



JANUARY – MARCH 2008

**A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL
PRESIDENT**

The 2008 January thaw took place several weeks ago and we are again in the throes of the winter season. The sight of the Bald eagles over the lake and in the trees on Kasota Island highlights the beauty of the winter snow and ice. Between 12 and 14 graceful swans have made the lake their winter home and their presence has been impressive. In a short couple of months spring will return with residents coming back from their winter places and the new leaves on the trees and spring flowers soon to follow.

The New Year will bring many changes and a new vibrancy to our beautiful lake and Town. A number of new homes are under construction and others are being remodeled. We are all excited with the addition of two additional members of Town Council. The new Council is seeking maximum participation of both part-time and full-time residents in new ventures to improve the quality of life at Clear Lake.

The Clear Lake Township Conservancy will assume management and control of Kasota Island from the Committee responsible for coordinating the purchase. We are all proud to be a part of preserving “Kasota Island – Forever”. Let’s all do our part to maintain it as the crown jewel of the lake.

The Comprehensive Master Plan Steering Committee will be working throughout the year with Ground Rules, Inc. to develop new zoning districts, zoning ordinances and a building code for the Town. The Master Plan should be completed by year’s end.

Please feel free to call your council representative with your ideas, suggestions, and concerns. Please volunteer your time and expertise when asked. Together we can make the community of Clear Lake better than ever!

Larry Armstrong
President

KASOTA ISLAND PURCHASE UPDATE

As of January 18, 2008 our fund raising drive has received over \$1.75M in pledges - with collections over \$1.4M in cash. Four hundred and twenty seven people have made pledges. Three hundred and thirty three are Clear Lake property owners, 56% of Clear Lakers.

The Kasota Island management team finalized the purchase agreement with Dave Von Deylen in October and, at Dave’s request, set a Kasota Island closing date for early February 2008. The closing is scheduled for February 4, 2008. On November 1, 2007, \$1.3M of the Kasota Island contribution dollars collected was transferred to the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy. These funds were placed in a 90 day CD, which matures on 1/31/2008. These dollars plus the dollars collected during the past 90 days will be used for the first Kasota Island cash payment to Dave Von Deylen on February 4, 2008.

Any pledge contributions received between now and the closing will be applied to the purchase, but we will not have cash on hand for full payment. (For those who still have open pledges, here is an opportunity to send in your 2008 pledge commitment early!!!) It is estimated that we will still owe Mr. Von Deylen \$125,000.00. Dave has agreed to finance the balance due at 6.25% until

the additional pledged funds have been collected. Payments will be made on a quarterly basis as the pledge dollars are received.

We will continue our pledge drive thru the summer of 2008 to build the "Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Management Endowment Fund". These proceeds will be placed in the "Endowment Fund" and used to maintain the Kasota Island property and other Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Properties for today and for future years to come.

A day of celebration for the Kasota Island purchase is scheduled for July 12, 2008. This community, our committees, volunteers and contributors have worked exceptionally hard to achieve this common community goal and day of celebration. So, please mark you calendars and be geared up to celebrate on July 12th. I'm sure no one will be disappointed!!

THANK-YOU to all the individuals involved in this project from the contributors to the volunteers for your time, dedication and support. THANK-YOU – for getting involved and being part of this unique community project, our future generations will be grateful and thankful.

Bill Geiger, Co-chairman
Bob Lewis, Co-chairman

KASOTA ISLAND FOREVER!

2007 – A YEAR OF CHANGE AT CLEAR LAKE

It is hard to believe that the Year 2007 is a memory but many changes took place at Clear Lake. Our New Town Hall at 5950 CR 725 E was completed and the January move into the building eased our space problem. We celebrated the Town of Clear Lake's 75th Anniversary in conjunction with the Open House and dedication in early June. As a tribute to the Gecowets family, CR 725 E was renamed Gecowets Drive.

The sale of the old Town Hall property at 122 Outer Drive took place in July. The purchase of the property by the Clear lake Township Land Conservancy was a real Win-Win situation for the entire community as the Town received enough

funds to completely pay off the construction cost of the new Town Hall and the Conservancy intends to maintain the old Town Hall site as open space. The generosity of certain Clear Lake conservators made this possible. The garage at the old Town Hall was moved to the new Town Hall location and the Town Hall building was recycled with the assistance of an area Amish family.

In early 2007 the Town purchased a new small dump truck for street and sewer repairs and also for keeping the Town streets cleared of snow. In December the heavy snowfall put the snow plow to the test.

As a result of a 2006 survey by the Comprehensive Master Plan Steering Committee the residents and property owners overwhelmingly indicated that they wished to have a five-person Town Council. The referendum was placed on the November, 2007 ballot and was passed by nearly the same margin as the survey indicated.

