

# Clear Lake

JANUARY-MARCH, 2016

# NEWS

## TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE

Clear Lake is a very special place and 2015 was another wonderful year. The area enjoyed a fabulous fall and one of the warmest Decembers ever. It is mid-January and the lake has yet to freeze over. As we quickly move into 2016 we would be remiss not to note a few items from 2015:

1. The Town of Clear Lake was able to finally complete two long-delayed road projects, the rebuilding of Buck Point Road and the replacement of the Cyrus Brose regulated drain's twin culverts under South Clear Lake Dr.
2. 1,725 cubic yards of leaves were picked up and taken to Fremont for composting.
3. New home construction and remodeling continue to increase. The town issued 38 Improvement Location Permits this year which is a new record.
4. The Town Marshals had 25 incidents that required a report, well below the historical average.

2015 marked the retirement of two long-serving Town Council members, President Bob Lewis and Alan Korte. Bob and Alan worked many hard hours and provided great leadership. Efforts of residents like Bob and Alan help set the Town of Clear Lake apart from the other lakes in the area.

The general election brought two new council members and one re-election. Roger Dammeier, representing Ward 2, was re-elected to a new, four-year term. Newly elected are Bruce Spangler, representing Ward 1, and Anita Thiel, representing Ward 3. *(Learn a little more about Bruce and Anita in the next article.)* They will join returning councilperson Jill Powers and new council president Christopher Folland.

The November 3, 2015 Fremont Community School Property Tax Increase Referendum was passed despite strong voter opposition in Clear Lake Township and Jamestown Township. The voters within the Town of Fremont overwhelmingly supported the increase and that was enough to carry the referendum. The impact on property owners should be an approximate 23% increase in property taxes for the next seven years, beginning May, 2016.

Recent ice storms left about half of the Town of Clear Lake without power for multiple days. Here are some important reminders regarding power outages:

1. Our sewer system is powered directly from NIPSCO power lines. If your house is without power, so is your **Grinder/Pump Station**. Each G/P Station has a limited capacity, so until the power is restored, the Station cannot be emptied. You may have a generator to temporarily power your house, but unless your generator powers your G/P Station, you have a limited number of flushes. The town does allow permanently installed generators to power Grinder/Pump Stations. An Improvement Location Permit (ILP) is required to install a permanent generator, as well as to connect the generator to the Grinder/Pump Station.
2. Please update your **Contact Information**. The Town and/or Town Marshalls will use the emergency contact information should we become aware of an issue needing your attention.

3. If you are going to be away for an extended period of time, have someone periodically **check your property**. If you have a friend or neighbor who is a permanent resident, ask them to do it. There are several individuals and businesses that can be hired to keep an eye on things.

**Important Dates for 2016:**

1. Spring leaf pick up will occur May 2-May 6 and May 23-June 3, weather permitting; fall leaf pick up will occur October 3 through December 2. If you use a commercial lawn service, please inform them of these dates.
2. Heavy trash pickup is scheduled for June 4 and August 27. Please have your items available for pick up by 6:00 AM.

Town officials want to thank homeowners who installed reflector stakes along the roadway to help guide the Town's snowplowing efforts during the winter months. As a reminder, **DO NOT use metal objects** (fence posts, rebar, etc.) in the right of way as it has the potential to damage vehicles and equipment as they pass on the narrow roads.

The Clear Lake Directory will not be delivered again this year. Residents can pick a copy up at the Town Hall during normal business hours after May 2, 2016.

Please remember that the Town of Clear Lake's official website, [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. A list of email addresses for town employees and departments is also included.

Town Council members appreciate you participation and input. Working together, Clear Lake will continue to be a very special place in 2016.

**MEET OUR NEW CLEAR LAKE TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Hello to fellow Clear Lakers! My name is **Anita Thiel** and I live at 926/927 South Clear Lake Drive. I am about as green as you get in the political arena.

My first visit to Clear Lake was in 1973 as a freshman in college. I was a guest of Karen Ball and Connie Rink. We stayed at Karen's family home on West Clear Lake Drive just south of the Yacht Club. I fell in love with the lake and its rural atmosphere. I was a Purdue student and a city kid from "the region" and Clear Lake was Nirvana! My husband, Paul Hatten, and I have had several visits since then. We spent our honeymoon back in 1989 on Clear Lake at the then-home of Emma and Alan Brown located at what is now Billings Court. Paul and I moved here permanently in June, 2014, from Greenwood, Indiana, after we both retired from Indianapolis Pharmaceutical Company. We purchased the property from Duane and Christina Robinson. My undergraduate degree is from Purdue University in Microbiology and my Master's Degree is from Butler University in Business Administration. I was fortunate to have a variety of opportunities in my career, which included world travel on several assignments, including time in China and three months in Italy.

