



# Clear Lake

# NEWS

JANUARY – MARCH 2009

## MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

It hardly seems possible that another year has come and gone at Clear Lake. 2008 was an extremely busy year for Town Council in that, for the first time in history, Town Council was expanded from three Ward Councilpersons to three Ward and two at-large. Health problems plagued the new council during this first year. Paul Federspiel, Ward 1 Councilman passed away just months into his first term and was replaced by Barry Worl. Barry's wife, Melinda died unexpectedly in November. Sue Williams, at-large Councilperson, suffered a cerebral hemorrhage in December but is recovering nicely and will soon be back with her council duties. We are looking toward a healthier and happier 2009.

With the hiring of Billing Clerk Laura Farquhar, the Town was able to take over all sewer billing in 2008 and Laura also handles the garbage billing as well. The collection rate on these accounts has greatly improved. She was also instrumental in the publication of the Town Directory. Her employment enables the Town offices to be open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM each workday.

Bob Hull, Town Superintendent, did (and is currently doing) an excellent job of snow removal and street maintenance. He will soon announce his plans for 2009 street repair and resurfacing.

The Town began and completed work on the sewer/maintenance barn that was badly needed for storage. It was completed in November and was put into immediate use. The Town was able to give up rented space that was used to store sewer grinder parts, equipment, and the town boat and vehicles.

The Comprehensive Master Plan has been completed by a task force of able and willing volunteers. The Unified Development Ordinance and District Zoning Map were the parts being finalized. They are currently before the Clear Lake Plan Commission for recommendation.

Thanks to donations from the Clear Lake Association the landscaping of the Town Hall was completed. A maple tree commemorating the service of William Geiger to their organization was donated by the Steuben County Foundation and planted on the south side of the Town Hall.

This was our first full year with our new police department and all reports have been very positive of both their patrol coverage as well as the Sheriff's Lake Patrol that we enjoyed during the summer. A string of winter and early spring burglaries were cleared up by Marshal John Gonya, and Deputies Rich McCarty and Darren Compton. Numerous arrests were made, property returned, and one of the main culprits was recently sentenced to prison for these crimes. We will continue with the same police focus as last year. The Department is looking to initiate a golf cart safety program this year.

New legislation was adopted in 2008 including a Fireworks Ordinance, a Parking Ordinance and an Animal Control Ordinance. These ordinances went through a thorough vetting process and many residents had input into these new laws.

The Town's financial condition was audited this year by the Indiana State Board of Accounts. Virginia Nye, Town Clerk Treasurer, is to be commended for her fiscal control.

Town Council looks forward to a prosperous and productive year in 2009. I would like to personally thank each and all of you who volunteered for committees, boards and commissions as well as those who gave time and energy to making our beautiful Clear Lake the premier lake community in the State.

Bob Lewis was elected as the new Council President for 2009 at the January 12, 2009 Council meeting and the entire Council looks forward to Bob's leadership.

Larry Armstrong  
Clear Lake Town Council President

### **THE CLEAR LAKE HERITAGE BOOK AND CALENDAR PROJECT**

Hopefully by now, you all have become aware of the Clear Lake history project that began in the summer of 2008. This quest to learn more about Clear Lake's early beginning was born during the Kasota Island fundraising campaign. So began the Clear Lake Heritage Committee, whose goal is to publish a quality, full color, large coffee table book of our Clear Lake history. This book will greatly expand upon Lib Hanna's book, Clear Lake Story, written in 1982, with an expected publishing date of summer 2010. The first phase of the project is research. We have launched an extensive campaign for collecting data through the end of the summer of 2009. Below you will find our many avenues of information gathering:

#### **CLEAR LAKE HERITAGE 17 MONTH CALENDAR**

The calendar (January 2009 – April 2010) conveys the excitement found in Clear Lake's past was created to serve many facets of our project. Since we are still in the process of raising the awareness of the history project, this calendar actively pursues the request for additional information/history of all aspects of early Clear Lake life. The sales from the calendar also provide us with working capital. You may purchase our "collector calendar" online @ [ClearLakeHistory.org](http://ClearLakeHistory.org) or from the local retailers and cottages listed on this site.

#### **QUESTIONNAIRE**

A questionnaire was distributed late in the summer of 2008 to all cottages on Clear and Round Lakes. We are very pleased with the enthusiasm and number of responses received. If you loaned us photos we hope to have them scanned and returned to you by this summer. Thank you all for sharing your memories with us. If you have *not* returned your questionnaire, you may still print a copy from the link <http://clearlakeindiana.org/fun/> to get it to us. We are searching in particular for information about original cottages that are still standing and families that have roots to earlier times. Thus far, 57 original cottages have been identified and many families have shared great stories and pictures.

#### **INTERVIEWS**

We are focusing on our community elders for our interviews. We are spending time with many who have wonderful stories and lots of pictures to share. It is so much fun to hear of life in general during summers at Clear Lake and of the early dance halls, sailboat racing, and arriving in Ray by train and then taking a horse and buggy to the lake. In just a few years Clear Lake has come so far. If you know of someone who would be a good candidate for interviewing, please let us know.