A late summer political caucus and the November election produced a nearly new Town Council. Bob Lewis was elected Ward 1 Councilperson, Paul Federspiel was selected in Ward 2, and Larry Armstrong was elected from Ward 3. Two At-Large council members, Sue Williams and George Schenkel, were selected from a group of six volunteers. (The next edition of the Clear Lake News will contain a resume of each of the Council members.) Virginia Nye was elected as the Town's Clerk-Treasurer.

At the January 2008 Council organizational meeting, Larry Armstrong was elected Council President and Bob Lewis will serve as the Council Vice President. Road repairs and construction was completed on two perennial problem areas in the Town. The first being on the south side of the lake near the intersection of Lake Drive and CR 850 E and the second in the area of the old Mirador Hotel on the lake's northwest side.

In July, Laura Farquhar was hired as the sewer utility billing clerk and effective January 1, 2008 the Town took over sewer billing from Midwest Billing, Inc. Laura will be responsible for the

garbage billing as well as assisting the Clerk-Treasurer.

As a result of recent employee disciplinary charges, the Clear Lake Town Council placed Town Marshal Richard Lehman on administrative leave effective November 28, 2007. As a result of these charges and past disciplinary action the Town Safety Board has recommended Mr. Lehman's termination. According to the Indiana Administrative Code certain town employees facing dismissal are entitled to a public hearing of the charges and that hearing was scheduled for December 21, 2007. At the request of Mr. Lehman, that hearing was rescheduled for January 14, 2008. Due to scheduled travel of one council member and the illness of another a voting quorum of the new Town Council was not available for the January 14th meeting and the hearing has been rescheduled for 1:00 PM on February 28, 2008 at the Town Hall. Due to personnel confidentiality issues there will be no public comment on the matter by Town officials until the hearing is conducted. During the period of the Marshal's administrative leave the town has hired capable and experienced off-duty officers from other jurisdictions to answer calls for police service. This arrangement will continue until the hearing.

WANTED

The Clear Lake Association needs one or two additional pontoon boats to be used as launching platforms for the annual fireworks display.

We do not need the motor. We do not need the steering/throttle controls. We do not need the seats. We do not need the railings or lights. All we need is the tubes and a good deck.

If you have a used pontoon boat which you'd like to donate to the Clear Lake Association please contact Greg Brown, 495-2278.

PROPERTY TAXES

The total assessed property value for Steuben County for 2006, payable in 2007 was \$3.008 billion, an increase of 14% from the prior taxable

year. The Town of Clear Lake total assessed property value for the same period was \$266.9 million, an increase of 39% from the prior taxable year valuation of \$192.2 million. For comparison, The Town of Fremont assessed property value is \$133.3 million a decrease of 11% from the prior year.

The Town of Clear Lake assessed value resulted in \$2,437,775 of taxes to be paid by property owners. This is a 30% increase from the prior year's payment of \$1.88 million.

Here is how the taxes collected will be disbursed:

Gov't Entity	%	\$ Amount
Fremont Schools	67.06	1,634,722
Steuben County	20.97	511,201
Town of Clear Lake	7.31	178,201
Fremont Library	3.94	96,048
CL Township	0.52	12,676
State of Indiana	0.20	4,876

The Town of Clear Lake's percentage distribution of taxes collected from the town's property owners did increase from 5.89% in 2006 to 7.31% in 2007. Only 7.3 cents of every dollar you paid in property taxes actually comes back to the Town of Clear Lake.

While there is currently much discussion in the Indiana government about property tax reform any relief seems to be still far away. Most "experts" expect similar increases for 2007 property taxes payable in 2008.

2ND EDITION OF THE CUSTOM HISTORICAL CLEAR LAKE MAP

Fifteen years ago, local artist Doug Johnson produced beautiful watercolor Clear Lake Historical Maps. At that time, 200 numbered custom paintings were sold by Sullins' House in Fremont and have become treasured heirlooms in many Clear Lake homes. The map, painted with the water of Clear Lake, depicts the history of Clear Lake dating back to the early 1800's. Numerous points of interest are detailed as well as several historical homes. Many Clear Lake home owners are listed in the framing of the map.

Interest in the paintings by a number of Clear Lake home owners has resulted in a request for Doug to do a second edition to be ready for sale this summer. The price will be in the \$200 - \$350 range (for the picture only) depending on what custom items you want to include.

This edition will also be revised to include significant events of the last 15 years. Bonnie Brown is compiling a list of those interested in purchasing a 2nd edition painting. Please call: 260-495-2771 or e-mail: donbon1@verizon.net if you would like to see and/or order a map.

KASOTA ISLAND ITEMS

There are just a few S, M, & L **t-shirts** left for \$25 each. They can be purchased at the Clear Lake Marina. It is uncertain whether any more will be printed so when they are gone –THEY ARE GONE!

