

NORTHSIDE NEWS

Connecting Residents with their City Government.



A Note from Natalie

Your Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate

It's the most wonderful time of the year! I hope this season greets you with tidings of comfort and joy, hot chocolate, time with family and friends, and safe gatherings and travels.

This month's newsletter covers tonight's severe weather warning, winter weather preparation, free electronics recycling, Christmas tree disposal, and more.

As always, if you know anyone who may find this newsletter helpful, please encourage them to add their email to the mailing list at: <https://forms.gle/8PiAQJlgEZiXThLr7>

Thank you for your support, warm words, & dedication to your community and neighbors throughout the strange year that has been 2021. I look forward to navigating whatever 2022 throws our way together! Happy Holidays to you & yours.

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)

MNA Contact Info:

Email -

Natalie.vanDongen@indy.gov

Community Office Hours:

[Updated dates, times, and locations coming soon.](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

TIME SENSITIVE: SEVERE STORMS

The National Weather Service (NWS) predicts severe storms possible Friday night through Saturday morning that have the potential to produce damaging winds and tornadoes. NWS forecasts winds up to 65 miles per hour. Thunderstorms are expected tonight starting around 8:00 p.m. with the highest chances for severe thunderstorms between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. While all hazards are possible, damaging winds and tornadoes are the most likely hazards. Fast storm motions of 55 to 65 miles per hour, overnight timing, and the atypical time of year combine to make this an exceptionally dangerous threat.

Any traffic signal or tree debris issues will be addressed by the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (Indy DPW) and should be reported to the Mayor's Action Center (317-327-4622) or via RequestIndy. Calls to the Mayor's Action Center outside of office hours will require the caller to press option 2 to be connected to DPW Dispatch. Dangerously high water in roadways should also be reported, so that crews can assess for any drain inlet blockages and/or place barricades alerting drivers to high water. Residents can help out ahead of tonight's weather by personally checking that street inlets are clear of leaves and debris.

Indy DPW will have more than 30 staff on standby overnight ready to receive resident reports and respond to damage or issues caused by severe weather. These will include traffic, forestry, barricade, and stormwater channel maintenance crews.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

TIME SENSITIVE: SEVERE STORMS (CONTINUED)

The City of Indianapolis provides the following weather safety and preparedness tips to keep residents safe:

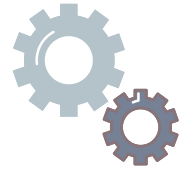
- Pay attention to weather reports, warnings of thunderstorms, and alerts that conditions could lead to a tornado. Be ready to change plans, if necessary.
- Stay away from downed power lines and trees and report them immediately. Report fallen power lines and power outages to AES at 317-261-8111.
- Secure any outside furniture or decorations to minimize any property damage from high winds.
- If a tornado warning is issued, find shelter immediately. Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls. If driving, do not stop under an overpass or bridge. A low, flat location is safer.
- When thunder roars, go indoors. A sturdy building is the safest place to be during a thunderstorm.
- If streets become impassable with dangerous high water or fallen tree debris, do not pass through it.

For more information on how to stay safe and develop a severe weather plan, visit [redcross.org/prepare](https://www.redcross.org/prepare).



ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

2022 INDIANAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP GRANTS



Between November 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022, community-based organizations may submit their big ideas for future public works construction projects through the Indy Neighborhood Infrastructure Partnership! Community organizations can use the form attached here to apply for matching funds to build projects in the city's right-of-way that improve the quality of life for Indy residents in and near their neighborhoods or institutions, such as sidewalks, trails or roadway upgrades. To get started on the application, follow this link:
<https://media.graphcms.com/Uh25WvGREGovA5xJN4TX>

Questions and comments can be sent to DPWEngineering@indy.gov.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

This season can be hard for many reasons.

Be Well Indiana says It's OK to ask for help or reach out to someone. If you're feeling anxious, stressed, or depressed, Be Well Indiana has free services and resources that can help.

- Call 2-1-1, enter your zip code, and press: 3 to talk with a trained counselor for free,
- Visit www.BeWellIndiana.com for more resources and information.

Indianapolis based "KEY Consumer Organization" also operates a toll free "warmline" at 800-933-5397. A warmline is a non-crisis talk line where consumers can talk with a peer who is also in recovery with mental health challenges. Their warmline operates 8am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

WINTER WEATHER PREPARATION

The City of Indianapolis will be actively monitoring the cold weather throughout winter months, working with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Indy Parks, the Red Cross, and more community partners to respond as needed to falling temperatures.

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

- Prepare your car for cold and wintry weather. 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
- Remember 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
- Check on family and neighbors who may be vulnerable to cold temperatures

Visit [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for additional winter weather safety tips.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

The Indy Office of Sustainability (Sustain Indy) & RecycleForce are hosting another post-holiday electronics recycling event!

The holidays are a popular time for people to upgrade their electronics, and so Marion County residents are encouraged to drop off unused, outdated, and/or broken electronics so that they may be properly recycled.

On-site staff will direct traffic – note the location in Garfield Park is where the summer farmers market takes place, near the corner of Shelby Street and Southern Ave. Attendees should remain in their cars and wear a face covering when interacting with staff members.

There is NO COST for dropping off materials. Non-electronic materials will NOT be accepted during this event.

Those interested but unable to attend this special event are reminded that they can recycle unwanted electronics on Saturdays at ToxDrop sites across the county. The regular ToxDrop times and locations can be found at <https://www.indy.gov/activity/electronics-recycling-sites>.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & INITIATIVES

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

You can dispose of your live Christmas tree at one of the city's drop-off locations from Dec. 25 to Jan. 31 from dawn until dusk. Remove the tree stand and all ornaments, tinsel, lights, and decorations before dropping it off. The collected trees will be recycled into various soil blends and mulch.

This service is provided for residents of Marion County only and is not offered for commercial use.

Drop-off locations for tree disposal are:

- Broad Ripple Park, 1610 Broad Ripple Ave., south lot
- Ellenberger Park, 5301 E. St. Clair St., east of pool in main parking lot
- Garfield Park, 2345 Pagoda Dr., in front of the MacAllister Amphitheater
- Krannert Park, 605 S. High School Rd., north parking lot
- Northwestway Park, 5253 W. 62nd St., near the pool
- Perry Park, 451 E. Stop 11 Rd., soccer field parking lot
- Riverside Park, 2420 N. Riverside Dr., tennis court parking lot
- Sahm Park, 6801 E. 91st St., soccer field parking lot

