



Clear Lake Association

Fall 2019 Newsletter

THE CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION: AT SUMMER'S END

Well, that was fast. Summer, I mean. It's very hard to believe that I am sitting down to write my fall article for the newsletter. Especially when it's 80 degrees outside and I'm getting ready to take one of the last rides for this season on our pontoon. I hope you all had another summer to remember at beautiful Clear Lake. Lots is happening with the Association, so please be sure and take a look through the newsletter for more extensive information on the highlights I will hit in this article.

First of all, let me apologize for the lack of response to your emails sent to our new email address. (president@clearlakeassociation.org) I have been unable to access it, but we have it back up and running again so please feel free to send any questions you have concerning Association matters to this email. I will be checking it on a regular basis and will reply in a timely manner.

Even though summer is over, we have a lot going on in October in recognition of National Fire Prevention Month. Our Fremont Fire Department has been a wonderful support to Clear Lake, especially this summer, so we have a couple of demonstrations and activities planned with them. Please see more details in this newsletter, and come out and join us for these joint projects.



We would like to welcome our newest Association Board Member, Barb Rumsey. Barb brings a lot of enthusiasm to our group and she and other members have thrown themselves whole heartedly into the planning for our **June 27, 2020, Saturday, 6:00 pm**, family picnic with its theme "Celebrating the Second Century of the Clear Lake Association." This event is shaping up to be a "can't miss" party so mark your calendars.

We had a great meeting with Brian Hollister of Hollister Pyrotechnics to make sure our next year's fireworks are even better than the wonderful show we had this past year. You will be blown away! (Well, not literally...) But they are going to be spectacular.

The members of our board will be working on updating our mission statement this winter, so if any of you have ideas for other priorities we need to include in this mission statement, please send your thoughts to us through the association email. (president@clearlakeassociation.org.) There is also a link to this email on our webpage.

I want to take one more minute to thank the other members of the board for all their work this summer. I cannot begin to tell you how hard this group works to support the residents of Clear Lake. It is truly a team effort and I appreciate all their efforts.

I hope everyone stays safe and warm this winter and we'll see you all on the flip side in the spring.

Kit Tyler, Clear Lake Association President

ASSOCIATION SHOWS APPRECIATION TO FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT



Every year, as we all enjoy the amazing July 4th Holiday fireworks display, there is a team of “Silent Partners” on stand-by to assure the safety of all – the Fremont Fire Department. We as a community are fortunate to have such state-of-the-art equipment and dedicated personnel available in times of need. In appreciation, a check for \$1000 from the Clear Lake Association was recently presented to Fire Chief Eric Hufnagle. The donation will be used toward purchasing six Ballistic Vests and four “Stop the Blood” Trauma Kits for the department. These are necessary equipment additions for firefighter protection and use in times of emergency.

Pictured (L to R): CLA Board Members John Wilhelm, Margaret Carlson, George McCracken with Fire Chief Eric Hufnagle and Captain Aaron Vanderpool

FIRE DEPARTMENT DEMONSTRATES FIRE-PREVENTION AT CLEAR LAKE

The Fremont Fire Department will be demonstrating equipment and offering hands-on training here at Clear Lake in honor of October as National Fire Prevention Month. Please mark your calendars for both of these important and interesting events.

Monday, September 30, 6:00 pm, firemen will be demonstrating the use of their “In-Lake Water Pump” at the Yacht Club. Firemen will draft water from the lake and pump it into the woods across from the club. All are invited to come observe this important exercise and how it could be used here at Clear Lake, if needed. The department will also be demonstrating the launching and use of their Fire Boat.

The Clear Lake Association and the Town of Clear Lake are partnering to sponsor a LIVE, FIRE EXTINGUISHER DEMONSTRATION and training session at Town Hall on **Saturday, October 5th, 9:30 am to 11:30 am**. A certified instructor will train attendees and then demonstrate the proper use of a home fire extinguisher to put out fires. The fire department will also have some “Show and Tell” with their impressive equipment, including the Water Rescue and Pumper Boat. We hope you plan to attend this valuable demonstration where you can participate by putting out a fire using your new knowledge.

LOGOS FOR BUOYS

Despite some late season wind and rain, most of the buoy decals have been installed around the lake. Big thanks go to CLA Board member teams lead by John Wilhelm, Bruce Moody, Barb Rumsey, Margaret Carlson, Kit Tyler and Bob Webster. More than 90% of buoys in the water now have the new CLA logo. The remaining buoys will be taken care of in the spring, as well as any new buoys to be installed next year.

