

November  
2024

# Newsletter

Village of Indian Point



Bill Zeller 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division in Vietnam 1966-1967



## Financials

*“I love finding money in my clothes, it’s like a gift to me.... from me!”*

October Sales exceeded the budget by \$7K or 5.8%. Expenses continue to reflect extensive monitoring, and the vast majority of surplus is being added to future road repair projects so we can cover more roads. YTD results reflect a current surplus. This is attributed to the two most recent reforecasts where the team cut some expenses and lowered revenue projections. As well as the administrative team’s efforts to monitor and control expenses for the Village. The 2025 Village Annual Budget has been completed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

### SEWER:

October Fee Revenue came in over budget by \$2.7K or 15.9%. Expenses are slightly over budget and is being closely monitored. No further funds were borrowed from sewer reserves in October and \$1K was funded back to the reserves from the Sewer fund.

### Village of Indian Point Christmas Tree Lighting 2024



Date: 12.01.2024

Time: 5:30 PM

Place: 957 Indian Point Road (Village Hall)

The Tree lighting Ceremony is put together by the Indian Point Women's Club. The Women's Club will provide Cookies, Cider, & Hot Cocoa.

## “Deadlines are just Nathan’s way of saying he believes in our time travel skills”

*time travelers in training!*

### Financial Administrator:

Sewer Revenues were up for October, and we did not have to pull out of sewer reserves! We were able to pay expenses and replenish \$1K back to the sewer reserves.

We will be holding a Public Hearing on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 3:30pm to discuss a proposed 3% increase in sewer rates for 2025.

The Financial Administration is now doing a “Happy Dance” after the completion of the 2025 Annual Village budget was completed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Several end of the year financial compliance forms have been completed and submitted for the year end of 2024. (Missouri Department of Revenue, SRF Loan, PCI Compliance)

Meetings that Shannon attended in October:

- 10.2.24: Phone Conference with Village Attorney & Nathan regarding Ordinance review
- 10.13.24: Attended Apple Butter Making Days with Barb Manisco to recruit vendors for the upcoming craft fair.
- 10.15.24: MML Conference in Monett with Nathan Piche
- 10.16.24: Sunshine Law Training at the Branson West Fire Department
- 10.19.24: Table Rock Chamber Awards “Lake Splash” with Beth Frazier and the Board of Trustees
- 10.22.24: TCED Financial Oversight Meeting held at the Village Hall
- 10.03.24-10.24.24: Christmas Parade meeting

We currently have over 25 parade entries. We are extending the parade sign up until December 1<sup>st</sup>! Shannon has been working with T-Mobile on a plan for the Village of Indian Point employees that will save give them a monthly discount on their personal phones’ vs purchasing an additional company phone and discount.

### Village Clerk:

In October, there were 4 new Business Licenses issued totaling 164 year-to-date, 1 golf cart permit issued totaling 63 year-to-date, and 1 sunshine request.

Beth attended the following meetings:

- 10.2.24: P&Z
- 10.3.24: Christmas Parade
- 10.4.24-10.10.24-10.17.24: IWorq Training with rep Nikki
- 10.16.24: Sunshine Law Training at the BW Fire Station
- 10.19.24: Lake Splash at the Chateau with Shannon & the Board of Trustees

**Kimberling City Christmas Parade**  
**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**10AM**

**Kimberling Blvd to the Port of Kimberling**  
<http://ckcmo.com/>

**Indian Point Christmas Parade**  
**December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**4:15 PM**

**Indian Point Marina to Stillwater Resort**  
**(parking at Indian Point Campground)**  
**Parade Route Road area will close at 3:30pm**  
[office@indianpoint-mo.gov](mailto:office@indianpoint-mo.gov)

**Branson’s Adoration Celebration Parade**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**5:00 PM**

**Downtown Branson starting at the**  
**Convention Center’s south parking lot and**  
**extending to the far north of the Branson**  
**Landing**

[Adoration Parade | Branson Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce](#)



# Talk Turkey to me!

## “When in doubt, look intelligent!”

### Village Manager:

#### Planning and Zoning:

- Octobers Planning and Zoning meeting recommended and moved forward with the amendment of the Burning Ordinance.
- 2 Zoning compliance Permits were issued.

#### Comprehensive Plan:

- The Planning Committee & SMOG will begin having their meetings at the Village Hall starting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 pm. These meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month following the December meeting. The purpose of the meetings is to cover the Villages Comprehensive Plan.

#### 2025 Annual Budget:

- A Huge Thank you to all of the Village Staff that have contributed to the formation of the formation of this budget!
- The 2025 Annual Budget was completed and approved!

