



# The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 12 - Number 2

March 2014

[www.cityofclearlake.com](http://www.cityofclearlake.com)

## City Hall Police Department Remodeling Project

Originally constructed in 1964/65, the existing building is approximately 12,800 sq. ft. Until 2012, the building was the home of the fire department, in addition to the City's administrative offices and the police department. For many of the same reasons that the fire department required a new and more modern facility, the police department also is in dire need of upgrading and improvements. Since the mid-1960's changes in operational needs of the department have hindered its ability to provide the high level of service our citizens expect.

The building is now 50 years old and has many of the physical problems that go along with a structure that age – outdated wiring; antiquated lighting; ADA compliancy issues (predates ADA); single-pane glass doors and windows; inadequate building security; and numerous energy efficiency issues. City operations have changed dramatically since 1964 – a time when there were no computers. Today the electrical requirements of the equipment utilized in modern day police station, including dispatching, is very different.

In 2013, the City conducted a Facility Needs Assessment. This report examined the options for improvements to the building and made recommendations regarding the most efficient alternatives to address the concerns in the most beneficial and cost-effective manner. It was determined by the City Council to address the Project in phases.

In 2012, the initial phase of the project was completed. The City replaced its 1970's vintage 55 kW gasoline powered emergency back-up generator, which had numerous reliability issues and lacked an automatic transfer switch, with a new 250 kW diesel generator, with automatic transfer switch. The Project also included a substantial upgrade to the electrical service from a 400 amp to a 600 amp panel.

Following the departure of the fire and ambulance departments to

their new facility, an opportunity to expand the police station into that area became a likely scenario. That new space would provide the police department with expansion opportunities in that area, in addition to a renovation of its current space to address such matters as: adequate space to process DWI violators; adequate office space for the detective and lieutenants for confidential work; private interview rooms; adequate



locker facilities; and additional file and storage space to name a few.

On the administrative side of the building, the City Council Chambers will be relocated to the much larger Community Room. The former Council Chamber will be remodeled for new office space.

The Project public hearing and bid letting were conducted in January, 2014. The Project was very competitively bid with a total of eight (8) general contractors submitting bids. The lowest responsive responsible bidder was King Construction (Clear Lake) with a bid of \$1,140,381. The estimate of the probable cost of construction was \$1,345,876. It is anticipated that the Project will begin in late-February and be completed by December 31, 2014.

## Celebrate Earth Week

Celebrate community and Clear Lake during the week of Clear Lake's Earth Day activities beginning on Monday, April 21st. There is something for everyone!

Sign up your family, neighborhood, or business today and help by giving back some of your time to the community in April. You may take a suggested site or choose one of your own. To register your team, contact the Chamber of Commerce, at 357-2159 or at [trish@clearlakeiowa.com](mailto:trish@clearlakeiowa.com). The week kicks off on Monday, April 21st, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the Library with a guest reader in the story corner. Games & prizes as well as something to make will center around plastic recycling, with a special appearance by the "Plastic Bag Monster". On Thursday, April 24th, the Green Expo will be held at the Surf Ballroom, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Check out the energy-saving and earth-friendly products and services from area businesses and organizations at North Iowa's fastest-growing green expo.

The region's popular early-season, chip-timed, 5k and 10k race,



Refresh Yourself  
Your Community  
Your Planet

begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26th. Register in advance at [www.earthdaynorthiowa.org](http://www.earthdaynorthiowa.org). Also, on Saturday, April 26th the "Community Cleanup" will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A Fun Run for the kids will be held in conjunction with the Festival in City Park, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Check out [www.earthdaynorthiowa.org](http://www.earthdaynorthiowa.org) for the latest activities for the whole family throughout the week to celebrate Earth Week in Clear Lake.

# A New Chapter for the Clear Lake Public Library



Mayor Nelson Crabb

For the past 30 years, it has been Clear Lake's privilege to have benefited from the quiet and unassuming leadership style of Jean Casey. As the sun begins to set on her notable career with the City (she will retire on April 30th), it is my privilege to be among many in wishing her the best as she steps away from her career as Library Director of the Clear Lake Public Library.

I always thought that the Clear Lake Public Library, under Jean's guidance, was adept at finding books that "I" liked to read. It would

be difficult for me to assume her role and not attempt to fill the shelves with books and periodicals that "I" liked, as opposed to the real challenge – finding books and other items that the "patrons" want to read.

