



# Clear Lake

# NEWS

APRIL - JUNE 2015

## TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE

Spring is here and Old Man Winter just doesn't want to give up. Temperatures are well below normal and ice is still covering the lake. As we speak with snowbirds preparing to return to Clear Lake we ask them to bring some warm temperatures with them, but we haven't had much luck as of now.

We thank Bob Hull and his crews for keeping the roads around the lake open during this past winter. They put in a lot of hours, sometimes through the night and on weekends, and their hard work is appreciated. We also thank homeowners who installed reflector stakes along the roadway to help guide the Town's snowplowing efforts.

As we get ready for spring, there are a few things for us to keep in mind:

1. The town will be picking up leaves again this spring. The dates for pick up are May 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, and May 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that leaves only should be put in piles by the road for pickup.
2. Heavy trash pickup dates for 2015 are June 6<sup>th</sup> and August 29<sup>th</sup>. Please have your items available for pickup by 6:00 AM.
3. Due to complaints of damaged or stolen copies of the Clear Lake Directory, the directory will no longer be delivered. It will be available for pickup at the Clear Lake Town Hall after May 4, 2015 during normal business hours.
4. The Clear Lake Town Hall is located at 111 Gecowets Drive and the phone number is 260.495.9158. Walk-in business hours are Noon to 4:00 PM Monday through Thursday or by appointment. A drop-off box is available for payments or correspondence.
5. [www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org) is your source for official announcements, postings, meeting agendas, meeting minutes and an up-to-date calendar of town events. Additional items include the Town's Code of Ordinances, Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and most official forms.

Another quick reminder is the Animal Control Ordinance which applies to the area within the town limits including Kasota Island. The ordinance:

- 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 property or private property of another unless the owner/custodian possesses the necessary tools and equipment to remove the defecation and requires immediate removal of defecation.

Please be considerate of your neighbors and visitors and make sure renters are also aware of the rules.

Town Council members appreciate your participation and input. Contact information for council members is on the town's website. Working together 2015 will be another memorable year at the lake.

Town of Clear Lake Town Council

## CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION

Your Clear Lake Association annual membership letter will be mailed to all property owners in May. Your membership dues and donations not only support the annual fireworks display, but your Association also provides financial support to organizations which provide services to our community. Last year these included the Fremont Fire Department, the Steuben County Humane Society, and Crime Stoppers, several departments of the Steuben County Sheriff's department, Project HELP, the Town of Clear Lake and several others. Your continued support is appreciated.

Please mark your calendars for the following Clear Lake Association sponsored events:

- On June 13, at 8am, we will again have the Boater Safety Class at the Town Hall.
- Don't forget the Fireworks on July 3th at dusk; rain date will be July 4th.
- We hope you will all plan to attend our Annual Meeting, 9:30am on Saturday July 18th at the Town Hall.

Please join the Association and help us keep Clear Lake the great place we all enjoy. Looking forward to summer!!

Bruce Spangler, President

## MARSHAL'S REPORT

Last year at this time I wrote "spring is here, well sort of". It seems the same applies this year. I even mentioned that the ice seemed like it would never come off the lake and it seems the same is true again this year after a hard, cold winter.

As we do every year, we reduced our patrol hours slightly during the winter months and focused on criminal patrol for the most part. Our officers also assisted with snow removal at times. As we move in to the warmer weather and increased population, we will step up our patrols and I have submitted a plan to get some seasonal help for street and lake patrols during the busy summer months.

The warm weather will eventually arrive in northeast Indiana and with it comes pedestrian, bicycle, and golf cart traffic. Everyone needs to be observant of this traffic and keep an eye out for them. I hope the bicycle, golf cart, and pedestrian traffic is also observant and courteous to vehicular traffic as our streets are narrow in some areas with a blind hill or two. If we all watch out for each other, we will have another safe spring and summer season at the lake.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and we look forward to a safe and fun 2015 lake season.

John Gonya, Town Marshal

## BOATER SAFETY CLASS SET FOR JUNE 13, 2015

The Clear Lake Association will once again sponsor the Indiana Approved Boater Safety Class conducted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The program is scheduled for Saturday, June 13th from 8:00am to 3:00pm at the Clear Lake Town Hall, 111 Gecowets Drive. There is **NO CHARGE** for the class. A pizza lunch and drinks will be provided to all attendees. We are happy to have Jim Kidd back to conduct the class. Jim does a terrific job with educating attendees on the importance of boating safety and common sense boater operation. All Indiana boating laws and regulations will be covered. Last year **ALL** attendees successfully completed the course and received their Boater Safety certificates.

