



Clear Lake

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2010

NEWS

GREETINGS TO ALL SUPPORTERS OF OUR CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION

Wow! What a great summer we had! High temperatures, a little rain, and a lot of sun sure makes a summer at Clear Lake one to remember.

At the annual meeting of the Clear Lake Association in July we added David Harris as a director. His support will be appreciated over the next years. Be sure to welcome David the next time you see him around.

Due to the support and contributions from our members the association will continue to sponsor and support these activities:

- The Annual 4th of July Fireworks display. Special thanks to Greg Brown, Dan Hanson, Derold Covell, Bill Geiger, Russ Watson, Bill and William Zeller, Chad Korte, Alan Korte, Kip Gleckler, Rick Behnfeldt and Tom Reed for helping with the set-up and tear down for the show.
- The Boater Safety Class
- Production and distribution of the quarterly “Clear Lake News”
- The distribution of over 400 dock/address reflective markers
- Support organizations that provide services to Clear Lake and our community such as: Fremont Fire Department, Crime Stoppers, the Humane Society, SCURRT, Project Help, and others.

Once again, the Clear Lake Association board members would like to thank all of you for your continued support of the Association and its activities. The Association will continue to be guided by its mission statement and strive to bring benefit to ALL who enjoy Clear Lake.

Have a great fall and winter.

Rick Behnfeldt
President

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

In July we had the final reading of Ordinance 2010-04 amending the Golf Cart Ordinance allowing children to ride in the back of a golf cart with a seat belt. We currently have over 40 carts registered.

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We also had two resolutions transferring town conservation property to the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy. This completes the transfer of all conversation property previously owned by the town.

The Town Council Passed the 2011 Fire Protection Agreement with the Fremont Fire Department. The agreement is a 5% increase of \$1,135 to \$23,835 for the year. The Fremont Fire Department currently has eight pieces of equipment and twenty-six firefighters (2 of whom are full-time) to serve our community.

The town continued the discussion of the private/public road topic. It was decided that the town would investigate the issue by retaining the Guardian Title Company to determine if the road from 424 to 466 Lake Drive is a private or public road. The road was determined to be a public road and the town will now solicit two estimates from surveyors to determine the actual road location and its right of way.

In August the search committee for a new Zoning Administrator completed its search and hired Amy Schweitzer. She competed with 9 other candidates and was chosen because of her planning and zoning background, organizational skills, and her work with Ground Rules Inc. This is a part time position.

The Town Council continued its discussion on the merits of having staggered terms for the Town Council members. The general consensus was that they should be staggered so there can be some continuity in our government. Ordinance 2010-08 for staggered council member terms had its first reading at the September council meeting.

At the September council meeting Town Attorney Neal Blythe reported on the status of the litigation on four cases. One case is still pending in Lagrange County while another case is expected to be dismissed by both parties. The Sewer Hook-up case continues to move forward. The Inverse Condemnation suit is scheduled for trial in Angola on September 27th to October 1st. Editors Note: The attorneys for both parties negotiated an out of court settlement of this suit on September 28, 2010.

At the September Council meeting Town Clerk Kay Kummer presented the 2011 Budget and a Public Hearing was conducted. Also at the September meeting Ordinance 2010-06 Zoning and Planning Fees, and Ordinance 2010-07 Discharge of Weapons in town limits had their first readings.

The bow & arrow designated deer hunt this year will be conducted from Oct.12 to Jan 1. The hunting will be supervised by the Indiana DNR and will only be conducted only on private property with the owner's permission.

Please be sure to update your owner information if you have moved or changed any other important information. You may use our Owner Information Link on the town website, www.townofclearlake.org or call the Town Hall 260-495-9158 Monday thru Friday from 8 am to 4 pm to make any changes that are necessary.

The Town Council members and all the town employees hope that you have a great fall and holiday season.

Bob Lewis, President
Town of Clear Lake Council

Marshal's Report

As Fall sets in on the lake community and things begin to slow down, I want to take a chance and remind everyone to use common sense when preparing your seasonal residence for the winter. As I have many

times, I am requesting resident's refrain from covering their mailbox in any way as it is an immediate indicator that nobody is home. I would also like to remind everyone who is coming to and from the lake to look and report any suspicious activity right away. This basic level of a neighborhood watch program has proved to be very successful.

For the most part, crime is down in this community which still goes against the national trends. I feel the biggest contributor to this is you, the residents of Clear Lake. Though it has been hard to form an official "Neighborhood Watch" program, the basic principles of the program are in place and being used.

I am happy to report that the summer season was a safe one. I would also like to thank the Sheriff's Department Marine Patrol for providing patrol on the weekends throughout the summer. This program has been extremely beneficial to the Clear Lake community with our efforts to keep the lake a safe place to relax and have fun.

