



The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 12 - Number 1
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www.cityofclearlake.com

Winter Fun... With Strings Attached



There will be lots of music and free winter fun for everyone when the "Color-the-Wind" Kite Festival returns to Clear Lake on Saturday, February 15, 2014, for its 12th straight year. Color-the-Wind is the largest winter kite festival in the Midwest.

Kite enthusiasts from eight states will demonstrate their skills maneuvering spectacular kites from, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on the frozen waters of the Lake at the seawall in downtown Clear Lake. Bring your own kite, or buy an inexpensive one at the festival.

Weather permitting, hundreds of colorful kites of all shapes and sizes will fill the skies. Professional kite flying teams will entertain with their two and four line stunt kites throughout the day. You are sure to find the choreographed kite ballets of "Fire and Ice" and "180-GO" totally fascinating.

Warm up and have a sweet treat in the Lakeview Room across the street from the Lake. Hot food and beverages will be available for purchase at the Whiskey Creek lunch wagon, or at downtown eateries just a short walk away.

For more information about the festival visit www.colorthewind.org. Updates on ice and weather conditions that may affect the festival will be posted on the website.



Surf Ballroom & Museum prepares for 2014 Winter Dance Party

The Surf Ballroom & Museum is pleased to announce the artists who are scheduled to appear at the 2014 Winter Dance Party event, scheduled for January 29th through February 1st.

The event kicks off on Wednesday with a Winter Dance Party Family Sock Hop featuring entertainment by Flash Cadillac.

Thursday night features the return of event favorite Tommy Roe, who will mark his sixth Surf Ballroom Winter Dance Party appearance and his first since 2002; also returning is fan-favorites, The Fireballs. Additionally, The Four Preps will add an authentic doo-wop flavor to round out the night.

Friday night's Sock Hop, traditionally known as "The Mad Hatter's Tea Party", will celebrate the 35th anniversary of the original vision of the Mad Hatter, who organized the first tribute event in 1979. The Sock Hop show will feature: The WhiteSidewalls and Jimmy Clanton & The Original Drifters and will be hosted by the Mad Hatter himself.

Chubby Checker will headline the "Three Stars Memorial Concert" on Saturday night. Additional performers on Saturday include fan favorite and original 1959 Winter Dance Party guitarist Tommy Allsup and back after making a tremendous impact on the 2013 crowd, Albert Lee. Saturday's show will also feature the legacy of Ritchie Valens as Los Lobos and Chris Montez demonstrate the impact of Ritchie's music upon them by performing on the very last stage that Ritchie played.

For complete weeklong series of events and updated information about the event, please visit www.surfballroom.com or contact the Surf's box office at (641) 357-6151.

Help the Fire Department Help YOU!

When the snow falls, we would appreciate all the help we can get from our residents and property owners. While you are clearing snow from your sidewalk, please be mindful of any fire hydrants near or on your property. Do not pile snow on or around them as

this hides the hydrant from street view. Fire personnel are always on the lookout for the nearest hydrant as



they approach a fire scene, and if it is hidden behind a large snow pile or worse, totally buried, this can cause significant delays in attacking a fire quickly and effectively. Would you unofficially "adopt" the hydrant in front of your house? Make sure that emergency personnel can locate it quickly by keeping the snow cleared around it.

Private snowplow operators are also asked to be mindful of hydrants on both public and private property when moving snow, as well as not piling it against the back doors of buildings. Snow thaws and refreezes, which can make emergency exits unusable for building occupants. It is the property owners responsibility to maintain their walkways, liability issues may arise if delays in attacking a fire, or being able to escape a fire, can be directly attributed to improper snow removal operations.

A view from the Mayor's Chair



Mayor Nelson Crabb

The Winter Tourist Season Begins

Of course, everyone knows that Clear Lake has a summer tourist season. Residents and visitors alike enjoy outstanding recreational opportunities between Memorial Day and Labor Day – the traditional beginning and ending of the summer season. However, Clear Lake does indeed have a “2nd Tourist Season” and it may surprise you that it is the winter season.

While you may not think of Iowa as the place to be in the winter, the change of seasons is beneficial to Clear Lake’s economy and its tourism industry. Although sometimes the seemingly unpredictable weather can have a marked influence on its success.

For outdoor enthusiasts, winter means fun activities such as: ice boating, snowmobiling, ice fishing, snowshoeing, hunting, etc. I always find it exciting to watch the Lake transform into something of a “mini-City”, with all the ice houses set-up.

During the winter, there are several marquee events that draw large numbers of visitors to town. The 50’s in February; Color-the Wind; the Jack; and others. These events have a significant impact on our local economy.

It may be anathema to speak so positively about winter and the importance of a healthy snowfall. However, the impact of the winter snow is important to ensure our Lake maintains an appropriate water level to

support all the “summer” recreational and tourism opportunities that it provides for our residents and visitors. The economic impacts of a strong and healthy Lake are profound.

