THE CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION: BEGINNING A SECOND CENTURY

Calling all Clear Lakers, near and far! We hope you are doing well and staying safe during this scary and confusing time. Clear Lake is as beautiful as ever, despite the laziness of spring which seems to be hesitant to move in and stay. We had a very mild winter but a dreary one and we all are certainly in the mood for some sunshine and fine boating weather.

As you can imagine, the pandemic has affected some of the events that we have been planning for our residents, including our annual boater safety class and our first-of-its-kind 100th anniversary of the Clear Lake Association Celebration. For many years, the Association has provided a free boater safety education class working with our DNR. This offers an opportunity for our young lakefronts to learn the boating safety rules and to earn a card that allows them to operate motorized watercraft at the age of 15, prior to obtaining their driver’s license. This event has always been well attended and the room at the Town Hall is always packed, which, of course, cannot be allowed during the Covid-19 pandemic, so we have had to cancel the class for this year.

There is still a way for young people to obtain this card online through taking the course and passing the exam. There is a cost for this course of approximately $35.00. The link to this program is https://www.boat-ed.com/indiana/ which can be located on the Indiana DNR webpage under “Boater Education and Safety.”

Our next event scheduled for this summer was to be a free festival open to all residents of Clear Lake in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Association. We had planned lots of free food, games, and fun, but, again, the challenges of the current pandemic situation have made such a gathering ill-advised. We are making plans to reschedule this event at a time that when people are more comfortable with social gatherings.

BUT… never fear, the annual fireworks show will still take place on Saturday, July 4, and it will be bigger and better than ever. The show should be absolutely spectacular. We are also holding a special drawing in celebration of CLA’s anniversary. All Membership Forms received by July 3 will be entered in a drawing for $100. The winner will be announced prior to the July 4th fireworks show. Membership letters are being sent by US Mail to your permanent address. If you have not yet received your letter, you may print Page 9 (last page) of this newsletter, complete the form and mail it with your check. Or you may email president@clearlakeassociation.org to request a letter. We have been working with Brenda Eby to update our mailing list so that these letters reach you. If you have changed your address, please be sure to let Brenda know at the Town Hall (billing@townofclearlake.org) and she will pass the updated information to us at the Association.
Last, but not least… at this point we are still planning to hold our annual meeting at the Town Hall live at **10:00 on Saturday, July 11.** This is, of course, depends on any changes announced in the guidelines of public gatherings. Please check the CLA website for updated information. ([clearlakeindiana.org/association](http://clearlakeindiana.org/association))

We look forward to seeing you all soon for another beautiful summer at Clear Lake. I know that, for most of you, the lake has special place in all your hearts and I hope this summer will be a healing time for all of us. The poet, William Butler Yeats said it best:

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I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart’s core.
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Kit Tyler, President, Clear Lake Association

**CELEBRATE WITH THE CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION!**

The July 4th Fireworks Display will be better than ever and will be a special celebration of the Association’s commitment to the Clear Lake community. As you know, the annual fireworks are paid for totally through your membership dues and donations to the Clear Lake Association, so they are YOUR fireworks. *(Membership Form for printing can be found on Page 9 of this newsletter.)*

**Here’s The Plan!**

- At dusk on Saturday, July 4th, CLA President Kit Tyler will welcome everyone via a sound system set up on Kasota Island. (A big “thank you!” to Todd Rumsey.)
- Then Kit will draw and announce the name of the winning household who will ….

**Win a $100 Cash!**

A dollar for every year of The Clear Lake Association’s existence!

- The winner will also be posted on [clearlakeassociation.org](http://clearlakeassociation.org) website July 5. The cash prize will be presented at July 11 CLA Annual Meeting. Everyone whose Membership Dues & Donations are received by Friday, July 3, will be eligible for the drawing, so get those checks in as soon as you receive your letter!
- We will all join in singing *The National Anthem* and then… on to the fireworks!
- In honor of the CLA centennial, the board voted to “up the budget” by extending the length of the display, as well as including premium shells and new custom effects.
- ‘Watch for the fireworks finale’ that celebrates “CLA 100!” Everyone will then be invited to join in singing *God Bless America* to close the festivities.
Long before the Town of Clear Lake was incorporated back in 1932, concerned property owners joined together to form a civic group that has become the Clear Lake Association. Frank Federspiel, a lake resident, hosted meetings of fellow lake citizens who were concerned about the “serious business” of taking care of the lake and the developing community around it. The original name is believed to be Clear Lake Conservation Club, which aptly reflected the interest and concerns of the lake residents of 1919. The first organized committees were: membership, sanitation, fish & game, conservation, beautification, roadways, entertainment and law & order. The association later became the Clear Lake Tax Payers and Improvement Association, which was eventually shortened to the Clear Lake Association.

