



Clear Lake

NEWS

JANUARY - MARCH 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council wishes all Clear Laker's a happy and prosperous New Year! Winter has taken over at beautiful Clear Lake and many residents are enjoying the sights and sounds of geese and waterfowl in the open water and the bald eagles that are frequent Kasota Island visitors. Other residents have headed to the warmer climates of their vacation homes and favorite winter areas. The usual snowy weather, ice forming on the lake and in the bays and channels, snowmobiling, cross country skiing and other winter activities has taken a back seat due to our very mild weather.

The Town Council, Clerk-Treasurer, and town staff had a very busy 2006. First and foremost has been the planning and construction of the new Clear Lake Town Hall at 5950 CR 725E. In the town limits CR 725E was renamed Gecowets Drive in honor of the Gecowets family's community spirit and love of Clear Lake. With the assistance of a dedicated building committee headed by Bill Geiger the new town hall is being completed and will house all town offices after our move in mid-January. An open house and dedication is being planned.

The second major undertaking by Town Council in 2006 was updating and developing a new Comprehensive Master Plan for the town. Council contracted with the Economic Development District & Economic Planning Commission Region III-A to coordinate the project. Twenty-four Clear Lake full-time and summer resident volunteers were named to the Comprehensive Master Plan Steering Committee. The group met many times, mailed two lake surveys and held three public input sessions to seek information.

Phase I of the Master Plan was compiled by the committee, recommended by the Plan Commission, and adopted by the Town Council at the December, 2006 monthly meeting. Copies are available for inspection at the Town Hall or the Fremont Public Library. Phase II of the project, the developing of ordinances and zoning code, will be initiated in early 2007. The Town Council extends gratitude to all who took the time to attend meetings, complete surveys, and lend their expertise to this effort!

When summer residents return to the lake in the spring they will notice that approximately one mile of streets were repaved at a cost of \$106k tax dollars. Also, the Town received and invested the State of Indiana Major Moves distribution (approximately \$130k) for future town needs.

Legal matters, especially lawsuits regarding the construction of the Clear Lake Sewer system are of great concern to the Council. Town Council has hired new town legal representatives to replace the former town attorney who resigned in early 2006. Erik Weber of Mefford Weber, PC was retained as our new counsel. Mr. Weber is being assisted by Neal Blythe. During 2006 the Town was able to settle a lawsuit regarding the sewer installation with Geiger Excavating but has numerous others in litigation with Daniel Hoagland, Karen Hoagland and the Hoagland Family Limited Partnership.

The Clear Lake Sewer System has entered the third year of operation and is performing well. The flow problem to the Town of Fremont that we experienced in early 2006 has been resolved. We have been notified of a wastewater treatment cost increase by the Town of Fremont that will take place in early 2007. Council has asked our rate consultants, Umbaugh & Associates, for

recommendations. In anticipation of a sewer rate increase those residents who pay their bill with coupons will receive only January through April coupons from Midwest Billing Services at this time with additional coupons to mailed later in the year.

Town Council was also very active in other areas such as readopting the Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) fund and maintaining a progressive investment strategy for town funds. Council also made permanent appointments to the Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals that comply with Indiana Administrative Code guidelines. If any full-time residents of the Town are interested in serving the Town on these boards in the future please contacts any council member.

The Town Council looks forward to a happy and successful New Year!

TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS



Effective January 1, 2007 Republic Waste Services of Kalamazoo MI is the provider of trash and recycling collection for the Town of Clear Lake. Our pick-up days and services

will remain the same with regular pick-up on MONDAY and recycling pick-up on the first MONDAY of each month. Since Memorial Day and Labor Day fall on Mondays in 2007, pick-up will be on Tuesday after the holiday.

As a reminder Indiana Law prohibits the collection of yard waste, tires and hazardous waste such as paint, batteries or pesticides and herbicides.

Here are acceptable Recycling materials:

- Newspapers including inserts & comics
- Flyers, magazines, catalogs, phone books
- Cereal boxes, cardboard boxes (flattened)
- Brown paper bags, office paper, junk mail
- Clear, green & brown glass (remove lids)
- Food cans, foil, lids
- Plastic with 31 or #2 symbol on bottom

Please continue to drop your aluminum cans off on the north side of the S & S Property Maintenance & Construction building at 6930 N County Road 875 E to support the Clear Lake Lions Club.

Contact the Town Hall if you need recycling bins.

For questions or concerns regarding service please contact:

Republic Waste Services
Customer Service Department
877-268-3867 (toll free).
Representatives are available Monday thru Friday from 8 am
to 5 pm

CLEAR LAKE-CLEAR WATER **WHAT'S PHOSPHORUS GOT TO DO WITH IT?**



A September 2006 Clear Lake water sample tested positive for a mildly toxic algae bloom that previously had not been found in this area. Its growth causes reduced water oxygen levels that can hurt fishing and cause a rash in humans. The most probable cause and biggest contributor to recurring algae blooms is phosphorus. Run off from lawn fertilizers followed by goose and pet feces are the primary sources of phosphorus. Phosphorus is literally "junk food" for algae. One pound of phosphorus can produce 10,000 pounds of wet weeds and algae.