We have three children, Chad, Cara, and Emma. We have two red-haired granddaughters, Delainey (age 11) and Kendall (age 8). The granddaughters finally got up on kneeboards this past summer.

For fun Paul and I both like to fish. We enjoy bicycling and look forward to getting back in shape this winter. We are also busy helping our youngest daughter, Emma, (an IU grad and Marian University Medical student) plan her wedding on Kasota Island in June. Thank you to those who have provided us information and those who we will ask for guidance this spring as we become more acclimated to the Steuben County area.

My personal goal for 2016 as a new town council member is to listen and learn - both to the constituents I represent in Ward 3 and to our fellow Clear Lake community property owners. I have a great deal to learn about Clear Lake and its surrounding areas. I will be attending the Newly-elected Officials Training in mid January to start learning the law and look forward to listening to any concerns you have concerning our community. What a great place to call home!

I'm **Bruce Spangler** and my time at Clear Lake began in April, 1950, when my parents, Bun and Tina Spangler, bought the cottage at 222 Lake Drive. We would move from our home in Bryan, Ohio, to Clear Lake the day school got out and stay till the day school started again in the fall. My dad would commute every day to work at our family business, Spangler Candy Company.

In 2000 I bought the cottage from my mom and my partner, Tim Peterson, and I used it as a summer home for several years. In 2008 we sold our home in Bryan and became year-round residents of Clear Lake. That was, by far, the best move we ever made.

I graduated from Bryan High School in 1969 and received my Bachelor's Degree in Business from The Defiance College in 1973. I held many positions at Spangler Wholesale for 35 years, the last 20 years as CEO and Chairman, and retired in 2008. Since becoming a permanent resident of Clear Lake, I have been active in many things including The Clear Lake Association, of which I'm currently serving my third year as President, and the Clear Lake Yacht Club, where I was Commodore in 2013. I have no specific agenda for my time on Town Council, other than making Clear Lake even better than it is today.

### **FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY**

Submitted by Bridget Harrison, Executive Director

Have you heard? The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy recently established an Operating Endowment at the Steuben County Community Foundation. This endowment will work in conjunction with our Maintenance Endowment which was created approximately eight years ago. Looking into the future, the CLTLC wants to ensure we are here protecting Clear Lake, the watershed, and township for future generations. Maintaining and augmenting these endowments will assist with our long-term financial sustainability so we can do just that.

The crew members of Fultz Excavating must have been thankful for the delayed start to the winter season. They were busy installing glacial stone along the shoreline of Clear Lake well into the middle of December. Cost-share funding, from a grant through the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative, allowed the completion of 17 glacial stone projects, the installation of three rain barrels, and the planting of native vegetation along three shorelines on Clear Lake. Thanks to everyone who participated! These projects all support water quality improvement and enhancement for our watershed.

Thank you to everyone who purchased a 2016 CLTLC calendar; we appreciate your support. Each Wednesday in July of the calendar outlines the Knee-High Naturalists gatherings. This summer promises to bring fun and fascinating programs that kids of most ages will not want to miss. Details for the Knee-High Naturalists Program, as well as other CLTLC events, will be available in upcoming issues of our newsletter, *Clear Thinking*.

### **MARSHAL'S REPORT**

Submitted by John Gonya, Town Marshal

Happy New Year! Winter is here but, so far, it hasn't been too bad. We have certainly been lucky as far as bad weather goes, but I am sure that will soon change.

The Police Department is working their winter patrol schedule and it seems to be working well. Officer McCarty and Officer Kane are working daytime hours and Officer Compton and I split the weeknights and weekend patrol duties. As the warm weather approaches, we will re-evaluate the hours and adjust accordingly.

The ice fishermen will soon be around the lake like usual. If you are a resident and do not want the ice fishermen parking at your property, please email me at [marshal@townofclearlake.org](mailto:marshal@townofclearlake.org). I will compile a list of properties that they can't park at and get their vehicles moved if they are found parked there.

On behalf of the Clear Lake Police Department, have a safe and prosperous New Year.

## CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Bruce Spangler, CLA President

Greetings and Happy New Year from your Clear Lake Association! As of today, Jan. 7, we have no ice and the lake is very quiet. There are not many people around this time of year.

Looking ahead, the Boater Safety Class is scheduled for Saturday, June 11, at the Clear Lake Town Hall from 8:00 am till 3:00 pm. Be sure to watch the online bulletin board and the spring edition of this newsletter for more details.

Fireworks are scheduled for Saturday, July 2, with the rain date Sunday, July 3.

