



Clear Lake

NEWS

APRIL-MAY 2006

GREETINGS.....

Hi Lakers,

Spring has come to Clear Lake. As we opened our summer home last weekend, it was enjoyable to see green grass (later on that subject), beautiful spring flowers and even a brave skier in that very cold water. The Association board of directors had a long meeting planning events and addressing issues that impact all of us at Clear Lake. This Newsletter will list many of the upcoming events. But first, I'm going to "Use" the President's column to share some concerns...I guess it could be called "editorializing"...and I hope you will allow me that privilege.

Here goes.....my challenge to all of us at Clear Lake

1. Let's be better "stewards" of our Clear water....there are lawn care products now readily available in Fremont or Angola that will not hurt the water. If you use a service, ask about them. Information will also be included in a mailing very soon.

2. Let's be the "litter patrol"...as we walk or bicycle the lake, take along a trash bag to pick up litter along the way. A lot of trash comes from animals raiding the trash cans, so use a container with a tight fitting lid.

3. Let's recycle...call the Town Hall for a recycling bin and a schedule of the pickup. Angola and Fremont have drop-off sites if you wish to take it there.

4. Let's be patient with the road repair...our lake road was not engineered for all the heavy construction traffic or even the increased car traffic. Also, check your speed. You could help out the Lion's Club run and walk by sweeping off the loose stones before their run in July. We want a safe and fun event.

5. Let's ALL participate...your input and involvement with both the town government and the association is welcome and needed. I know that we often hear the excuse, "we come to the

lake to relax and enjoy ourselves." Yes, that may be true, but IF we don't stay involved the lake may not be such a relaxing place in the future.

6. Lets all exercise a "bit of patience" with change...the governance of the Town has been assumed by concerned, involved citizens who want Clear Lake to be a desirable place to live, raise children and have a quality of life we all can enjoy. At times, you may not agree with their intentions or decisions but they deserve your support and involvement. Attend the board and council meetings. Visit their web site...www.townofclearlake.org...for schedules. Voice your opinions and concerns, ask questions and volunteer to help.

Thanks for giving me this opportunity to "sound off" and serve as president of the Association. We encourage your membership and support. Let's look forward to a fun, safe summer at our Clear Lake.

Mary Lee Gecowets, President
1040 Lake Drive, jgexvp@aol.com

VACATION OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY PORTION OF PROSPECT STREET

Any property owner in the Town of Clear Lake whose real estate adjoins a street or public right-of way has the authority under the Indiana Administrative Code to request the Town Council to vacate the property. A public hearing on the matter is required before any public land may be vacated. Since the Town of Clear Lake was formed there have been numerous applications for vacation of right-of-ways and many were granted. In all the cases the action adds the vacated property to the tax roll and revenue is generated.

At the April 10, 2006 Town Council meeting a public hearing was scheduled to consider a request for the vacation of a little used portion of Prospect Street by an adjoining property owner. Another street in the area, Lakeside Avenue, was vacated in 1944 and a survey was

requested by the Town Council to clarify the vacation petition for Prospect Street. In addition, the notice for public hearing was published in a non-county newspaper. For these reasons the action on the matter was tabled until the June 12, 2006 Town Council meeting so the survey can be completed and the public hearing can be properly published.

SWIM BUOY & SWIM RAFT PLACEMENT

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has advised the Town that it will be enforcing the distance that swim buoys and swim rafts are placed from the shore line on Clear Lake.

The maximum allowed distance is 200' (two hundred feet) from the shore line.

Also all watercraft are required to idle when within 200' of the shoreline.

The Town has a 200 foot rope on a reel available at the Town Hall for people to borrow to set out their swim buoys and swim rafts within the maximum distance from the shore. All we ask is that you return the rope and reel as soon as possible so others can use it as well.

The Clear Lake Association will again this year continue to work with the Town Council to provide funding for additional and replacement swim buoys.

Any property owner found in violation of the 200' maximum distance can be cited by the DNR and fined.

NEW SEWER CONNECTION APPLICATIONS



The sewer connection moratorium for new connections was lifted at the November 14, 2005 Town Council meeting.

Applications for a limited number of new connections to the Clear Lake Sewer System are now being accepted. The application form may be downloaded from the townofclearlake.org website. Criteria being evaluated for consideration of approval include whether or not a lot is platted, lakefront location versus off-lake, size of lot, accessibility to the sewer main, accessibility to emergency services and other utilities.

The application must be accompanied by a check for \$5,400 that includes a non-returnable \$100 permit application fee and a \$5,300 sewer use fee. If the application is denied the sewer user fee will be returned to the applicant. If the

application is approved there is no expiration date for sewer connection and a monthly fee will not be assessed until an occupancy permit is granted for a new structure. An approval will apply only to the location listed on the application and may not be transferred to another location without a vote of the Town Council.