#### Public Works Truck:

We purchased a new Public Works Truck that was much needed! A big THANK YOU to Board of Trustees Barb & Denise for getting the paperwork completed and getting our Public Works Department back on the road!

#### October Meetings Nathan Attended:

- MML meeting with Shannon M
- Sunshine training at the Branson West Fire Station

If you need to speak or meet with Nathan, please make an appointment by calling 417.338.5599 or email [planning\\_zoning@indianpoint-mo.gov](mailto:planning_zoning@indianpoint-mo.gov).



**SOME DAYS I PONDER TRADING A DAY AT THE OFFICE FOR A DAY AT THE HUNGER GAMES!**

Public Works are excited to be back on the road again to help keep things rolling around the Village!

A BIG shout out to Kimberling City for allowing us to borrow their water jet! This allowed A LOT more culvert work to be completed as well as allowing more ditch work and repairs to be completed in the month of October.

New pumps were put in at the sewer plant. Additional pumps are planned for 2025.

Fall clean-up was a success! Multiple loads of trash left the Village including a 30-yard dumpster full! The Public Works Department was excited to be able to do this for our Village this year!

Tree Trimming continues throughout the point.

The winter checklist has been completed on all vehicles and materials in preparation for the season.

ROAD WORK IS EXPECTED TO START WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18,2024

ROADS THAT WILL BE IMPACTED: INDIAN POINT ROAD FROM THE HARBOR TO THE MARINA. CAPS COVE, DOGWOOD PARK TRAIL, EAST CHINQUAPIN, AND TIMBER TRACE LANE.



PLEASE BE PATIENT AND USE CAUTION WHILE ROAD WORK IS BEING COMPLETED



**“You have the right to remain silent” Don’t want to hear these words, don’t drink and drive! Uber is WAY cheaper! Holidays are the number one time of the year for DWI/DUI! Don’t be one of them!**

The Village of Indian Point Police Department would like to remind you that there is no road or area on the point where the speed limit exceeds 35 MPH. Speed slower than our speed limits are prudent in inclement weather.

The IPPD logged over 1300 miles of police patrols and patrolled 33 events in the month of October.

#### IPPD Community Outreach & Events for October”

10.1.24: Chief Lucas attended the National Night Out in Kimberling City

10.3.24: Coffee with a Cop and Christmas Parade Meeting at the Village Hall

10.9.24: Chief Lucas attended the Outlaws monthly meeting in Branson West

10.10.24: Chief Lucas attended the regional SMPCA Police Chief Meeting in Monett

10.10.24: Chief Lucas attended the Ozark Skeet Shoot benefit for the Salvation Army with KC Chief Todd Lemoine.

10.16.24: Chief Lucas attended the Financial Crimes Group Meeting hosted by Branson Bank. Indian Point PD was asked to become a member of this group as a contributing agency.

10.23.24: IPPD teamed up with Public Works and provided traffic safety while road work was completed on Indian Point Road.

10.29.24: Chief Lucas and Officer Thomas participated in the Trunk or Treat Event held at the Reeds Spring High School.

10.30.24: Chief Lucas participated in a Flock camera webinar

10.31.24: Chief Lucas provided a “ride along” during his patrols to a MSU student that is graduating from the Stone County Sheriff’s Academy in November.

11.2.24: Chief Lucas participated in the Ozark Yacht Club Fall Clean-up/

11.5.24: IPPD provided security at the Village Hall for the Presidential Election.

Flock Camera network sharing continues to grow! As of 11.5.2024, we now share cameras with over 310 networks from the 142 in July! Your Chief is working hard to build this system which is a great addition in keeping our Village safe.



We have extended the **PARADE** entry until **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024!**

You still have time to register! Please email [office@indianpoint-mo.gov](mailto:office@indianpoint-mo.gov) for more information.

We are also in search of Bands and Dance! If you know someone that would like to join in the fun, please share!



**The Village of Indian Point!**

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual**



Please fill out the information below and return it no later than December 1st, 2024.

**Group Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Type:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Sign up and Registration information!**

- Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 4:15 pm.
- Parking at Indian Point Campground, Indian Point Mo. (Branson Mo)
- Line up starts at 3:00 pm at Indian Point Marina
- All participants must be ready to go by 4:00 pm and remain in the parade until the end of the parade.
- All entries must be turned in no later than DECEMBER 1st, 2024 via email to [office@indianpoint-mo.gov](mailto:office@indianpoint-mo.gov)
- For more information contact Shannon at 417.338.5599.

