



# ***CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION***

## **Fall 2018 Newsletter**

### **WHAT IS YOUR “CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION?”**

Did you enjoy the **spectacular fireworks** on the lake this past July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday? If so, pat yourself on the back because you paid for them! There is sometimes a misconception that the fireworks display is a joint effort between the town and association. That is not correct. Funds to hire the pyrotechnics are provided by your Clear Lake Association alone. So when you receive your membership form next May, please remember that your contribution can really “light up the skies” over Clear Lake. A special thanks to former CLA Board member Alan Brown for researching and booking the company that provided this year’s fireworks. CLA President Bruce Spangler heard so many positive responses after this year’s show that he has secured the same company to do next year’s display and they promise to be even better.



**Mark your 2019 calendars:  
Friday, July 5  
(Rain date: Sat., July 6)**

What else does the Clear Lake Association do? Your membership fee helps insure the safety of the lake by providing a **free boater safety class**, offered next summer, Saturday, June 8, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. A DNR officer conducts the class (available to all interested person 15 years and older) which covers all Indiana boating laws and regulations. All participants who successfully complete the course will receive a Boater Safety Certificate. Pizza lunch and beverages are also provided by CLA.

Many of the **swim buoys** around the lake are showing “wear & tear” so CLA paid \$3000 to purchase 20 new buoys. These markers help designate areas that are safe for swimmers, free from boat wakes. Although each buoy is the responsibility of homeowners to anchor in place (175 ft. from shore) early summer and remove in fall, the association is gathering contact information about persons-for-hire to provide this service. Specific details will be available in the Spring Newsletter. If you are not using a buoy, please call the town (260-495-9158) for pick up so someone else can use it. Clear Lake Association pays for the buoys but the Town of Clear Lake manages them.

If anyone needs new chain for their swim buoy, Bob Hull, town superintendent, has chain available in the town barn. If you let him know the length needed, they will cut it for you. Thank you, Bob, for this service.  
([superintendent@townofclearlake.org](mailto:superintendent@townofclearlake.org) or 260-495-9158)



At the July **annual meeting**, Clear Lake Association board president, Bruce Spangler, announced contributions that have made over the past year to organizations that directly involve and/or benefit Clear Lake and its residents. The Clear Lake Lions Club, the Clear Lake Twp. Land Conservancy, the goose round-up project and Fremont HS After-Prom event all benefitted from CLA donations. The board recognized retiring members Mike Long and Mary Jo Fitzenrider and thanked them for their service. Bruce Spangler is remaining on the board as interim president until a new officer is elected. In addition to new board members Margaret Carlson, Kit Tyler, and John Wilhelm, the Association is also led by the returning board comprised of Mary Lee Gewocets, Alan Korte, George McCracken, Bruce Moody, Cat Nevin, and Bob Webster. Please feel free to contact any of these people if you have questions, comments or suggestions about your Clear Lake Association. The next **CLA Board meeting will be Saturday, Oct. 6, 10:00 am** at Town Hall.



**The Free Little Library**, another CLA project, is **currently full** so please do not donate any more books at this time. The association is looking for someone willing to sort and organize books next spring and summer. If you are interested, please contact board member Mary Lee Gecowets ([jgexvp@aol.com](mailto:jgexvp@aol.com)). The structure is located next to town hall and offers adult fiction, non-fiction and children's books.

*News From Around the Town of Clear Lake...*



**MARSHAL'S REPORT**

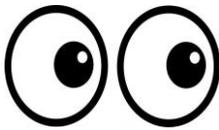
I am happy to report that the summer season was a safe one. As Fall sets in on the lake community and things begin to slow down, I want to remind everyone to use common sense when preparing your seasonal residence for the winter. Please refrain from making changes to your home or cottage that makes it apparent nobody is home in the off season. For tips on **how to protect your home** while away on vacation or for seasonal homes, visit the National Crime Prevention Council site at [npc.org](http://npc.org) or simply google "tips for protecting homes while on vacation". Most of the sites I have visited have some good tips that also work for seasonal residences such as lake homes.

**Please remember to lock your homes and vehicles when left unattended!**



The trend of “car hopping” is still very prevalent around most of the lakes in the county. Criminals are looking for unlocked vehicles that contain items of value such as GPS units, iPads or other electronic devices. Nearly every lake in Steuben County was hit by “car hopping” this summer. I have not yet seen a case that a window was broken to gain entry, so simply lock your vehicle.

