



# Clear Lake

# NEWS

APRIL - JUNE 2012

## TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

The first quarter of the year was spent finishing up the Street Renaming Project and the remodeling of the basement of the Town Hall for use by the Clear Lake Association, Clear Lake Lions Club, Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy, the Water Quality Committee, the Historical Committee and the Town.

### Street Renaming Project:

1. **When did the project start?** The project started in June of 2011 with discussions with our Clear Lake Marshals and the Steuben County First Responders. They felt it was critical that we upgrade some of our street signs to avoid confusion (i.e. Lake Drive & Lake Drive at 6 locations) which could delay emergency response time.
2. **Who was involved in determining the street names?** The Town formed a committee with representatives from the BZA, the Plan Commission, the Clear Lake Association, the Town Council members, as well as the Town Superintendent, the Town Marshall, and the Fremont Fire Dept. The committee then went to work on street names using some names from the Historical Committee resources. Additional names were submitted by various residents around the lake. The final change was the segmenting of Lake Drive into three different segments (i.e. East Lake Drive, South Lake Drive, and West Lake Drive.) to facilitate timely and accurate response times. This change was made at the recommendation of our area first responders, Steuben County GIS, & the USPS Address management officials.
3. **Why did some of the numbers have to change?** To make it faster for first responder's our house numbers need to be in sequence. Many homes had even numbers where they should be odd numbers and vice/versa. Some sections had their numbers out of sequence and had to be changed.
4. **How will property owners be notified?** Each property owner will receive a letter showing their new address. You should have them by now. The changes are effective April 1st 2012. We encourage all of you to wait until that date before you make your personal changes. Please follow the instructions in your letter.
5. **Will the town publish a map of the changes?** The town is working with the Steuben County GIS Department to create some maps for Clear Lake. We will have a new directory this year with a map that will show the three segments of East, South & West Lake Drive We are still working on this and hope to have it ready by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

Finally, we are aware of the inconvenience and costs for all of us as a result of these changes but we hope that the information you receive will help in the transition. It is our hope that these changes will bring more clarification to the signage on the lake, better response time from our first responders, and provide for an even safer environment for Clear Lake.

### Spring Leaf Pick-up

We will have a onetime spring leaf pickup on May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. Have your leaves ready and across the road like we did in the fall.

## Let's Get Ready for Summer

Here is a reminder of some of the ordinances governing Clear Lake. If you rent your cottage out during the summer please post the following for your renters.

### *FIREWORKS ORDINANCE*

Fireworks that are legal in the State of Indiana (Class C) can be detonated during these hours:

- June 29 & 30, July 1 thru 3 and July 5 thru 9: 1:00 p.m. until two hours after sunset
- July 4: 10:00 a.m. until two hours after sunset
- Memorial Day & Labor Day, 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.; New Year's Eve (Dec. 31/Jan. 1) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

*ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE* This applies to the area within the town limits including Kasota Island:

- Prohibits animals running at large unless the animal is properly in leash, with the leash not to exceed ten feet in length;
- Requires confinement of every animal so that it cannot stray beyond the premises of the owner, keeper or harborer;
- Prohibits keeping or harboring any dog or other animal which barks, yelps, howls or creates disturbing noises which disturb the peace, quiet, and good order of the town;
- Prohibits defecation on public or private property or another unless the owner/custodian possesses the necessary tools and equipment to remove the defecation and requires immediate removal of defecation.

*GOLF CART ORDINANCE* The complete ordinance and references to the Indiana state law cited in the ordinance is available on the town website, [www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org) for your information. Here are the most pertinent points:

- The operator must have a valid driver's license (State law)
- The golf cart must be inspected by the town Marshal or his deputies and be registered with the Town of Clear Lake after inspection. (Thanks to all of you who have registered)
- To pass the Town required inspection the golf cart must:
  - Have a slow moving vehicle emblem,
  - Have an amber or red flashing light,
  - If operated anytime from sunset to sunrise it must have headlights visible for 500 feet,
  - Have a rearview mirror.
- To be registered the owner must provide the town Marshals inspection report (he will glad to come to your house, call 495-9620), the vehicle VIN, proof of financial responsibility and pay a \$40.00 fee. The registration sticker must be displayed at all times on the vehicle and is valid for two years from the date of issue.
- The number of occupants is limited to the number of factory installed seats (not to exceed 6) and all passengers of 10 years or younger must ride in the front seats or ride with a seat belt.

**BE AWARE:** Other vehicles such as Gator's, Rangers, etc. will be treated as golf carts *while in* the town limits. *Outside the town limits* these vehicles are prohibited from operating by state law and the county cannot adopt an ordinance allowing them.