While we can't control every factor that impacts our water quality, every property owner can do their part by insuring that no phosphorus enters our lake. We need to create a Phosphorus Free Zone around Clear Lake by using ONLY PHOSPHOROUS FREE products on lawns and gardens. Most Indiana soils contain adequate amounts of phosphorus and extra amounts are not needed for a healthy turf.

If you feel you must use fertilizer to maintain a healthy lawn, please apply it sparingly and select

only phosphorus free lawn foods. Such products are readily available at several merchants in the area: Fremont Hardware, Baker's Acres, Franz Nursery, Rural King and other retailers. When buying lawn food, look at the three numbers on the bag. The middle number indicates the amount of phosphorus and should read zero (0), for example: (22-0-10)

If you contract with a lawn service please insist that only phosphorus free fertilizer be used for all applications, both spring and fall. In response to a recent survey, the lawn services listed below carry phosphorus free fertilizer but in most cases it is up to you, the client, to request the phosphorus free applications. Lawn services which responded to the survey:

- Keith's Lawn Care-833-3440-*Only Phosphorus Free Materials*
- S & D Lawn-517-278-6830-*Only Phosphorus Free Materials*
- Green-Grow Lawn Care-800-729-5322-Client Request
- TruGreen-260-489-6550-Client Request
- Turf One-260-357-3865-Client Request
- T & T Lawn-316-9876-Client Request
- All Green-800-729-5322- Client Request
- Insta-Green-495-2527- Client Request- (Primarily sod installation)

In addition we need to continue the current efforts to reduce the goose population and clean up after our household pets. Please refer to the fall 2006 Clear Lake Newsletter for a more comprehensive list of actions we can take to eliminate or reduce the algae bloom and weed growth in our lake.

Our Clear Water is our most valuable asset. Please, let's all be good stewards of our natural treasure and protect her with healthy practices for both our lawns and lake.

WOMEN OF CLEAR LAKE CALENDAR



Sales have gone very well, we are tickled pink that this project has surpassed everyone's expectations and become a major donor toward

our beloved Kasota Island purchase. Our sales have contributed over \$21,000 to the Kasota Island fund. We did receive an additional order of calendars so we still have plenty to sell. You can purchase on the web, find our link at www.clearlakefun.org. Calendars are available in stores, (see the locations at our web site) and several of the calendar women have copies to sell.

We have been taking fall and Christmas pictures and will continue to shoot seasonal shots each month through June. Our goal is to have the **2008 Calendar** available for sale by the 1st of August. We are still looking for new Clear Lake ladies, over 50, to include in our 2008 calendar. Please contact Judy @ clearlakejj@verizon.net

OWNER'S INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE?

The Town works diligently to maintain current owner's information but it is no small task. During the fourth quarter of 2006, 10% of the property owners on Clear Lake submitted a change of addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or other information to the Clerk-Treasurer. Please help by keeping your information up-to-date.

Changes can be submitted using the form provided or by email utilizing the Town of Clear Lake website: www.townofclearlake.org, by telephone to 260-495-9158 or by mail to the Town Hall.

Please note the Town Hall address as of February 1st 2007

**Clear Lake Town Hall
5950 Gecowets Drive-Clear Lake
Fremont IN 46737**

CLEAR LAKE COOKBOOK

It's cook book time! You may have heard that our next Kasota Island fund raiser is the Clear Lake Cookbook. Since you have been involved in the island project, we are hoping you will also be a recipe contributor. Send me three to five of your best recipes in different food groups if possible.

We could also use your help with:

1. A title for our book?
2. Clever sayings, fun quotes, any "play on words"
3. Any cute food or "girl in the kitchen" art clips we can add
4. Suggestions for a cover photo?

We want this cookbook to be a "gotta buy and read", fun to look at and use. We plan to produce a high quality, classy, three ring binders with a hard padded full color cover, and custom tabbed section dividers which you can help create with your ideas for drawings or text.

Our publisher, Morris Press, offers large discounts if we submit our material by the middle of February and we plan to take advantage of this offer. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon. Once you have sent your recipes and ideas, you can sit back and wait until the cook books are ready to sell!!

Sandy Ayres and Joyce Augspurger

Send you recipes and ideas to:

Sandy Ayres

1715 Prestwick Lane

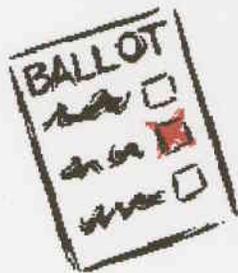
Fort Wayne IN 46814

Home-260-625-4996; cell 260-437-2130

Email: ayrs1225@aol.com

P.S. If you have any relatives, friends or neighbors who did not hear from us—pass the word along—we would love to hear from them too.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY



All of the officers, three Council persons (Trustees) and the Clerk-Treasure, for the Town of Clear Lake will be up for election at the November 2007 municipal election.