As you come to and from the lake over the next few months, please look for and report any suspicious activity right away. This basic level of a neighborhood watch program has proved to be very successful. We at the Clear Lake Police Department want to remind all of our residents of an easy phrase:



**SEE SOMETHING.  
SAY SOMETHING.**

If you see suspicious activity or something that just doesn’t look right, we encourage you to contact us immediately at our dispatch number (260-665-3131) or 911 in the event of an emergency. We need the help of all of our residents to keep a safe and secure community. There has been very little crime in this community which still goes against the national trends. I feel the biggest contributor to this is you, the residents of Clear Lake. Though it has been hard to form an official “Neighborhood Watch” program, the basic principles of the program are in place and being used.

The Police Department has recently added another part time officer, bringing the total to five. The officers will be working varying shifts throughout the fall and winter months to help deter crime. If you see one of us out, please feel free to stop us, if nothing else just to say “hello”. I want to thank each and every one of you for allowing myself and the other officers to serve you.

*Chris Emerick*  
Clear Lake Town Marshal

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

Construction on the **Kasota Island Shoreline Protection** project will resume this fall. The final phase of work will focus on the east side of the island. A glacial stone wall will be installed along the water’s edge with two soil encapsulated lifts above. This approach is different from the north, west, and south shore because of the steep slope on the east side. Project updates and design details [can be found here](#).

Under direction from our Lands Committee [see full story here](#), the Board of Directors is reviewing proposals for landscaping installation on **Kasota Island Nature Preserve**. The design completed by Blue Heron Ministries identified trees, shrubs, and plantings that are native to the area and will thrive on the island. Our goal is to keep open space and mowed lawn while removing and controlling invasive plants and replacing ornamentals planted as transitional ground cover before the shoreline restoration project. Native landscaping

will survive with less care, cost, and maintenance and will support Land Trust Best Practices and the long-term conservation goals of the Lands Committee and Conservancy.

Work continues at the **Clear Lake Nature Preserve & Brennan Woods**. Preparation for the native prairie seeding on the west side continues with invasive species control. This fall, collaborating with the Fremont Middle School, we will design and install three educational signs along the trail in Brennan Woods. This grant-funded project will offer an opportunity for the students to learn about a wetland, fen (low, marshy area) and open oak woodland, three ecosystems found at the preserve. Trail building continues and maintenance on our established trail has begun. We will work over the next several seasons to spread wood chips for continued trail delineation and establishment. If you are part of a group or organization that would like to partner with us on this project, please reach out to our office. It is a long-term project “in process” but we are making steady progress. Thanks for sharing the vision!



*Bridget Harrison.*

Executive Director

[clearlakeconservancy.org](http://clearlakeconservancy.org)

### **FALL TIPS FOR A HEALTHY LAKE**



Fall describes exactly what we expect to happen with all of our leaves over the next several weeks. The convenient option is to dispose of leaves (and other lawn waste) into the lake but it truly is damaging to the lake ecosystem. **Please keep leaves, grass and other yard waste out of the lake, wetlands and inlets to the lake,** and out of Conservancy Preserves. Please make note of our new ‘No Dumping’ signs at Brennan Woods. If you hire individuals, or a company, to assist with your leaf clean up, please help them understand that putting leaves into the lake is damaging.

#### **Also consider these other fall tips:**

- If you (or your lawn service) apply a fall lawn fertilizer application, do so sparingly and only use non-phosphorus fertilizer (the middle number on the bag should be zero).
- Leave a strip of unfertilized lawn along the lake edge.

- Use the Town of Clear Lake's Leaf Pick-Up Program.
- Pick-up pet waste.

### Ways to Dispose of “Non-Mulch-able” Yard Waste

- Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) accepts “non-mulch-able” 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. Check their website at <http://www.niswmd.org/> or call 260-587-3063 for more information.
- 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.

### 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 including paint, light bulbs, batteries, and other items found at [http://www.niswmd.org/hhw\\_residential.htm](http://www.niswmd.org/hhw_residential.htm).

### 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.

## TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE

It seems like we were just putting our docks and boats in the water and now they are all coming out. To all the members of the Clear Lake community, we hope you have a safe and happy fall and winter season. Here are a few points to consider about maintaining your property this time of year.

As we head toward the snow months, it is helpful if residents place **plastic reflectors along the roadside** to guide the snow plow around lake roads. Please do NOT use metal stakes as they can damage the plow.