**Award Categories:**

"The Sleighing It Award"  
(Most Creative)

"It's a Major Award"  
(Most Traditional)

"Are You Serious Clark"  
(Best Decorated Golf Cart)

"The Jolliest Bunch of Elves this side of the Village"  
(Overall Favorite)

"Son of a Nutcracker"  
(Best Entertainment)

"Blast That Christmas Music. It's Joyful and Triumphant!"  
(Best Music)

**\*\* All entries are welcome - Floats, Vehicles, Bands, Dance, etc.!**



Join Us As We Celebrate the Holiday Season!

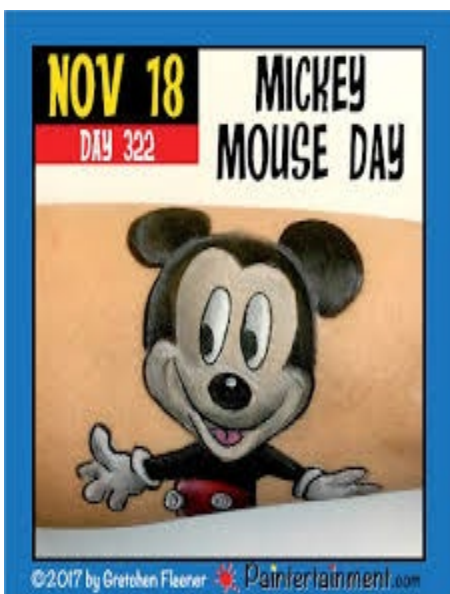
**The Village of Indian Point 1st Annual CHRISTMAS PARADE!**

Everyone Is Welcome and Santa & Mrs. Claus Will Be Collecting New, Unwrapped Toys at The End of The Parade For Families of Our Community in Need.

*Parade Begins At 4:15pm, December 14, 2024*  
*Parade Route: Indian Point Road Beginning at Indian Point Marina to Still Waters Resort to Indian Point Marina!*

Open Parking for Spectators Is Available on Indian Point Road at Indian Point State Park, Lake Bottoms Bar & Grill, The Lake House, Shady Taco & Grill, The Floating Café, And Waterside Food Park

# Lake Splash 2024



**Happy Birthday Mickey Mouse! Fun Facts you may not know about this famous icon!**

- Mickey has starred in over 121 theatrical releases, including shorts and featurettes.
- Mickey was the first cartoon character to earn a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame! His star was added on November 18, 1978.
- Mickey has different names around the world. For example, he is known as Musse Pigg in Sweden, Mi Lao Shu in China and Topolino in Italy.
- Walt Disney's original name for Mickey was Mortimer! However, his wife Lillian Disney felt that it didn't work for the character Walt had created and hence, she suggested Mickey!
- Mickey's first phrase was his now-famous "Hot dog! Hot dog!"
- Mickey's first appearance was in Steamboat Willie in 1928. The tune that he whistles is from the song "Steamboat Bill" by Arthur Collins.
- The first person to give Mickey his voice was none other than Walt Disney himself!
- While Steamboat Willie was Mickey's very first appearance, he made his feature film debut in Fantasia in 1940.
- Mickey has made two special appearances at the Academy Awards over the years: once in 1988 and another in 2003. He presented the Oscar for Best Animated Short film on both occasions.

## Thanksgiving Day Dinner

### Pop's Smoke Shack

17201 Bus. 13, Branson West, MO 65737  
Serving a Thanksgiving feast from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. featuring smoked turkey or home-cured ham plus a variety of sides.  
417-988-7155

### Big Cedar Lodge

190 Top of the Rock Road, Ridgedale, MO 65739  
Devil's Pool Restaurant serves Thanksgiving brunch buffet 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Reservations required.  
The Worman House Thanksgiving Buffet served 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. Reservations required.  
800-225-6343

### Billy Gail's at Branson Mill

3300 Gretna Rd., Branson, MO 65616  
Serving special turkey & ham meal. Open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
417-544-1211

### Bob Evans

801 W Main St, Branson, MO 65616  
Thanksgiving menu served 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
417-336-2023

### Charlie's Steak, Ribs & Ale

3009 MO-76, Branson, MO 65616  
Serving Thanksgiving meal with smoked turkey, plus full menu all day.  
417-334-6090

### Chateau on the Lake

415 N State Hwy 265, Branson, MO 65616  
Thanksgiving Brunch served 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Reservations required.  
417-334-1161

### Cracker Barrel

3765 MO-76, Branson, MO 65616  
Thanksgiving menu served all day, 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
417-335-3033