The period to file for candidacy is January 2, 2007 until noon on August 1, 2007. Documents for filing as a candidate and additional information are available from the office of the Clerk, Steuben Circuit Court at the Steuben Community Center in Angola.

KASOTA ISLAND PURCHASE -----IS ON THE MOVE

In October 2006 the Clear Lake Township Conservancy voted to become the holding entity for the island upon the conclusion of its purchase through the successful fund raising efforts to date.

The Clear Lake Conservancy has also entered into an agreement with the Steuben County Community Foundation to serve as the fiscal administrator for the \$1.6 million Kasota Island fund raising campaign.

What does this mean for Clear Lake residents and the Conservancy?

1. Donors can now make their pledge a cash gift if they voluntarily want to accelerate their payment process and have a charitable contribution for 2007.
2. The Kasota Island Preservation committee can now apply for some grant assistance to purchase the island.
3. New donors can still make a pledge to the island or they can designate a gift for the island purchase but give the gift to the Clear Lake Conservancy through the Steuben County Community Foundation.
4. Lastly, it means we can now accelerate the process to acquire the island for the community of Clear Lake sooner rather than later, thus saving interest costs.

All of this has had a positive effect on our fund raising activities since October 2006. We have increased our pledges received to over \$460,000 and your Kasota Island Committee is very positive as we look to conclude our campaign in 2007.

Kasota Island has brought the community together in a single, clear purpose---SAVE THE ISLAND. We encourage everyone to become part of this community event.

Bob Lewis Co-Chairman
boblewis362@verizon.net

KASOTA ISLAND PLEDGE TALLY AS OF 01/6/2007

**KNEE HIGH NATURALIST PROGRAM RETURNS THIS
SUMMER**

The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy will again sponsor the Knee High Naturalist Program in July 2007.

The four week program will teach our Clear Lake youth, ages 5-12 about the wonders of nature around or very near Clear Lake. A more detailed flyer will be available in June, but suffice it to say the moderators have been busy preparing a wonderful experience.

Session topics include “How to Fish Clear Lake”; “Spangler Grove Revisited”; “The Wonders of the Clear Lake Watershed”; “The Birds of Clear Lake”; “Turtles and Frogs” and much, much more! The program moderators will be Angie O’Neill, Josie Kramer and Megan Morris aided by professional naturalists from the area who generously donate their time. Each week will present a new challenge – sometimes you may get wet feet and weather is always a factor. Each program will begin at a different location around the lake, some from the Yacht Club, one from Spangler Grove, and maybe a revisit to Koeneman Lake too! Young adults are welcome to join and help supervise the 25 or so participants. Adults are more than welcome too!

The program will begin Thursday, July 5 since the July 4 holiday is the first Wednesday. So, mark your calendars for July 5, 11, 18, 25 from 9:30 – 11:00 or 11:30 depending on the program leader.

**THE EAGLE HAS LANDED AT OUR CLEAR LAKE
WETLANDS**



Photo by Angie O’Neill

PLEDGE GOAL:	\$ <u>1,650,000.00</u>
Pledge Dollars Received	\$460,283.90
Pledge Dollar Balance	715,472.20
Checking Balance 01/07/07	7,061.25
CD-Tower Bank	51,000.00
SCCF Mgmt Fund	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Pledges & Cash	\$ <u>1,234,817.35</u>
PERCENT OF GOAL.....	75%
TOTAL # OF PLEDGES TO DATE.....	257
PERCENT OF “CLEAR LAKERS” CONTRIBUTING.....	35%
TOTAL # OF “PROPERTY OWNERS” CONTRIBUTING.....	206

Please send your PLEDGE to:

Kasota Island Pledge
914 Lake Drive Clear Lake
Fremont, Indiana 46737
E-Mail: bgeiger1@verizon.net
Fax: 260-495-6177

Please send your CONTRIBUTION to:

Steuben County Community Foundation
207 South Wayne, St. Suite A
Angola, Indiana 46703
Phone: 260-665-6656
Fax: 260-665-8420

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY

- 2- Recycle Pick-up
- 8- Town Council; 7:00 p.m., St. Paul Catholic Chapel

*Starting in February all meetings will be held at the NEW Town Hall located at
5950 Gecowets Drive, (CR725E) Clear Lake*

FEBRUARY

- 5- Recycling Pick-up
- 12- Town Council; 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
- 19- Board of Zoning Appeals, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

MARCH

- 5- Recycling Pick-up
- 12- Town Council; 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

JULY

- 7- Clear Lake Association Fireworks Display at dusk (Rain date July 8)

The Clear Lake Association provides the funding for the publication and mailing of the "Clear Lake News". The purpose of this publication is to communicate Clear Lake town government and other Clear Lake organizations activities to all property owners.



**CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 38
FREMONT IN 46737**