



Clear Lake Association

Fall 2020 Newsletter

SIGNS OF FALL...

Many of you have ended “the lake season” for this year, however, the CLA wanted to touch bases one last time before spring of next year. In this issue you’ll find some reminders and tips from the Town of Clear Lake about how to protect your property over the winter and some suggestions from the CLTL Conservancy for being good stewards of our beautiful lake. We appreciate the email feedback to let us know that this newsletter helps you keep in touch with what’s happening at Clear Lake whether you’re here for weekends, for months, or for year around. Please feel free to contact me (president@clearlakeassociation.org) with questions, comments or suggestions.

Our newsletter editor, Beth McCracken, decided to share some photos of fall scenes here at Clear Lake. Check out each picture and see if you can identify its location the next time you walk, bike or drive around the lake. Address hints, corresponding to the letter label on each photo, are printed on the last page. Even if you’ve already moved to another residence for winter, we hope you enjoy seeing how lovely things are here at the lake in autumn.

The Board of Directors met Saturday, September 19. We were scheduled to gather at the Pavilion at CL Lutheran Church but the outdoor temperature was 34 degrees at 9:00 am, so we moved indoors and kept our social distance. One of the topics discussed was how to increase CLA

membership. Currently only about half of property owners join the Association. Annual dues are only \$30 and that money makes so many projects around the lake possible. Your Clear Lake Association totally funds the holiday fireworks (**July 3, 2021, 10:00 PM**), purchases buoys, and supports local groups. You should receive your Membership Letter in the mail by late April, 2021. Please give consideration to sending your check to support our wonderful lake community. If you have changed your email address and/or either your lake or alternate address this year, please send the updated contact information to CLA Membership Chair, Rita Brown. (gogosglass@gmail.com)

A big “thank you” goes to Barbara Rumsey and Scott Lazur, CLA Board members, who have volunteered to take on the “Buoy Project” supported by the Association. These two energetic people are committed to making Clear Lake as safe as possible, and placement of the swim buoys is a crucial component to



reminding boaters of safe zones to protect swimmers. Please read the next article which gives details for plans to facilitate buoys.

Clear Lake Association also maintains a membership in the Steuben County Lake Council. Part of our commitment to that group is to fund water-quality testing at two different sites connected to Clear Lake. These tests are conducted three times a year and help keep our lake safe. Bridget Harrison is our liaison to SCLC and we appreciate her communication updates.

On behalf of the CLA Board, I would hope you all have a good fall and winter. We look forward to seeing you in the Spring. Stay safe.

Margaret Carlson
Clear Lake Association President

TO KEEP OUR KIDS – OF ALL AGES – SAFE

An important mission of the Clear Lake Association is to educate and promote the safety of the community on land and on water. One of the ways we are looking to improve water safety is to begin a redistribution of the swim buoys, creating a safe and more consistent shoreline. The weekend of May 1 & 2, 2021, a team of volunteers will be looking for all current swim buoys, and we will be placing them at equal distance from the seawall and equal distance apart in the water. (DNA regulations state 200 feet from the shore.) If any buoys are damaged and/or missing, we will be replacing them and adding to the total count. You would be a big help to us (if you've had a swim buoy in the past) to place it on your seawall prior to May 1. So please look in your garage, behind trees, or wherever the buoy might be spending the winter and make it visible to volunteers. CLA is looking for enthusiastic support with this project, as the safety of the lake will always be our first and foremost purpose. We hope this will also be a valuable service to those residents who find the physical constraints of the buoys difficult to handle.

If you have any thoughts, questions or concerns, (or if you'd like to help with the May 1-2 project) please email the Association address:

[\(president@clearlakeassociation.org\)](mailto:president@clearlakeassociation.org)

President Margaret will pass the messages on to either of us who will respond to your comments. We anticipate several kinks this first spring of the endeavor, so please be patient as we work to complete the goal. Thank you.

Barbara Rumsey & Scott Lazur
Buoy Project Co-chairs



*Artwork by Clear Lake Kids:
Evelyn, Annie & Eddie Hughes*

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FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY

October is **Fire Safety Month** to commemorate The Great Chicago Fire. In the time period of October 8-10, 1871, the fire killed approximately 300 people, destroyed roughly 3.3 square miles of the city and left more than 100,000 homeless. It helps us realize that a little fire can turn quickly into a disaster. For many years, your Clear Lake Association has supported fire safety training for our residents, whether it be water, boat, or home safety. Please consider these important issues outlined below.

SMOKE DETECTORS

- Today! Please **change all smoke detectors** in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- About 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or NON-working alarms.
- **Test** each detector monthly.
- If you need help to do any of this, please call John Wilhelm (260-495-4201) who has volunteered to assist you to test your alarms, or change batteries.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Check every extinguisher in your house, basement, garage, boat and car to be sure the needle is in the **GREEN ZONE**. If the needle is not in “green”, buy a new one!
- If OK, then turn each extinguisher over and **SHAKE** it for 15 seconds to loosen the powder inside.
- Remember the acronym for how to use a fire extinguisher: **PASS**
Pull the pin.
Aim low at base of the fire.
Squeeze the handle.
Sweep the nozzle side to side.

EVACUATION PLAN

- Sounds simple? **Talk about it** now with your family.
- Make sure everyone knows how to get out of bedrooms if the exit door is hot.
- Close doors/windows behind you.
- Plan a meeting place outside. Then **call 911** and stay on the line - **DO NOT HANG UP!**
- **Only then**, determine whether it is safe to use your fire extinguishers.

Please be aware of fire safety year around, not just October. If you practice it, you will help protect your family.



