Indian Trail to Place Occupancy Tax on November Ballot

On Nov. 5, Indian Trail voters can vote on a ballot initiative that would add an occupancy tax for hotel and short-term rental stays. The November ballot includes a proposal for up to a 5% occupancy tax that would fund tourism-related initiatives, such as recreational amenities for residents and visitors, as well as promoting travel and tourism. Read on to learn more about this important tax **paid by visitors, not residents**.

What is an Occupancy Tax?
An occupancy tax, also called a "hotel tax" or "lodging tax," is a tax charged to people who stay in hotels, inns, bed and breakfasts, or other similar establishments within a town.

Who pays an Occupancy Tax?
This tax applies to visitors staying in hotels or short-term rentals, such as an Airbnb, within Indian Trail. Residents are only responsible for paying the tax if they stay in one of these accommodations.

What will this proposed tax pay for?
According to NC law, occupancy tax revenues can only be used for tourism-related purposes, including promoting tourism and travel. Other communities use occupancy taxes to pay for event venues, sporting arenas, or recreational spaces. Indian Trail could use the revenues to invest in tourism-related amenities, such as enhancing our parks and recreational amenities, a future multigenerational community center, and supporting downtown business development.

What other communities have an Occupancy Tax?
Most cities, especially those near places frequently traveled for tourism or business, have an occupancy tax. This includes 90 counties and 110 municipalities in North Carolina, such as our neighbors in Monroe. When you travel, you are most likely paying an occupancy tax to another community.

If the Town doesn't have a hotel, why is an Occupancy Tax on the ballot?
Indian Trail already has approximately 50 short-term rental properties, such as Airbnb, in the Town that could begin generating occupancy tax revenue. Additionally, the Town of Indian Trail believes it is important to plan for the future. While the Town does not have a hotel now, the plan is to have one (or more) in the future. When that time comes, the occupancy tax will already be in place so the Town and its residents can benefit from it.

Is this ballot referendum the same as a bond or other form of debt service?
NO. The occupancy tax will be a new dedicated revenue stream and will require no debt service or bonds. Additionally, it will NOT impact residents' property taxes.

For more information about the occupancy tax and to view frequently asked questions, visit **https://indiantrail.org/1808/Occupancy-Tax**.

For detailed Election Day information, including polling locations and times, visit **https://www.unioncountyncelections.gov/**.

OCCUPANCY TAX QUICK FACTS

Their Visit Funds a Better INDIAN TRAIL

1 An Occupancy Tax is a tax charged to people who stay in hotels, inns, bed and breakfasts, or other similar establishments within a town.

2 An Occupancy Tax is paid for by visitors, not residents, who stay at short-term rentals, such as an Airbnb, or future hotels in Indian Trail.

3 Occupancy Tax revenue can only be used for tourism-related projects and promotion, such as enhancing parks and recreation amenities.
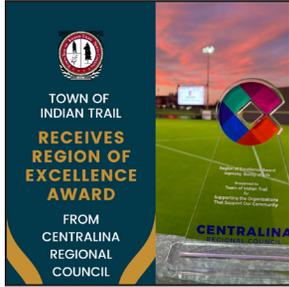
www.indiantrail.org   VOTE

November Meeting Dates*

12	Town Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
19	Planning Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
21	ABC Board, 6 p.m. @ABC Store (5880 U.S. 74)
21	Board of Adjustment Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings are at the Indian Trail Town Hall unless otherwise noted. Council meetings may be viewed online at http://indiantrail.org/310/Live-Archived-Media.

*Meetings are subject to change. Please visit the Town's website at www.indiantrail.org for the most up-to-date meeting information.

Indian Trail Receives Centralina Region of Excellence Award

The Town of Indian Trail received a Region of Excellence award from the Centralina Regional Council (Centralina) in the category of Improving Quality of Life for its use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-enabled funding to support community-based organizations and projects. Council Members Crystal Buchaluk and Clarence Alsobrooks accepted the award on Oct. 9 on the Town's behalf during an award ceremony at Centralina's Board of Delegates meeting.
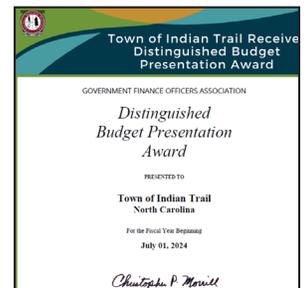
In 2021, the Town of Indian Trail received $12.7 million through ARPA. Of this $12.7 million, the Town took the standard Revenue Replacement Allowance of $10 million, using it to pay for the Union County Sheriff's Office contract for 2.5 years. This use freed up $10 million in ARPA-enabled general funds. The goal was to use these funds and interest earned on these dollars to support non-profits and service organizations throughout the community and improve the lives of our residents. Since 2022, the Town has assisted numerous non-profits, service organizations, schools, and first responders in providing additional resources to residents in Indian Trail and Union County, focusing on the most vulnerable in our community.

