



# Clear Lake

# NEWS

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2008

## HAPPY AUTUMN TO ALL MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF OUR CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION.

As your President, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on a major effort nearing completion that will guide the future development at our lake. As a long time 'laker', I can remember when weekend cottages, wooden rowboats, outboard power boats with horsepower mostly limited to the single digits and only a few inboards were the primary users of the lake.

My, how things have changed. Now we have natural gas, sewers, lot-covering houses, more year round residents, high-speed internet plus every conceivable type of powered watercraft in ever increasing size and numbers. We are fortunate that our lake suffers through all the use and development pressures and still remains relatively clean and clear.

I thank our early residents for their foresight in forming the Association, the Conservancy, and most importantly for incorporating the Town of Clear Lake. Their rules and regulations past and present have tempered human needs and desires with the requirement to preserve our wonderful nature's resources. One must only visit some other lakes in the area to see the results of unfettered development.

However, as time passes, needs, desires, and preservation requirements evolve. With this in mind, a new Comprehensive Plan has been adopted by the Town of Clear Lake. (You may recall the public input surveys and public meetings during the summer of 2006.) This plan sets forth the broad policies for future development of the Clear Lake community.

In 2007, a committee of community volunteers and town officials was formed to develop the Zoning Ordinance required to implement this plan. This committee has finished its work by submitting a draft to the Plan Commission for their consideration.

The Plan Commission has received citizen

input at two public hearings and will hold at least one more public input hearing before producing a final version of the ordinance and recommending it to Town Council. Copies of the latest version are available for review at Town Hall, Fremont Public Library, and on-line at <http://townofclearlake.org/>. Town Council will then conduct three public readings before adoption.

I suggest everyone review this proposed ordinance, attend public input meetings and make your suggestions known. The new Zoning Ordinance when passed into law by our Town Council will implement policies that reflect the desire of the vast majority of the Clear Lake community to prevent overbuilding, overcrowding, and inappropriate uses. Hopefully, each of you will support this effort to preserve our wonderful Clear Lake environment for future generations of 'Lakers'.

Have a great Fall and Winter  
Jon Fitzenrider, President

## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The fall colors are beginning to appear in the trees around our picturesque Clear Lake and well over half the docks and boat lifts have been removed and stored for the winter. The remainder will soon follow. I can personally attest that the lake water is now too chilly for enjoyable swimming so if you have not yet removed your swim buoy now is the time to do so.

The Town Council is still reeling over the loss of Councilman Paul Federspiel. Paul was a knowledgeable colleague and great friend to Clear Lake. He will not easily be replaced but, unfortunately, life must go on. A candidate for Paul's Ward 2 Council seat will be nominated and the name forwarded to Precinct Committeeman Bob Troll for

consideration for appointment to fill Paul's unexpired term.

The Town's new sewer repair facility and storage building will soon be completed. The building is 80' X 40' with 20' sidewalls and is located behind the Town Hall. Town Superintendent Bob Hull is anxious to have inside storage for town vehicles and supplies as well as a warm place to repair grinder pumps and town equipment. The new building will save town dollars by eliminating our need of rentals for storage.

Please have a healthy and safe fall season and enjoy all that Clear Lake has to offer!

Larry Armstrong, Council President

**PAUL ROBERT FEDERSPIEL**, 61, of Clear Lake, passed away Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008, at his home. Paul retired as Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer of Fort Wayne National Bank in 1999, after 33 years of employment. Paul provided leadership and direction for The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy; he had a deep love and passion for Clear Lake and the land surrounding it, including Kasota Island. Paul was a member of the Clear Lake Town Council, the Clear Lake Planning Commission, the Clear Lake Lions Club, and was the current President of the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy, Inc. He was also a former board member of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Fort Wayne, and very much enjoyed being a community volunteer. Paul was a 1965 graduate of Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, and attended Indiana University Bloomington campus. Paul is survived by his bride, Kathleen "Kathy" Latz; his parents, Robert P. and Margaret A. "Meg" Federspiel; and five siblings, Phillip Federspiel, Ellen Poffenberger, Susan Chase, Neil Federspiel and Ann DeWert. No public visitation or service is planned. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy, Inc., 5950 Gecowets Drive, Clear Lake, Fremont, IN 46737. Published in the Fort Wayne Newspapers on 9/21/2008

