



Clear Lake

JANUARY-MARCH, 2017

NEWS

TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE

The Town of Clear Lake, Indiana, is a very special place and 2016 was another wonderful year. The area enjoyed a fabulous fall, but December brought cold and snow. Then on December 26th it was 60 degrees....the snow is gone.

As we move into 2017, we would be remiss not to note a few items from 2016:

- The Town of Clear Lake was able to apply for and receive Community Crossings Grants, which allowed for more road work and drainage projects.
- The town purchased a new Ford F550 pickup-truck to plow snow and haul the leaf vac. The old town vehicle is being refitted to be used by the Sewer Department.
- This fall 1,140 cubic yards of leaves were picked up and taken to Fremont for composting.
- New home construction and remodeling continued though 2016. The town issued 36 Improvement Location Permits this year, one less than in 2015.
- The Town Police Department is at full strength for the first time in several years, with the Town Marshal and three Deputies.

With winter weather we can expect power outages. Here are some important reminders **when the power goes out.**

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. (See below for Zoning Administrator contact information.)
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/or businesses that can be hired to keep an eye on things.

Town officials want to thank homeowners who installed reflector stakes along the roadway. These markers help to guide the town's snowplowing efforts during the winter months.

Important Dates for 2017:

~ Spring leaf pick up will occur May 1-May 5 and May 22-June 2nd, weather permitting; fall leaf pick up will occur October 2nd through December 1st. If you use a commercial lawn service, please inform them of these dates.

~ Heavy trash pickup is scheduled for June 20th and August 26. Please have your items available curbside for pick up by 6:00 AM.

~ The Clear Lake Directory will be available for residents to pick up at Town Hall during normal business hours after May 1, 2017.

Please remember that the Town of Clear Lake's website, **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, can be found on the website. A list of email addresses for town employees and departments is also included.

Town Hall Walk-in Hours are as follows.

Office: Monday thru Thursday, noon to 4:00 pm

Zoning Administrator: Thursday, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Both the Town Hall Office personnel (260-495-9158) and Zoning Administrator, Kenneth Hughes, (260-243-6701) take appointments outside walk-in hours.

Town Council members appreciate your participation and input. Working together, Clear Lake will continue to be a very special place in 2017.

Submitted by Bruce Spangler for Town of Clear Lake Town Council

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY

What can poop up to 6 pounds per day, have up to 11 offspring per year, and eat up to 8 pounds of native shoreline vegetation per day? If you guessed our new resident mute swans, then you guessed correctly! I am sure many of you have seen the swans that have recently started calling Clear Lake home. Some of you may have even seen them too closely as they have attacked you on your kayak or paddleboard. Mute swans were introduced from Europe and, like all invasives, can take over an area and out-compete native species. Mute swans are known to attack other animals, and tend to aggressively attack people during nesting season. The invasive swan requires 8 pounds of aquatic plant food per day. They destroy much more during feeding and tend to select high quality plants, allowing aquatic weeds to flourish. The swans dine on both shoreline and underwater vegetation, negatively impacting both food supplies. In a combined effort with the Town of Clear Lake and the Clear Lake Association, we are working on the best approach to remove the swans from Clear Lake. These efforts are intended to protect the shoreline, native waterfowl, people recreating on the lake, and to prevent 6 pounds of poop per swan per day from impacting the water quality that we all work hard to protect.

The dredging at Clear Lake has been completed and just in time for the ice on the lake! I was happy to work on this project when I was hired, but would like to thank Jim and Annie Skinner and Ken Petruska for their hard work both planning this project and securing an IDNR LARE grant to fund it. This final phase of dredging removed approximately 600 cubic yards of material.

A prescribed fire and a selective harvest will be completed at our Clear Lake Nature Preserve located west of the Yacht Club tennis courts. Working with a forestry consultant, the harvester will remove strategically selected trees to open the canopy. These projects are part of our long-term restoration efforts at Brennan Woods.

Thank you to everyone who purchased a 2017 CLTLC calendar, we appreciate your support! We have a few left at the office so stop by, or contact me for your copy. Each Wednesday in July we will be offering our Knee-high Naturalist program. This summer promises to bring fun and fascinating programs that kids of most ages will not want to miss! Details for the Knee-High program, and other CLTLC events, will be available in upcoming issues of our newsletter, *Clear Thinking*, and on our website.



Happy New Year!

Bridget Harrison,
Executive Director
clearlakeconservancy.org

CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION

Greetings from Clear Lake! On behalf of the Clear Lake Association, I wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year. As I look out my window on the west shore, I see ice and some open water. The lake was frozen the week before Christmas, which brought out the ice fishermen. However, the recent warm weather has opened up some parts of the lake. Please remember these **ice safety rules**:

- **If ice is frozen 3 inches or less, STAY OFF!**
- 4 inch ice is enough for ice fishing and other activities on foot.
- 6 inch ice is good for snowmobiling and ATVs.
- 8-12 inch ice is needed for cars and small pick-up trucks.

Have fun but please be safe.

Your Association has several events planned for the summer 2017. Be sure to mark your calendar for these special activities.