### Fall Creek Steak House

997 MO-165, Branson, MO 65616  
Special Thanksgiving menu served 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
417-336-5060

### Flat Creek Bar & Grill

7847 State Highway 173, Cape Fair, MO 65624  
Enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal or take one to go.  
Open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
417-538-4802

### Golden Corral

3551 Shepherd of the Hills Expy, Branson, MO 65616  
Thanksgiving buffet with carved turkey and all the fixins. No reservations required.  
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
417-335-2434

### Grand Country Buffet

1945 W 76 Country Blvd, Branson, MO 65616  
Thanksgiving buffet served 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
417-335-2434

### Great American Chicken & Steakhouse

2421 W 76 Country Blvd, Branson, MO 65616  
Thanksgiving buffet served 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
417-335-6699

### Guy Fieri's Branson Kitchen & Bar

1111 Branson Landing Blvd, Branson, MO 65616  
Serving a special Thanksgiving menu with smoked turkey and sides. Make [online reservations here](#).  
417-231-9400

More options @

<https://bransonchristmas.info/features/branson-thanksgiving-restaurants-buffets-brunch/>

## Christmas Assistance 2024

[Southern Stone Fire Protection District | Serving Stone County Missouri](#)

[The Salvation Army Branson](#)

[Home - Toys for Tots](#)

Unite Table Rock Lake Stone County Christmas Assistance  
<https://forms.gle/id4Rm6GjK5njBqG86>

Shop with a Cop - Stone County Sheriff's office  
<https://www.stonecountymosheriff.com/>

Unite Table Rock Lake – Christmas Holiday Assistance Toy Drive  
In 2023, we served over 1,200 children and expect more this year!

Sign up to **COLLECT GIFTS & Load the Sleigh!**

E-mail form to [unitefri@gmail.com](mailto:unitefri@gmail.com) Calls: Carrie Padilla 417-239-4696

**Donation Boxes:** Collect toys and gifts! My business or organization would like to host a donation box during our Toy Drive from now until December 2, 2024.  
• To sign up for a box, contact Jayne Swanson at [jswanson@bankwithsouthern.com](mailto:jswanson@bankwithsouthern.com) or call 405-919-8748

**Sponsor a "Pop Up Event":** To collect gifts. Check out our Unite Table Rock Lake Facebook page and help us with ideas to promote your ideas and collections!  
Event idea or timing: \_\_\_\_\_

• For Pop Up Events, contact Maureen Darby at [maureen@darby13dd.com](mailto:maureen@darby13dd.com) or call 417-699-0794

**Collect a specific age group or item:** Example: Bikes or Teen Hoodies. In comments, please indicate preference: Bikes, Sport Items, Infant gifts, Teen Girls: Teen Boys, Infants, Toddlers, etc.

**Gift Wrap Donations:** I can help by donating wrapping paper, gift bags & tags.

**Cash Donation:** Tax-deductible donation can be made payable to Unite Table Rock Lake. E-mail us to arrange pick up or drop off.

**Volunteer:** To sign up for these events, watch for Sign-up Genius in November on Unite Table Rock Lake Facebook page!

Volunteer at Stuff the Sleigh at Walmart Branson West 11/15-11/16

Volunteer at the Christmas Store 12/8 and 12/9 Assist family shoppers during their shopping appointment at the Toy Store, Pajama Shop, Wonderful Warehouse, Shoes and so much more. At New Testament Church 21016 Main St. Reeds Spring. Toy store Hours (subject to change)  
Sunday December 8, 1 pm to 8 pm; Monday December 9, 10 am to 7 pm.

Christmas Toy Store, Sunday, 12/8 from 1 to 8 pm and Monday, 12/09 from 10 am to 7 pm. This is located at New Testament Church located at 21016 Main St. in Reeds Spring, MO. For media.

[Unite Table Rock Lake: 2024 Stone County Christmas Assistance Store. \(signupgenius.com\)](https://unitegenius.com) Link to volunteer

## Food & Cold Weather Assistance

[Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation \(OACAC\)](#)

[Christian Associates](#)

[North Stone County Food Pantry](#)

[Ozarks Food Harvest \(OFH\)](#)

[H.E.R.O.E.S Care](#)

[Christian Action Ministries](#)

[Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#)

[Utility Assistance - myDSS - MO.gov](#)

[Salvation Army Christian, Stone, and Barry County assistance programs](#)

[Utility Companies - Stone County, MO \(Billing, Payments & Services\)](#)

