



Clear Lake

JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2017

NEWS

TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE

Update on Fremont Sewer Rate Increase and IURC Petition

In early March, the Fremont Town Council adopted a 36.5% increase in the rates it charges to Clear Lake and surrounding customers. As a result of this proposed increase, Clear Lake Town Council asked Fremont for further clarification as to how the current and proposed rates compare to other Fremont Sewer customers. On March 29, 2017, Clear Lake filed a petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), an entity who advocates on behalf of utility customers, requesting a review of the rates and charges to Clear Lake for wholesale sewage treatment by Fremont.

Clear Lake and another Fremont sewer customer, The Steuben Lakes Regional Waste District (Steuben Lakes RWD), contend that Fremont was already charging rates which were greater than those permitted by Fremont's own ordinance. Clear Lake and Steuben Lakes RWD assert that both entities are entitled to **wholesale** sewage rates vs. **residential** sewage rates because Clear Lake takes care of installing, repairing and maintaining individual homeowner grinder pumps, processing and delivering its sewage as a wholesale customer. Clear Lake and Steuben Lakes RWD also contend that Fremont's increase exceeded those permitted by state statute for out-of-town customers.

The petition also requested a review of rates and charges which Fremont makes to customers within Clear Lake, all of whom are surcharged an additional 50% because their properties are located outside Fremont. On May 12, 2017, Clear Lake and Steuben Lakes RWD filed a petition with the IURC which requires Fremont to file any motion to dismiss by June 21, 2017 (*results not available at press time*), and Clear Lake, Steuben Lakes Regional Waste District, and the IURC to file their responses by July 21. Fremont will have an opportunity to reply to the procedural matters until August 11. Further update will be provided following the IURC's determination on the procedural issues.

Submitted by Jill Powers, Town Council Member

Clear Lake Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ)

What It Is and Why Does It Matter?

Indiana Code provides municipalities with the ability for zoning and planning for an area up to two miles outside their corporate boundaries. When authorized by the county legislative body, the municipal plan commission and board of zoning appeals, assumes Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) over this area to plan for the future of the community. The Proposed ETJ process is NOT annexation – it does not give taxation powers over the ETJ areas. It does not require the Town of Clear Lake to provide services such as sewer service, trash pick-up, or leaf pick-up to the Proposed ETJ area. ONLY planning and zoning would be affected.

Why does the Town of Clear Lake want Steuben County to authorize an ETJ?

The proposed ETJ is being considered for one main purpose: to give the Town of Clear Lake the ability to oversee the zoning and planning of the Clear Lake Watershed. That is the water that flows into Clear Lake.

What happens to the properties that fall within the Proposed ETJ?

If your property already falls within the Town limits, there is no impact to your property. If approved for properties in the ETJ, planning and zoning approval will be provided by the Clear Lake Plan Commission and BZA rather than the Steuben County Plan Commission and BZA. In addition, both the Clear Lake Plan Commission and Clear Lake BZA would be required to add members from the affected ETJ areas. This representation ensures ETJ property owners a voice in how zoning and planning processes impact their property. Questions can be directed to Kenneth Hughes at zoning@townofclearlake.org

Submitted by Jill Powers, Town Council Member

A Reminder from the Sewer Department

We would like to remind home owners to take a look at the plantings around your grinder pumps. We know that everyone would like to hide that ugly old sewer grinder in their yard, but please try to look at it from the perspective of the people who have to work on them. We have found bushes grown so tight around the control boxes that they couldn't be opened. These control boxes contain HIGH VOLTAGE electricity that powers your grinders, which can pose a danger if plantings obstruct workers' access. Plantings can also make it difficult to find the control box quickly when the alarm is activated. Flower beds around the grinders, although pleasant to look at, can be infested with bees that are another safety issue. If you have Pampas grass or any other plantings within the five-foot radius of the grinder or any objects on top of your grinders, these need to be removed. When the sewer worker is called out to change the grinder at your house (usually after regular working hours), it would make the process quicker and safer if they have a clear working area. REMEMBER: If your grinder is not working, your waste water is not being pumped from your home to the lift station at the Town Hall and then on to Fremont. You need to **STOP RUNNING WATER** for any and all of your daily activities or you will have **BROWN WATER** in your lawn! So for the health and safety of all concerned, please take a close look at what's around your grinder pump.