The original charter board officers were: President Robert B. Hanna, Sr., Vice President B.H. Mies, Treasurer Eugene Hardendorf, and Secretary Izda Lundeberg. Over the past 100 years, many Clear Lakers have served as board members and have devoted time and expertise to carry out the charter mission: “To act as guardians of the lake, its beauty, sanitation and social life.” The current mission statement includes those same concerns with a broader focus on projects that benefit the Clear Lake community. The association, in early years, supported an ordinance prohibiting the dumping of trash into the lake. Some old timers joked about the “fish reefs” being built in certain bottom areas of the lake where bed springs, iceboxes, and engine blocks were dumped.

In the spring of 1979, as part of the plan commission’s efforts to develop a comprehensive strategy for the Town, CLA circulated a questionnaire seeking residents’ input and list of concerns. The top two issues were lake water purity and danger of overcrowding. As part of response to those issues, the Association provided both financial and volunteer support for several years for dye testing to determine if any sewage was entering the lake through any inefficient septic systems. Additional funding was allocated for training volunteers to perform water quality testing of the inlets leading into the lake. In following years, the association supported the town in a successful installation of a lake-wide sewer system. The June, 1980, annual meeting minutes showed that the CLA championed anti-funneling legislation that addressed the issue of potential overcrowding.
Funded totally through annual membership dues, the association has been generous in its financial support of local needs such as donations toward a police boat, warning sirens, and swim buoys, as well as offering annual free Boater Safety Classes. CLA also provides financial support to such local organizations as Fremont Fire Department, Clear Lake Ski Club, and the Conservancy. The Free Little Library was erected in 2013 at Town Hall to “Bring One, Take One” 24/7. The largest budget expenditure and best-known event sponsored by the Association is the July fireworks, which they have orchestrated since 1983.

Please note:
- History information taken from Clear Lake: A Place to Remember, published 2010.
- Circa 1920 photos from post card collections of Frank Brooke and Mike Slee. Thank you.
- To view more historic postcards of Clear Lake, visit: clearlakeindiana.org/postcards/

News From Around the Town of Clear Lake...

CLEAR LAKE TOWN COUNCIL

Be sure to visit the town website on a regular basis to get the latest updates. (townofclearlake.org/) Thank you, Clear Lake Community, for your support during our Covid 19 crisis. The Town Hall is currently closed to the public but open for non-contact business. Please call 260-495-9158 or visit the website for all department emails. We are looking forward to the anticipated State of Indiana opening in early July so we can open the town hall doors.

Town Council has been restricted to only “essential business” during our regular monthly meetings. Council plans to hold its first regular meeting June 3rd. (Council meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.) The Town of Clear Lake welcomes new council members:
- Brent Schlosser – At-Large
- Dan Rippe – Ward 2
- Tyson Johnston – Ward 1

We would like to extend a hearty “Thank you for serving” to retiring Council and Plan Commission members. Council would also like to thank Eric and Brandy Brown for donating a washer/dryer set to the town shop.

The Clear Lake Police Department has a brand-new police boat, a 2020 Wellcraft model 182, 18’, center console, 150 hp motor. Look for it on the water, this summer.
The Town of Clear Lake has received TWO Community Crossings Grants! These grants represent 75% percent of the eligible costs of the projects. The following road projects have been approved to be performed Summer/Fall 2020:

Community Crossings Grant of $236,250:
- Culvert replacement, Lakeside Court @ Teeters Creek
- Repave north end of Penner Drive

Town of Clear Lake Funds:
- Insert culvert, West Clear Lake Drive at Round Lake
- Culvert replacement, 22 West Clear Lake Drive, to improve drainage

Community Crossings Grant of $288,000: (in planning phase, completion late 2020 or 2021)
- Repave and improve drainage, west end Clear Lake Cove:
- Culvert replacement, 98-136 West Clear Lake Drive

Due to the Corona Virus, the Heavy Trash Pick Up scheduled for Monday, June 1 will be for excess household generated trash ONLY. All excess household trash must be contained, either bagged or in trash cans. There will be no pickup of large items such as furniture, bedding, appliances, etc. with this first Heavy Trash Pick Up.

