



Clear Lake

JANUARY – MARCH 2013

NEWS

CLEAR LAKE TOWN COUNCIL

What a difference between 2011 and 2012. In 2011 we had cold weather in the winter and then major storms in the summer. 2012 gave us a mild winter and then a drought in the summer that lowered the lake about 18 inches.

Our paving program for 2012 included the Lakeside Court area (Arcadia Beach), Channel Drive, Sand Point Drive and Prospect Drive.

The council is pleased to announce that the basement remodeling at the Town Hall has been completed. This will give the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy, the Water Quality Committee, the Heritage Committee, The Clear Lake Association and the Clear Lake Lion's Club space for their records, supplies, and meeting's.

2012 saw the completion of the renaming our streets. This was a six month project that included our own committee, Fremont Fire Department, Steuben Sheriff Department, Clear Lake police, Steuben County Emergency Management Department, Fremont Post Office, Steuben County GIS, the Steuben County Assessor's office, and the Indiana Address Manager. It is our hope that this will bring clarity to our streets and an improvement in the response time of our first responders.

The Town of Clear Lake was informed in 2012 that our sirens would have to be upgraded. With the help of Bill Brown of the Emergency Management Department, Clear Lake was able to obtain three new sirens at a savings of \$20,000 for the town.

2012 also gave us our 1st burn ban due to a drought. We were fortunate to be able to have our fireworks on our new location on West Clear Lake Drive. With the help of the Fremont Fire Department and the Clear Lake police officers the evening was a success.

In August we purchased our own leaf-vac in time for the fall leaf pickup. This was a big help for Bob Hull and his crew as they were able to pick up leaves more frequently. In most cases it only required two people for this operation. Bob informed the town that he had picked up 1,825 cubic yards of leaves in 2012 which was almost 3 times more than 2011. We are grateful for the residents' participation.

We ended the year on a high note with the refinancing of the sewer bond. Our clerk-treasurer Kay Kummer worked with our new attorney Dave Hawk, Bill Fishing, of Beers, Mallers, Backs, and Salin, and John Julien of Umbaugh Associates to get this done. Upon completion we have shorten the payment period by three years thus saving the town of Clear Lake approximately \$365,000. This makes a good start to 2013.

Bob Lewis, President
Clear Lake Town Council

GARBAGE BILLING POLICY CHANGE FOR 2013

The Town of Clear Lake will be mailing garbage bills out by April 1st, 2013. Payments will be due by May 1st, 2013. If payments are not received in the town hall by May 15th, 2013 there will be a late fee of \$13.50 added to the delinquent accounts.

IF you think there may be a conflict with your mailing address on file, please notify our office (260-495-9158) to ensure that you receive your bill in a timely manner.

For those that pay their garbage bill with our Auto Draw program, payments will now be drawn on May 15th, 2013.

THE CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION

At this time of the year I always feel sorry for those of you who don't experience Clear Lake winters. Sure, it's cold, but this morning, where the lake was still open, it was as smooth as glass, and the areas that were frozen looked like wave statues. The sky was ice blue with high pink clouds just before sunrise. A half-moon hung high above the south side of the lake. The only sound was crows calling. When the sun came up, it lit up the cottages on the northwest shore like a Christmas village. What a beautiful, peaceful Saturday morning.

The Clear Lake Association continues to work throughout the year to represent the Clear Lake homeowners and to preserve the peace and beauty of Clear Lake. Over the past few years, the Association has asked for your input through a number of surveys which have given us a lot of ideas of the priorities of our residents. Through this input, the Association is developing a plan of work to guide our efforts over the next few years.

To help us establish goals that meet the needs of the residents, we are asking you to answer one more question:

What is the most important thing the Clear Lake Association can do to help the residents of Clear Lake?

You may contact any of the directors of the Association with the answer to this question. The Directors are listed below, or use email, responding directly to me at kita.tyler@gmail.com.

Remember that the guiding activities of the Association are listed below. These are general in nature and we will do our best to prioritize those activities that seem to reflect the strongest concerns of our residents.

- Support projects that add value to the Clear Lake Community
- Initiate activities that will provide additional benefits to the Clear Lake Community
- Support and encourage organizations that are important to a viable Clear Lake Community
- Inform the Association members about the deliberations and actions of the Clear Lake Town Council and its boards.
- Represent Clear Lake on the Steuben County Lakes Council and support its efforts to preserve the ecology of the lakes.

The directors of the Clear Lake Association work hard to represent Clear Lake residents and are listed below:

Kit Tyler, President	Mary Lee Gecowets
Mike Long, First Vice President	Alan Korte
Alan Brown, Secretary/Treasurer	George McCracken
Rick Behnfeldt	Cathleen Nevin
Mary Jo Fitzenrider	Bruce Spangler

Please feel free to contact any of these directors to share any concerns or ideas you would like to see brought before the board.

MARSHAL REPORT

Even though the weather we've had makes it hard to think about, summer is coming and help is needed. Once again, the Sheriff's Office has applied for a LARE grant for law enforcement to patrol the many lakes of Steuben County, including Clear Lake. However, each year the state has held back the LARE money and will only release \$15,000 to our county.

A portion of boat registration fees goes to the LARE fund that builds to approximately 2 million dollars a year. The fund is supposed to be split in three separate allocations, one of which is for law enforcement which keeps our lakes safe for everyone. This year the State of Indiana released \$45,000 for 3 counties in the state for law enforcement purposes. Even with the DNR taking their share for enforcement, these numbers don't add up to 1/3 of the \$2,000,000 fund.