### **MARSHAL REPORT**

To say that my first summer as the Clear Lake Marshal went just as I planned it would be stretching

the truth to say the least. I never imagined the police department being as busy as it's been nor could I have predicted how well the community works with the police department. Together, we have managed to solve a large percentage of the crimes reported this year.

Over the winter and in to the spring, some criminal's decided to target this community to commit their crimes. Soon, I was receiving phone calls from residents with their theory as to who was responsible. After wrapping up the car and garage break-in's in the spring, the police department began working on the unsolved crimes from over the winter and we started by listening to what you had already told us. Because of that, we were able to solve nearly every break-in that occurred over the winter in even a few that had not been discovered or reported at that time. The person arrested for those crimes was found to be responsible for similar crimes across Steuben and DeKalb county as well as Fort Wayne. It was at that time that I realized we had the makings of a neighborhood watch and community policing program that was ready to grow.

With that in mind, the police department teamed up with the Crime Prevention Council and the Criminal Justice Institute to put together a "Safe Communities" program. The program will kick off Crime Prevention Month for Clear Lake. I am hoping this will mark the beginning of a very successful Neighborhood Watch program for the Clear Lake area.

In closing, on behalf of the entire Clear Lake Police department, I would like to thank everyone for making this summer a great one. We are honored to serve you and look forward to working together with you to make Clear Lake a safer place.

John Gonya, Town Marshal

### **CLEAR LAKE AHEAD OF THE GAME**

At the annual ILMS (Indiana Lakes Management Society) conference a consistent topic of discussion was weed and algae control. One of the major recommendations across the board was to limit the amount of phosphorus entering our lake waters. Phosphorus is a component of most lawn fertilizers which helps grow that nice GREEN turf on our lawns. However, the runoff also promotes that "not so nice" and potentially harmful GREEN weed growth and recurring algae blooms in the lake. As written in several previous articles, we can have

BOTH Green Lawns and Clear Waters! Thanks to Clear Lake's persistence and 2007 ordinance banning phosphorus fertilizer use within our town limits, the majority of area retailers and lawn services now carry Phosphorus Free Fertilizers. Recently, several "lakers" have noted that we seemed to have fewer weeds and less frequent, if any algae blooms this summer. While phosphorus in lawn fertilizer is only one factor affecting the clarity of our waters, perhaps our strategy to limit phosphorus use is having a positive effect. Good Job Clear Lakers. We seem to be ahead of the game!

For those who fertilize in both the spring and fall seasons, remember to check the most recent comprehensive list of merchants and lawn care services that carry Phosphorus Free products:

LOCAL RETAILERS:

- FREMONT HARDWARE
- BAKERS ACRES - BOTH STORES
- FRANZ NURSERY
- MENARDS
- MEIJER
- RURAL KING

PHOSPHORUS FREE APPLICATION SERVICES:

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| KEITH'S LAWN- | 833-3440     |
| GREEN GROW-   | 800-729-5322 |
| NITRO GREEN   | 668-5555     |
| ALL GREEN     | 668-7733     |
| TRU GREEN     | 800-997-4758 |
| TURF ONE      | 866-367-3856 |

**WAYS TO BE LAKE FRIENDLY ALL YEAR**

- If you feel you must fertilize, use only Phosphorus Free Slow Nitrogen Releasing fertilizers. (The MIDDLE Number on the Bag should be ZERO e.g. (36-0-16)
- Leave a strip of UNFERTILIZED lawn along the lake edge
- Don't blow grass or rake leaves into the lake.
- Remove aquatic weeds that wash ashore to prevent decaying debris in the lake
- If you have a fire along the shore, remove ashes to prevent them from entering the lake
- Promptly clean up after your pet; animal wastes contain phosphorus

- Don't feed ducks and geese; water fowl waste is high in phosphorus
- Never pour oil, gasoline, antifreeze or other such products in the lake or yard.
- Do not release fish or empty aquarium water in the lake. Non native plants proliferate and promote growth of noxious weeds. Non native fish are often carriers of disease.