During Jean's tenure the Library evolved with our Community. Long ago, I remember how lucky we seemed when we first had the option of selecting a book with "large print". Of course, that's assuming you were a little better than me at locating where it was in the Library via the "card catalog". Now the Library offers almost limitless potential through the internet and we have opportunities such as inter-library loans, computer banks, CD's and DVD's, and access to e-books. Additionally, the Library also began to play a more social and recreational role in the community, hosting events such as live performances from time to time.

Surrounding yourself with quality people and developing a positive work environment is no easy task. Jean did a great job at selecting her staff. So much so, that her long-time Assistant Library Director, Liz DenHartog, will be following in her footsteps and she is also retiring on April 30th.

Jean began her career with the City in January, 1984. Reflecting on her retirement, Jean stated, "I've benefited from great library boards, volunteers, and a wonderful "Friends of the Library" over the years. Additionally, I have been very fortunate to have a really great staff. All of whom have been committed to providing the best quality of library

service to the community that they can."

I hope you will join me in thanking Jean for her contributions to our City and wishing her and her family the very best as she begins a "new Chapter".

Until next time....

## Chamber Corner

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

The Clear Lake Chamber kicked off 2014 with its "Annual Chamber meeting" on January 23rd at the Ventura Community Center. We honored the following individuals and businesses: Business of the Year – The Other Place; Education Partner of the Year – Nicki Barragy; North Iowa Service Award – Dave Theiss; Larry Luker Volunteer of the Year Award – Todd Luker; and the First Mate of the Year – Jennifer Larsen. Congratulations to these individuals and businesses on receiving these awards.

The Color the Wind Kite Festival was held on February 15th and was once again an overwhelming success. The February winter sky was filled with hundreds of colorful kites of all shapes and sizes and professional kite flying teams entertained with their two and four line stunt kites throughout the day.

Wrapping up the Spring activities at the Chamber will be our Annual Earth Day Celebration. Activities will include story corner at the Library on Monday, April 21st; the Green Expo at the Surf Ballroom on Thursday, April 24th; the Earth Day 5k and 10k race on Saturday, April 26th; and the Community Cleanup & Festival in City Park on Saturday, April 26th.

Thanks to everyone in Clear Lake, including the City of Clear Lake 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 2:00 o'clock P.M. with the following membrs present: Mayor Secory and Councilmen Anderson, Nesbit, Jorgenrud, Eddy and Johnson. Absent: None. Motion was made by Jorgenrud, seconded by Anderson, that the price of six grave space cemetery lots be increased from \$100.00 each to \$150.00 and that the charge for the grave openings be increased from \$30.00 to \$35.00 per opening. Both increases effective September 1, 1958. The charge for grave openings for infants and children to remain the same. Motion carried, all members voting aye."*

## Concerned about Speeding

Are you concerned about vehicles going too fast on your street? We can help. The Clear Lake Police Department has a radar trailer capable of displaying oncoming traffic's speed. The unit collects data

that can be used to assess traffic speed issues in your neighborhood. If you would like to have the speed trailer near your home, call the Clear Lake Police Department at 357-2186.



# McChesney Named Interim Police Chief

Rex McChesney, a Lieutenant with the Clear Lake Police Department (CLPD) since July, 2006, was nominated by Mayor Nelson P. Crabb and City Administrator Scott Flory for appointment to service as Interim Police Chief. The appointment was confirmed by the City Council on February 10th. McChesney began his career in law enforcement as a police officer with the CLPD in 1986. Prior to that he worked in the department of corrections for the Cerro Gordo County sheriff's office.

"For more than eight (8) years now as Mayor, I have known Mr. McChesney, I have witnessed his devotion and commitment to the community. He has extensive experience and knowledge about the operations of the Clear Lake Police Department and will be able to provide stability and leadership to the department during this transition. I am very pleased to make this announcement", stated Mayor Crabb.

Flory stated that, he was "confident that McChesney's experience, ability, and internal knowledge of the department would ensure a seamless transition process. Internally, he can help us through this transition

and toward getting ready to seek that person to take the permanent position."

Following his appointment, McChesney said he looks forward to expanding upon the police department's relationship with local businesses and that he also looks forward to working with citizens to get their ideas about how the police department can do a better job addressing their concerns.

Mayor Crabb stated that, while he had no 'set' timetable for the transition, a search process for the next chief would start in a few months and would be done without using an outside recruiting firm. He lastly noted that the process could take up to 8-10 months and he expects internal candidates to be considered.

