no longer accurate. Should you want me to attend a regularly held meeting, please send me an email ([natalie.vandongen@indy.gov](mailto:natalie.vandongen@indy.gov)) and I will add it to my calendar.

Thank you!

## INDIANAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP

The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (Indy DPW) is accepting proposals from community-based organizations for 2021 infrastructure projects under a matching fund award program through **January 29, 2021**. Funds are available for new projects including roads, sidewalks, multi-use paths, and bridges.

In October 2020, the Indianapolis City-County Council passed Mayor Joe Hogsett's 2021 budget, allowing DPW to award up to \$4 million in matching funds to community-based organizations for qualifying infrastructure projects. For more information and to apply, find the program application, visit this link: [www.indy.gov/activity/major-transportation-projects](http://www.indy.gov/activity/major-transportation-projects)

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## MAYOR'S OFFICE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The spring semester internship application is now open! If you are interested, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

Undergraduate students with a minimum of one year of college education and graduate students can apply for the Mayor's Office Internship Program. The program provides students the opportunity to learn about and contribute to city government, hear from local leaders, and experience the day-to-day operations of Indianapolis.

This is a great opportunity for students interested in starting a career in public service or generally learning more about the structure of local government. Our interns develop foundational knowledge, communication skills, and a strong network of community leaders and organizations during the program all while getting to know and fall in love with Indianapolis.

This internship is limited to six (6) students per semester. Interns are paid \$10/hour. Parking or an IndyGo bus pass will be provided, as needed. Please note that all internships will be virtual/remote until otherwise noted due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Apply now at: [indy.gov/moip](https://indy.gov/moip)

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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

## 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.