## Other Holiday Events

Annual Kids Christmas Shopping Event: December 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm  
Open Hearts Open Hands Thrift Store: 15094 Business 13 Suite 3, Reeds Spring MO, 65737  
Starting November 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be taking donations for our Kids shopping event. Each year we hold an event for kids to come shop for their friends and family for Christmas. Each kids pays \$1 and receives a bag to fill with gifts for others.  
WE WILL NEED ALL DIFFERENT TYPES OF GENTLY USED AND NEW ITEMS

The Brook Toy Drive Donations 2024: December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm  
11016 E State Highway 76 Reeds Spring MO 65737  
Accepting Monetary or Toy donations thru December 6, 2024. 0 to 17 years old. Approx 100 teens!  
<https://www.flipcause.com/secure/donate/MjA3MDk4>

Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner: November 28<sup>th</sup>, from 12PM-2PM  
Reeds Spring High School.

A free Thanksgiving meal is available to anyone on Thursday, November 28. A school district food service worker, Shirley Mease, and her family will prepare and serve the meal from 12:00-2:00 p.m. at Reeds Spring High School.

If you are unable to attend in person, delivery is available. Please call Shirley at 417-337-3414 before November 26.

Holiday Food Drive: Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am

The Iron Order Motorcycle Club is organizing a holiday food drive to support local families in need. We invite you to join us at Sunfest Market, located at 225 Cross Creek Blvd #1, Branson, MO 65616, and kindly request donations of typical holiday essentials. Families requiring assistance, please contact us via Facebook messenger. Please note that we can only support a limited number of families





**Notice of Election of Trustees for Village of Indian Point**

The Village of Indian Point is holding an election on April 8, 2025, for election of two members of the Village's Board of Trustees. Each of the two Trustees will be elected for a two-year term. The period for filing a Declaration of Candidacy for each of the Trustee positions will open on December 10, 2024, at 8:00 AM -December 31st, 2025, at 4:00 PM. Candidate Election packets including the Declaration of Candidacy forms are available at the Village of Indian Point Municipal Center, 957 Indian Point Road, Branson, MO 65616 during the Village's office hours. Completed Declarations of Candidacy forms will be accepted at the same office.

**Public Hearing Notice: Proposed Sewer Rate Increase for 2025**

The Village of Indian Point will hold a public hearing to discuss a proposed 3% increase in sewer rates for 2025 on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 3:30pm at the Village Hall located at 957 Indian Point Road Branson Missouri 65616.



*This is an INDOOR Craft Fair!*



**Calling All Vendors !**

Date: Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm  
Place: The Villages at Indian Point  
24 Village Trail Branson Mo, 65616

We would like you to be a part of our first annual Craft Fair at Indian Point! This is a great way to present your products and expand your clientele. We are also having a Yoga Retreat that will be in town, bringing you many more opportunities beyond just the community. If you are interested in reserving a spot for the event. Please fill out the attached sheet. We have limited spots, and they are expected to fill up fast. The deadline to register will be November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

For any questions, please contact Shannon McQuality at 417.338.5599 or email: [office@indianpoint-mo.gov](mailto:office@indianpoint-mo.gov)



**CRAFT  
FAIR**



Calling all  
**VENDORS**

Click the link below to fill out the Vendor Application. To share the application, simply copy and paste.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:76c56b2e-36db-4171-afb3-fdf62e653e94>



National Maize Day is celebrated on the day after Thanksgiving and recognizes the significance of maize, also known as corn, as a food source in North America. It's a day to celebrate the diversity of maize and its traditional role in the Americas, as well as the traditional foods and crops of Native Americans.

Maize is a tall grass that produces a cereal grain. The word "maize" comes from the Taino word mahizwas. In the United States, the most common term for the crop is "corn", but in most other English-speaking countries, it's called "maize"

Mexico also has a National Day of Maize, celebrated on September 29th.

This day honors the biodiversity and culture of maize, as well as the milpa system.



National Shopping Reminder Day is celebrated on November 25th and serves as a reminder to get started or finish holiday shopping.

**Purpose:** The day is meant to help people balance the excitement or stress of holiday shopping, whether they're looking for deals, finding the perfect gift, or enjoying the energy of giving.

**Why it's celebrated:** As the holiday season becomes more commercialized, the day before Black Friday serves as a reminder to start shopping before the busy shopping season begins



The term "Black Friday" has multiple origins, including:

Beginning in the 1800s, the term "Black Friday" was used to identify stock market crashes. Before Black Friday was associated with shopping, it was a day marked by Santa Claus parades. Due to Thanksgiving overeating, Black Friday is the busiest day of the year for plumbers.