So, we would like help from the residents of Clear Lake and the other lakes in Steuben County. Please contact your State Representatives and State Senators and ask for an explanation. To have effective, professional patrols of Clear Lake and the other lakes in our county; we depend on this grant to pay for manpower, fuel, and keeping the equipment in working condition.

The Clear Lake Police Department will do our part but really need the supplemental patrols of the Sheriff's Marine unit to keep everyone safe. In 2012, we were happy to report back to the State that we had neither drowning incidents nor any major boating accidents. Let's keep that tradition in to 2013.

John Gonya
Town Marshal

HAPPY, HEALTHY 2013 NEW YEAR FROM YOUR CLEAR LAKE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Although snow is currently on the ground, it's never too early to think about our on-going stewardship to maintain the quality of water in Clear Lake.

If you choose to fertilize your lawn and do an early spring application, please remember:

- use ONLY PHOSPHORUS FREE materials
- the MIDDLE number on the bag indicates the amount of Phosphorus. This number should be ZERO.
- request PHOSPHORUS FREE fertilizer from lawn application services.

Of all the minerals and elements that feed into Clear Lake, PHOSPHORUS is the factor most responsible for accelerating algae and weed growth.

Please do your part to insure that Clear Lake remains HEALTHY and CLEAR.

Other Tips for Early Spring Clean Up:

- If you fertilize leave a strip of UNFERTILIZED lawn along the lake edge
- Keep Leaves, Grass and other Yard Waste out of the lake
- Keep ALL Yard Waste out of the Wet areas around the lake. They are the Kidney's for Clear Lake
- The Marina will dispose of motor oils. Don't pour any chemicals in the lake
- Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) can take care of almost any disposal need. Contact www.niswmd.org for locations and hours

CLEAR LAKE ARTIST RETROSPECTIVE TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 9

A retrospective of the art work of long time Clear Lake resident, Karen McArdle will be held at the North Campus of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, beginning February 9th and continuing through March 29th.

Karen's work, which focuses on ceramics, sculpture, printmaking and metal craft, is both eclectic and diverse. The retrospective will feature works that span four decades. Karen served as an Associate Professor of Art at Saint Francis for over 10 years until her death in December of 2009.

The exhibit will be featured in the Lupke Gallery of the University of Saint Francis North Campus at 2702 Spring Street in Fort Wayne.

The opening reception will be held at the gallery on February 9 from 6:00 until 9:00 PM.

CLEAR LAKE HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The Clear Lake Heritage Committee appreciates the recent donations that have been made to furnish the Archives Room in the basement of the Town Hall. Jim Skinner provided a file cabinet, conference and work tables, as well as comfortable chairs. Walt Chaput donated a computer, printer and desk. All this equipment will enable us to continue to gather, organize and process information that we continue to discover about Clear Lake's past. If anyone has photos, documents or other artifacts they'd like to donate to the Heritage Committee, please contact Beth McCracken (bmccracken404@gmail.com) next spring. Thank you.

FISH ATTRACTORS APPLICATION

An application has been submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to install five fish attractors at various locations in Clear Lake to enhance the fish habitat. The attractors will be placed a minimum of 200 feet from the legal shoreline in a minimum water depth of 15 feet. Each fish attractor will consist of up to three bundles of brush placed so that the top of the brush is a minimum of six feet below the water surface. Each bundle will be approximately four feet tall by four feet wide by ten feet long composed of ash, oak, cherry, maple, mulberry hickory or other hard wood tree branches. The bundles will be bound together with soft galvanized or copper wire and will be weighted to the bottom with concrete blocks or plastic coated concrete weights. The weights will be attached with nylon rope. Exact GPS locations will be marked when the fish attractors are installed.

The Clear Lake Association and the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy are supporting this application for a permit to install the fish attractors.

Notification of the fish attractor's installation will be posted in the *Herald Republican* and on the clearlakeindiana.org/fun website bulletin board and a future issue of the *Clear Lake News*.

LIONS CLUB DISCONTINUES ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION

The Clear Lake Lions Club will no longer collect aluminum cans. We have lost our collection area and the Town of Clear Lake now offers roadside pick-up of recyclables twice a month. We thank you for your past support. The Steuben County Humane Society continues to collect aluminum cans only.

WHEN IS ICE SAFE?

We have seen very little ice on the lakes so far this winter season but we already have seen people out on the ice and we know more will appear. 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

GENERAL ICE THICKNESS GUIDELINES FOR NEW, CLEAR ICE ONLY:

- 2" or less-----STAY OFF
- 4" – ice fishing or other activities on foot
- 5" – snowmobiling or ATV
- 8"-12" – car or small pick-up

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. Attach a loud whistle to the line as a way to attract attention.
- In case of an emergency, and while kicking, drive the nails into the ice and pull yourself to safety. 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 reassuring and encouraging, **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. Don't try and be a hero and go to the victim as untrained would be rescuers are often a second victim.

CLEAR LAKE CALENDAR

JANUARY 2013

- 1 Town Offices Closed for New Years Day Holiday
- 14 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

FEBRUARY 2013

- 4 Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
- 11 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
- 18 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

MARCH 2013

- 11 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- 29 Town Offices Closed for Good Friday Holiday

F.Y.I.—SUMMER EVENTS

JUNE 2013

- 8 Boater Safety Class, 8:00 a.m. Town Hall---enrollment details in next edition

JULY 2013

- 5 Clear Lake Association Fireworks Display, Dusk
- 6 Decorated Boat Parade---details in next edition

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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