Once again, I would like to thank all of you for allowing myself and the other officers to serve you.

John Gonya
Town Marshal

CLEAR LAKE HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

What a year! The much anticipated "Clear LakeA Place to Remember" was released for sale on Friday, July 2, 2010, to the delight of the Clear Lake Heritage Committee and all Clear Lake enthusiasts.

Our project began in August of 2008 when chairman, Bonnie Brown, presented the outline of the book to the earliest (unsuspecting) members of our eventual 36 member committee. Thus began 18 months of exciting research and grueling writing. The first order of business was to publish our 17-month "All roads lead to Clear Lake" historical calendar. This was done for 3 reasons: 1) to introduce the book project to Clear Lake; 2) to request information; and 3) to begin raising money for publishing the book. In the end, about 650 copies were sold.

The book kick-off pre-sales campaign began on July 3, 2009 in tandem with the highly successful Family Sponsor program. By the end of 2009 our book was in the black due to strong pre-sales and 47 wonderful families (THANK-YOU) coming forth with honorary tributes. Our pre-sales far surpassed the publisher's 25% expected participation, when our books arrived, we had 50% PRE-SOLD!

"Clear LakeA Place to Remember" became a collection of memories shared by those who love Clear Lake. This is a project that could not have been achievable without the commitment and generosity of the community. You supplied the material; the devoted committee recorded it. Co-Chair, Beth McCracken expertly recorded the memories from 250 and the families who shared their Clear Lake story.

Throughout this same time period, the 2nd edition of the beautifully-illustrated watercolor Clear Lake historical map was also being offered for sale. Many persons enjoyed Christmas morning of 2009, opening their own copy of this colorful reflection into our past. We sold 36 copies.

January 13, 2010 was the climatic day that the completed book manuscript was turned over to Remnant Publishing of Coldwater, MI. The months that followed were filled with much reading and re-reading, additional editing, layout and color approval and unavoidable delays. Our motto became: "The book is worth

waiting for!” Finally on the evening of Thursday, July 1, we saw our book for the first time; tears and hugs abounded. The whirlwind next 60 days of strong sales reduced our original 1115 copies down to just 140 remaining by the first day of September.

This project was so overwhelming that it became a driving force in the lives of several committee members. Your enthusiastic endorsement is heartwarming and deeply gratifying to those who contributed to this project of love for Clear Lake. Once more, we say THANK YOU.

Since Clear Lake History books are selling out quickly, we recommend you make your final purchases SOON as the numbers of copies remaining are few. Books can be purchased for \$50 each at the following locations:

Beth McCracken--1110 Lake Drive

Clear Lake Town Hall--5950 Gecowets Drive

Walt Chaput--1060 Lake Drive

Barn Stable Antiques, 330 E State Rd 120, Fremont

Kay Ivy--322 Lake Drive

Bent Fork Art Studio--Public Square, Angola

Bonnie Brown--40 Powhattan Ct, Round Lake

Fremont and Angola Libraries

Bonnie Brown

LAWN FERTILIZER UPDATE

This is your Fall REMINDER to use only PHOSPHORUS FREE fertilizers for any fall lawn fertilizer application. All our local retailers carry Phosphorus Free lawn care products and should be able to provide you with what you need. The Middle number on the bag is the indicator of Phosphorus content. To be PHOSPHORUS FREE that number should be 0. If you use a lawn application service make sure they are aware you want them to apply only Phosphorus Free Fertilizer.

Clear Lake and Steuben County have been the leaders in the State of Indiana to emphasize the need to reduce the phosphorus levels in our lakes, rivers and streams. Thanks to our Clear Lake Ordinance and your diligence in helping to “Keep the Clear in Clear Lake “by using Phosphorus Free lawn fertilizer, others across the state have followed our lead. Recently there has been confirmation of legislative support for the Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF) Phosphorus-Free Lawn Fertilizer Campaign. A bill restricting phosphorus use in lawn fertilizer across the State of Indiana will be introduced in the House by Representative Dick Dodge and Representative Nancy Dembrowski. The legislation applies only to use of Lawn fertilizers. Agricultural land and garden food production are exempt. Property owners across Indiana will be limited to the use of Phosphorus Free lawn fertilizer for lawn maintenance. Exceptions will be granted for establishing new turf lawns which may need extra phosphorus to establish that first year of root growth and when a soil test indicates low phosphorus in the soil. Two additional limitations included in the Bill are: 1) the restriction of fertilizer applications between November 15 and April 1, a time when the ground is frozen allowing fertilizer runoff to directly enter the lake and 2) the limitation of any fertilizers or pesticides within 20 feet of any pond, river, stream lake, or natural wetland.