Our beloved Street Superintendent, Bob Hull will retire June 1, 2020. Bob has been with the Town of Clear Lake for 15 years and describes his experience as “the best job I’ve ever had”. He has served our community 24/7 including weekends, holidays and nights, through snowstorms, windstorms, heavy rains, leaf pick up and grinder emergencies. Anything the town needed, Bob has taken care of. As you see Bob out and about the next few weeks, please thank him for a job well done. Bob, you will be missed.

Bonnie Brown, Clear Lake Town Council

If you have made any changes in your contact information (postal or email addresses or phone numbers), please contact Brenda Eby, Utility Clerk (billing@townofclearlake.org) or complete the form available on town website.

MARSHAL’S REPORT

Welcome home! The Clear Lake Police Department is glad to see everyone back and we are looking forward to a safe and fun summer. 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. Property crimes in our community have been very low over the winter months but we still encourage our residents to be vigilant and diligent in locking doors and windows, both in your residence and in your vehicles.
As our community fills with the warmer weather, increased traffic will come right along with it. The posted 25 mph speed limit is just that, a limit. There are many places throughout our community where 25 mph may be too fast when pedestrian and bicycle traffic is heavy. Please be aware of these areas and allow the lake life to slow you down and relax.

We also wish to extend a friendly reminder to check your golf cart registrations for the expiration date. Due to COVID-19, all golf cart registrations have been put on hold until June 1st. After June 1st, the Clear Lake Police Department will once again start renewing and/or issuing new registrations and completing inspections of golf carts that need to be registered. Renewal is quick, easy, and can be completed at the Town Hall. If you have a new cart for registration, simply stop by the Town Hall and we will schedule a time to have an officer come out and complete your registration and inspection. Registration forms are available at the Town Hall or at the Town of Clear Lake website. Registrations shall be paid to the Town through the Clerk-Treasurer and can also be paid through the website. The fee shall be as follows: $40.00 for a bi-annual registration or $10.00 for daily registration.

As a reminder, golf carts are defined as a four wheeled motor vehicle originally and specifically intended to transport one or more individuals and golf clubs for the purpose of playing golf. Any motor vehicles not meeting this definition are prohibited to be operated upon the streets under the jurisdiction of the Town, except as otherwise provided by other provisions of the Indiana Code.

- Only persons with a valid operator’s license issued by the State of Indiana or by the state of residence of the operator of the golf cart can operate a golf cart.
- All golf carts to be operated upon public streets under the jurisdiction of the Town shall be registered with the Town and the owner shall pay a registration fee as provided herein.
  - At the time of registration, the registrant shall present proof of insurance, insuring not only the golf cart from property damage but also carrying property damage and personal liability insurance for injury or damage to property of others and personal injury to others with a minimum combined single limit of $100,000.00.
  - Prior to issuance of the registration by the Clerk-Treasurer, the golf cart shall be inspected by the Town Marshal.
  - All golf carts being operated pursuant to the terms of this ordinance shall obey all of the rules of the road and traffic regulations of the State of Indiana and the Town of Clear Lake and shall also display the following:
    1. The appropriate sticker issued by the Town of Clear Lake designating whether the golf cart registration is annual or daily.
    2. A slow moving vehicle emblem and a red lamp (as described in IC 9-21-1-3 and 9-21-1-4 respectively.)
    3. All golf carts shall be equipped with headlamps if operated after dark within the Town.
    4. Golf carts shall be equipped with a rear-view mirror and factory seating and occupancy shall not exceed that to be accommodated by factory seating as a golf cart.

All persons under the age of 10 shall ride in the front seat of the cart. The driver and all passengers in the golf cart must remain seated while the golf cart is in operation. Golf carts can only be operated legally within the Town of Clear Lake jurisdiction. The County of Steuben, nor the State of Indiana, does not allow golf carts to be operated on any County or State maintained road, ie. CR 700 E or SR 120. Golf carts must stay on public-maintained roadways and are not allowed to cut across private property without the consent of the property owner.
Remember to obey all social distancing guidelines and recommendations in place by the Center for Disease Control, State of Indiana and the Steuben County Health Department. I hope you all have a great spring season and we look forward to seeing you as the weather brings everyone out to enjoy this beautiful community.

Chris Emerick  
Clear Lake Town Marshal

PERSONAL FIREWORKS

Please be considerate of your neighbors as you celebrate the holidays. Listed below is the Ordinance for Fireworks in the Clear Lake community. Please post these dates on your refrigerator as a reminder for family and friends.

