



# Clear Lake

# NEWS

JANUARY – MARCH 2011

## ANOTHER WINTERY DAY AT CLEAR LAKE

That's me cleaning off the ice so the kids can ice skate and maybe plays another hockey game. Many thoughts were going through my head at the time:

1. It is very cold.
2. The wind keeps blowing the snow into my face.
3. I'm not getting this clean enough for hockey.
4. I should be inside watching football.
5. Where do I rent a zamboni?

Actually, the only thought was how great it is to live at Clear Lake. It's been a wonderful winter season. We had an early ice that was very smooth and clear making ice skating was great. Ice hockey games lasted for hours. The ice boats were cruising across many parts of the lake. Many Lakers have been out cross-country skiing. The snow is finally adding up and the snowmobiles are running day and night. I was also told that someone had been out on the lake kite boarding.



Have a safe and warm winter season.

Rick Behnfeldt, Clear Lake Association

## TOWN COUNCIL 2010 REVIEW

2010 was a busy and challenging year. Like many other cities and towns we have been trying to provide the same level of services knowing that some funds may not become available. This cannot be done unless we have committed and talented employees who find ways to get the job done.

Bob Hull, Town Superintendent—Bob helped get another section of our roads paved this year and saved enough money to have the maintenance area paved. We have also determined that some of the private roads will become public and will be paved in the future. Bob continues to repair and rebuild the grinder pumps when needed. He is now documenting this work on a computer system so we can track this maintenance.

Bob has completed the Clear Lake sewer contingency plan. This plan is to be used in the event we have an emergency with our sewer system.

We have made some improvements in the maintenance area by putting in a concrete approach to the salt barn and getting a new salt spreader for the truck.

Kay Kummer, Clerk-Treasurer—In addition to all of the daily tasks required of the Clerk-Treasurer Kay has spent most of the year updating all of our financial records. She is also proactive in getting the best CD rates available for our funds. She has also taken on the responsibility of getting our old ordinances updated and ready for codification.

Laura Farquhar, Office Manager/Billing Clerk—when you call the town hall Laura is the person who is your first contact and she usually can answer all your questions or get you to the person that knows the answer. She also is in charge of all our billing for sewer and garbage. This year Laura collected \$12,107 from the county treasurer for late pay, fines, and penalties.

Amy Schweitzer, Planner/Zoning Administrator—following the retirement of Bruce Snyder in August the Town Council conducted interviews for a new zoning administrator. We were very fortunate to be able to hire Amy. She has experience as a planner and zoning administrator. Having worked with Ground Rules Inc. she is also familiar with our own UDO. She brings a lot of professionalism to the position and has made an immediate impact on our zoning operations

John Gonya, Marshall—after the election in November John was promoted to the position of Chief Deputy in the Steuben County Sherriff's Department. The town council had some concerns about our police coverage at Clear Lake. Alan Korte and I had the opportunity to sit down with John and Sheriff Tim Troyer to discuss our concerns. John assured us that by revamping the schedules we will have the same coverage we had in the past. This partnership with the county continues to be beneficial to the town of Clear Lake.

Neal Blythe, Town Attorney—at the start of the year we had several lawsuits in litigation. One case was settled out of court and one case was dismissed. We have another case where the payment of attorney fees is to be determined and a Clear Lake sewer hook-up case. This case is in the process for compelling residents to connect to the sewer system. Neal has done an excellent job in keeping these cases moving forward. We look forward to resolution in both of these cases.

The Town Council has also continued to improve the governance of the town in 2010:

Legislation: We had another busy year with 11 new ordinances. One notable ordinance is the ordinance for staggered terms for the town council. This ordinance allows the council to have experienced council members on the council from one term to the next.

Fire Protection Agreement: The town council signed and passed the 2011 fire protection agreement with the Fremont Fire Department. Fremont has provided us with great service through the year and has added a boat with pumping capabilities this year. Many of us witnessed the great job they do this when they pulled three hunters out of the lake this year.

Transfer of Property: All conservancy type property owned by the town has now been transferred to the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy. These transfers include the Hanna Preserve and the Clear Lake Town Park.

Clear Lake deer hunt: This was our second year for the controlled deer hunt. John Deem of the DNR reported that nine deer were taken and they were pleased with the results. They are looking forward to helping us again next year.

Thank you: The council would like to thank the Clear Lake Association for its donation of two blue spruce trees planted at the town hall. They are a welcome addition and will be enjoyed by all in the years to come.

Thank you for your help and support.

