



Clear Lake

NEWS

JANUARY – MARCH 2012

GREETINGS

On behalf of the Clear Lake Association, I wish you and yours a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. As President of the Association, I would like to thank you for your support of the Association and the activities we sponsor. I am a "nonresident" president but one who has enjoyed Clear Lake for many years. I know the Association will continue to be guided by its mission statement and bring benefit to ALL who enjoy life at Clear Lake.

The board members of the Association will be meeting soon to plan projects for 2012, addressing issues of Clear Lake and to share information of interest to Clear Lake property owners. To encourage your comments, questions or concerns for our board meeting discussions, I have included my email address and my (OH) telephone number. Please send me your feedback or write me c/o the Association at P.O. Box 38, Fremont, Indiana 46737.

To ensure you receive further mailings and information from the Town/Association, please notify the Town office or the Association of any changes of addresses, phone numbers or email addresses.

Here's to a safe, enjoyable 2012 at Clear Lake.

Mary Lee Gecowets, President
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1040 Lake Drive, 495-3519 (summer)

TOWN COUNCIL 2011 REVIEW

2011 will be remembered for its cold weather in the first part of the year and its storms during the summer that caused extensive damage around the lake.

In any event our employees and elected officials continued to find ways to get the job done no matter what circumstances existed.

Bob Hull---Superintendent---Bob helped get the long awaited Point Park Drive paved this year. We are appreciative of everyone's patience in getting this job completed. For next year's paving the survey has been done for the Arcadia Beach area. Bob has also put in several new drains and catch basins around the lake. We also have a new roof and siding on the garage and a new salt spreader. Bob and his crew of helpers started our new leaf pick-up program this year which was very successful. We plan to continue this program next year.

Kay Kummer---Clerk/Treasurer---Kay spent a good part of the time last year getting all our ordinances up to date so they could be codified. We are now looking into the possibility of doing our own codification each year.

Amy Schweitzer---Planner/Zoning Administrator---Amy has upgraded our zoning process by having prompt, clear, and concise communications with residents and contractors. By doing this she has become a partner with residents and contractors in the development process.

Laura Rowe---Office Manager/Billing---Laura continues to head up all our communications and billing for services. She has spent much of this year getting all the sewer easements taken care of in the Point Park area.

John Gonya---Marshal---John and his deputies split their time this year so Clear Lake would have full coverage. John reported that this year was fairly quiet with no significant problems.

Neal Blythe---Town Attorney---We started the year with several lawsuits to be litigated and we are down to two at this time. It is our hope that 2012 will bring an end to the remaining lawsuits.

As you know we have been working on the renaming of several of our streets for about six months. Most of the work has been done and we continue to work with the Emergency Management Department, GIS, Post Office, Fire Department, County and State police, EMS and the court clerk's office.

In our discussions with these agencies it was brought to our attention the Lake Drive needs to have more clarity. They are suggesting the use of East Clear Lake Drive, South Clear Lake Drive and West Clear Lake Drive. This would eliminate the need to have Clear Lake in the address but this would make it necessary to change some of the sequence numbers for some houses. Our intent is to make sure the changes we make are clear to everyone so we don't have to make changes later. We also want to be sure that this will improve the emergency response time here at Clear Lake.

At this time all street name changes are on HOLD with the exception of Point Park Drive (416-464). Property owners on Point Park Drive should have received a change notification from the town and should proceed with sending notification of the change.

The remaining street name changes will be done in stages. Obviously all of the changes will not be implemented by February 15, ²⁰¹² as previously announced. We will continue to refine this process and report our progress on our website and in the Clear Lake News. Thank you

Bob Lewis, President
Clear Lake Town Council

MARSHAL'S REPORT

Happy New Year! Winter is here but so far you wouldn't really know it. I am sure that soon enough we will be tired of the snow though. It seems strange that there hasn't been ice on the lake at this point.

The Police Department is working the winter schedule and focusing on night patrols. Officer McCarty is doing some office duties during the week for anyone needing vehicle or boat inspections, handgun permits, or golf cart inspections. Officer Compton and I both try to work at least one weekend day for the same reasons.