A few examples of ARPA-enabled projects include new ladder trucks for the Bakers, Hemby Bridge, and Stallings fire departments; medical and accessibility equipment for the Council on Aging; food and other resources for Common Heart and Food for Families to provide support for those experiencing food insecurity; items for the Community Shelter of Union County, David's Advocacy for the Homeless, and the Union County Crisis Assistance Ministry to assist those experiencing homelessness; and funding toward a waterline project to bring waterlines to residents living in the Emerald Woods neighborhood who are on well water. For a full list of ARPA-enabled funding recipients, visit **www.indiantrail.org/664/ARPA-Funding**.

Indian Trail Receives Budget Award for Second Year

The Town of Indian Trail received the Government Finance Officer Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 budget. The Town has received the award for the second consecutive year. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is the highest recognition in governmental budgeting. The Town first submitted a budget to GFOA for review with last year's FY 2023-2024 budget, receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the first time.

Submitting a budget to the GFOA for award consideration is not required by law, but according to the GFOA, "The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation." The GFOA assessed the Town's budget based on how well it serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

The web-based budget book includes a strategic plan, departmental pages with mission statements, objectives, goals, accomplishments, and performance measures, an overview of the budget process and financial policies, and Town demographics and history. It is also more user-friendly, with interactive charts, a glossary of terms, and in-depth explanations of the Town's budgeting process. To view the FY 2024-2025 budget, visit **https://town-indian-trail-nc-budget-book.cleargov.com/15195/introduction/budget-cover**.

November: Celebrate Patriotic Holidays

It is important to recognize and raise awareness of every patriotic holiday, whether it's well-known or lesser-known.These holidays are a time to bring friends and families together and show your community how important our country is and what it means to you.

Did you know that the whole month of November is Military Family Month & Warrior Care Month?

Military Family Month was established in 1996 by the Armed Services YMCA, and the U.S. government has recognized the occasion every year since. Each November, the President signs a proclamation declaring November National Veterans and Military Families Month and recognizes the daily sacrifices made by active duty, Guard, and Reserve military families.

Warrior Care Month was created in 2008 as an attempt to raise awareness of the needs and lives of wounded warriors. It is observed every November with a variety of activities and programs.

A specific date in November and more popularly known is **Veterans Day**. It is observed every year on Nov. 11. Veterans Day evolved from Armistice Day, which was proclaimed in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson. Armistice Day recognizes the end of World War I when fighting ceased at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. (Nov. 11th at 11 A.M, 1918). On Veterans Day, Americans observe a two-minute moment of silence beginning at 2:11 p.m. EST to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout history. To support Veterans and their families, you can participate in various ways:

- Adopt-a-Soldier for the Holidays
- Thank an Active-Duty member, veteran, or military spouse or child for their service
- Visit war memorials with your family
- Fly the U.S. Flag
- Properly retire U.S. Flags at the VFW drop box
- Donate new toys at the VFW for Toys for Tots

- See someone in uniform? Thank them for their service or surprise them with a free coffee, dessert, or drink if they are in line behind you.
- Donate or volunteer with a military assistance organization like the USO, VFW, or American Legion.
- Join the Veteran groups or auxiliaries. Visit their websites to verify the eligibility of each group.

Solid Waste and Recycling: News and Reminders

November Bulk and e-Waste Pick-Up

Bulk and e-Waste Pickup is happening this month!

- **Nov. 4-8 for Orange Recycling Weeks**
- **Nov. 11-15 for Green Recycling Weeks**

Items will be picked up on your regular recycling day during that time. To find your color week, visit our searchable map at **https://bit.ly/3RhD11x**. You do not need to schedule your pick-up for this service. All items must be placed curbside by 7 a.m. Please call Town Hall at 704-821-5401 within 48 hours of not receiving bulk service so we can send a driver back promptly to pick up your items.

Extra bags of household trash are not considered bulk. Cardboard is not bulk; please dispose of it in your recycle cart.

For more information about Bulk and e-Waste Pick-up, visit **https://indiantrail.org/258/Bulk-Collection**.

Town of Indian Trail
November Bulk Pick-up

Orange Recycling Weeks: Nov. 4-8

Green Recycling Weeks: Nov. 11-15

Items are picked up on your regular recycling day

Town of Indian Trail
Thanksgiving Solid Waste Collection Schedule

NO collection on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, for solid waste, recycling or yard waste. During the holiday week, collection will be delayed by one day.