#### **IS YOURS A "CLEAR LAKE ROMANCE"?**

In one segment of our coffee-table-style heritage book, we plan to feature Clear Lake Romances. We've heard that, for many of you, your relationship began right here at our beloved lake. If you and/or any family members met or were married here and would be willing to share your story, please email Beth McCracken at [gmatthelake@verizon.net](mailto:gmatthelake@verizon.net). Please include names, cottage number(s), the years that you met, dated, and married. Any old photos of the romantic couple would also be great.

#### **CLEAR LAKE HISTORY FORUM**

There are many topics on and around Clear Lake that we are having difficulty finding information about. The Clear Lake History Committee has set up a forum where you can view and exchange information about Clear Lake history. Current topics include

Terrace Gardens, Quiet Harbor Marina, the Hazenhurst Hotel and several others. We hope you enjoy reading others' entries and post some replies yourself. Please visit <http://clearlakeindiana.org/fun/> to find the link to our newly created Clear Lake History Forum. Does anyone have pictures of any of these topics?

HOW CAN YOU HELP???????

We need you to network with us! If your family has not returned the questionnaire, please do so. Do you have an original cottage? Do you have old pictures/stories prior to 1950? Please.... talk to your neighbors, have they sent in their questionnaires. Do they have old pictures and stories? Is there someone that you would recommend for an interview? Do you know a family that is now off the lake that would have information? Do you have pictures of: the Coolie Hut, Bowling Alley, Roller Rink, Norton Horse Stables?

If you have any questions or information, please don't hesitate to contact Beth McCracken at 495-0047 (email: [gmatthelake@verizon.net](mailto:gmatthelake@verizon.net)) or Bonnie Brown at 495-2771 (e-mail: [donbon1@verizon.net](mailto:donbon1@verizon.net)).

**MARSHAL REPORT**

First of all, Happy New Year Clear Lake! It is hard to believe we are in to a new year already and I have been serving you for over a year now. 2008 was a busy year for us and we experienced a lot of changes. I would like to thank all of you for helping us with getting settled in and making 2008 a great year. I wanted to give you a quick look at what the Clear Lake Police Department did in 2008.

As you know, a total of three officers serve the residents of Clear Lake and we were helped by the Sheriff's Department Marine Patrol with boat patrol during the summer months. Together, we worked a total of 77 criminal cases that generate a report for record. Many of those were connected to the homes and vehicles that were burglarized over the spring and early summer. The police department made 5 arrests in connection to those crimes. I hope

to have an update on the town website soon with a complete breakdown of the types of reports that were completed. I will also include an update of what each person arrested was charged with and where they are in the adjudication process.

In 2008, we also had the initiation of the Neighborhood Watch Program and our participation in the Safe Communities program. Though it is still in the beginning stages, it has been a success so far. We would like to remind each resident to keep an eye on your neighbor's homes and be observant when coming to and from your residence. If you see something out of the ordinary, don't hesitate to call the police. Also, if you have any questions or concerns, you can call the police department at 495-9620. We keep the phone forwarded to our cellular phone at all times. You may receive voice mail if I am not available at that time, but I will get back to you in a timely manner. As always, **call 911 if you have an emergency of any kind.**

Once again, thank you for a great 2008. We look forward to continued cooperation between the residents of Clear Lake and the police department.

John Gonya  
Town Marshal

*January 12, 2009 UPDATE from [www.clearlakeindiana.org/fun](http://www.clearlakeindiana.org/fun) Bulletin Board: "The person responsible for the home burglaries in the spring and early summer was recently sentenced. James McBride was sentenced to 5 years in prison for the crimes he committed at Clear Lake and one other burglary in Steuben County. He was given credit for time he has served since we arrested him last summer so he will serve approximately 2 more years in prison. Just a reminder, if you chose to snowmobile around the lake, make sure you have permission to enter other people's property before doing so. It is illegal to trespass at any time and snowmobiling is not an exception."*

John Gonya

## HEALTHY LAWNS - CLEAR WATER

Although the ground is still covered with snow and the lake sporting snowmobiles and ice fishermen, spring and thinking about planning for green healthy lawns is just around the corner. For those who fertilize their lawn, it's time to make fertilizer choices that produce a healthy turf but do not promote weed and algae growth in the lake water. The recommended choice is PHOSPHORUS FREE fertilizer. Phosphorus is the component in commercial fertilizers that can accelerate weed and algae growth when it enters the lake.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) reminds us:

*"When you're fertilizing the Lawn, remember you are not just fertilizing the Lawn. Whatever goes on your lawn also goes into our lakes, streams and waterways."*

If you fertilize your lawn the best choice is PHOSPHORUS FREE products. If you haven't yet tried the zero phosphorus materials, it's easy to select the appropriate products. The middle number on the bag shows the phosphorus content; for example a 20-0-10 formulation indicates there is no phosphorus in the product. If you use a lawn service, please insist they apply only phosphorus free chemicals for ALL fertilizer applications.