Overall, 2011 was a quiet year for the police department. Most crimes were down significantly from last year, especially thefts from vehicles. It is my hope that everyone is locking their cars and removing all valuable items.

I have also noticed a significant decrease in homes that appear to be unoccupied during the off season. Quite a few residents have taken the time to make their home look lived in and deter the criminals from taking a second look.

On behalf of the Clear Lake Police Department, have a safe and prosperous New Year!

John Gonya
Town Marshal

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

On July 30, 2011 the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy held its 2nd Annual Summer Gala. The Water Quality Committee provided the educational component to the evening, and Pete Hippensteel participated as our expert guest. Pete provided information and was available to answer questions about lake water quality and shoreline property values. As a follow-up, Pete's article, *The Double Standard*, addresses additional insights on those subjects.

THE DOUBLE STANDARD

Pete Hippensteel, Technical Vice President of Steuben County Lakes Council

Also, during the past year, the results of the National Lakes Assessment (NLA) of 2007 have been released to the public. The lakes of Northeastern Indiana are grouped in the Upper Midwest Ecoregion. Almost all of these lakes are of glacial origin. This study, found at the website listed at the end of this article, indicates that there are several factors that stress these natural lakes. These factors, listed in the order of the magnitude of their impact, are: removal of shoreline habitat, high nutrient inputs, large amounts of blue-green algae growth, and high turbidity. This study states that "local, state, and national initiatives should center on shoreline habitats, particularly vegetative cover, and nutrient loads to protect the integrity of lakes."

Within the Upper Midwest Ecoregion, "Forty-six percent of these lakes show moderate to high levels of lakeshore human disturbance." Also, the stressors of nutrients and turbidity are considered good for sixty-six percent and seventy-seven percent respectively, with less than nine percent of the lakes rated poor for these two stressors. These same lakes exhibit relatively low risk to toxins produced by blue-green algae. Microcystin, the most common blue-green alga toxin, was found in twenty-three percent of these lakes at low risk levels. At the same time that the National Lakes Assessment is indicating that shoreline alteration is the largest stressor on the lakes; the land assessed value of the shoreline property of the Northeastern Indiana lakes with the most intense shoreline development indicates the opposite. The lakes with the highest intensity recreational use have on the average 3.5 times the economic value per shoreline parcel as lakes with low intensity use.

High speed boating, seawalls to protect the shoreline from wave action created by the boats, large piers and boat lifts to park the boats, weed control programs to reduce the interference with boating and swimming, and other toys such as trampolines all have a negative impact on the shoreline habitat the NLA says should be the focus for protection.

Guess who wins: economics or the biological integrity of the lakes? With our zeal to use every square inch of shoreline for high intensity recreation activities, have we jeopardized the integrity of the lake we have come to enjoy? What can the riparian owners do to minimize their impact on the shoreline environment? You need to leave as much of your shoreline as natural as possible. Use glacial stone for your seawall, even in front of your concrete seawall, to reduce wave reflection. Create as small a footprint in the lake as possible with your pier and water toys. Use non-phosphate fertilizer on your lawns and do not rake your leaves into the lake.

Remember that you, your neighbors, and other lake users will all enjoy a healthy lake. It's also good for the economy!

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CLEAR LAKE LEAF PICK-UP: A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Town of Clear Lake wishes to extend its appreciation to all of you who participated in our first roadside leaf pick-up this year. The participation in this project exceeded our expectations with well over fifty percent of the property owners moving their leaves to the roadside for pick-up. We delivered over 875 cubic yards of leaves to the Fremont compost site, more than the Town of Fremont collected. The American Lung Association states that one ton of burning leaves releases thirty eight pounds of particulate matter into the air. Using the US EPA standard that one cubic yard of leaves weigh approximately 500 pounds, we avoided releasing over 8,312 pounds of particulate matter into the air! ($875 \text{ cu yd} \times 500 \text{ lb} = 437,500 \text{ lb} \div 2,000 \text{ lb/ton} = 218.75 \text{ tons} \times 38 \text{ lb/ton} = 8,312 \text{ pounds}$)

Unfortunately, towards the end of our planned pick-up, both leaf-vac machines broke down and we were unable to complete the leaf pick-up using the vacuums; however the Town of Clear Lake contracted with M & C Trenching to pick-up and haul away the remaining piles of wet and frozen leaves.

The Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District loaned us the equipment so the town's only costs were for some modifications to the town dump truck, fuel and the three men required to operate the equipment.

Town Superintendent Bob Hull and his crew did an outstanding job in getting this project off to a great start in 2011. We have received many positive comments and plan to continue this service in 2012. An even more environmentally friendly method of leaf disposal is to mulch them with your lawn mower. Almost all mower manufactures offer very efficient mulching kits for mowers.

WHEN IS ICE SAFE?

We have only had a skim of ice on the lakes so far this winter season but we have seen ice fisher people out on this ice. Crazy! Now is a good time to review some of the common sense things to remember for safety on the ice.

SOME COLD FACTS ABOUT ICE:

- **New ice is usually stronger than old ice.** Four inches of clear newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.
- **Ice seldom freezes uniformly.** It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.
- **Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous.** This is especially true near under water springs, inlets, bridges and culverts.
- **The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process.** The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near the shore can be weaker than ice further out.
- **Booming and cracking isn't necessarily dangerous.** It only means the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.
- **Schools of fish or waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice.** The movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake and open holes in the ice.

ICE TIPS:

- Think in terms of the thermometer rather than the calendar!
- Check with locals about any known danger spots.
- Have a plan of what to do if you do break through. Carry rope, ice picks and a flotation device to help save your life or that of a companion

BE PREPARED:

- Always carry a pair of ice picks with you. Two short lengths of broom handle with nails sharpened on both ends and joined with a piece of strong line can be carried easily in your pocket. In case of an emergency, and while kicking, drive the nails into the ice and pull yourself to safety. Attach a loud whistle to the line as a way to attract attention.
- A plastic milk or detergent bottle can be loaded with 50' – 70' of nylon rope and kept in your car, snowmobile or with your fishing gear. To use, secure the free end of the line and throw the bottle to the victim.
- Know how to get out of the water if you fall through the ice. Don't panic, don't remove your winter clothing, turn toward the direction you came, place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface, kick your feet and dig in your ice picks, lie flat on the ice and roll, get to a warm, dry, sheltered area and get medical attention.
- Know how to help someone else who has fallen through the ice.
 - Call 911;
 - PREACH to the victim with reassuring and encouraging words;
 - REACH from the shore with a rope or ladder or even jumper cables;
 - THROW a rope or something that floats, have them tie the rope around themselves before they are to weak;
 - ROW if you can find a boat.
 - DO NOT GO--do not try and be a hero and go to the victim. Untrained, would be rescuers are often a second victim.

CLEAR LAKE CALENDAR

January 2012

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

February 2012

6-----Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

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

20----Town Offices Closed for Presidents' Day Holiday

20----Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

March 2012

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

REMINDER: TRASH SHOULD BE ROADSIDE BY 6:30 A.M.

⚙ 2012 SUMMER ACTIVITIES ⚙

- Saturday June 9th---Boater Safety Class, Town Hall,
- Friday, July 6th---Clear Lake Association Fireworks display at dusk. (Saturday July 7th rain date)
- Saturday, July 7th---Clear Lake Lions Club Chicken Barbeque, across from Lutheran Church
- Saturday July 7th---Boat Parade Details in the next edition of the Clear Lake News
- Saturday, July 14th---Clear Lake Lions Club 5K/10K Run/Walk
- Saturday, July 21st---Clear Lake Association Annual Meeting
- Sunday, July 29th---Ski Show at Clear Lake Yacht Club
- Saturday, August 11th---3rd Annual Conservancy Summer Gala

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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