



# Clear Lake

OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2015

# NEWS

## TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE

With the arrival of fall and many of our residents leaving, we would like to remind everyone 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 Superintendent Bob Hull knows where your property is when he is plowing.

### *The 2015 Street Improvement Project*

- West Clear Lake Drive paving is complete.
- Buck Pointe Drive paving should be completed by the end of October.
- Work on the culvert over the Cyrose Brose Drain between 930 & 934 South Clear Lake Drive should start in October.
- If enough money remains, we may be able to do some catch basin work on South Clear Lake Drive.

### *Resolutions & Ordinances Adopted*

Ordinance 2015-04 amended The Clear Lake Unified Development Ordinance and allows stone to be added to driveway surfaces as long as there is a cement apron to the road.

### *Leaf pickup will begin after October 1, 2015, when there are enough leaves for a load.*

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, but not more than 3 feet high.
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, 2015 to January 1, 2016, 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 Sheriff'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 residents' properties.

Thank You.

Bob Lewis, President, Clear Lake Town Council

## CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION

Happy fall; hope everyone had a good summer. Be sure to take some time to enjoy Clear Lake, since autumn is a beautiful time to be at the lake. Your Association had a successful Boater Safety Class in June, and a great fireworks display during the July 4th weekend. Both of these events are being planned for the summer of 2016. Please make sure if you have a swim buoy in front of your cottage that you get it taken out this fall.

Fremont Schools have a referendum on the November ballot, which will increase your property taxes. Please read the article in this newsletter that gives more details. Thanks for your support of the Clear Lake Association; we look forward to serving you in the future.

Bruce Spangler, President

### FALL TIPS FROM THE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE OF THE CLTLC

Fall is in the air and Clear Lake is the best place to be. The water is clear and very calm. The cool morning dew hangs on the grass and soaks our shoes. The sky reflects a blue so true we hope we can hold the color in our mind's eye. The trees ring with the din of birds, insects and motion that invigorate the morning air and awaken all who are lucky enough to catch the sounds. And that is just the first couple minutes of a fall day at Clear Lake.

Clear Lake is the best place to be because we care about Clear Lake. We take the time to find out what the lake needs from us and we do it. And the lake needs us to follow these tips.

#### **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**

- Fremont Water Treatment Facility accepts leaves, grass clipping and other **non-woody** yard waste at their compost site located west of Fremont on SR 120. Call 495-2504 for information.
- 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. 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 their website at <http://www.niswmd.org/> or call 260-587-3063 for more information.

#### **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 360-587-3063 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.

## **MARSHAL'S REPORT**

The summer of 2015 was strangely quiet from a police perspective. The wet weather that came at the start of summer kept most people off the lake. The rest of the summer was relatively quiet and I am happy to report there were no major incidents on or off the water.

I am pleased to announce that Kevin Kane has joined the Clear Lake police department after his retirement from the Steuben County Sheriff's Department. Kevin served 32 years with the Sheriff's Department and many of those years were spent in leadership roles such as Chief Deputy. Kevin is a native of Clear Lake and his parents, Ronnie and Linda, still reside here. Kevin is a graduate of Fremont High School and Indiana University.

As fall sets in and seasonal residents start to close things up for the year, remember to keep an eye on your neighbor's house while they are not around. Once again, we ask that you refrain from making changes to your home that make it obvious that it is seasonal, such as wrapping the mailbox or placing a thermometer in the window.

John Gonya  
Town Marshal

## **LEAF PICK-UP**

Clear Lake's leaf-vac collection will begin on October 5, 2015, as weather permits. The town's truck has the ability to go both ways around the lake, so please rake your leaves to the edge of the road on your side of the street. Please try to keep the piles in a windrow not more than 3 feet high and not more than 3 feet from the edge of the pavement. Also try to keep the leaves away from obstacles like the trash receptacles, mail boxes and telephone poles. If your neighbor has gravel drive and you have grass or concrete you might want to make leaf raking a community effort to avoid piling leaves on a gravel surface. Please make sure that is okay to put your leaves on property that you do not own.