### Kasota Island

Bill Geiger and the volunteers on the Kasota Island maintenance committee have worked very hard last year and this spring cleaning up the island and improving its appearance with lots of new plantings. The committee invites everyone to visit the island and enjoy the improvements. Please follow these rules during your visits:

- Please keep all pets on a leash and clean-up after them,
- Leave nothing behind---everything that you take to the island should be taken with you when you leave,
- Keep all glass in your boat,

- Do not move any rocks as they are in place for erosion control,
- Fires must only be in designated locations and fully extinguished before you leave
- Please, be considerate of others when using firewood by using only what you need.

Have a safe and fun summer here at Clear Lake.

Clear Lake Town Council and Staff

### **GREETINGS**

As President of your Clear Lake Association, I would like to welcome everyone back as we look forward to another safe and fun season at the Lake. I thank all of you for your continuing 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.

The CLA is sponsoring a Boater Safety Class on Saturday, June 9, 2012, at the Clear Lake Town Hall. The class is open to everyone 11 and older. We encourage parents and grandparents to attend. A free lunch is included.

Spring has come early to Clear Lake and as we prepare our yards for the summer, I encourage all of us to be good stewards of our Clear water. Be careful in the product you choose for your lawn. Please be aware that one pound of phosphorous in our lake can produce 10,000 pounds of wet weeds and algae. Many local merchants carry phosphorus free products.

The board members of the Association will be meeting soon to finalize activities for 2012, to address issues of Clear Lake, and to share information of interest to Clear Lake property owners. The board encourages your input. Please forward your comments, questions, and concerns to the Clear Lake Association, P. O. Box 38, Fremont, IN 46737 or via email to: [jgexvp@aol.com](mailto:jgexvp@aol.com).

#### Swim Buoy Placement

Many docks and boat lifts are in because of the warm spring weather. Boaters are out on the lake. It will also be time to place your swim buoys in the water. Indiana DNR rules require swim buoys to be no farther than 200 feet from shore. A 200' rope is available at the Town Hall for your use. Please return it as soon as you are finished. If you are the buoy caretaker for your neighborhood, please place it in the lake as you install your dock.

It is the policy of the Town that swim buoys be placed at no closer than 300' intervals. This allows maximum coverage for the buoys we have available. If you are in need of a new buoy for a damaged swim buoy, please contact the Town. The Clear Lake Association has helped with the purchase of new buoys in the past.

Mary Lee Gecowets, President

### **MARSHAL'S REPORT**

Spring is here and feels more like summer. The early arrival of warm weather has brought people back to the lake sooner than normal and we have noticed the increase in vehicle traffic, walkers, and bike riders. As we get further into spring and move into summer, we would like to remind everyone to watch for suspicious activity and report it immediately. Also, watch for pedestrian and bicycle traffic with the nice weather. When gas is \$4.00 a gallon, we will surely see more bikes and walkers.

We have had reports of some thefts in the area of Clear Lake. The storage units on 850 E and a construction trailer were broken into in the last few weeks. Please keep an eye out for suspicious vehicles around the lake. The only description we have gotten so far is possibly a Jeep Cherokee style vehicle, darker in color. That vehicle was seen in the area of the storage units the night it was broken into by a newspaper delivery person.

The address change is taking effect in April. These changes in street names and some addresses will solve a lot of confusion with our ambulance services and with police officers who don't know the lake like we do. Of the 101 lakes in Steuben County, Clear Lake is the only one which had this type of address system. The changes being made will enhance the overall safety of the community and shorten response times by fire, EMS, and police.

I applied for the LARE grant through the DNR but have not received word if it will be granted. If granted, the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol will once again help patrol the lake this summer using grant monies. If the Sheriff's Office is denied the grant, alternative solutions will be sought out by the Sheriff and me to ensure a safe boating season.

John Gonya, Town Marshal

### **BOATER SAFETY CLASS SET FOR JUNE 9TH**

The Clear Lake Association will once again sponsor the Indiana approved, Boater Safety Class conducted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The class is scheduled for Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm and will be held at the Clear Lake Town Hall at 111 Gecowets Drive. The class will be conducted by Jim Kidd who has done a terrific job with educating attendees on important matters of boating safety and regulations. There is *no charge* for attending the class and lunch and drinks are served to all attendees. Topics reviewed in the class include:

- General information concerning boats and maintenance
- Boater safety
- Courteous boater operation
- Laws and regulations that apply to all water borne vessels

Last year, over 38 participants completed the Clear Lake class. Comments from those who attended the class were very positive.

As many of you may know, anyone who operates a motorboat or personal watercraft (PWC) must have a valid driver's license to operate on any of Indiana's public waters. Operators without a driver's license but who is at least age 15 may operate a motorboat or PWC only if they successfully complete a boater education course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and they have *onboard*, an ID issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This class meets the requirement by the State as an approved course. No one under 15 years of age may legally operate a motorboat greater than 10 horsepower or a PWC.