It is with great sadness that we report that our “Clear Lake Cuisine” did not win in the Morris Press Cookbook contest. Sandy Ayres received an email advising her of the winners. We knew there was some tough competition in the contest but we were hoping for placement as a great ending to a wonderful project. Our book has been removed from the printer’s web site and we have no books to sell. Thanks to everyone who purchased what is sure to become a collector’s item.

The famous “Women of Clear Lake Calendars” are still available and can be purchased on the net at www.clearlakefun.org or at the Clear Lake Marina and Clear Lake Pub. Be sure to complete your set of this one time event. 2008 is \$20 and 2007 is \$10.

As a reminder the Clear Lake Marina winter hours are Mon – Fri: 9AM – 4PM.

2008 RESOLUTION TO KEEP THE CLEAR IN CLEAR LAKE

As the early months of 2008 begin, the adage “Ring Out with the Old and In with the New” comes to mind. However; Clear Lakers have historically been keen preservers and watchful

stewards of their pristine Clear Lake waters. That is an OLD custom we want to continue. The thinking and methods necessary to maintain our water quality are changing and often require us to have an open mind to NEW ideas and ways that all Clear Lakers can follow to help keep the Clear in our Clear Lake.

Many lakers have been puzzled with the recurring algae blooms and excessive growth of weeds over the past several summers. While some algae recurrence is due to normal cycling, especially during high water times, the abnormal frequency and voluminous amounts of algae can directly be attributed to an excess of phosphorus entering Clear Lake. The experts tell us that just one pound of phosphorus can produce 10,000 pounds of wet weeds and algae. While we don't have control over all the factors that impact our lake there are several steps that each of us can take to minimize the effects of phosphorus containing materials that enter our waters. Thanks to current research we now know that phosphorus containing lawn fertilizers contribute to poor water quality. We are fortunate in the Midwest to have soils that are naturally rich with phosphorus, thus eliminating the need to add more through fertilizers.

In the summer of 2007, the Clear Lake Town Council unanimously passed a resolution to ban the use of Phosphorus containing fertilizers within the Town of Clear Lake limits. While there are some pending issues with the enforcement policy through the State of Indiana, it behooves each of us to act with diligence and use only Phosphorus Free materials, if you decide to fertilize your lawn. For those who apply their own fertilizer, many phosphorus free selections are readily available at most of the nearby retailers. While shopping for fertilizer look for the three numbers on the front of the bag. *FLASH: we have been informed that Wal-Mart will sell zero phosphorus products this spring.* The MIDDLE number (indicator of phosphorus) should read 0. If you contract with an application service, please INSIST they only apply Phosphorus Free materials. All services in the surrounding area are aware of our stance at Clear Lake and carry phosphorus free fertilizers, but it is up to YOU the client to request it.

Of no lesser importance are other steps we can take in the early spring months to help prevent run off of fertilizers and other contaminants from entering Clear Lake:

CONTROL LAKE CONTAMINANTS

1. DO NOT rake or blow leaves and grass into the lake
2. Prevent soil erosion by covering the soil with vegetation or mulch
3. Keep leaves, grass clippings and soil out of streets and gutters
4. Avoid getting fertilizers or other chemicals on driveways or nonporous surfaces
5. Don't clean paint brushes in the lake or allow other noxious materials to enter the lake
6. Promptly Clean Up after your pet. Pet wastes contain phosphorus
7. Support programs to limit the goose population
8. Do not feed the ducks and geese as this only adds to our water quality issues

Make a 2008 Resolution to Keep the Clear in Clear Lake by using only phosphorus free materials on lawns and following the above steps to keep contaminants from entering our lake waters.

CLEAR LAKE ANNUAL (REINSTATED) 4TH OF JULY WEEKEND BOAT PARADE

The Clear lake Association is pleased to announce that the Boat Parade will be held this summer.

Who: Anyone with a Boat and Motor (Pontoon, Ski, Fishing, Sail, etc.)

What: Decorate your boat in a theme of your choice (Remember: it's the Lake and Independence Day weekend...have fun!)

When: Saturday, July 5, 2008 at 1:00 P.M.

Judging: In front of the Yacht Club. Awards to be give out at approximately 1:15 P.M. in front of the Yacht Club before the parade.

Parade: From Yacht Club to Kasota Island. Around island counter-clockwise to Paradise Point. Then go around lake in a counter clockwise direction. Police Boat to escort?

For additional information contact these Co-Chair people:

Karen and Tom Humbrecht
(260-341-3760)

Kathy and George Schenkel
(260-495-4052)

2008 DATES TO REMEMBER

**Saturday June 14th.....Boater
Safety Class**

**Saturday July 5th.....Boat Parade
.....Fireworks Display**

**Saturday July 12th....Kasota Island
Community Celebration**

**Saturday July 19th...Clear Lake
Association Annual Meeting**

