



# Clear Lake

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014

# NEWS

## CLEAR LAKE TOWN COUNCIL

This year Clear Lake had one of the coldest Winters ever and the abundance of snow kept Bob Hull, our Sewer & Street Superintendent, in the snowplow most of the Winter.

With the arrival of Fall and many of our residents leaving, we would like to remind residents to fill their sewer grinder tanks with water over the winter. Filling and then emptying a bathtub a couple of times is an easy way to accomplish this. This will help with the startup in the spring and increase the life of the pumps. Also in the Fall and Spring make sure you have 4 or 5 inches of clearance around the top of your tank for air circulation. If you live near one of the catch basins on the Lake, please help keep it clear of excess leaves and other matter.

Before Winter begins, it's a good idea to put out reflector sticks so Bob knows where your property is when he is plowing.

### Road Maintenance

The 2014 Street Improvement project included the following streets:

- East Clear Lake Drive 572 to 616
- West Clear Lake Drive 10 to 82
- West Clear Lake Drive 180 to Rieke Rd
- Culvert over the Cyrose Brose Drain between 930 & 934 South Clear Lake Dr.

### Resolutions & Ordinances Adopted

- Resolution 1-2014-A Resolution to allow Electronic Payments of certain Monthly Utilities
- Ordinance 2014-01-An Ordinance updating the Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinances
- Ordinance 2014-02-An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Chapter 91.18 of the Town of Clear Lake Code of Ordinances. Regulation of Weeds and Rank Vegetation.
- Resolution 02-2014-A Resolution Adopting an Annexation Fiscal Plan for Annexation of Certain areas into the Town of Clear Lake. Correction of the Penner Acres annexation boundaries.
- Ordinance 2014-03-An Ordinance Annexing Territory into the Town of Clear Lake. This is a correction of the Penner Acres annexation boundaries.
- Ordinance 2014-04-An Ordinance Amending the Clear Lake Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)

The Town Council and the Plan Commission conducted several meetings regarding this amendment and received a great deal of information from the public. The Plan Commission will retain this information for future reference.

The Plan Commission meets four times a year. The meeting schedules for all Town board meetings are listed in the Clear Lake News (published quarterly), listed on Page 1 of the Clear Lake Directory and are available under the Town Calendar section of the Town's official website [www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org)

All meeting agendas, minutes and public notices as well as other useful information including the Town's Code of Ordinances, Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and common forms are also available on the town's official website [www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org) Announcements and meeting changes are also posted on the homepage of the website.

### Leaf Pickup

Leaf pickup will begin on or around October 20<sup>th</sup> 2014. There will not be a specific schedule since we have our own equipment. Just have your leaves next to the roadside and Bob Hull and his crew will get them picked up. Bob wants us to remember a few things about leaf pickup so the pickup will go faster and prevent damage to the equipment.

1. Pile your leaves close to the roadside and spread them out if you can.
2. Do not pile your leaves on your gravel driveway
3. Make sure it is only leaves, no sticks, grasses, shrubs, plants, etc.

### Annual Deer Hunt

The annual bow and arrow deer hunt in the Town of Clear Lake will be from October 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015 in designated areas around the lake. The event will be managed by personnel from the Department of Natural Resources, the Fremont Fire Department, and the Steuben County Sherriff's Department. We wish to thank all the residents and institutions that allow the hunters to hunt on their properties. These hunts have helped over the years in culling the herd and limiting the damage to resident's properties.

Bob Lewis, President, Clear Lake Town Council

## **CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION**

The Lake is putting on its Fall colors. The water is getting very clear again, after a busy summer of boat traffic. Fall at Clear Lake is wonderful

As we close the book on another Summer, I would like to thank everyone who supported the Association this past year. As our Mission Statement says we are here to "maintain and support projects that benefit the Clear Lake community."

We are looking for a chairman for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade. If you would like to head up this fun event, please let me know.

If you have a swim buoy in front of your property, please make sure, to get it out of the water.

A few dates for your 2015 calendar: Friday July 3 will be the Associations Fireworks, and Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> 9am will be the Clear Lake Association Annual Meeting at the Town Hall.

Everyone be safe, and come back to Clear Lake as often as you can. Winter is as beautiful as Summer.  
Bruce Spangler, President, Clear Lake Association

## **BOAT PARADE AWARD WINNERS**

The Clear Lake Association sponsored the 4th of July Boat Parade on Saturday, July 5th. Although we only had 3 boats participate it was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time. Below are the judges' results;

- 1st Place – Yellow Submarine – The Billings Family
- 2nd Place – Yellow Brick Road – The Brennan Family
- 3rd Place – In The Jungle – The Roberts Family

Pictures of the boats can be viewed <http://clearlakeindiana.org/gallery/?album=2014-boat-parade>

Also, a big thank you to John Gonya from the Clear Lake Police for leading the parade! Thanks to everyone that participated.