Many of you are already aware that anyone who operates a motorboat or PWC (Personal Water Craft- i.e.-Jet Ski) on any of Indiana's public waters must have a valid driver's license. Those without a license but whom have reached the age of 15 may operate a motorboat or PWC if they have successfully completed an Indiana **APPROVED** Boater Safety Education Course. You must also carry *on board* an ID issued by the BMV. No one under the age of 15 may legally operate PWC or motorboat greater than 10 Horse Power.

While there are no age restrictions for the class, we request that anyone 11 years old or younger be accompanied by a parent or an adult responsible for the attendee. This is a **GREAT OPPORTUNITY** for

ALL boat operators in the family to get a REVIEW of what's needed for a Safe Boating Summer!

This year registration must be completed through the DNR website given below and on the last page of this newsletter. Please note that as part of the Registration Process a Liability Form Must be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian for any participant under the age of 18. Download and print the form and bring the SIGNED form to the class.

As a backup, we ask that everyone call the Clear Lake phone number listed below the website and give the Name and Age of the attendee plus a contact number. All DNR classes are open to the public but space is limited.

**Enroll now to reserve you place in the class:** Go to this DNR Website: <http://www.registered.com/programs/Indiana/agency:25> Scroll down to "Boater Education"; Click on "View Upcoming Events "; Scroll down to June 13, 2015-Clear Lake; Click on "View Event"; Click on "Register Now"; Complete the form and print the liability form to be completed and brought to the class.

**In addition please call Mary Jo Fitzenrider 260-243-0789 (Cell) 260-495-4180 (Home) or Bruce Spangler 260-495-3954 with the Name and Age of the Attendee plus a contact number.**

### **NEW MEMBERS WANTED**

The Clear Lake Yacht Club welcomes new members. A part of Clear Lake since the 1930's the yacht club offers activities for all ages. Yacht Club events are a great way to meet new Clear Lake friends. Thursday nights Mid June thru July, meet friends old and new for a cocktail and fellowship. Friday evenings Memorial Day thru Labor Day, enjoy our famous TGIF, cocktails, dinner, and fellowship. Saturday starts with Ski Club Meeting in the morning, followed by Sailing Races Saturday afternoon. You can also join our tennis and pickle ball club and play on the four courts. For those wanting to learn new skills, we offer tennis, pickle ball, and sailing lessons. Member application forms can be found on the Clear Lake Fun web site then click on Yacht Club.

Tim Peterson, 2015 Commodore

### **GRINDER STATIONS**

A short reminder to those property owners thinking "SPRING" and getting ready to clear your lawns and gardens of "WINTER" debris or having a lawn service do the job for you. The grinder station, that may be on your property, that houses the grinder, that sends the waste water from your cottage to Fremont for processing, needs to have ventilation of at least two to three inches **BELOW** the lid that covers the station. For maintenance purposes we also need to be able to see the circuit breaker box with the "RED WARNING LIGHT" on the top from the street.

If you have landscaped the five foot radius around your grinder station, in an attempt to camouflage what is there, please consider having those plantings removed. An alternative would be either lawn grass or river rock installed to keep the area free of debris. No mulch please. This landscaping may cause your grinder to fail when you have a house full of family and friends on a holiday week-end. It also causes additional cost to you as a property owner in replacement and repairs to the grinders. See *Code of Ordinance Chapter 51.61(D)* on the Town's website.

### **SPRING TIPS FOR A HEALTHY LAKE**

While the winter snow is barely off the ground and may make a return, 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.

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. Wet areas are the Kidneys 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](http://www.niswmd.org) for locations and hours

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

As a separate item of information, the special exception hearings, originally scheduled in April, regarding the proposed CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operation) near Lake Gage have been rescheduled. The new dates and times are: **May 6 @ 7:00 p.m.** with the Steuben County Plan Commission and **May 11 @ 6:00 p.m.** with the BZA. Both meetings will be held in the Steuben County Community Center. **Public comments will be permitted at the BZA meeting only.** Contact the Steuben County Plan Commission office for any changes in dates and times- 260-668-1000, Ext.1600.

**HELP NEEDED**

The Steuben County Humane Society needs our personal financial support. The society almost closed this winter due to lack of funding. Angola, Hamilton, and Clear Lake have contributed; Fremont, Orland, and Ashley have not. While the Humane Society continues to work towards getting financially secure, they currently need our financial support.