Young and old may attend this class. Parents and grandparents, there may be no greater gift to your children or grandchildren than to enroll them in a boater safety class to teach them the finer points of boater safety. The great news is that you can attend too!!! Everyone can use a refresher course on boater safety and attending with your child or grandchild is a great investment that does not cost you anything but your time.

We all love Clear Lake and enjoy spending time boating with family and friends. Boating safety is something that should not be taken for granted and we should all do our part to be certain that our time on the water is done safely and courteously.

Anyone who is interested in attending the course can secure information about how to enroll on the back side of this newsletter. Make sure to enroll soon because space fills up quickly and participation is limited.

David Harris, Clear Lake Association

## STEWARDSHIP

Short little three-letter adjectives hold a great deal of meaning. “What are you doing this weekend?” Response: “We’re going up to the lake.” Notice it is “THE lake.” Or maybe it’s: “We’re heading to OUR lake.” And for many of us, Clear Lake is THE lake; it is OUR lake. Yes, there are reports of other lakes in our county, but clearly (pun intended) Clear Lake is THE one and it is OURS.

The reality is the lake is not ours. We do not own it. We cannot sell it. *We can only take care of it.* Technically, the lake belongs to all of the people (as well as the wildlife) of Indiana. We just happen to be blessed enough to live along its shores. The Native Americans called Clear Lake “Kasota,” meaning “water, clear as sky.” The Pottawatomie frequently came to the spring-fed Kasota where there was abundant fishing and its surrounding forests filled with game. They *used* the lake and adjoining land, but would never even think of *abusing* it.

We, just like they, are not owners, but rather stewards of this wondrous gift. Stewards are keenly aware of the ramifications and consequences of their actions. Stewards deeply care about taking care of what is under their charge, and that is how it must be with us. The lake is not just an object, or a thing. It is a living entity, literally being fed by the waters that flow into it, and “nourished” by the junk food of fertilizer phosphates and decaying leaves that we allow to enter it. It is the literal living quarters of countless varieties of fish, waterfowl, amphibians, crustaceans, and invertebrates all of whom attempt to work in harmony with each other to preserve the natural ecosystem.

Humans – yes, we stewards of the land and lake – need to be cognizant of how we too need to work to fit in that natural process. Clear Lake cannot be viewed just as a big swimming pool or mega bathtub for us to use (and abuse) with bigger and faster and louder “grown-up bath toys.” We cannot just transform a suburban landscape and lifestyle and plop it down next to a lake. There are deep ramifications of that. Just as a simple example, flat concrete or steel seawalls alter the natural wave action of the water and cause a change in the aquatic growth structure and water clarity, whereas the round natural glacial rock seawalls serve as a buffer for the increased wave action from powerboats.

There is a whole host of actions that we – not as owners – but as stewards can take and make to help foster the long term preservation of our wondrous lake. Many of these will be shared with you in the future in a variety of communication links. For now take a look and follow the “Tips for a Healthy Lake” printed below. These are just beginning steps that each of us can take as stewards of this magnificent blessing and resource that we all love, our beloved Clear Lake. We gratefully applaud you for accepting your role as steward.

Water Quality Committee  
Don Luepke

### TIPS FOR A HEALTHY CLEAR LAKE

- If you fertilize your lawn, use only Phosphorus Free lawn fertilizer and leave a buffer strip of unfertilized lawn along the lake edge.
- Do not rake or blow leaves, grass or other yard waste into the lake or leave them piled up near any of the ditches or channels that feed into the lake. (Reminder: Spring Leaf pick-up on May 8 & 9, 2012)
- Remove aquatic weeds and debris that wash ashore to prevent them from decaying in the lake.
- Promptly clean up after your pets (animal waste has a high phosphorus content).
- Do not feed ducks and geese - they’re cute, but waterfowl waste is phosphorus enriched.
- Never pour oil, gasoline or other similar products in the lake or on your yard.
- Promptly wipe up any spillage of oil or gasoline when adding to boats or other water craft.
- If you have a campfire close to shore, remove ashes to prevent them from entering the lake.
- Thoroughly rinse any boat or other recreational vehicles and trailers BEFORE and AFTER entering or exiting the lake. Zebra mussels and invasive plant and algae species are flagrant hitch hikers.

# RV Regulations



A Guide to the DO's and DON'Ts of RVs in Clear Lake.

## Questions about RV Regulations?

Contact the Clear Lake Zoning Administrator

(260) 495-9158

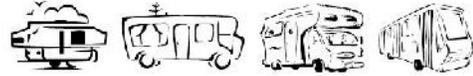
[zoning@townofclearlake.org](mailto:zoning@townofclearlake.org)

[www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org)

5950 Gocowets Drive, Clear Lake, Fremont IN 46737

## What's considered a Recreational Vehicle (RV)?

A recreational vehicle is a portable structure without a permanent foundation designed as temporary living accommodations for recreation, camping, and travel. RVs can be towed, hauled, or driven. Generally, RVs include travel trailers, truck campers, camping trailers, and self-propelled motor homes. (Boats and watercraft are exempt from these RV regulations in Clear Lake.)