Bob Lewis, Clear Lake Town Council

## MARSHAL'S REPORT

Happy New Year! Winter is here but so far, it hasn't been too bad. I haven't even had a chance to test our new 4x4 patrol vehicle due to lack of snow. I am sure that will change soon though.

The Police Department has implemented the new patrol schedule and it seems to be working well. Officer McCarty is conducting night patrols a few nights a week and comes in on one to two weekdays per week. Officer Compton and I split the weeknights and weekend patrol duties. As the warm weather approaches, we will re-evaluate the hours and adjust accordingly.

I recently noticed an increase in the amount of ice fisherman around the lake and noticed they are parking in different spots than the previous years. If you are a seasonal resident and do not want the ice fisherman parking at your property, please email me at [marshal@townofclearlake.org](mailto:marshal@townofclearlake.org) . I will compile a list of properties where they cannot park and have their vehicles moved if they are found parking there.

On behalf of the Clear Lake Police Department, have a safe and prosperous New Year.  
John Gonya, Town Marshal

## ICE SAFETY TIP

We have already had several incidents in Steuben and the surrounding Counties of individuals falling through lake ice. Here is an easy to make "life saver" to have with you when you are on any lake ice.

### Instructions for making Ice Claws

1. Get two 4" pieces of wooden doweling the size of a broom handle or a little larger. Whatever material you select, it should float in case you drop the claws while struggling.
2. Drive a stout nail into one end of each dowel. This should be a hardened 16 penny or larger concrete nail.
3. Saw off the head of the nail and use a file to sharpen the nail heads to a point.
4. Get the loudest whistle you can buy.
5. Drill a hole into the dowels (in the end opposite the nail) or use a self taping eye-hook. Put the whistle on a length of strong cord or rawhide and then tie the cord through the hole or eye-hook so a pick is on each end "jump-rope" fashion.
6. You may also drill a hole in the ends alongside the nails so the nail on the other pick can nest in the hole, keeping both points covered.
7. Keep the picks in your pocket or around your neck (better) for quick emergency access if you or companions do break through.



If you do break through, try to remain calm.

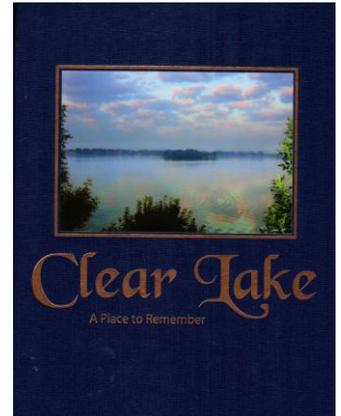
1. Turn in the water towards the direction you came from - that is probably the strongest ice.
2. Dig the points of the picks into the ice and while vigorously kicking your feet, pull yourself onto the surface by sliding forward on the ice.
3. Roll away from the area of weak ice. Rolling on the ice will distribute your weight to help avoid breaking through again.
4. Get to shelter, heat, warm dry clothing and warm, non-alcoholic, and non-caffeinated drinks.

If a companion falls through the ice remember the phrase "**REACH-THROW-GO**" If you are unable to **REACH** your friend from shore, **THROW** him or her a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or your ice claws. If this does not work, **GO** for help before you also become a victim. Call 911 and get medical assistance for the victim immediately.

### CLEAR LAKE ...A PLACE TO REMEMBER

The Clear Lake Heritage Committee would like to commend the generosity of Jackie and Bill Feil (cottage #667) in purchasing two history books to be donated to the Fremont Middle and High School libraries. They were presented in memory of Jackie's mother, Penny Ross Kimble, co-founder of Wesanetta Lodge built in 1931 on the East shore. (See related story in the history book pages 84-5.)

The inventory of books remains in the 140 area, you may still purchase at: Clear Lake Town Hall, Fremont and Angola Libraries, Bonnie Brown (40 Powhattan Court, Round Lake) and Susie Compo (#414 Lake Drive).



### THE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Clear Lake Conservancy Water Quality Committee wants to thank all who attended the November 9, 2010 Clear Lake Conservancy meeting at St Paul's Catholic Church. Alicia Douglass, Davey Resource Group biologist presented the findings of the Engineering Design and Natural Resource Assessment to Clear Lake Township landowners and Clear Lake residents. Fifty four people were in attendance.

Many Township landowners in the Clear Lake watershed are continuing the work of the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Grant project by meeting and addressing identified *critical areas* and other *areas of concern* located on their land. These landowners are utilizing their time, expertise and funds to reduce sediment and nutrients from entering the county drainage system which flows into Clear Lake. The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy praises their efforts and will support their work in any way they can.

The Conservancy will hold another meeting early Summer 2011 to present the findings of the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) grant project to summer residents. The date will be posted in upcoming newsletters, on the Conservancy website and Clear Lake Fun Bulletin Board.