CLEAR LAKE'S COMPREHENSIVE/MASTER PLAN

In February 2006 the Town Council authorized a contract with the Economic Development District & Regional Planning Commission, Region III-A, to assist in updating and developing a Comprehensive and Master Plan for the Town of Clear Lake. Region III-A is very experienced in this activity and has been involved with several political entities in Steuben County in the past several years. The Town of Clear Lake's current master plan has not been updated since the mid-1960's.

The process being initiated is community inclusive and begins with the appointment of a Comprehensive Master Plan Steering Committee by Town Council. Ideally this group will be comprised of 14 or 15 cottage owners and/or resident volunteers who will begin meeting in early May. In addition to the steering committee's recommendations, several public meetings will be held during the summer and fall of 2006 so everyone will have an opportunity to participate in the development of a plan that will guide town operations and development for many years to come.

FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT BENEFIT

Come join the Fremont Fire Department for a benefit gathering at the Fremont Moose Local #2387 on May 6th, 2006 starting at 3:00 p.m. The benefit proceeds will go for the purchase of new "Jaws of Life" (vehicle extraction tools) for the Fremont Fire Department. The events times are:

- 3:00-Chicken is served
- 4:00, 4:30 & 5:00 "Jaws of Life" demonstrations
- 5:00-start of auction
- 7:00-Karaoke

The Fremont Moose is located at 1665 East State Road 120, Fremont IN.

CLEAR LAKE TOWN HALL CONSTRUCTION

In 2000 the late State Senator Charles "Bud" Meeks was able to direct a Build Indiana Grant of

\$50,000 to the Town of Clear Lake for the construction of a new Town Hall. The planning, construction and completion of a new town sewer system delayed the project until recently. The Town Hall's current site at 122 Outer Drive is not large enough or well suited to accommodate a new building with adequate parking. Through the generosity and community spirit of Jerry and Mary Lee Gecowets (who previously donated the land on which the sewer pump station is located) your Town Council was also able to purchase two (2) adjoining acres just south of the pump station from them at a very reasonable price. Primary engineering surveys are being completed on the site so construction may begin.

A Town Hall building committee consisting of Bill Geiger, Town Superintendent Bob Hull, Jerry McArdle, and Larry Armstrong are meeting bi-weekly to make recommendations to the Town Council on construction and design. Ground breaking for the structure will take place in early summer with completion expected in January 2007.



PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

Please notify the Town Clerk/Treasurer of any changes in your addresses, telephone numbers, emails or emergency contact information. You can mail your changes to the town hall, 122 Outer Drive-Clear Lake, Fremont IN 46737, or use the town's website, www.townofclearlake.org, and clicking on Owner Information and then completing the form.

STREET REPAIR IN THE TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE

Town Superintendent Bob Hull worked diligently to resurface over two miles of town streets and roadways in 2005. The Town also has ambitious goals for 2006. Supt. Hull is currently seeking engineering data and bids on the repair of several badly deteriorating sections of streets on the west side of the lake near the Clear Lake Yacht Club and an area just south of the Club. He is also seeking bids on resurfacing portions of Lake Drive on the south side of the lake and will make recommendations to the Town Council who will grant as much relief for street repair as the 2006 budget will permit.

CLEAR LAKE WEBSITE

The Town of Clear Lake's official website www.townofclearlake.org contains information pertaining to the Town's governance. The website

is home to items such as public statements, official forms, office hours, board minutes and legal notices.

Another site of interest to Clear Lakers is www.clearlakefun.org which is run by one of our residents. This fun site offers such things as live web cams shots of the lake, a weather station reporting from the shores of Clear Lake, written and pictorial histories of Clear Lake, and a message board for your comments. Also links to other Clear Lake organizations are available on this site.



By periodically checking these websites you can keep abreast of Clear Lake and the Town's activities even when you are away.

LIGHT UP THE LAKE

The Clear Lake Association encourages all property owners to display luminaries along the lake front or on their dock during the holiday period, **but especially on Saturday July 1 for the Clear Lake Associations fireworks display.**

Milk jugs are a common household waste product which provides an easy way to make these decorations. All you need is a 1 gallon or 1/2 gallon plastic milk jug, sand or gravel, scissors and a votive candle.

What to do:

1. Clean the bottle with soap and water.
2. Cut the top off the jug so that you still have the handle but the front top part of the jug is open.
3. Place about two inches of sand or gravel in the bottom of the jug and place the votive candle in the center of the jug.
4. Set the luminaries outside on your lake front or pier. Light the candle in the luminaries to create a festive night.
5. Have fun making as many as possible to light up the lake for everyone to enjoy.

CONSTRUCTION BOOM AT CLEAR LAKE!

Clear Lakers returning "home" for the summer will be pleasantly surprised to see the number of new houses being built on the shores of beautiful Clear Lake! The availability of our new sewer system, coupled with the increase in owners becoming full time Clear Lake residents, has contributed to some absolutely beautiful homes being constructed.

ENJOY CLEAR LAKE....HAVE FUN....BE SAFE!