Thank you from your 24/7 Sewer Department: Robert Hull, Supervisor and Guy Rodgers, Assistant

Considering Property Improvements?

Thinking of making some improvements on your property? You are invited to discuss any new projects you are planning on undertaking at your property that will happen outside your house. In most cases, an Improvement Location Permit from the town is required in order to obtain a building permit through Steuben County and one is required for flatwork (like driveways) and generators. Zoning Administrator Kenneth Hughes has regular office hours on Thursdays from 1-4pm at Town Hall and you are encouraged to make an appointment. You can reach him at zoning@townofclearlake.org or 260-243-6701.

MARSHAL'S REPORT

Summer is finally upon us and time to enjoy the lake and all it has to offer. I wanted to take a moment and add a few reminders for a safe and happy summer for residents and their guests. All the ordinances that apply to Clear Lake including fireworks, animals, parking and others are now posted on the town web site for review and should there be any questions, please contact the town hall or email me with your questions at marshal@townofclearlake.org

Here are a few highlights of important things for safe activities and movement on and around the lake.

- Remember the speed limit is 25 miles an hour in the town limits and in most places that is too fast; watch for children playing in yards and driveways.
- On the water, be mindful of speeds around buoys, fishermen and other boaters on the lake. Please be courteous, even if others aren't.

- Remember to lock your vehicles and place valuables out of sight.
- Lock your residence and outbuildings when unattended.
- Please try to introduce yourselves to neighbors in either direction from your residence and keep an eye on each other. Report strange or suspicious activity immediately, as it is occurring, to Steuben County Communications at **260-665-3131**, and they will assign the closest on-duty police officer.
- Check golf cart registrations for expiration and contact the town hall for us to renew or register one.

Finally, safely enjoy your Clear Lake summer and please contact me via email (see above) or leave a message at the town hall should you have any questions or concerns.

Kevin Kane, Clear Lake Town Marshal

(Editor's Note: We extend our sincere sympathy to new Clear Lake Deputy Marshal, Detective Sergeant Chris Emerick, on the tragic death of his wife Crystal who was killed in a traffic accident June 20. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.)

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY READY FOR VISITORS



Also known as the BOAT HOUSE (**Bring One And Take one**), Clear Lake's own Little Free Library is spruced up, sorted and ready to share its collection of adult and children's books. Both seasonal and year round residents are encouraged to bring a book to exchange or take one to enjoy that interests them. Donations are welcome (no magazines or Reader's Digest books, please) as long as there is space on the shelves. Inventory of children's books is currently low.

The board members of the Clear Lake Association sponsored the building of the Little Free Library in 2013 for the enjoyment of the entire Clear Lake community. CLA board member, George McCracken, with some help from Tom Snyder, designed, built and installed the structure at the south end of the Town Hall. Books from The BOAT HOUSE are available all day, every day.

LittleFreeLibrary.org has a mission to promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide. As of November 2016, there are over 50,000 registered LFLs in all 50 US states and over 70 countries around the world. Clear Lake's BOAT HOUSE is registered with The LittleFreeLibrary.org

CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION

Spring and Summer 2017 have been a real roller coaster when it comes to weather. We have had heavy periods of rain, lots of wind, and temperatures that are up and down day by day. Again this year we had a successful Boater Safety Class on June 10th. We had 36 students - both youth and adults - who took the Saturday course.

We are looking forward to another great fireworks display at sunset on Saturday, July 1 (rain date, July 2). This traditional celebration is one of the things your membership in the Association helps to support. If you have not joined, please do by going to clearlakefun.org then click on the Association at the top of the page, and there will be an application form. It is only \$30.00 per household per year. The Clear Lake Association annual meeting will be **Saturday, July 15, at 9:30am** at the Clear Lake Town hall.

Please Keep Clear Lake Clean

Do not put leaves in the lake and refrain from dumping yard waste in open spaces like wetlands, conservancy properties and roadside areas. Take your yard waste to the Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District Steuben County **Yard Waste** Compost Facility, located at **CR 175 N., NW of Angola** (adjacent to Steuben County 4H Fairgrounds). The compost facility will accept:

- grass clippings
- leaves
- brush

However, the compost facility cannot accept stumps or land clearing materials. The Steuben County facility is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 7:00 PM and Saturday from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM. For more information, call 260-587-3063 or email www.niswmd.org.