## General Limitations on RVs

- Only one RV may be on a lot at any one time.
- RVs shall not be used as a dwelling unit, temporary residence, or for living, cooking, or home business purposes.
- RVs shall not be connected to the Clear Lake Sewer System or an individual's home sewer system (including a dump station).
- Generators shall not be used as a power supply for RVs.

## Stored or Parked?

The Town's regulations identify RVs as either "Stored" or "Parked."

- **Stored RVs** are not set up for sleeping purposes, camping, or use. They are simply being stored for future use. "Stored" RVs must be on a hard surface in a side yard (or rear yard if the lot is not Lake Residential) so that no part of the RV projects into the front yard. There is no time limit for "Stored" RVs.
- **Parked RVs** are in the process of being loaded or unloaded; or are set up for sleeping purposes, camping, or use. "Parked" RVs must be on a driveway and at least 10 feet from the edge of the street's pavement. In districts other than Lake Residential (LR), RVs may also be "Parked" in a side or rear yard. "Parked" RVs may be "Parked" for no more than 8 days in any 30 day period.



## More Information?

The complete text of Clear Lake's RV Regulations can be found in Article 5 of the Town of Clear Lake Unified Development Ordinance. That document is on the Town's website: [www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org). Questions should be directed to the Clear Lake Zoning Administrator at (260) 495-9158 or [zoning@townofclearlake.org](mailto:zoning@townofclearlake.org).

## CLEAR LAKE 4TH OF JULY BOAT PARADE

The Clear Lake Association will be sponsoring the 4th of July Boat Parade. This event will be held Saturday July 7th. All participants and their decorated boats will meet in front of the Yacht Club at 2:00PM. Prizes and awards will be given in three categories: Best Decorated Award, Most Patriotic Award, and Best Theme Award. Judging will take place at the Yacht Club prior to the parade. Once the awards are handed out the parade will commence. The boats will be led from the Yacht Club to Paradise Point, then South around the East bay, and then counter-clockwise around Kasota Island.

Registration forms will be available in the near future on the Clear Lake website [www.clearlakefun.org](http://www.clearlakefun.org). For additional information contact Rick Behnfeltdt 260-495-9906.

## ANOTHER RECORD DEER HARVEST--Help for your plants!

Steuben County is still the deer capital of Indiana. Figures released by the Indiana D.N.R. shows hunters bagged 3,532 deer in Steuben County during 2011. That's the most in the state for a seventh straight year. A pair of neighboring counties was not far behind. Noble County was fourth in the number of deer taken in Indiana with 3,025 while LaGrange County was tenth in the state with 2,523 deer taken.

# CLEAR LAKE CALENDAR

## APRIL 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

6-Town Hall closed for Good Friday  
 9-Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
 16- Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

## MAY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

8-ELECTION DAY Town Hall closed  
 8-Roadside Leaf Pick-up  
 9-Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
 14- Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
 26- Clear Lake Lions Chicken Barbeque, 9:00 a.m. until sold out. Across from Lutheran Church  
 28-Town Offices Closed for Memorial Day  
 29-Trash Pick-up due to Monday holiday

## JUNE 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

9-Heavy Trash Pick-up, 7:00 a.m.  
 9-Boater Safety Class, 8:00 a.m. Town Hall sponsored by the Clear Lake Association  
 11-Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
 18-Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

## JULY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

4-Town Offices closed for July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday  
 6-FIREWORKS at dusk. Sponsored by the Clear Lake Association  
 7-Clear Lake Lions Chicken Barbeque, 9:00 a.m. until sold out. Across from Lutheran Church  
 7-Fireworks rain date.  
 9-Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
 14-5K/10K Run/Walk, 8:00 a.m. Across from Lutheran Church, sponsored by CL Lions Club  
 21-Clear Lake Association Annual Meeting, 9:30a.m. Town Hall  
 29-53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ski Show, 2:00 p.m., Yacht Club



## **BOATER SAFETY CLASS**

***Sponsored by the Clear Lake Association***

***Conducted by Jim Kidd***

**June 9, 2012**

**8:00 AM to 3:00 PM\***

**CLEAR LAKE TOWN HALL**

**This class qualifies as a boating education class for those under age 16. Take the class, pass the test, and leave with your certificate. Open to everyone 11 and older. We encourage parents and Grandparents to attend. \*All materials and lunch will be provided FREE.**

**CALL David Harris @ 260-495-3180 BY JUNE 1 TO ENROLL**

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  
P. O. BOX 38  
FREMONT IN 46737

Return Services Requested

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
ANGOLA IN  
PERMIT NO. 52