Such legislation has become necessary to protect our waters from algae blooms that have become out of control. Prolific algae blooms are not only harmful to aquatic life but in some cases, dangerous to pets and humans. Recent news articles have highlighted Lake St. Mary's in Ohio that was closed to public use due to toxic algae blooms. Within the State of Indiana, Ball Lake was closed for a month due to severe algae blooms. Several lakes within Steuben County are now chemically treating their waters to control invasive species and excessive weed growth. While phosphorus isn't the only factor impacting water quality, it promotes weed and algae growth. It only makes Good Common Sense that we do what we can as lake residents to limit the

entrance of phosphorus into our Clear Lake waters.

I will keep you abreast of any new information that I become aware of, regarding the Indiana proposed legislation which is intended to be enacted on July 1, 2012. This should allow time for retailers across the state to adjust their inventory and for the State Chemist's Office to administer new certification and training for professional applicators.

Mary Jo Fitzenrider

PUBLIC BEACH AT CLEAR LAKE

You may have noticed some improvements this summer at the Public Beach at Clear Lake. Improvements were made to the Beach thanks to the County as well as volunteer efforts of a group of Clear Lake residents.

This year, the County Commissioners contracted with a local firm to have the property mowed and maintained. Dick Metz was responsible for regularly mowing the area and maintaining the upper level of the Beach property. Many people observed that the Beach was as well maintained as it has been in recent memory.

In addition, a group calling themselves "Friends of the Public Beach at Clear Lake" approached the County about making further improvements to address some safety concerns. These issues included repairing the handrail on the stairs leading to the Beach, repairing broken steps on the stairway, installing an exit stairway and railing at the base of the stair platform and reinforcing the platform at the base of the stairs.

A volunteer day was established with the help and coordination of Barbara and Kimberly Wenger and donations were solicited to help with the effort. Thanks to the work of nearly 30 volunteers and the County, the stair railing was repaired and an exit stairway and railing was installed at the base of the stair platform. In addition, work was completed on the Beach and areas of the hill leading to the Beach that had suffered erosion damage were reinforced with sod. The picnic tables at the top of the hill were repainted and a bench swing was installed at the crest of the hill.

The "Friends of the Public Beach at Clear Lake" also suggested to the County Commissioners that a long term plan was needed to continue improving the Beach. Some of the suggestions included the installation of a pavilion, the addition of permanent rest rooms, and terracing of the hill to address Beach erosion issues. These additions could not only benefit County residents and visitors, it could also benefit residents of Clear Lake by providing a space for group events.

While the improvements that were made this year were substantial, Friends of the Public Beach at Clear Lake view them as the first step in a more substantial renovation process. More information will follow as long term options for the Beach are reviewed.

David Harris

ROMP, ROMP, ROMP, THE ALGAE IS IN THE SWAMP

Every year at this time we appeal to all residents to make sure they do not rake their leaves into the lake. It turns out that this is not enough as our algae bloom last spring taught us. If you think you are out-smarting the lake by not putting your leaves and yard wastes in the lake, but instead are dumping them in the swamps and wet areas around the lake; YOU ARE THE PROBLEM and THE SOLUTION. Any organic matter being

dumped in wet areas around the lake to decompose ends up in Clear Lake. No matter who you are, you cannot outsmart Mother Nature. If you try, we all will swim in algae and have more weed growth each year.

We at Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Inc. are working with the town to develop a program to handle the huge amount of yard wastes that is generated each year. Until we get a complete plan to handle the problem, we beg of you to be responsible for your own yard wastes **NOT** going in the lake, either directly or indirectly. Thank you from the bottom of our lake!

Jim Skinner, President
Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy

NEWS FROM THE CLEAR LAKE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

On Tuesday, November 9, 2010 the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy will hold an open forum to present the results of the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Grant Engineering Design, Feasibility Study and Natural Resource Assessment for the Clear Lake Watershed. The meeting will take place at 7 PM November 9th at Saint Paul's Catholic Church. The Davey Resource Group, our consultants for the study, will present their findings and answer questions. The forum is open to all interested in Clear Lake and its watershed. We encourage attendance. The more we know about the land and waters of the Clear Lake Watershed, the better prepared we are to protect and preserve them.

Did you know?