We hope you have another great summer season on Clear Lake. Be Safe.
Submitted by Bruce Spangler, CLA Board President



Pictured here on the left is Fremont Fire Chief Eric Hufnagle receiving a check from Clear Lake Association President Bruce Spangler and Board Member Mary Lee Gecowets. The donation was made as a "Thank you!" to the Fremont Fire Department for all their help and support over the years during the annual 4th of July fireworks display at Clear Lake.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY

Welcome to summer and all of the fun it brings! If you are planning a special event or overnight stay on Kasota Island, please call our office in advance (260- 316-1397). While on the island, **remember** to clean up after your leashed pet, leave the rocks at the island, and refrain from bringing glass ashore. Thank you to the volunteers who came out for the cleanup!

You can expect a full write-up of the Conservancy Spiritfest in our next issue of *Clear Thinking*. Until then, we'd like to thank our event sponsor, Gay's Hops-N-Schnapps, our volunteer planning committees, the volunteers who helped in the days leading up to and including event day, the generous auction donors, our board members, and finally all of you who came out and helped to make the evening fun and special!

Thank you for your continued support of the Conservancy as we cherish and preserve this special place together. We hope to see you often at Conservancy events in 2017! Welcome back.

Upcoming Special Events

Knee-high Naturalist Program

At the Clear Lake Yacht Club from 10:00 - 11:30 am. FREE and all are welcome!

Friday, July 7th – REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: Our friends from Pokagon State Park will bring LIVE frogs, snakes, and turtles and discuss their differences and unique adaptations.

Friday, July 14th – ART AND NATURE: Plan to attend this special session led by Diane McArdle. We will take a short hike and explore nature using an artistic lens.

Friday, July 21st – VERMICOMPOSTING: Worms play an important role in the health of our soils and they can also help with at-home composting! Come learn about and see Bridget Harrison's vermi (worm) composting system.

Friday, July 28th – BALD EAGLES: Let's take an up-close look at the great American Bald Eagle with experienced birder, Bruce Matasick. We will explore wing span and nesting traits of our iconic Bald Eagle. We may even learn where they nest at Clear Lake.

Ice Cream Social & Koeneman Lake Project Tour

Join us at the Clear Lake Lutheran Church for an Ice Cream Social Sat., **July 22, 6:00-8:00 pm** and learn about our Koeneman Lake restoration project completed last year. Maps will be provided for walking tours of the adjoining trails. If you are unable to walk the trails, golf carts will be allowed for this special event.

This is a CLLC & CLTLC joint community project.

Annual Meeting

At CL Town Hall on Fri., July 28th 4:00 pm

Bridget Harrison
Executive Director
clearlakeconservancy.org





ENJOY FIREWORKS BUT PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE AND OBSERVE THESE HOURS:

June 29, 30 & July 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9 : 1:00 pm till 2 hrs. after sunset

July 4: 10:00 am till midnight

Happy Holiday!

CLEAR LAKE TOWN CALENDAR

July	2017
1	Clear Lake Lions Chicken BBQ, 9:00 a.m. Clear Lake Lutheran Church
1	Clear Lake Association Fireworks - Sunset (Saturday)
2	Fireworks Rain Date - Sunset (Sunday)
4	Town Offices Closed for Independence Day Holiday
8	CL Lions 5K/10K Run, 2M Walk, 7:00 a.m. Clear Lake Lutheran Church
10	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
15	Clear Lake Association Annual Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Town Hall
22	Community Ice Cream Social, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Clear Lake Lutheran Church
28	CL Township Land Conservancy Annual Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Town Hall

August	2017
7	Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
14	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
19	Kasota Island Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
21	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

September	2017
2	Clear Lake Lions Chicken BBQ, 9:00 a.m. Clear Lake Lutheran Church
4	Town Offices Closed for Labor Day Holiday
5	Trash pick-up (delayed due to the Labor Day Holiday)
11	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
16	Heavy Trash Pickup, 6:00 a.m.

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. If you would like to receive CLA News, please send your email address to azbrown2@frontier.com or P.O.BOX 38, FREMONT, IN 4673.