Please watch for the Clear Lake Association Membership Letter that will come out late winter or early spring. Join your Association and help us make Clear Lake an even better place

## A LOOK BACK IN TIME

The January 17, 1912, Angola Herald reported: *Mrs. Sarah E. Wade has recently sold the new hotel "Lakeside" which she owned at Clear Lake to Leon Tybel of Chicago for \$10,000.*

If you're interested in more Clear Lake History, a few copies of the CLEAR LAKE HISTORY book are still available (\$50). Please see Bridget Harrison at Town Hall or contact Bonnie Brown (260-495-9028 or [bonniedon1@gmail.com](mailto:bonniedon1@gmail.com))

## CHECK YOUR HOUSES, PLEASE!

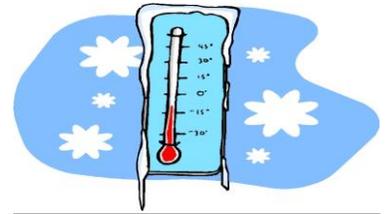
Submitted by Bonnie Brown

Many Clear Lake residents experienced power outages ranging from a few hours up to 48 hours during the December 28-30 storm. The ice and wind brought down many large trees and limbs. Fortunately, it was not cold enough for any freeze damage to occur inside the houses, but power surges can and do happen when power is restored. Even if you have a generator, it is important to have someone check the inside of your house on a regular basis. I would also remind you to turn off your water pump each time you leave Clear Lake for an extended period of time. Too many friends and neighbors have learned the hard way how much damage running water can do to our homes. Have a safe and happy winter. I'll keep the light on.

### A NOTE FROM NIPSCO:

Text "Out" to 444111

To Report a Power Outage



Submitted from NIPSCO, via Kay Kummer, Clerk-Treasurer

No one likes to be in the dark, especially when it comes to a power outage. It's important for you to be able to quickly report the issue so that our crews can work to get you back up and running.

Now there's a new way to notify us of an outage at your home or business. Here's how it works:

- **Text the word "Out" to 444111.** (Please note NIPSCO does not charge for any texts, however, your carrier may charge text messaging and data rates, depending on your mobile plan.)
- You will receive text responses to confirm your address and contact information.

- Once your contact information has been confirmed, you will receive a text confirmation of your outage report, as well as a link to sign up to receive updates on the status of your power outage, including estimated restoration times, via text, email or automated phone message.

### **Options to Report a Power Outage**

With the addition of texting, you can now choose from three ways to report an outage, all of which are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

1. **Text:** Text "Out" to 444111
2. **Online:** NIPSCO.com/OutageCenter
3. **Phone:** 1-800-4-NIPSCO (1800-464-7726)

The safety of the public as well as those working on the lines is our top priority. Please stay away from any downed power lines and power restoration crews working in your area.

## **VARIANCE FOR STORAGE UNITS COULD IMPACT LAKE**

Submitted by Judy Johnston

In early November property owners with land adjacent to a 7.8 acre lot located just north of the Winzeler observatory property on Co. Rd. 875E received a letter from the Steuben County BZA, informing them of a building variance request coming up for a decision in mid November, 2015. The request was for a land use variance that would allow the building of 31 storage units normally only allowed in an industrial zone (as per the Steuben County zoning ordinance) to be built on this parcel which is currently zoned agricultural. This property was purchased in the spring of 2015 by Gregory and Christina Thomson, under the guidance of Phil Meyers.

The land in question is recognized as part of the Clear Lake Watershed and drains into the Alvin Patterson ditch and is approximately 1700 feet from the eastern shore of Clear Lake. Further investigation confirmed that the majority of the property has a water table just 2.8 inches below the surface. (Please reference further information and maps on the webpage at [clearlakeindiana.org/variance](http://clearlakeindiana.org/variance).)

The mid-November BZA meeting was postponed in order to seek a recommendation from the drainage board on this variance request. At the December meeting of the drainage board Phil Meyers spoke for the Thomsons, while McEntarfer Law represented me. The drainage board opted to table the decision until Rowland & Associates could give further information from an engineering/surveyor perspective.

The final decision is expected to be announced at the Feb. 8, 7:00 pm, Steuben Co. BZA meeting, pending the recommendation from the drainage board. While we await the recommendations from Rowland & Associates and the drainage board, I have asked concerned citizens to contact the Steuben Co. Plan Commission. So far, I have received 20-30 copies of letters written in opposition to this variance. If you would like to write to the commission before their Feb. decision, the address is listed below.

Steuben County Plan Commission  
317 S. Wayne St., Ste3H  
Angola, IN 46703

## **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

### **January 2016**

- 1 Town Offices Closed for New Year's Day Holiday
- 11 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

### **February 2016**

- 1 Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- 8 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- 15 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

### **March 2016**

- 14 Town Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Town Hall
- 25 Town Offices Closed for Good Friday 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 activities of Clear Lake Town government and other Clear Lake organizations to all property owners.



CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION  
P. O. BOX 38  
FREMONT IN 46737