November	Wed 27	Thur 28	Fri 29	Sat 30
	Regular Collection Day	NO COLLECTION	Collection if your regular day is THURSDAY	Collection if your regular day is FRIDAY

To view the solid waste calendar, visit https://bit.ly/3KYCBvL.

Thanksgiving Solid Waste Collection Schedule

Solid waste services will not occur on Nov. 28 due to the holiday. All services for Nov. 28 and 29 will be delayed by one day. Regular Thursday service will take place on Friday, and regular Friday service will take place on Saturday.

If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 704-821-5401.

Additionally, the Indian Trail Town Hall offices will be closed on Nov. 28 and 29.

FREE Shred Day for Indian Trail Residents

Indian Trail's annual Fall Shred Day is on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Indian Trail Town Hall (315 Matthews Indian Trail Road).

The Shred Day is FREE and open to Indian Trail residents. There is a limit of five boxes per household.

Plastic bags and cardboard boxes cannot be shredded. Paper bags can be shredded along with your documents.

For a full list of what can and cannot be shredded, visit **https://www.indiantrail.org/626/Shred-Day**.

Shred Day

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024
Time: 9 a.m. to Noon

Indian Trail Town Hall
315 Matthews-Indian Trail Rd.

Did You Know? Recycling Fun Fact

It is estimated that around 16.9 million tons of textile waste is generated each year in the United States. Some clothing can take up to 40 years to decompose in the landfill. Please consider donating your gently used items to victims of Hurricane Helene.

Report a Pothole!

Potholes: everyone's favorite thing to hate!

Did you know? If you see a pothole around Town, you can easily report it right from your phone using the Town's online service request system.

If you haven't already, visit **http://bit.ly/3Z7MyMh** and create an account. Once there, you can take a picture of the pothole, mark it's location, and submit a repair request to the Town. You'll receive updates on the status of your project, and if the pothole is on an NCDOT-owned road, well report it to them for you.

In addition to potholes, you can also use the service request system to report other issues, such as sidewalk repairs, damaged street signs, and flooding or drainage issues.

If you're unable to use the online service request system, you can always report an issue by calling 704-821-5401 and asking for Public Works. Our staff members are eager to assist you.

Report a Pothole
Submit a request online or call 704-821-5401

Parks and Recreation: Upcoming Programs and Events
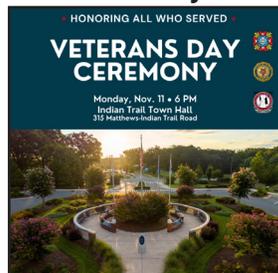
Car Show & Toy Drive

Stop by the Indian Trail Town Hall to check out some cool cars, trucks, Jeeps, and motorcycles! Food trucks and kids activities will also be available. Attendees wishing to participate in the People's Choice Award are asked to bring a toy donation. For each toy donation someone brings, they will receive one raffle ticket to vote for the People's Choice Award. The event is in partnership with Carolina Cruzin4Jeeps and The Wrecking Crew Mustang Club.

Date: Saturday, Nov. 2
Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Indian Trail Town Hall (315 Matthews Indian Trail Road)

Veterans Day Ceremony

Join the Town of Indian Trail, the James B. Crump VFW Post 2423, and American Legion Post 458 as we honor and recognize all those who have served our country.

Date: Monday, Nov. 11
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Indian Trail Town Hall (315 Matthews Indian Trail Road)
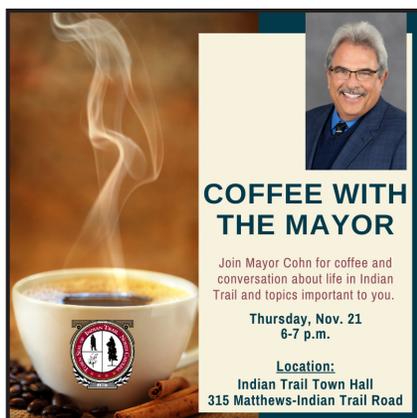
Coming in December!

- Christmas Parade: Sunday, Dec. 1, at 4 p.m. along Indian Trail Road
- Winter Fest and Tree Lighting: Friday, Dec. 6, from 6-9 p.m. at Chestnut Square Park

For additional details on these events and more, check out the Find IT Fun Program Guide at **https://bit.ly/3tqEfRN**.

Coffee with the Mayor

Join us for Coffee with the Mayor on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 6-7 p.m. This month, we're meeting at the Indian Trail Town Hall, located at 315 Matthews-Indian Trail Road.

All Indian Trail residents and business owners are invited to join Mayor Cohn for coffee and conversation about life in Indian Trail and the topics important to you.

Share your questions and concerns directly with Mayor Cohn in a comfortable and informal setting so we can work together for the benefit of our community.