Remember that the leaf-vac is for leaves only. Do not include discarded flowers, especially not decorative grasses or pruning's from bushes or trees. These items clog the vacuum hose and cause unnecessary delays in the process. Last year somebody left a rake in a pile of leaf and it was a very big problem. The leaf-vac does a good job, but it does take time. Be patient and your leaves will be picked-up and taken away. We anticipate that leaf pick-up will continue until December 4, 2015, again, depending upon the weather.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Bob Hull, Street & Utility Superintendent

## **ADDRESS OR BANK CHANGES**

To current or new property owners in the Town of Clear Lake, please remember when making name or address changes to your lake properties or home away from Clear Lake to notify the Billing Clerk or Clerk/Treasurer. You may have moved, 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 a situation arises while you are gone. The forms are available on the Town's website at [www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org). The

link is Update Owner Info. 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.

Kay Kummer, Clerk-Treasurer

### **GRINDER STATIONS**

A short reminder to those property owners thinking about "FALL CLEAN UP"... When clearing your lawns, gardens, and getting ready for winter or if you have a lawn service do the job for you, please take note of the following information, if the grinder station is located on your property. In order for this device to send your waste water from your cottage to Fremont for processing, it needs to have at least 2-3 inches of air BELOW the lid that covers the station. For maintenance purposes the Town's Sewer Superintendent, Bob Hull, also needs 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 to replace your plantings with sod or grass (NOT DECORATIVE GRASSES) or install river rock 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.)

### **POTENTIAL 2016-2022 PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

Clear Lake residents who are property owners need to be aware that on the November 2015 ballot, Fremont Community Schools has submitted a referendum to provide for an increase of \$0.1963 per \$100 (+23%) of assessed value in property taxes to support the schools in the areas of debt, pension debt, capital projects, transportation, and buses.

<http://fremontschools.in.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/BoardMtgSummary-7-6-15.pdf>

Property taxes that are approved by voters in a referendum are not subject to the property tax caps. An approved referendum may result in a property tax bill that exceeds the caps (1% of assessed value for homesteads {owner-occupied residence}, 2% for other residential properties and farmland, and 3% for all other property).

Permanent residents of Clear Lake are encouraged to vote November 3. You may also review the impact that the referendum will have on your property taxes, should it pass, by typing in your specific information at the following link: <https://gateway.ifionline.org/CalculatorsDLGF/RefCalculator.aspx>

We understand that the FCS funding has been reduced by the state due to lower enrollment and reallocation of state dollars to private and public schools, but we hope that alternatives such as consolidation, redistricting, closing of one of the FCS buildings and others would be explored and the potential impacts be communicated before raising taxes.

## **CLEAR LAKE FAMILY HOSTS JUSTIN BIEBER**

This past Labor Day weekend Clear Lake played host to one of the world's most popular recording artists, Justin Bieber. Justin was the guest of Rory Kramer who serves as Bieber's personal videographer. Rory was hoping to provide Justin with a break from his hectic schedule and experience the peace, joy and beauty that Clear Lake provides.

Rory said, "A big THANK YOU goes out to the Clear Lake Community for being respectful and courteous to our guest and allowing Justin to experience the many wonderful activities that we take for granted here at Clear Lake. Although the local newspaper, TV and radio stations became aware of our celebrity's visit, our neighbors and the community as a whole continued to provide space and privacy." As he was leaving, Justin expressed that these were three of the best days of his life and he will definitely be back.

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VrAW9EVZ0g> to watch a video Rory posted of their visit.

Tom Kramer

## **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 missing CL News (and help us reduce costs) by signing up to receive an email notification when the current "News" is available on the Town of Clear Lake website. You can update your owner information by sending an email to Brenda Eby at [billing@townofclearlake.org](mailto:billing@townofclearlake.org) or 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.

## **CLEAR LAKE TOWN CALENDAR**

October	2015
5	Leaf Pickup Begins Through December 4, 2015
12	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
19	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
31	Halloween Trick-Or-Treat, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
November	2015
3	Fremont Schools Tax Referendum, 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Town Hall
4	Plan Commission Meeting - 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
9	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
26/27	Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
December	2015
4	Leaf Pickup Ends
14	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
21	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
25	Town Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday

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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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