**CLEAR LAKE HISTORY**

Perhaps you, like many of us, have made comments such as "I wish someone had made a video of houses around the lake years ago so we could remember how things used to be." Several of us who are interested in recording and preserving "how things used to be" on our beloved lake have formed a committee to research local history. The initial goal is to compile facts and family stories that could perhaps be archived in the basement of Town Hall and ultimately be available to current and future citizens for reference. It has also been proposed that some of this historical information and photos be edited for publication into a "coffee table" type book that would be available for purchase at a later date.

What does that mean for you right now?!? **If you are interested in sharing family history about your property**, please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire on the next page. We'd like to know from who you bought your cottage, how long it's been in your family, a funny story...*what do you want us to know?* Do you have any old photos you'd be willing to loan for copying? If there is someone else in your family or a friend who might be more interested in this project, please pass this letter on to them.

Although we had originally requested that the attached questionnaire be returned by Labor Day, we have learned some of you did not receive the original door-to-door hand out or have not yet had time to respond. Therefore, **we will continue to accept information and old photos (especially prior to 1950) until October 31.** If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Beth at 495-0047 (email: gmatthelake@verizon.net) or Bonnie at 495-2771. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
Clear Lake History Committee

## OUR CLEAR LAKE HISTORY

*(Please attach additional pages if needed.)*

Name of current owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address of property: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Family members who share Lake time:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Year original house built? \_\_\_\_\_ Current house? \_\_\_\_\_ Remodeled? \_\_\_\_\_

Who did you buy cottage from? \_\_\_\_\_ Date? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know any owners/dates before that? \_\_\_\_\_

Any springs or ditches on your property? \_\_\_\_\_

Any interesting discoveries about the property as you rebuilt or remodeled?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Was property ever used for purpose other than private residence?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you and your family been coming to Clear Lake? \_\_\_\_\_

Is yours a Clear Lake "romance"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What's your funniest or most memorable Clear Lake story?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any old photos to share? (We would only borrow them to make a copy, and then return them to you.) \_\_\_\_\_

Is there someone you know who we should contact as a good source for facts and/or photos? If so, please list name(s) and contact information. \_\_\_\_\_

More information to share? \_\_\_\_\_ Would you like to be interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_

How should we contact you? \_\_\_\_\_

----- *Detach for future contact information* -----

**Please return by October 31 to: Beth McCracken, 1110 Lake Drive**  
*(There will be a box by the back door for completed forms.)*  
Or email responses to: [gmatthelake@verizon.net](mailto:gmatthelake@verizon.net) Thank you.

## THE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Clear Lake Conservancy Water Quality Committee is a standing committee under the auspices of the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy. The Committee acknowledges Paul Federspiel and the leadership and direction he provided to this new committee. Paul will be greatly missed, but his vision of preserving Clear Lake remains alive.

The focus of the committee work to date has been education, community outreach, water testing and watershed inventory development.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, twenty-one Knee High Naturalists not only learned the definition of a watershed but more importantly they experienced the concept of a watershed. Using squirt bottles for rain and cooking ingredients as surface runoff, the kids simulated a rain event showing how water washes silt and other surface materials across the watershed and into the lake. The connection had been made between land and lake. Clean Land = Clean Lake. They learned *a watershed is the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river or lake.*

Members of the Water Quality Committee have met with the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative, the county surveyor, Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Indiana DNR Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE) and a few farmers in our watershed. Our goal is to inform various groups and individuals of our purpose.