In 1951, Factory Management and Maintenance used the term to describe the practice of workers calling in sick on the day after Thanksgiving to have a four-day weekend.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Philadelphia police used the term to describe the chaos that occurred on the day after Thanksgiving from the large crowds of suburban shoppers and tourists.

In the late 1980s, retailers began using the term to describe the moment when they went from operating "in the red" (losses) to "in the black" (profits).

Other shopping events: Black Friday is now part of a larger shopping season that includes Cyber Monday and Small Business Saturday. Online shopping: Online shopping has become increasingly popular on Black Friday. The first know published sales promoting "Black Friday" sales occurred in the Philadelphia Inquirer on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1981.

# Please Notice This



- Trustees Workshop: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month at 5pm
- Board of Trustees Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each Month at 6pm
- Planning & Zoning: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each Month at 6pm



Planning\_zoning@indianpoint-mo.gov




<https://www.facebook.com/VOIPGovernment>



Villageclerk@indianpoint-mo.gov



office@indianpoint-mo.gov



To keep the Community Member of the Month going each month, we need YOUR nominations! The nominee can be an individual, Couple, Business, etc. Each Community Member will receive a certificate at the Monthly Board of Trustee Meetings as well as a spot in the Branson Globe. The forms to nominate will be emailed once a month with a deadline for when to return the form. If you have any questions on the Community Member of the Month, please email office@indianpoint-mo.gov or call the office @ 417.338.5399.



*A very happy Thanksgiving from your Village Hall Staff!*

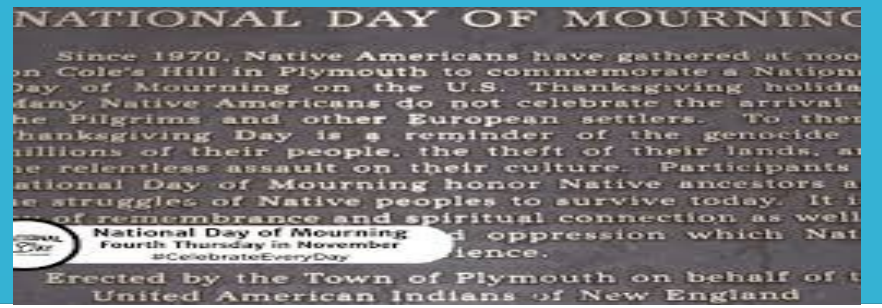
*A HUGE Thank you to the Indian Point Women's Club for decorating the Village Hall! THANK YOU FROM ALL OF THE VILLAGE STAFF!*