**Leaf pick up** will begin the first week in October and run through the end of November. Since we have our own equipment, there won't be a set schedule. When Bob and Guy see the piles of leaves at the side of the road, they will get busy and get them picked up. However, please remember the following guidelines:

- Pile your leaves close to the road, but not more than 3 ft. high.
- Do NOT pile leaves on the roadway or on your gravel driveway.
- Make sure you have *only* leaves in the pile - no sticks, grasses, shrubs, plants, etc. (See previous article for tips on “Non-mulch-able yard waste”.)
- Remember that it is illegal to burn leaves in the Town of Clear Lake (Ordinance 91.16C, enacted 5-10-82)



If you are not using your cottage during the winter, please **winterize your grinder pump**. Before you leave your cottage for the season, it is recommended that you flush out the system with fresh water. Filling and then emptying a bathtub a couple of times is an easy way to accomplish this, or running a faucet for 30 minutes will also do the trick. This will help with the start up in the spring and increase the life of the pumps.

Town Council would like to thank Clerk-Treasurer Kay Kummer and Council members Jill Powers and Chris Folland for their dedicated service. All three of these individuals will be retiring as of December 31.

**PLEASE NOTE:**



If you have made any **changes in** your postal or email **addresses** or phone number(s) over the summer, please let me know. I try to keep this information up to date in case there is a need to contact you for any reason throughout the year. There is a form available on the town's website ([www.townofclearlake.org](http://www.townofclearlake.org)) or you can contact me by phone (260-495-9158) or email ([billing@townofclearlake.org](mailto:billing@townofclearlake.org))  
 Thank you.  
 Brenda Eby, Utility Clerk, Town of Clear Lake

## Clear Lake Town Calendar

<b>October</b>	<b>2018</b>
1	Leaf Pickup Begins Through November 30, 2018
1	Recycling pick-up
8	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
15	Recycling pick-up
15	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
29	Recycling pick-up
31	Halloween Trick-Or-Treat, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
<b>November</b>	<b>2018</b>
6	Town Offices Closed for General Election
7	Plan Commission Meeting - 7:00 p.m., Town Hall (Weds.)
12	Recycling pick-up
12	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall
22/23	Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
26	Recycling pick-up
<b>December</b>	<b>2018</b>
10	Recycling pick-up
10	Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
17	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
24	Trash pick-up
24	Recycling pick-up

24/25 Town Offices Closed for Christmas Holiday  
31 Trash pick-up

**January 2019**

1 Town Offices Closed for New Year's Day Holiday  
7 Recycling pick-up  
14 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
21 Recycling pick-up

**February 2019**

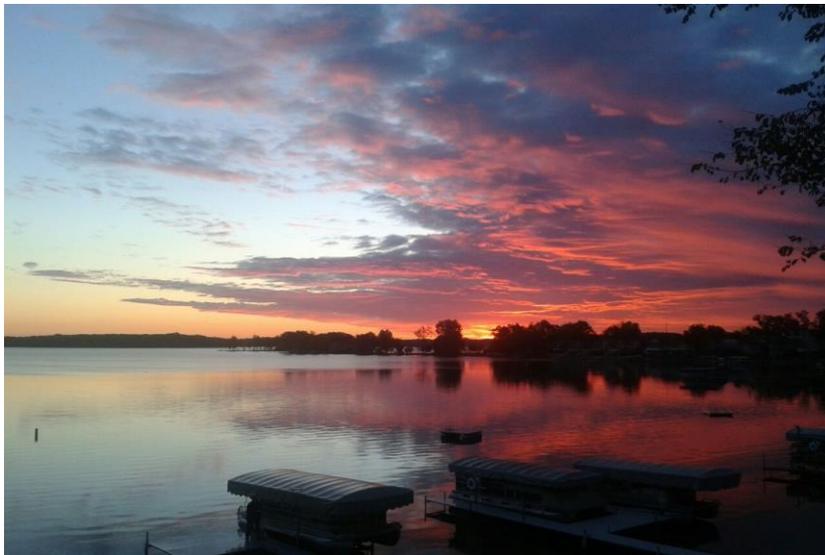
4 Recycling pick-up  
4 Plan Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
11 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
18 Recycling pick-up  
18 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

The Clear Lake Town Council meetings are on the second Monday of each month.

The Clear Lake Plan Commission meetings are on the first Monday of February & August and the first Wednesday of May & November due to the election.

The Clear Lake Board of Zoning Appeals meetings are on the third Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Trash Pickup is on Mondays unless otherwise noted.



*See you in Spring!*

*Annual membership contributions to The Clear Lake Association provide funding for the publication and distribution of this Newsletter. The purpose of this publication is to communicate activities of Clear Lake Association, the Town government and other Clear Lake organizations to all property owners. If you would like to receive CLA Newsletter, please send your email address to: [bonniedon1@gmail.com](mailto:bonniedon1@gmail.com)*