The committee now has three trained Hoosier Riverwatch volunteers. Joann Stanley, Mary Jo Fitzenrider and Annie Skinner are certified in stream monitoring. They are actively testing the inlets to Clear Lake and providing test results to the statewide Internet database. Currently, the county SWCD's test kit is used to do the testing. Due to a grant through the Hoosier Riverwatch Equipment Program Clear Lake will soon have its own test kit.

Thanks are extended to the Clear Lake Historical committee. Through its survey and interviews, information for the watershed inventory is streaming in. The water quality committee is gathering historical information concerning Clear Lake. Please contact Annie Skinner (495-0124) regarding information about springs or other

historical information about your property that may impact the lake.

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CALLING ALL SKI CLUB ALUMNI

Celebrate 50 years of the Clear Lake Ski Show July 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

We would like to see you show your stuff...if you still got it!!! We are also looking for old photos, movies, newspaper articles, etc. so we can remember what it was like to ski on wood! There will be a celebratory dinner Saturday, July 25th, 2009 for all Ski Club Alumni, members, and family!

Please contact Kim Jerger if you have memorabilia to share or would like to participate in the show! [kjerger@ameritech.net](mailto:kjerger@ameritech.net) or (513)465-6342

We are looking forward to an incredible weekend and show! Thank you for your help.

2009 Clear Lake Ski Club Officers

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### October 2008

- 6 Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 31 Halloween Trick-Or-Treat, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

#### November 2008

- 4 Town Offices closed for ELECTION DAY
- 10 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 27/28 Town Offices Closed for THANKSGIVING

#### December 2008

- 8 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Board of Zoning Appeals, 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Town Offices Closed for CHRISTMAS

NOTE: All meetings are at the Town Hall, 5950 Gecowets Drive, unless otherwise noted.

### HELP THE ASSOCIATION

**Help us reduce our publication and distribution costs for the "Clear Lake News" by receiving it (and other important updates) via email. Send your current email address to:**

**[azbrown2@verizon.net](mailto:azbrown2@verizon.net)**

## FAIRYLAND TO BE

Reprinted from Summer 2008 "Bobber Watchin'", Steuben County Lakes Council, Submitted by Sue Myers

One reaches an age when it is hard to believe in fairy tales. That is why it is so wonderful to actually write about a fairy tale that comes true. There are some fairies left in this computer dominated world and it is a pleasure to tell you about one of them.

Out by Clear Lake, a property owner owned some land that could be developed and the question was, "For what should this land be used?" Hmmmmmm...Could put houses here...maybe some garages would be nice for storage...perhaps let it sit idle for wildlife. Upon further investigation about possibilities for the use of this land, suggestions came to the owner about planting a forest. Now that sounded interesting, but how can one individual manage to plan such a complicated task—imagine the time, money, and back-breaking digging to plant a forest! Well, it has been done.

First you need the land. Then you find a Forestry Consultant. The Consultant will draw up a plan for your tree-planting dream. He will follow up with a contact to the Fish and Wildlife Service, a branch of the United States Department of the Interior. If you are really lucky---you may discover that the land you own is a priority area for the copper belly water snake (or some other rare plant or creature) and if so, the cost of your soon-to-be forest will be covered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The cost for the 3,000 trees and 200 shrubs (\$1,800.00) plus planting costs (\$1,260.00) makes a total of \$2,340.00 which is covered by the F&WS. The land owner agrees to support two years of weed control (\$650.00) total, and keep the trees growing on the land ten years.

The land owner has the pleasure of bringing to life a forest which can supply years of beauty, space for leisurely walking and contemplation, wildlife refuge for vast numbers of animals and plants, erosion control of the land, and on and on. What a remarkable contribution to the future by this land owner. And, even better, another neighboring property owner heard of the plan and decided to do the same with an adjoining piece of property. Talk about a Win-Win solution!

If you happen to have a piece of land and want to learn how to make a fairy tale come true, email [rick@clearlakeindiana.org](mailto:rick@clearlakeindiana.org)



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