As we anticipate and prepare for the winter and the “New Year”, let me take this occasion to offer my sincere appreciation for all who contributed to making our community better in 2013. Our City has experienced progress in many different ways. Much of what makes a city successful is embodied by those simple unheralded acts of kindness that happen daily. Regardless of the magnitude of your contribution to the City’s success, I would like to express appreciation for your acts of good citizenship.

Until next time...

Chamber Corner

*By Tim Coffey, Executive Director,
Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce*

The Clear Lake Chamber had a marvelous 2013, and we at the Chamber are looking forward to a promising year in 2014!

This past year concluded with a very successful Christmas-by-the-Lake. The event committee did a superb job, as always, and, even though Mother Nature gave us a true taste of winter cold, the event was well attended as crowds bundled up to brave the cold temperatures. The lighted Christmas parade and fireworks over the Lake were the highlights. The weekend concluded with the annual Polar Bear Plunge, which had over 500 participants braving the icy waters of Clear Lake.

The Chamber will kick off its 2014 activities with its “Annual Chamber meeting” on January 23rd, at the Ventura Community Center. Scheduled guest speaker is U.S. Chamber Midwest Regional Vice President of Government Affairs, Doug Loon, who will provide an update on relevant national and state issues. Cost to attend this event is \$25 in advance.

Again this year, the Chamber will be scheduling several legislative briefings for our Chamber members and the public to get the latest on the 2014 Iowa legislative session from State Representative Linda Upmeyer and State Senator Amanda Ragan. Watch for the announcement of dates for the sessions.

Thanks to everyone in Clear Lake, including the City of Clear Lake and each of its departments, for all your help and support in making the Chamber sponsored events in Clear Lake so successful.



Tales from the Vault

by Jennifer Larsen, City Clerk

One of my responsibilities as City Clerk is to record and preserve the official minutes from the meetings of the Clear Lake City Council. Here are some excerpts from the minutes of a Clear Lake City Council meeting from the “old days” which you may find interesting.

“The City Council met in special session at 7:00 p.m. on February 8, 1965 with the following members present: Mayor Myhr, Councilmen Atkinson, Nesbit, Denney, and Wisgerhof. Absent: Councilman Eddy. The architects, Bergland and Bianco, met with the Council in regard to the proposed administration building plans and advised the Council that the plans would be ready the week of February 22nd. The City attorney advised the Council in view of the above a letting could be had the week beginning March 29th. The building was gone over in detail and several suggestions were made resulting in instructions to the architects to include alternates in the bidding specifications.”

City seeks volunteers for Board and Commission Appointments

Are you looking for a way to become more involved in City government? Consider serving on one of the many City boards and commissions. A bill passed by State government in 2009 requires cities of more than 1,000 to have an equal number of men and women on boards and commissions.

The City is actively seeking to achieve gender balance on each board and would like to cultivate a pool of applicants to choose from as commissioners resign, move from the city, or terms expire.

More information about boards/commissions, as well as applications, are available at www.cityofclearlake.com or at City Hall, 15 N 6th Street.



Incumbents Re-elected – Will be joined by new member Hugi

On November 5, 2013, voters overwhelmingly re-elected Mayor Nelson P. Crabb and Ward 2 City Council Member Tony J. Nelson to the Clear Lake City Council. Also elected, by an overwhelming margin, to the “at-large” City Council seat vacated by outgoing City Council Member Terry Unsworth was current Planning & Zoning Commission member Gary Hugi.

“I would like to thank the Clear Lake voters for showing their support and confidence in electing me to serve on the City Council. I am looking forward to working



GARY HUGI

with the other Council members, Mayor Crabb and the City administration on the challenges that face the City. As I have said in the past I will truly try to do my very best to represent, with common sense, all the citizens of Clear Lake,” Hugi noted. Hugi defeated challenger Peter Lagios 852-179. He will take office on January 1, 2014 (4-year term).

Following their re-election, both Crabb and Nelson expressed their gratitude to the Community for its support. Each noted several major capital projects that they have been involved with that they are looking forward to seeing completed during the next four (4) years, including the construction of a new 1 million gallon elevated water storage tower on US HWY 18; North Shore Drive Street re-construction project; and the City Hall/Police Department Renovation project.



TERRY UNSWORTH

Outgoing Council Member Unsworth Recognized

Outgoing Clear Lake City Council Member Terry Unsworth was

recognized by Mayor Nelson P. Crabb and the Clear Lake City Council Members at the December 16, 2013, regular City Council meeting. “You have worked very hard and faithfully served your constituents and the residents of Clear Lake”, stated Mayor Crabb.