The Engineering Design and Natural Resource Assessment Report is available at the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Website: <http://clearlakeindiana.org/conservancy/>

The Water Quality Committee continues to research the effects of leaves dumped near ditches that feed the lake or in perimeter wetlands. The concern is the nutrients produced by leaf decomposition entering Clear Lake. The Town Council is aware of this concern and is looking for a solution for the handling Clear Lake's leaves.

I want to acknowledge my committee by name for all their work over the past two years. My thanks to: Mary Jo Fitzenrider, Joann Stanley, Bruce Spangler, Sue Williams, Rita Helmuth, Greg Brown, Ken Geockel, Dave Davis, Diane McArdle, Peg Zeis, Don Luepke, Tom Kaiser and Pat Long.

If you are at Clear Lake, enjoy the snow and the beautiful, bountiful place we call home.

If you are not at Clear Lake, hurry back.

Annie Skinner

**READY TO GET OUTDOORS?  
CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN HELP RESTORE HEALTHY LAKE COMMUNITIES  
Tips from the Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF)**

Before long, seasons will change once again. What you put on any surface near your home, from your driveway to your yard, affects water quality. Use deicing materials cautiously during the remaining weeks of winter. The active chemicals found in these products can be harmful to turf grass, and salt can contaminate water sources by dissolving into soil and reaching aquifers. Sand and cat litter are good alternatives to salt.

Excess nutrients also lead to water problems. Pet waste contains high concentrations of nutrients that contribute to algal blooms in lakes and ponds. Pick-up pet waste and dispose of properly. Once the snow melts, if you choose to fertilize, test your soil's nutrient levels first—if it has enough phosphorus, use a phosphorus-free fertilizer, or avoid fertilizer altogether. Instead of fertilizing, you can recycle any grass clippings or leaves as mulch. This organic material already contains nutrients that can be degraded by the microbes and replenish the soil. Rich soil absorbs and filters precipitation. Keep in mind, the best time to fertilize is during the fall. For helpful advice, visit [www.indianawildlife.org/phosphorus.htm](http://www.indianawildlife.org/phosphorus.htm).

IWF's proposed phosphorus-free legislation will come up during this year's session. Representative Dodge agreed to introduce the policy that restricts phosphorus-enriched fertilizer for residential landowners. Senator Kruse is also working on phosphorus-free lawn care and introduced a bill permitting a political subdivision to regulate the use of fertilizer if it contains phosphorus and is intended for lawn care. See details at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/index.htm>.

**NEED YOUR HELP**

**Is your information in the Clear Lake Directory up-to-date?** The 2011 directory will go to print in February. Please send your updates to Laura Farquhar by calling 260-495-9158, by email to [billing@townofclearlake.org](mailto:billing@townofclearlake.org) or utilize the "Update Owner Info" link on the Town website: [www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org)

**As a courtesy to others,** please do not move the snow from your walks and driveway onto the town roads. The town crews work hard to keep the roads as clear as possible. Snow from your property in the roads creates a hazard and extra work. Please move the snow onto non traffic area, not into the road. This goes for grass clippings and leaves as well.

There will be a public meeting to discuss the **Clear Lake Crime Watch** program Saturday February 5, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. at the Clear Lake Town Hall. All those interested in participating in Crime Watch are invited to attend. For further information contact Emma Brown, 495-1700 or [emmajoyce@frontier.com](mailto:emmajoyce@frontier.com) or Bruce Spangler, 495-3954 or [clearlake222@yahoo.com](mailto:clearlake222@yahoo.com)

**Notice a streetlight out?** If you notice a streetlight that is broken or burned out, you can visit NIPSCO.com and submit a request to have it fixed. An interactive map identifies all of the streetlights owned or maintained by NIPSCO. It helps to have the pole number but it is not necessary as you can search for the streetlight by address or location. You will have to zoom into the map for Clear Lake several times. If you don't have web access you can still call NIPSCO to report the outage.



**CLEAR LAKE COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**JANUARY 2011**

10 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

**FEBRUARY 2011**

5 Crime Watch public meeting, 9:00 a.m. Town Hall  
7 Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
14 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
21 Town Offices closed for President's Day Holiday  
21 Board of Zoning Appeals. 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

**MARCH 2011**

14 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

Town Hall is located at 5950 Gecowets Drive, Clear Lake, Indiana

**SUMMER EVENTS--2011**

**June 11** Boater Safety Class, 8:00 a.m. Town Hall  
**July 2** Clear Lake Association Fireworks Display, Dusk, Kasota Island

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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