CLEAR LAKE TOWN COUNCIL & TOWN HALL

Friendly
Reminders

Garbage Pick up

- **No glass.** Unfortunately, our recycle program no longer accepts glass. Please place all your **empty** glass containers in the regular trash. Glass is still accepted at the Recycle Center in Fremont.
- **All trash must be dry.** Please empty all containers of all liquids. (No grease down the drain!) Please keep your cans covered to keep out rain. Liquids in our trash solely contribute to the nasty run off during trash compaction.

Please keep your dogs on a leash and cleanup after them!

The town has received complaints of dogs running loose. **If you (or your family and guests) have a dog,** please read carefully the pet ordinances:

§ 93.02 RESTRAINT REQUIREMENTS.

(A) It shall be **unlawful** for the owner, or custodian of any dog or any animal to permit the same **to run at large** at any time upon any street or other public or private property within the town. It shall be a violation under this section if a dog is not confined on the owner’s property or without a leash, cord, chain, electric collar, or not under the control of a responsible person and immediately obedient to that person’s commands.

(B) An owner shall exercise proper care and control of his or her animals to prevent them from becoming a public nuisance.

§ 93.03 DEFECACTION ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY.

(A) No owner, keeper, or harbored of any dog, cat, or other animal shall knowingly permit the animal to defecate on the property, either public or private, of another without the owner, keeper, or harbored having in his or her possession the necessary tools or equipment to remove the defecation.

(B) The owner, keeper, or harborer shall use the necessary tools and equipment to remove defecation from the property forthwith.

From the Street and Sewer Department

- **Fall Leaf Pick Up will begin the week of October 12** and run through about November 30. Here’s what you need to know:
 - ~ Only leaves - no sticks - are to be placed in a pile along the roadway on the grass or concrete.
 - ~ Please do not place leaves on a gravel surface! The vacuum is powerful and the stones damage the fan.
 - ~ Please also do not place leaves in bags or cans, these will not be picked up. Please also do not place leaves near snow stakes. Please share this information with your lawn service.





- Guy Rodgers, CL Street & Sewer Superintendent, needs **clarification about your lake address**:

~ When you call Guy about an issue you are experiencing, please leave your **complete address** (house number and full street name) and your telephone number so that he may contact you. The new numbering system created several houses with the same number. For example, if you call and say “The grinder pump at #101 has a problem”, it could be 101 Billings Ct. or 101 Lakeside Ct. or 101 Sand Point Rd.

~ Your **house number** needs to be posted on your residence! If your address is not visible, he won't know which property needs attention.

- **Winter Grinder Care Tips** - Before leaving your Clear Lake home for winter, please take time for the following steps:

1. Fill your bathtubs with water and then drain.
2. Turn on all faucets for several minutes.
3. This water bath significantly flushes the grinder pump of human waste and extends the life of the grinder.

- Guy appreciates snow stakes that mark road edges and hazards, however, **if you use SNOW STAKES**, please observe the following criteria:

1. They may only be the breakaway fiberglass rods sold in most home improvement stores.
2. Fence posts are not allowed.
3. Place snow stakes 12 inches from the road surface.
4. Please do not put them in position until after leaf cleanup/pick up has stopped.

When your address, phone number or email changes, please **contact Brenda Eby**, Town of Clear Lake Clerk, to update your information. Emergencies do arise that the town needs to contact you, so it is especially important that we are kept up to date with current contact information.

Thank you.

Call: 260-495-9158 - or -

Email: billing@townofclearlake.org



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY

The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy is hosting a tree planting event! During the weekend of October 24th – 25th volunteers will wrap up the 2020 “Year of the Tree” and kick off a year-long celebration of the Conservancy’s 30th year, culminating next August. To get things started, the Conservancy - with support from a Thrivent Grant - is aiming to plant 30 trees in the Township during this event. Volunteers are needed to make Tree Planting Teams that will plant both Burr Oak and Tulip trees where needed on Conservancy properties, as well as visit interested property owners that would like a tree(s) planted at their home. That’s right, Conservancy volunteers will visit YOUR home and plant a tree FOR you! Contact the Conservancy today to get on the volunteer list or the planting list. Email info@clearlakeconservancy.org or call 260-527-1072 to sign up.

Seeing foam on the lake? Check out the [fact sheet](#) from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Finally, have you seen our new video? Check it out [here](#). Many thanks to Dan McCoy, James Swihart, and Don Luepke for their volunteer time on this project! What keeps you in the Clear Lake Community?

Happy fall!



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. 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 understand that putting leaves into the lake is damaging.

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 to create a buffer.
- 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 (260) 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 details.
- 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. Details 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.

HINTS FOR FINDING THE FALL SCENES AROUND THE LAKE:

Photo **A** – 700s, South Clear Lake Drive

Photo **B** – 200s West Clear Lake Drive

Photo **C** – Point Park Place

Photo **D** – 900s South Clear Lake Drive

Photo **E** – Penner Drive

Photo **F** – 200s West Clear Lake Drive

Happy hunting! (or Haunting!)

We hope you have enjoyed seeing some glimpses of fall around our beloved Clear Lake. We’ll be back with another CLA Newsletter in early May, 2021. Keep your eyes open (and your cameras ready) for signs of spring to share with others. Please email me any lake photos by April 30. (bmccracken404@gmail.com)

Have a good winter. Stay safe.

(One last sunrise of the season from Round Lake.)

Beth McCracken
Editor



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 the Clear Lake Association, the Town of Clear Lake, and other Clear Lake organizations to all property owners. If you would like to receive CLA Newsletter, please send your email address to Rita Brown (gogosglass@gmail.com). Thank you.

Beth McCracken, Editor (bmccracken404@gmail.com)