The discussion is led by YOU. Topics can range anywhere from roads and infrastructure to public safety and upcoming events.

Interested in hosting a Coffee with the Mayor? Or do you have a specific topic you'd like to discuss at the November Coffee with the Mayor? Contact Communications Director Abbey Ball at anb@indiantrail.org.

Facebook Live with the Mayor and the Manager
Special Guest: Food for Families

Join Mayor David Cohn and Town Manager Mike McLaurin for November's Facebook Live on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 1 p.m. This month, they'll talk with Amy Niccolai, Executive Director, and Zilphia Adcock, Fundraising and Grant Administrator, for Food for Families. They'll discuss Food for Families' mission, the programs and services it offers, and volunteer and donation opportunities.

Additionally, Town Manager McLaurin will provide an update on important happenings in Indian Trail, and Mayor Cohn will share the details on upcoming events.

If you have a question for Food for Families or the Town, email it to Communications Director Abbey Ball at anb@indiantrail.org. You can also ask questions in the comments during the show where they will be answered live.

To watch live, tune in to the Town's Facebook page (**https://www.facebook.com/IndianTrail**) at 1 p.m. on Nov. 21. If you're unable to watch the live stream, the recording will stay on the Town's Facebook page for future viewing.

For more information about Food for Families, please visit **https://www.fffnc.org/**.

Stormwater in Indian Trail

What is Stormwater?
Stormwater is rainwater or melted snow that flows over land, paved streets, parking lots and rooftops. When this runoff is absorbed into the soil, it is naturally filtered and flows into rivers and streams.

In developed areas, however, there are more impervious surfaces that prevent water from soaking into the ground, such as driveways, roads and buildings. This causes stormwater runoff to pickup pollutants like trash, chemicals and oils that can harm our waterways. The runoff can be just as polluted as untreated sewer.

What is a Stormwater Utility Fee?
The Town has a stormwater fee for all residential and non-residential properties. It is used for:
- Ensuring Town compliance with federal and state water quality regulations
- Infrastructure improvement and maintenance programs
- Inspections of detention ponds
- Investigating spills or reports of illegal dumping

For residential properties, the stormwater fee is determined by the footprint of the home:
- Tier 1: Less than 2,060 square feet = $4.43 per month
- Tier 2: Greater than 2,060 square feet = $5.30 per month

Non-residential stormwater fees are calculated based on Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs). An ERU is the average square foot of a residential parcel. One ERU equals 2,060 square feet.

The fee is calculated at a rate of $3.38 per ERU per month. For example, a non-residential (i.e. commercial) property with 31,746 square feet of impervious surface has 15.4 ERUs and would pay a yearly fee of $624.63.

What is the Town doing to manage stormwater runoff?
In addition to the stormwater fee, Indian Trail:
- Enforces development regulations to control runoff
- Operates a three-year schedule for clearing creeks and performing routine maintenance of the stormwater system
- Contracted with WithersRavenel, Inc. on a 13-month Watershed Management Study. Information from the study will serve as a blueprint to implement water quality improvements. You can learn more about this on page 2.
- The Town's Stormwater Advisory Committee meets quarterly to focus on stormwater issues in neighborhoods and roadways.

What can residents do to help improve stormwater quality?
There are many ways you can help prevent the pollution of our stormwater system, including:
- Keeping storm drains free from litter, leaves and other debris
- Following landscape watering guidelines
- Controlling pests in your yard and garden without using chemicals
- Washing your car in your yard instead of your driveway
- Reporting illegal dumping in the Town by calling 704-821-8173

You can learn more about the Town's stormwater services at **https://www.indiantrail.org/298/Stormwater-Services**.

Contact Information

Town Council
David Cohn, Mayor
dcohn@indiantrail.org

Dennis Gay, Mayor Pro Tem
dgay@indiantrail.org

Clarence Alsobrooks, Council Member
calsobrooks@indiantrail.org

Tom Amburgey, Council Member
tamburgey@indiantrail.org

Todd Barber, Council Member
tbarber@indiantrail.org

Crystal Buchaluk, Council Member
cbuchaluk@indiantrail.org

Town Manager
Michael McLaurin
fmm@indiantrail.org

Important Numbers
UC Sewer and Water Services
704-296-4210

UC Public Schools
704-296-9898

UC Sheriff's Office (IT Division)
704-283-3791

Hemby Bridge Fire Department
704-882-2100

Baker's Fire Department
704-289-2741

Stallings Fire Department
704-821-7100

TOWN OF INDIAN TRAIL

315 Matthews-Indian Trail Road
Indian Trail, NC 28079
704-821-5401
www.indiantrail.org

 @IndianTrail
 @IndianTrailGOV
 @indiantrailnc

Sign up for e-notifications at **www.indiantrail.org**.