- The Clear Lake Watershed consists of all the land that water passes over or through on its way to Clear Lake. A total of 4,419-acre make up the Clear Lake Watershed.
- The sub watersheds of Clear Lake include:
 - the Cyrus Brouse Ditch sub watershed which totals 1,166 acres,
 - the Harry Teeters Ditch sub watershed which totals 887 acres,
 - the Lake Anne sub watershed which totals 203 acres,
 - the Alvin Patterson Ditch sub watershed which totals 83 acres,
 - the Peter Smith Ditch sub watershed which totals 320 acres.
 - The balance of the Clear Lake Watershed is considered the Clear Lake sub watershed and totals 1,760 acres.

Come to the forum to learn more. We look forward to seeing you there! Caring for all the land and wet areas is the key to caring for Clear Lake.

Annie Skinner

SUGGESTIONS FOR WINTERIZING YOUR HOME

While many will continue to enjoy Clear Lake during the winter, others will only be occasional visitors and a majority will be closing their homes until next spring. Here is a list of things you should consider to protect your home while you are gone for an extended period.

- Even if you leave your heat on it is recommended that you turn off your water supply and drain the pipes. When you drain your pressure tank(s), hot water heater and water softener please do so into a drain that connects to your grinder. It would also be helpful to fill and drain the bath tub a couple of times before you shut things down. The more liquid left in the grinder during long periods of inactivity the better. Don't

forget to drain flexible spray hoses in sinks or showers, the washer inlet hoses, the dishwasher inlet and outlet hoses and outside hose faucets

- Fill all drain traps (shower, toilets, sinks, tubs, wash basins) with non-toxic RV antifreeze. You can prevent water in the toilet trap's from evaporating (and thereby permitting sewer gases to enter the home) by raising the toilets lid and seat and covering the bowl with saran wrap. Run a small amount of cooking oil thru the garbage disposal to coat the inside and prevent rust.
- To help conserve energy when the home is not occupied, consider installing a low-heat thermostat. By doing this your home could be maintained at about 40 F. without a freeze-up, rather than at 55 F which is the lowest temperature at which most thermostats can be set. However keep the thermostat at 58 F if you have plaster walls to prevent cracks. Regardless of the thermostat setting consider installing a low temperature alarm. Units that display a signal light and will automatically call a phone number can be purchased for as little as \$60.
- It is a wise idea to turn off all non-essential electrical circuit breakers. Only leave on those circuits that control security lighting and the furnace. Electrical fires can and do happen even though an appliance or fixture is in the off position. Unplug all electronic and electrical appliances i.e. TV, VCR, toasters, dryer, washer, etc. Any charging devices should also be unplugged. This is a good idea if there is an electrical storm so no surges get to these devices and blow them out. Don't forget to unplug the garage door openers!
- Clean out the fridge and don't leave anything in there which is likely to go bad during the time you are away. If you have things in the freezer, empty it; don't leave anything in it in case the electricity is off for an extended period of time; you won't necessarily be aware and the food will have thawed and refrozen, which is very dangerous. If you must leave frozen food, here is one method for determining if your freezer has warmed during the winter: freeze a container of water solid, then place a coin on the surface of the ice; if the coin has sunk into the ice when you return, then the freezer warmed, letting the ice melt and then refreeze.
- Make it look like someone is home. This you can do by buying a couple of light timers and setting them up to turn on automatically in the evenings. Do not leave valuables that may attract thieves. Remove or hide articles in the house and garage that can be sold and converted to cash such as guns, radios, TV sets, tools or other valuables. At the very least, move them out of the line of sight from windows. Also remember this advice from Marshal Gonya: **"I am requesting resident's refrain from covering their mailbox in any way as it is an immediate indicator that nobody is home."**
- To keep out animals cover chimneys tightly so that raccoons cannot enter the house or birds fall down the chimney. Stop up any places in the foundation or around the eaves where squirrels, chipmunks, mice or other small animals can enter
- Be sure your emergency contact information is up-to-date at the Town Hall. It is also helpful if someone staying at Clear Lake knows how to get in touch with you as well and knows if the power is on or off, the pipes drained or not, etc. Every winter we do have power outages, falling trees and limbs, and broken pipes. Your neighbors want to help but they cannot if they don't know how to get in touch with you.
- A year-round request. Please do not run egg shells thru your garbage disposal and into the grinder. The egg shells can be very harmful to the rubber gaskets in the grinder pump. throw your egg shells into the trash.



CLEAR LAKE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 2010

- 11** Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
- 18** Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
- 31** Halloween Trick-Or-Treat, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

November 2010

- 2** General Elections - Clear Lake Precinct, 6 a.m. - 6 p.m., Town Hall
- 3** Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- 8** Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
- 9** CLTLC Watershed Study Results Presentation, 7 p.m. Saint Paul's Catholic Church.
- 25/26** Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2010

- 13** Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- 20** Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- 24** Town Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday
- 31** Town Offices Closed for New Year's Day Holiday

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.



CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION
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