As many of you have noticed, we have been having trouble with our new email address. IT'S NOW FIXED! Thanks your patience and support. Please feel free to contact us at:
president@clearlakeassociation.org

FREE LITTLE LIBRARY HAS A MASCOT

When George McCracken went to re-paint the Clear Lake Association's Free Little Library next to Town Hall, he had company. The friendly bob-tailed cat purred, rubbed his legs and finally settled down for a nap while he worked. If you have any suggestions to name the library's new mascot, let us know. Maybe Bob-the-Book-Keeper?

Books are available to Clear Lake residents throughout the year, but this winter please remember to close the glass doors securely when you finish browsing to prevent the snow from blowing in. At this time, there is no more room for adult books, but there is always a need for children's literature.

If you enjoy books and would be willing to clean and sort the library in the spring, please contact Beth McCracken (bmccracken404@gmail.com). Readers - young and old - would appreciate and benefit from your help.



News From Around the Town of Clear Lake...

MARSHAL'S REPORT

As fall sets in on the lake community and things begin to slow down, I want to take the chance to remind everyone to use common sense when preparing your lake house for the winter. Please refrain from making changes to your cottage that make it apparent that nobody is home in the off season. For tips on how to protect your home while away on vacation or for seasonal homes, visit the National Crime Prevention Council site at nccpc.org or simply Google "tips for protecting homes while on vacation". Most of the sites I have visited have some good tips that work for seasonal residences such as lake homes.

I would like to remind everyone to lock your homes and vehicles when left unattended. The trend of "car hopping" is still very prevalent around most of the lakes in the county. The criminals are looking for unlocked vehicles that contain items of value such as GPS units and iPads or other electronic devices. I have not seen a case yet that a window was broken to gain entry so simply lock your vehicle.

If you are traveling to and from the lake this fall and winter, please report any suspicious activity right away. This basic level of a neighborhood watch program has proved to be very successful. We at the Clear Lake Police Department want to remind all of our residents of an easy phrase: "See something, say something". If you see suspicious activity or something that just doesn't look right, we encourage you to contact us immediately at our dispatch number (260-665-3131) or call 911 in the event of an emergency. We need the help of all of our residents to keep a safe and secure community. There is very little crime in this community which still goes against the national trends. I feel the biggest contributor to this is you, the residents of Clear Lake. Though it has been hard to form an official "Neighborhood Watch" program, the basic principles of the program are in place and being used.

The Town of Clear Lake has recently added two more speed radar signs. These signs are permanently located on East Clear Lake Drive through a generous donation. Please observe the speed limit as you travel around the Lake.

The officers will be working varying shifts throughout the fall and winter months to help deter crime. If you see one of us out, please feel free to stop us, if nothing else just to say “hello”. I want to thank each and every one of you for allowing myself and the other officers to serve you.

Chris Emerick, Clear Lake Town Marshal

CLEAR LAKE TOWN COUNCIL

Drainage issue update:

Most of the work at 750 South Clear Lake Drive has been completed and now we will be working on the area of 22 West Clear Lake Drive to improve the drainage there. Also of note, when we do have water standing on the marina road, please DO NOT attempt to drive through it, as we have had several vehicles stranded there.

All you wanted to know about the grinder pumps and lift stations:

Grinder pumps at CL residences pump the wastewater into a lift station at the town hall. The lift station then pumps the wastewater five miles to Fremont. The lift station is a large, underground tank with a large pump, electronic controls, monitoring equipment and a diesel back-up generator. The wastewater flows into the concrete tank and, when it reaches a certain level, the controls automatically activate the pump as needed. As you can imagine, the wastewater and the gases it produces are very caustic. After 20 years of use, this is taking a toll on the entire system, not to mention that there is now more improved and efficient equipment available. The Town of Clear Lake is partnering with Engineering Resources from Fort Wayne to rebuild and modernize the lift station. We are currently working on the plans and specs to receive bids for the project.

Landscaping:

As you are working on your property this fall, this is an ideal time to review our landscaping policies. There are guidelines to follow regarding, among other things, canopy trees which provide a great deal of positive impact to our community.

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”
Chinese proverb



On behalf of the Town of Clear Lake a shout out of “THANKS!!”

- To the Adams Family who wanted to see some support on their son Jack’s behalf donated not just in Steuben County but specifically here at Clear Lake. As such, the Town of Clear Lake Marine Patrol fund was established.
- Gary Johnston who has been serving as our Zoning Administrator. We thank Gary for all of his service and wish him the best as he is retiring from the position on October 1, 2019. The position is currently posted on our website and other sources.
- To the anonymous donor who appreciated and saw the value the speed radar signs brought to our community so much that they donated monies for two more of the signs.

THANK YOU ALL!

Molly Wehrenberg, Clear Lake Town Council

Just a quick reminder!