Please help by sending a check to: Steuben County Humane Society, P O Box 204, Angola IN 46703. Please note on the memo line of your check, "Clear Lake Resident." Any amount will help. Thanks for your consideration.

**CLEAR LAKE CALENDAR**

| <b>April</b> | <b>2015</b>  |
|--------------|--|
| 3            | Town Offices Closed for Good Friday Holiday                      |
| 13           | Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall                       |
| 20           | Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall             |
| <b>May</b>   | <b>2015</b>  |
| 4            | Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall                    |
| 11           | Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall                       |
| 25           | Town Offices Closed for Memorial Day Holiday                     |
| 26           | Trash pick-up (delayed due to the Memorial Day Holiday)          |
| <b>June</b>  | <b>2015</b>  |
| 6            | Heavy Trash Pickup, 6:00 a.m.                                    |
| 8            | Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall                       |
| 13           | Clear Lake Association Boater Safety Class, 8:00 a.m., Town Hall |
| 15           | Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, - 7:00 p.m., Town Hall          |

## **ADDRESS or BANK CHANGES**

To those property owners in the Town of Clear Lake, please remember when making name or address changes to your properties to notify the Billing Clerk or Clerk/Treasurer. You may have assigned a son, daughter, other relative or administrator the responsibility of taking care of your property. The Town needs this new contact information in case there is a need to contact that person. Please send an email to Brenda Eby, [billing@townofclearlake.org](mailto:billing@townofclearlake.org). The direct payment form for your utilities is also on the Town's website at the [Town Forms](#) link. If you would like to have a form mailed to you, please call the Town Hall at 260-495-9158. Thank you.

## **THE TRUTH ABOUT DOG POOP**



- Not all poop is created equal. Dog waste (unlike cow manure) is not fertilizer.
- Pet waste is one of the largest sources of water pollution.
- Just one gram of dog waste contains millions of bacteria and can lead to beach closures.
- The US EPA classifies dog waste as a dangerous pollutant in the same category as toxic chemicals and oil.
- Dog poop is a common carrier of nasty things like heart worms, whipworms, hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms, parvovirus, giardia, salmonella and E. coli.
- Dog poop needs to be tossed into the trash—even when you pick it up with biodegradable bags. Never leave it on the ground!
- Picking up after your dog and tossing it in the trash protects our environment and keeps our community clean.

Remember the Town of Clear Lake Animal Control Ordinance (see page 1 & 2) prohibits defecation on public property or private property of another unless the owner/custodian possesses the necessary tools and equipment to remove the defecation and requires immediate removal of defecation.

***PLEASE - PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG. IT PROTECTS OUR ENVIRONMENT AND KEEPS CLEAR LAKE CLEAN AND HEALTHY!***

## **CONSERVANCY REQUESTS**

Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy is a community resource for protecting and preserving our natural surroundings. It is responsible for managing various properties around the lake, for checking on water quality, securing grants to continue its mission and educating residents on the riches of our environment and how to protect them.

We are looking for individuals to serve on our Board. It is a three-year term, with 4 meetings annually, and a little voluntary committee work. It means a small measure of involvement with a big payoff – preserving a treasured natural legacy for future generations.

If you are interested and willing, please send a short bio to Josie Kramer ([jkramer@clearlakeconservancy.org](mailto:jkramer@clearlakeconservancy.org)) by May 1st. Thank you for considering this invitation to be part of our work.

## **NOT RECEIVING THE "CLEAR LAKE NEWS"?**

Despite all of our efforts to keep our records up-to-date it is difficult to know exactly where you are when we make our mailings. You can avoid this (and help us reduce costs) by signing up to receive an email notification that the "News" is now available on the Town of Clear Lake website. You can update your owner information on the town website-[info@townofclearlake.org](mailto:info@townofclearlake.org) or send an email to the Clear Lake Association Secretary-Treasurer [azbrown2@frontier.com](mailto:azbrown2@frontier.com).

Parents, grandparents, children, and grandchildren can receive this email notification as well. It is the association's policy not to share your email address with anyone else.



## **BOATER SAFETY CLASS**

*Sponsored by the Clear Lake Association*

*Conducted by Jim Kidd*

**June 13, 2015**

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

**CLEAR LAKE TOWN HALL**

**You must enroll with the DNR for this class.**

**Go to <http://www.register-ed.com/programs/Indiana/agency:25> AND also call Mary Jo Fitzenrider 260-495-2180 or 260-243-0789 or Bruce Spangler 260-495-3954**

**Enrollment is limited. 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.**

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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 activities of Clear Lake Town government and other Clear Lake organizations to all property owners.

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