# In case you didn't know.....



- Where was the first Thanksgiving?** Colonists and the Wampanoag tribe shared an autumn harvest feast in 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts that is widely acknowledged as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations. But some historians argue that Florida, not Massachusetts, may have been the true site of the first Thanksgiving in North America. In 1565, nearly 60 years before Plymouth, a Spanish fleet came ashore and planted a cross in the sandy beach to christen the new settlement of St. Augustine. To celebrate the arrival and give thanks for God's providence, the 800 Spanish settlers shared a festive meal with the native Timucuan people.
- What did they eat at the First Thanksgiving?** The Thanksgiving meal in Plymouth probably had little in common with today's traditional holiday spread. Although turkeys were indigenous, there's no record of a big, roasted bird at the feast. The Wampanoag brought deer and there would have been lots of local seafood (mussels, lobster, bass) plus the fruits of the first pilgrim harvest, including pumpkin. No mashed potatoes, though. Potatoes had only been recently shipped back to Europe from South America.
- When did America first call for a National Thanksgiving?** America first called for a national day of thanksgiving to celebrate victory over the British in the Battle of Saratoga. In 1789, George Washington again called for national day of thanks on the last Thursday of November to commemorate the end of the Revolutionary War and the ratification of the Constitution. And during the Civil War, both the Confederacy and the Union issued Thanksgiving Day proclamations following major victories.
- What does the poem, 'Mary had a little lamb,' have to do with Thanksgiving?** The first official proclamation of a national Thanksgiving holiday didn't come until 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln called for an annual Thanksgiving celebration on the final Thursday in November. The proclamation was the result of years of impassioned lobbying by "Mary Had a Little Lamb" author and abolitionist Sarah Josepha Hale.
- Which President refused to recognize Thanksgiving?** Thomas Jefferson was famously the only Founding Father and early president who refused to declare days of thanksgiving and fasting in the United States. Unlike his political rivals, the Federalists, Jefferson believed in "a wall of separation between Church and State" and believed that endorsing such celebrations as president would amount to a state-sponsored religious worship.
- How long has pumpkin pie been a traditional part of Thanksgiving?** Pumpkin pie was a staple on New England Thanksgiving tables as far back as the turn of the 18th century. Legend has it that the Connecticut town of Colchester postponed its Thanksgiving feast for a week in 1705 due to a molasses shortage. There could simply be no Thanksgiving without pumpkin.
- When did we start canning cranberries?** Cranberries were eaten by Native Americans and used as a potent red dye, but sweetened cranberry relish was almost certainly not on the first Thanksgiving table. The pilgrims had long exhausted their sugar supply by November 1621. Marcus Urann canned the first jellied cranberry sauce in 1912 and eventually founded the cranberry grower's cooperative known as Ocean Spray.
- How did a botched Thanksgiving order lead to the TV tray dinner?** In 1953, an employee at C.A. Swanson & Sons overestimated demand for Thanksgiving turkey and the company was left with some 260 tons of extra frozen birds. As a solution, a Swanson salesman ordered 5,000 aluminum trays, devised a turkey meal and recruited an assembly line of workers to compile what would become the first TV tray dinners. A culinary hit was born. In the first full year of production, 1954, the company sold 10 million turkey TV tray dinners.
- Why is football a Thanksgiving tradition?** The winning combo of football and Thanksgiving kicked off way before there was anything called the NFL. The first Thanksgiving football game was a college match between Yale and Princeton in 1876, only 13 years after Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday. Soon after, Thanksgiving was picked for the date of the college football championships. By the 1890s, thousands of college and high school football rivalries were played every Thanksgiving.
- Who was the first president to pardon a turkey?** Starting in the 1940s, farmers would gift the president with some plump birds for roast turkey over the holidays, which the first family would eat invariably. While President John F. Kennedy was the first American president to spare a turkey's life ("We'll just let this one grow," JFK quipped in 1963. "It's our Thanksgiving present to him.") the annual White House tradition of "pardoning" a turkey officially started with George H.W. Bush in 1989.
- Which president received a raccoon as a Thanksgiving gift?** In 1926, President Calvin Coolidge received a somewhat odd Thanksgiving gift in the form of a live raccoon. Meant to be eaten (the Mississippi man who sent it called raccoon meat "toothsome"), the Coolidge family adopted the pet and named it Rebecca. Rebecca was only the latest addition to their already substantial White House menagerie that included a black bear, a wallaby, and a pygmy hippo named Billy.
- When was the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade?** To celebrate the expansion of its Herald Square superstore, Macy's announced its very first "Big Christmas Parade" two weeks before Thanksgiving in 1924, promising "magnificent floats," bands and an "animal circus." A huge success, Macy's trimmed the parade route from six miles to two miles and signed a TV contract with NBC to broadcast the now famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.
- When did the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade start featuring balloons?** The first oversized balloons debuted in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in 1927. The brainchild of Anthony Frederick Sarg, a German-born puppeteer and theatrical designer who also created Macy's fantastical Christmas window displays, the first balloons were filled with oxygen, not helium. That year they featured Felix the Cat and inflated animals like elephants, tigers and a giant hummingbird.
- Which president tried to move the date of Thanksgiving and why?** Concerned that the Christmas shopping season was cut short by a late Thanksgiving, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt decreed in 1939 that Thanksgiving would be celebrated a week earlier. "Franksiving," as it was known, was decryed by Thanksgiving traditionalists and political rivals (one even compared FDR to Hitler) and was only adopted by 23 of the 48 states. Congress officially moved Thanksgiving back to the fourth Thursday of November in 1941, where it has remained ever since.



Fifty years ago, a proud Native American man called Frank James took a stand. He took a stand against centuries of history that told a story that simply was not true. A legacy that gave his people no voice.

In 1970 Frank James was the leader of the Wampanoag, the people who in 1620 watched as a strange ship from the east arrived on the coast of their lands. Some 350 years on, he refused to be silenced about the treatment of his people since the landing of the Mayflower.

He had been invited to a Thanksgiving state dinner to mark the anniversary of the Mayflower's sailing, as part of a celebration that embraced the misleading schoolbook narrative of the Pilgrims' relationship with the Wampanoag that culminated in a great feast. He was asked to give a speech to mark the occasion, one the organizers requested to read beforehand to check its content.

James wrote a scathing indictment of the Pilgrims. He described how they desecrated Native American graves, stealing food and land and decimating the population with disease. The speech was deemed inappropriate and inflammatory, and James was given a revised speech. He refused to read it.