Rick Behnfeldt, Clear Lake Association

## **MARSHAL'S REPORT**

As fall sets in on the lake community and things begin to slow down, I once again want to take a chance to remind everyone to use common sense when preparing your seasonal residence for the winter. Please refrain from making changes to your seasonal residence that makes it apparent that nobody is home in the off season. For tips on how to protect your home while away on vacation or for seasonal homes, visit the National Crime Prevention Council site at [www.npc.org](http://www.npc.org) or simply Google "tips for protecting homes while on vacation". Most of the sites I have visited have some good tips that also work for seasonal residences such as lake homes. (Also see tips on pages 4-5 of this Newsletter)

Because of the cool summer, our crime statistics are the lowest they have been since I took over as Marshal in 2007. We had some thefts from vehicles this summer but far less than usual. That is partly because of your diligence with keeping vehicles locked and valuables out of sight. Keep up the good work and help keep the criminals away from Clear Lake.

I am especially happy to report that the summer boating 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 me and the other officers to serve you.  
John Gonya, Town Marshal

## **AUTUMN TIPS FOR A HEALTHY LAKE**

With increasing reports of blue-green algae blooms across Midwest lakes, it is more important than ever that each of us do what we can to keep the natural defenses of Clear Lake strong and healthy. Following the "Fall Tips for a Healthy Lake" given below can help insure a healthy lake for next year's spring and summer seasons.

### **Fall Tips for a Healthy Lake**

- If you apply a Fall lawn fertilizer application do so sparingly and only use non-phosphorus fertilizer (the middle number on the bag should be ZERO).
- If you use a lawn service make sure they also use only non-phosphorus fertilizer.
- Leave a strip of unfertilized lawn along the lake edge.
- Keep leaves, grass and other yard waste out of the lake, wetlands and inlets to the lake.
- Use the Town of Clear Lake's Leaf Pick-Up Program...for leaves only.
- Refrain from feeding ducks and geese; waterfowl waste is a big lake polluter.
- Pick-up pet waste.

### **Ways to Dispose of "Non-Mulchable" Yard Waste**

- Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) accepts "non-mulchable" yard materials such as grass clipping, leaves, and brush. No stumps or land clearing materials are accepted. The closest site is located at CR 175 N- NW of Angola adjacent to the Steuben County Fairgrounds open Monday-Friday 8:00am-7:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-3:00pm. Check the District's website at <http://www.niswmd.org/> or call 260-587-3063 for more information.
- The Fremont Compost site is located west of Fremont on SR 120 near the Fremont Water Treatment Facility. Acceptable materials include leaves, grass clippings and other non-woody yard waste. Brush is not accepted. For further information call 260-316-7163, ask for Danny Frazier.

## **Used Motor Oil and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal**

- Clear Lake Marina will dispose of used motor oil. Call 260-495-4915 for off-season hours.
- Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) has a program to properly dispose of residential hazardous waste materials. Call 260-587-3063 or go to [http://www.niswmd.org/hhw\\_residential.htm](http://www.niswmd.org/hhw_residential.htm) for details.

## **Stop the Spread of Invasive Aquatic Plant Species**

- Thoroughly rinse all water craft and trailers BEFORE entering and AFTER exiting any lake, river or stream.

Have a safe Winter. See you in the Spring.  
Clear Lake Water Quality Committee

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR WINTERIZING YOUR HOME**

Advice from several sources compiled by your Clear Lake Association

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 your 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 toilet traps 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 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 such as TV, VCR, DVD, coffeemakers, 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 that 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 to turn on/off automatically. Consider a timer for a radio which will create noise adding to the effect that the home is occupied. Do not leave valuables that may attract thieves. Remove or hide articles in the house and garage that can be sold and easily 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. Consider hiring a "house watch" service and make arrangements to have your snow plowed or at least have someone make tracks in the snow. Also remember this advice from Marshal Gonya: "I am requesting resident's refrain from covering (or removing) 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 who winters 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 have had power outages caused by falling trees and limbs, ice, snow, and wind resulting in damage to properties. Your neighbors want to help but they cannot if they don't know how to get in touch with you.

### STEBEN COUNTY RECYCLING

Missed the roadside recycling pick-up or don't want to wait for the next pick-up? You can take your recyclable materials to containers in Fremont or Angola.

The containers in Fremont are located on East Albion Street behind the school and next to the Town garage.

The recycling containers in Angola are now located at 2251 West County Road 175 North, close to Rapid Raceway.

The Steuben County Humane Society, 1700 West 200 North, collects aluminum cans to help fund their operations. A large container is located at the front of the facility.



# CLEAR LAKE CALENDAR

## **October 2014**

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

## **November 2014**

- 4 General Election - Clear Lake Township Precinct, 6 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Town Hall
- 5 Plan Commission Meeting - 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
- 10 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
- 27/28 Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

## **December 2014**

- 8 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- 15 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
- 25 Town Offices Closed for Christmas 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  
P. O. BOX 38  
FREMONT IN 46737