- The Clear Lake Town Council meetings are on the second Monday of each month.
- The Clear Lake Plan Commission meetings are on the first Monday of February, May, August, November.
- The Clear Lake Board of Zoning Appeals meetings are on the third Monday February, April, June, August, October and December.
- Trash Pickup is on Mondays unless otherwise noted. Go to clearlakefun.org and click on TOWN, then CALENDAR for recycling pick up and leaf collection dates.



Please note: If you have made any changes in your postal or email addresses or phone number(s), contact Brenda Eby, Utility Clerk (billing@townofclearlake.org) or complete the form available on town website.

Clear Lake Town Hall
111 Gecowets Drive
Walk-in Hours: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday thru Friday
or by appointment. Call 260-495-9158 or
visit www.townofclearlake.org
Zoning Administrator: 10-2 Tuesday or by appointment

FROM OFFICE OF CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY

So far in 2019, two major projects are nearing completion and an incredible array of educational programs have informed, educated and inspired both kids and adults. Drumroll, please! The [Kasota Island Shoreline Restoration Project](#) is completed and the work staging area along South Clear Lake Drive all cleaned up. The protective fencing on the East side of Kasota Island will be removed by early spring as the native water plants gain a foothold. Thank you to Amy Culler for making the staging area available and to the many folks who championed the project. We will measure Project success yearly as we monitor shoreline erosion rates because winds, rains and boat wave action remain significant risk factors.

The Conservancy undertook the Kasota project so that families and individuals can continue to enjoy this beautiful island nature preserve for years to come. Next, we will turn to the **planned landscaping phase** to freshen up the entire almost two-acre Nature Preserve. Stay tuned. We'll need your help. In fact, mark your calendars for **June 13, 2020, for Kasota Clean-Up Day**. We welcome your participation and support.

The completion date for the **Clear Lake Nature Preserve & Brennan Woods Project** is getting closer and closer. The hiking trails are used by more people every year. Check out the gorgeous and informative educational signs! New oak seedlings are thriving in the cleared underbrush of the open oak canopy. The restored prairie will come to life in early 2020 as native plants are seeded and take root. Plans for a bridge or boardwalk over a lovely wetland area are taking shape. All of us can be proud of this accessible nature preserve and enjoy it every season!

Thanks to our motivated Education Committee, the CLTLC sponsored eight events this past spring and summer that reached over 265 community members of all ages. We were supported by many individuals and

organizations to bring a top-notch educational line up to you this season. We are so grateful for all of that support and for all of our community members who joined in the fun. As we look to next year, please keep us posted on topics you would like to see on our upcoming educational schedule. Now, get outdoors and explore!



Bridget Harrison,
Executive Director
clearlakeconservancy.org

Fall Tips for a Healthy Lake

Fall describes exactly what we expect to happen with all of our leaves over the next several weeks. The convenient option is to dispose of leaves (and other lawn waste) into the lake but it truly is damaging to the lake ecosystem. Please keep leaves, grass and other yard waste out of the lakes, wetlands and inlets, and out of Conservancy Preserves. If you hire individuals or a company to assist with your leaf clean up, help them to understand that putting leaves into the lake is damaging.

Also consider these other fall tips:

- If you (or your lawn service) apply a fall lawn fertilizer application do so sparingly and only use non-phosphorus fertilizer (the middle number on the bag should be zero).
- Leave a strip of unfertilized lawn along the lake edge.
- Use the Town of Clear Lake's Leaf Pick-Up Program.
- Pick-up pet waste.



Ways to Dispose of “Non-Mulchable” Yard Waste

- Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) accepts “non-mulchable” yard materials such as grass clipping, leaves, and brush. No stumps or land clearing materials.
~ The closest site is located at CR 175 N- NW of Angola adjacent to the Steuben County Fairgrounds. Check their website at <http://www.niswmd.org/> or call 260-587-3063 for more information.
- Fremont Water Treatment Facility accepts leaves, grass clipping and other non-woody yard waste at their compost site located west of Fremont on SR 120. Call 495-2504 for information.

Used Motor Oil and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

- Clear Lake Marina will dispose of used motor oil. Call 260-495-4915 for off-season hours.
- Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) has a program to properly dispose of residential hazardous waste materials including paint, light bulbs, batteries, and other items found at http://www.niswmd.org/hhw_residential.htm.

Stop the Spread of Invasive Aquatic Plant Species

- Thoroughly rinse all water craft and trailers BEFORE entering and AFTER exiting any lake, river or stream.

Annual membership contributions to The Clear Lake Association provide funding for the publication and distribution of this Newsletter. The purpose of this publication is to communicate activities of Clear Lake Association, the Town government and other Clear Lake organizations to all property owners. If you would like to receive CLA Newsletter, please send your email address to: bonniedon1@gmail.com. Thank you. Beth McCracken, Editor (bmccracken404@gmail.com)