He vowed that the Wampanoag and other Native peoples would regain their rightful place and was 'uninvited' from the program. Instead, supporters followed James to hear him give his original speech on Cole's Hill, next to the statue of former Wampanoag leader Ousamequin. This became the first official National Day of Mourning.

The same year, James founded the United American Indians of New England, a progressive Native American activist group.

Frank James was born in 1923 and, for a time, was the leader of the Wampanoag people. James was considered a Renaissance man by many who knew him. He was a gifted painter, scrimshaw artist, silversmith, draftsman, builder, raconteur, model ship-maker, fisher and sailor. He was also an excellent trumpet player and is thought to be the first Native American graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, doing so in 1948.

However, while many of his classmates secured positions with top symphony orchestras, James was told that, due to segregation and racism, no orchestra in the US would hire him because of the color of his skin.

In 1957, he became a music teacher on Cape Cod. James was a very popular and influential instructor and went on to become the director of music of the Nauset Regional Schools – a position he held for more than 30 years.

Also known as Wamsutta, James devoted much of his life to fighting against racism and for the rights of all Indian people.

In 1970, James cemented his place in history with when he organized the first National Day of Mourning, on the 350th anniversary of the Mayflower landing in America.

*I speak to you as a man -- a Wampanoag Man. I am a proud man, proud of my ancestry, my accomplishments won by a strict parental direction ("You must succeed - your face is a different color in this small Cape Cod community!"). I am a product of poverty and discrimination from these two social and economic diseases.*

*James Speech: I, and my brothers and sisters, have painfully overcome, and to some extent we have earned the respect of our community. We are Indians first - but we are termed "good citizens." Sometimes we are arrogant but only because society has pressured us to be so.*

*It is with mixed emotion that I stand here to share my thoughts. This is a time of celebration for you - celebrating an anniversary of a beginning for the white man in America. A time of looking back, of reflection.*

*It is with a heavy heart that I look back upon what happened to my People. Even before the Pilgrims landed it was common practice for explorers to capture Indians, take them to Europe and sell them as slaves for 220 shillings apiece. The Pilgrims had hardly explored the shores of Cape Cod for four days before they had robbed the graves of my ancestors and stolen their corn and beans.*

*Mourt's Relation describes a searching party of sixteen men. Mourt goes on to say that this party took as much of the Indians' winter provisions as they were able to carry. Massasoit, the great Sachem of the Wampanoag, knew these facts, yet he and his People welcomed and befriended the settlers of the Plymouth Plantation. Perhaps he did this because his Tribe had been depleted by an epidemic. Or his knowledge of the harsh oncoming winter was the reason for his peaceful acceptance of these acts. This action by Massasoit was perhaps our biggest mistake. We, the Wampanoag, welcomed you, the white man, with open arms, little knowing that it was the beginning of the end; that before 50 years were to pass, the Wampanoag would no longer be a free people.*

*What happened in those short 50 years? What has happened in the last 300 years?* Frank James took his name from Wamsutta, who was the eldest son of Massasoit Ousamequin of the Pokanoket Tribe and Wampanoag nation, and brother of Metacomb.

Wamsutta, also known as Alexander Pokanoket, sold Wampanoag lands to colonists other than those of the Plymouth Colony and brought the Wampanoag considerable power, but aroused the suspicions of the Plymouth colonists.

He was imprisoned for three days at Plymouth, and he died shortly after release, causing tribal suspicion of the colonists. His death possibly contributed to King Philip's War of 1675. Wamsutta's name is memorialized in various ways in and around New Bedford, Massachusetts, and he was honored in the naming of a US Navy steamer in commission during the American Civil War between 1863 and 1865.

Frank James passed away on 20 February 2001, at the age of 77 and was buried at the Seaside Cemetery in Chatham, Massachusetts.

The United American Indians of New England continues to raise awareness of racism towards Native Americans and the consequences of colonialism.

And to this day, the National Day of Mourning protest is held each year on Cole's Hill on Thanksgiving Day – now led by James's son, Moonanum James.

Native Americans gather on Cole's Hill on Thanksgiving Day, not to celebrate the Mayflower's arrival but to commemorate a National Day of Mourning. In 1997, as protesters and hundreds of their supporters attempted to march through the Centre of Plymouth, Massachusetts, a confrontation with police led to violence.

Protesters were clubbed and maced and 25 people were arrested for disorderly conduct and unlawful assembly.

As part of a subsequent settlement between the town of Plymouth and the United American Indians of New England, the parties agreed to place a plaque at Cole's Hill to recognize the significance of the first protest in calling for a National Day of Mourning.

One of the plaques, in part, reads:

*"Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native culture."*