Unsworth was elected to the Office of Ward 2 and served from 2006 to 2009. He was then later appointed on September 9, 2010 by the Council to fill out a vacancy of one of the At-Large Council seats until the next general election on November 8, 2011 at which he was elected to fill out the balance of the unexpired portion of that term.

Even with this aspect of his “political” life drawn to a conclusion, Unsworth expects to remain involved in public service in one form or another. His wife Anne has also been civically-committed to the Community – serving as a devoted volunteer to the North Iowa Cultural Center & Museum and as a member of the Clear Lake Lions Pride Club.

Unsworth reflecting back on his nearly eight (8) years of service on the Council expressed his warmest appreciation for his fellow elected officials and the employees of the City of Clear Lake. He noted that his service on the Council was one of the most rewarding experiences of his life.



ADAM THEISS

City Welcomes new Water Department Employee

The City is pleased to announce the addition of Adam Theiss as the newest employee of the Water Department.

Adam began his duties with the City on June 24, 2013 and has been an excellent addition to the City’s team. Prior to his employment with the City, Adam worked for YohnCo. as Plant Manager of the Forest City plant.

“We are fortunate to have a professional with Adam’s qualifications join our team,” stated Scott Flory, City Administrator.

Adam is an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan and enjoys helping a friend with his modified race car during the racing season. Adam resides in Clear Lake with his wife Kelly and their three children Emily, Andrew & Alexis.

Improvements made to 14th Avenue S. Public Approach

The Public Approach located at the intersection of S Lakeview Drive and 14th Avenue S recently underwent an improvement/beautification project. The project consisted of the paving of the center portion of the access with 12 foot of concrete, and utilizing approximately 14 feet of sod to either side of the pavement. The project enhances the overall aesthetics of the area and also improves drainage of storm water from the site. The 14th Avenue S. public approach may be used temporarily by vehicles for tasks such as dropping off dock materials, fishing gear, and boaters, etc. Please keep in mind that parking is not allowed on the 14th Avenue S. public approach and users will need to find an alternate site to park while enjoying the lake or visiting the area.

REMINDER: the Snow Removal Ordinance is in effect through April 1, 2014.



Winter Weather Reminders

The Clear Lake Public Works Department is asking for the public assistance during snow and ice events and offers the following tips for a safe winter season:

- * Put safety first. Drive only if necessary.
- * Find off-street parking for your vehicle until streets have been cleared.
- * Do not follow too closely to plow equipment.
- * Do not stop too closely behind a plow truck. If you cannot see the truck mirrors then the driver cannot see you.
- * Do not let children build snow forts or tunnels next to the street.
- * Stay informed of the weather forecast.
- * Maintain a safe traveling speed and following distance.
- * Allow extra time to reach your destination.

Senior Sailing



The weather outside might be “frightful,” but the atmosphere is “delightful” at the Senior Center. The Center continues to strive to fulfill our mission to enrich the lives of our senior population through friendship, activities, education, and nourishment. Keeping with this mission, we are trying to introduce new activities to encourage more participation at our facility.

Come and dance to music provided by local bands, meet new friends, and enjoy fellowship with others on the first and third Thursday of the month, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$3.00 per person and is open to anyone 55 and older.

The Center will be offering to the general public a “Homemade Soup and Sandwich Lunch” on January 26th and February 23rd, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This event will feature homemade soup, sandwich, dessert, and a beverage for only \$5.00 per person.

Stop in and check out all the activities that are offered at the Senior Citizens Center. If you have any questions please contact the Center at 357-5443.

Carbon Monoxide Reminder

It is that time of year when the Clear Lake Fire Department receives a lot of calls from our residents due to carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas produced by incomplete combustion. According to the National Fire Prevention Agency, in 2010, U.S. fire department responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.

CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

People who are more susceptible to the effects of carbon monoxide, infants, pregnant women, people with physical conditions which limit their body's ability to use oxygen (i.e. people with emphysema, asthma, heart disease, and those with breathing disorders) absolutely need detectors.

If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive. Please contact the Clear Lake Fire Department with questions.

ATTENTION PET OWNERS



Dog licenses for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2014 are now due. The City Ordinance requires all dogs over six months of age to be licensed with the City of Clear Lake. Licenses may be purchased at City Hall, 15 North 6th Street. For licenses purchased before the March 31st deadline, the fee is \$3.00. The deadline for purchasing your 2014 dog license(s) is March 31, 2014 without penalty. On and after April 1, a \$1.00 penalty charge per month is added for each license. Proof of current

rabies vaccination must be presented at

time of licensing. Dogs kept in State or Federally licensed kennels, which are kept or raised solely for the bona fide purpose of sale and which are kept under constant restraint do not need to be licensed. Please call 357-5267 with questions.



Clear Lake Library Will Celebrate Quasquicentennial (125 Years) in 2014



Our community will observe the Quasquicentennial of the establishment of the Clear Lake Public Library during 2014. We will be celebrating with special events and programs throughout the year. All are invited to participate.