In June of 2007, The Clear Lake Town Council approved an ordinance banning the use of phosphorus containing lawn fertilizers within the town limits. Support our lake policy and make the PHOSPHORUS FREE choice. Retailers and lawn services in the area are well aware of our policy and most carry appropriate fertilizers. For specific dealers and lawn services check the list given below.

A more natural way to fertilize is to use a mulching mower and leave the clippings on the lawn. These clippings naturally decompose and contribute a significant amount of nitrogen and other nutrients needed to maintain a healthy turf without additional fertilizers.

## RETAILERS:

Fremont Hardware  
Baker's Acres- Both stores  
Franz Nursery  
Menards  
Meijer  
Rural King

## LAWN 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



Actually the reindeer were to late.....the deer ate them all this summer

## WELCOME NEW OWNERS

The Clear Lake Association would like to welcome several new property owners to Clear Lake. Your Association's mission is to initiate and support projects that benefit the Clear Lake community. To inform and represent the Association members in regard to proposals and activities that impacts them. Everyone will receive membership information for 2009-2010 in May.

New property owners are entitled to a **free** first year membership at the Clear Lake Yacht Club. For additional information contact Eric Tyler, Membership Chairman at 260-495-9709 or via email to [eric.tyler@doitbest.com](mailto:eric.tyler@doitbest.com)

**??CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBERS,  
EMAIL??**

Your Town government and your association work hard to keep track of all Clear Lakers but it is an amazingly difficult task. It is especially important at this time as the deadline for the next directory is February 28, 2009. If you miss the deadline your information will be wrong for another year.

Contact Laura Farquhar by phone at 260-495-9158; by email at [billing@townofclearlake.org](mailto:billing@townofclearlake.org); or by mail to 5950 Gecowets Drive-Clear Lake, Fremont IN 46737; or visit the town website [townofclearlake.org](http://townofclearlake.org) and click on the "Update Owner Info" in the upper right hand of the home page. This will take you to an easy to complete form. Don't forget February 28<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the next edition of the directory! Thank you for your help.

**WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Clear Lake Conservancy Water Quality Committee submitted its first LARE grant application, January 14, 2009, and we are excited! What's the big deal?

The big deal is the quality of our lake's water, keeping the clear in Clear Lake, having a plan to make it better and finding partners to get the job done

We, the residents of Clear Lake, are blessed to live around one of the cleanest lakes in Indiana. Part of the reason is location, location, location.

We all know water flows downhill. Now understand the Clear Lake watershed sits at the top of the hill. The runoff we get from higher ground is minimal compared to other lakes and manageable if we make an effort. Our committee's job is to explore our watershed, get to know our neighbors, talk with our government partners and provide a forum for sincere communication. Once we do this, the concerns about the lake will surface and the solutions will evolve.

For those of you who forgot, **a watershed is the land** water runs across and under on its way to a lake, river or stream. The land above Clear Lake is

our own lake property, our roads, the storm sewers, fields, field tile, woods and wetlands. The cleaner we keep the land above the lake, the cleaner the lake will stay.

Now, back to what is a LARE grant? First, LARE is an acronym for Lake and River Enhancement. LARE is a section of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife. LARE was established to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife and to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams. This is done through measures that reduce non-point source sediment and nutrient pollution of surface waters. To accomplish this goal, the LARE Program provides technical and financial assistance for qualifying projects. This financial assistance is a LARE grant.

Our committee thought Clear Lake qualifies as a publicly accessible lake and we have non-point source sediment and nutrients we would like to reduce. We decided to apply for a LARE grant. And we have!

We explored our watershed, met with our farmer and landowner neighbors, talked with government agencies, held meetings, filled out the application and asked for \$50,000.00!

Now, we wait. The grants are awarded in the summer of 2009. Annie Skinner

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW**

Here are important dates for planning your summer activities:

Saturday June 13, 2009

- Boater Safety Class, 8 to 3, Town Hall

Wednesdays in July (1st, 8th, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>)

- Knee-High Naturalist Programs

Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>

- Boat Parade. Details in next edition
- Clear Lake Association Fireworks Display

Saturday & Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ski Club celebration and show

## **TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE IMPORTANT DATES**

Check the Town of Clear Lake website-[www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org) for updates and changes to the calendar

### **JANUARY**

- 1 Town Offices Closed for New Year's Day Holiday
- 8 Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- 12 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

### **FEBRUARY**

- 9 Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- 16 Town Offices Closed for Presidents' Day Holiday
- 16 Board of Zoning Appeals, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- 16 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

### **MARCH**

- 9 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

Town Hall is located at 5950 Gecowets Drive

The members of the Clear Lake Association provide the funding for the publication and distribution 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.



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