- ~ Saturday, June 10 - Boater Safety Class at Town Hall (More info coming in Spring Newsletter)
- ~ Saturday, July 1 – CLA Fireworks Display (Rain date: Sunday, July 2)
- ~ Saturday, July 15 – Clear Lake Association Annual Meeting at Town Hall

Thank you for your support in the past, and we encourage your continued participation in the future. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact any Board member.

The 2017 Clear Lake Association Board Members are:

Bruce Spangler, President
Alan Brown, Secretary/Treasurer
George McCracken
Bruce Moody
Cathleen Nevin

Mike Long, Vice President
Alan Korte
Mary Jo Fitzenrider
Mary Lee Gecowets
Jack Horrell

Clear Lake is a very special place. The CLA is here to “bring benefit to ALL who enjoy life at Clear Lake.” Have a safe winter.

Submitted by Bruce Spangler, President, Clear Lake Association

MARSHAL'S REPORT

I would like to remind everyone that within the town limits there is no hunting or firearms discharge allowed. Clear Lake Town Ordinance is as follows:

§ 130.05 DISCHARGE OF WEAPONS

- (A) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any rifle, solid pellet firearm, or bow and arrow within the limits of the town except as otherwise indicated in this section, and provided that this section shall not be construed to prohibit any officer of the law to discharge a firearm in the performance of his or her duties, nor to any citizen to discharge a firearm when lawfully defending person or property.
- (B) Hunting, with firearms or with bow and arrow, within the town is prohibited, except as provided in this section.
- (C) The hunting of deer within the corporate limits of the town is permitted with bow and arrow only and only under the direct authorization and appropriate permit of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.
- (D) Any violation of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$500.
(Ord. 295, passed 1-19-04; Am. Ord. 2010-07, passed 10-11-10)

Regarding ice fisherman parking at private properties, I would like to compile a working list of those property owners who do not want vehicles parked in their driveways. Please email me your name and address at marshal@townofclearlake.org if you would like to be included on this list. Please note that parking on public streets and right-of-ways is not permitted. The Town of Clear Lake has narrow roads that are being shared by vehicles and pedestrians alike. Illegally parked vehicles create a safety hazard and parking laws will be enforced.

I would also like to remind everyone of rules about snowmobiling on roads within the town limits. All snowmobiles need to adhere to Department of Natural Resources guidelines and laws. The Speed Limit on all roads within the town limits is 25 mph. In many cases 25 mph is too fast for the narrow roads. When you factor in runners, walkers, bikers, etc., it becomes unsafe for all. Please reduce your speed to adjust to the conditions. No motorized vehicles of any kind are allowed on Clear Lake Conservancy properties.

With the winter months and less people at the lake, it is very important to know who your neighbors are and their contact information, especially for those who are not here. Become familiar with what is normal in your neighborhood and what is not. If you see any signs of something out of the ordinary, please report it immediately to authorities. Remember that Steuben County Communications is a 24/7/365 contact at **260-665-3131 for non-emergencies or 911 in case of an emergency**. They will dispatch one of the Clear Lake town Deputy Marshals, if on duty, or a Steuben County Sheriff's Deputy. Any police-related issue can be answered immediately through communication with them contacting us or a Deputy Sheriff.

I am happy to answer questions or concerns by email (marshal@townofclearlake.org) at any time as well. Enjoy the winter months, as they are truly beautiful here at the lake.

Submitted by Kevin S. Kane, Marshall, Clear Lake Police Department

A LOOK BACK IN TIME.

From *The Steuben Republican*, **July 20, 1927**, submitted. by Bonnie Brown

CLEAR LAKE REPORTS PRIZE BASS!

Tom Riddle and Ralph Hadley, casting on Clear Lake Monday evening, landed a string of seven fine bass, the largest weighing six pounds. The fishing on Clear Lake has been exceptionally good this season due, without any doubt, to the fact that a few years ago an association was organized for the development of fishing, and notice was served on all that illegal fishers would be prosecuted. The cooperation of the state department was then secured in stocking the lake and, as a result, nearly everyone who has gone fishing on the lake this season reports a satisfactory catch.

CLEAR LAKE TOWN CALENDAR

January	2017
2	Town Offices Closed for New Year's Day Holiday
9	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
February	2017
6	Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
13	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
20	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
March	2017
13	Town Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Town Hall
April	2017
10	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
14	Town Offices Closed for Good Friday Holiday
17	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
May	2017
1	Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
1	Leaf Pickup Begins Through May 5, 2017
8	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
20	Heavy Trash Pickup, 6:00 a.m.
22	Leaf Pickup Begins Through June 2, 2017
27	Clear Lake Lions Chicken BBQ, 9:00 a.m. Clear Lake Lutheran Church
29	Town Offices Closed for Memorial Day Holiday
30	Trash pick-up (delayed due to the Memorial Day Holiday)
June	2017
10	Clear Lake Association Boater Safety Class, 8:00 a.m., Town Hall
12	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
19	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, - 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

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 Clear Lake 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
- 28 Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Annual Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Town Hall

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.



CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION
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