No person within the corporate boundaries of the town shall use or display or permit to be used or displayed any type of consumer fireworks on any other day or time other than the following:
A. June 29, June 30, July 1, July 2, July 3, July 5, July 7, July 8, July 9, between the hours of 1:00 pm to two hours after sunset.
B. July 4 between the hours of 10:00 am and 12:00 midnight.
C. Memorial Day between the hours of 1:00 pm and 11:00 pm
D. Labor Day between the hours of 1:00 pm and 11:00 pm.
E. Between the hours of 10:00 am on December 31 & 1:00 am on January 1.
F. No other date or time is permitted for consumer use of fireworks.

FROM OFFICE OF CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY

The year 2020 has offered all of us an opportunity in adaptability! At Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy, we’ve used three filters to guide us as we have adapted to this Covid-19 pandemic. We start with staff and volunteer safety and health. Our next focus is on steady and open communications with our community. Finally, we target land stewardship activities, as possible under current government restrictions.

We are incredibly grateful for a healthy staff and generous volunteers and supporters to allow us to keep our focus on our mission and stewardship commitments. Our staff has adapted to working at home, interacting with volunteers and contractors from a safe distance. Our communications quickly became digital for our newsletters, website updates, social media posts and even Blue Papers, our environmental education tools (handy for teachers, too). Our Board and Committee meetings are by video conferencing.

For land stewardship, the natural environment in our 11-square mile Clear Lake Community still needs protection and care as we humans navigate the world-wide pandemic. We are thrilled to share an inspiring project that combines land stewardship and personal health while social distancing. Research continues to confirm that being active in a natural environment promotes good health, both physical and mental. Our
Neighborhood Cleanup Project invited community members to “adopt a road” in the Township and pick up trash (safety guidelines provided) while getting daily exercise. During March and April, over 86 bags of trash and recyclables were collected and properly disposed of by 45 volunteers. What an exciting Win/Win/Win for the environment, personal health, and the community!

No one knows how the spring, summer and fall will play out at Clear Lake or in the surrounding Township and Watershed. Based on what we know through May, the motto for lake communities and organizations is “stay flexible but stay safe”. The Clear Lake Conservancy will apply this thinking for our traditional water quality projects and testing, our land stewardship, and our educational programs. We will use our communication channels to update our volunteers and supporters on these plans as we know more. We want everyone to stay healthy while enjoying the natural beauty we protect in our corner of Indiana.

Bridget Harrison
Executive Director
clearlakeconservancy.org

Spring Into Action

Welcome Spring! Each year we share ways to prepare for the summer season in our beautiful community. We will continue our “clear” legacy only if we become a total “Community of Stewards” as we all do our individual part to contribute to the health of our waters.

If you choose to fertilize your lawn and do an early spring application, please remember to:

- Use only phosphorus-free materials. The middle number on the bag indicates the amount of phosphorus. This number should be zero.
- Request phosphorus-free fertilizer from lawn application services.
- Leave a strip of unfertilized lawn along the lake edge as a buffer.
- Consider testing your lawn before applying fertilizer to determine what chemicals are needed.

Of all the minerals and elements that feed into our waterways, phosphorus is the factor most responsible for accelerating algae and weed growth.

Other Tips for Early Spring Clean Up:
1. Clean up your pet’s waste. Dog poop does not serve as a free fertilizer and it can affect our waterways.
2. Keep leaves, grass, and other yard waste out of the lake and the wetlands/swamps/channels around the lake. They are the “kidneys” of our lakes and help filter incoming water.
3. The Clear Lake Marina will dispose of old motor oil. Call for more details. (260-495-4915)
4. Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) can take care of almost any disposal need including the many sticks and branches down from the windy weather. See www.niswmd.org for locations and hours.
5. Consider installing natural glacial rock at your water’s edge to break up wave action and capture suspended sediments.

Let's make it our goal this year to become a “Community of Stewards.” It is time once again to

Spring Into Action!
Clear Lake Association
Annual Membership Registration
2020 - 2021

Please complete this Registration Form, detach and send it with your check to the address listed below. Thank you for your investment in our Clear Lake community.

Clear Lake Association
P. O. Box 38
Fremont, IN 46737

2020 – 2021 CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION
To be eligible for the $100 cash prize drawing, all memberships must be received BEFORE JULY 3.

Please print clearly:
NAME(S): ________________________________________________________________

LAKE ADDRESS: __________________________________________________________

EMAIL: _________________________________________________________________

CLA Annual Membership Dues $ 30.00
Fireworks Display Donation $ __________
Additional Donation for Community Activities $ __________
TOTAL $ __________