Individuals, families, clubs/organizations and groups of friends can celebrate the Quasquicentennial by joining the Fourth Street Book Club. Clear Lake's Fourth Street was the location of an early library and the present library building is also located on a Fourth Street site. The goal for participants is to read and/or listen to 125 books between January 1st and December 15th. Participants reaching this goal will be honored at a special reception and receive a certificate of recognition. Families, clubs/organizations and friends may form reading teams to read/listen to 125 books in total with each individual team member selecting their own reading material. Visit the library or contact 357-6133 or clplib@netins.net to register as an individual or team.

A very special event is being planned for June with the installation of the "Stories Are Forever" commemorative sculpture on the library's front lawn. Thanks to the many library supporters who contributed so generously to the sculpture project. This is the perfect way to celebrate all the children and their families who have used the library to connect with and explore their world over the past 125 years.

Special anniversary programs scheduled to date include: a presentation by Surf Ballroom historian Jonas Westover on February 1st; a performance by popular storyteller Al Batt on April 14th; and a fall visit by bestselling mystery writer William Kent Krueger.

Please note that City Offices will be closed for observance of the following holidays:

New Year's – Wednesday January 1, 2014
President's Day – Monday, February 17, 2014



Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party

The Clear Lake Public Library is celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with an open house on Monday, February 24th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dr. Seuss' story "One Fish, Two Fish," will provide the theme of the night. Please register by calling the Children's Department at 357-0315.

A guest reader will read Dr. Seuss stories in the story corner at intervals during the evening. There will be door prizes, activities and games like fishing, balancing an Ish Wish Dish and Ring the Gack. Snacks will include drinking the Yin's pink ink (lemonade). The Cat in the Hat will make an appearance at the library during the first hour, in honor of the event. Bring along your camera to take your child's picture with The Cat in the Hat!

Remember to bring your Cat in the Hat hat from past years. Cat in the Hat hats will be available to purchase for \$2.00. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this event.

Middle School Mystery Party

HOOPLA! is for 6th – 8th graders at the Clear Lake Public Library. Middle School students are invited to a Mystery Party on Friday, January 24th, from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. Consider the suspects, evidence, and motives behind "Murder at the Library" to find out who did it. Snacks will be provided. Please register by calling 357-0315.



City of Clear Lake Directory

CITY DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY911

Non-Emergency Police.....	357-2186
Building Inspection.....	357-6135
Cemetery.....	357-6135
City Administrator.....	357-5267
City Attorney.....	357-2139
City Clerk.....	357-5267
City Hall.....	357-5267
Fire Department.....	357-2613
Absolute Waste Removal.....	357-4517
Mayor.....	357-5267
Parks & Recreation.....	357-7010
Planning & Zoning.....	357-6135
Public Library.....	357-6133
Public Works.....	357-6135
Landfill of North Iowa.....	357-5452
Clear Lake Sanitary District.....	357-2019
Water Department.....	357-3911

City Council Meeting agendas are posted online and at City Hall. Rebroadcasts of City Council Meetings are available anytime online on the City's website and on CLVision Community Channel 1 on the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month as follows: Tuesday - 7 p.m.; Wednesday - 6 p.m.; and Saturday - 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Clear Lake City Council



Mayor
Nelson P. Crabb
357-3839

At-Large
Gary Hugi
357-6579

At-Large
Mike Callanan
357-5911

First Ward
Dana Brant
357-3992



Second Ward
Tony J. Nelson
357-0049

Third Ward
Jim Boehnke
357-7144

City Administrator
Scott Flory
357-5267

City Clerk/Editor
Jennifer Larsen
357-5267

**City Council meetings
are the first and third Mondays
at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.**

Additional meetings are scheduled as necessary.

Meetings, except for the Parks & Recreation Board and Library Board, are normally held at City Hall, 15 North 6th Street, Council Chamber. For an agenda or to verify exact date and time, please call City Clerk's office at (641) 357-5267.

Library Board

(Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month)

Tom Arndorfer	Jana Severtson
Scott Johnson	Dave Suntken
Diane Glynn	Bennett Smith
Elizabeth Cherry	

Parks & Recreation Board

(Meets 4th Wednesday of each month)

Tim Raber	Chryl Bergvig
Brenda Anderson	Darron Jones
Amanda Korenberg	Amy Hogg
Scott Lester	

Planning & Zoning Commission

(Meets last Tuesday of each month)

Michael Ritter	Julie Angle
Al Penfold	Arnold Prohaska
Chryl Bergvig	Al Duea

Board of Adjustment

(Meets as needed)

Mike Grandon	Cheryl Sissel
Gail Robinson	James Eilders
Fred Muth	

Visit The City Of Clear Lake Website at www.cityofclearlake.com.



The Clear View

January 2014

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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