Current Police Chief Greg Peterson earlier this year announced his plans to retire from the CLPD effective April 30th. He has served as Police Chief for 7 ½ years.



**Rex McChesney**

## CITY-WIDE SIDEWALK MASTER PLAN

In order to more effectively plan for sidewalk improvement project, the City of Clear Lake will be preparing a sidewalk master plan. Safe and sound infrastructure in the City improves the quality of life for everyone and sidewalks are an important part of that objective.

The City will be working with a consultant to develop a City-Wide Master Plan. Working with City staff and others, the consultant will be conducting an inventory of all the City's sidewalks – assessing their condition and determining where new ones are needed.

The first step in developing a master plan is the creation of a sidewalk map. This map will show areas of the City where sidewalks exist currently and where the City should anticipate constructing them in the future. The sidewalk map will also suggest streets where it is not recommended to add sidewalks. There are sections of Clear Lake where there are significant constraints to sidewalk construction (such as a steep hillside area) and there are sections that the City may prefer to keep as more of a rural section (without sidewalks).

It is not the desire or intent of the City to remove trees, nor encroach upon a private property. The City will utilize current sidewalk code regulations to place sidewalks within existing right of ways. One of the most important concepts for sidewalks is connectivity. For people to want to use a sidewalk, it must conveniently connect them to their intended destination.

Although the City has made substantial sidewalk improvements over the years, many in conjunction with major street reconstruction projects or others as stand-alone projects in the vicinity of schools and pedestrian generators, much work yet remains. City Council member Mike Callanan stated that one of his objectives in advancing the sidewalk master plan initiative was to ensure that adequate resources were being devoted to more systematically address deficient sidewalks for compliance with the American's with Disabilities Act and for those in wheelchairs and with other handicaps.

"The Council is committed to a positive quality of life for all and having walkable neighborhoods. We can help achieve that by having safe and dependable sidewalks that assist our efforts to be a safe City for our residents and visitors. Our sidewalk plan initiative is an excellent way to maximize our resources and make noticeable improvements in our neighborhoods, rather than just piecemeal. The City knows that this is an issue that's important to its residents and visitors alike. I, for one, am looking forward to this new approach in addressing sidewalk needs", stated Callanan.

Community meetings will be held at the following times and locations for the purposes of soliciting public input:

- Ward 1 – March 25th at 6:30 p.m. – Zion Lutheran Church
- Ward 2 – March 27th at 6:30 p.m. – Lakeview Community Room
- Ward 3 – April 1st at 6:30 p.m. – Church of Christ
- At Large – April 3rd at 6:30 p.m. – Lakeview Community Room

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



# Watermain Flushing Schedule set for Spring

The Clear Lake Water Department will begin flushing water mains in April. Flushing will be done from April 14th to April 16th, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Why does the City flush water mains?** Watermain flushing is performed to maintain the distribution system to desired standards. Flushing is used to remove iron and other deposits that may build up over time in some parts of the system and is performed to bleed the system of air pockets. Flushing moves water through parts of the system where it may have lost the desired concentration of chlorine and fluorine due to relatively low water usage. It also allows Water Department crews an opportunity to inspect hydrants for tampering and verify they are operating properly for fire protection.

**How often does the City flush water mains?** Water Department personnel generally perform flushing operations twice a year, usually in the spring and fall. Flushing may also be performed after repairs have been made to fix breaks or new lines that have been added to the water distribution system to ensure the system is properly disinfected.

**What should residents expect when the City is flushing water mains?** Residents may experience low water pressure and some discolored water when the Water Department crews are flushing in their neighborhood. Any change in the direction or rate of flow of the water due to watermain break, fire use, heavy sprinkling, and flushing can cause naturally occurring deposits in the pipe to be churned up and mix with the water, affecting its appearance. In most cases, the "rusty" water is temporary and will go away within about 5 minutes by letting the water run through an unfiltered cold water tap until the system clears. While discolored water may not look pleasant, it is not a health risk. Residents may also notice the water is cloudy or has a chlorine smell. Tiny air bubbles may be trapped in the water by the churning action causing it to look cloudy. The churning action may also cause chlorine to be released from the water, affecting smell and taste.

Notice of flushing is placed in the Clear Lake Mirror Reporter. If you have no water pressure during flushing operations, please notify the Water Department at 641-357-5267.

# Street Sweeping to Start Late Spring

Spring street sweeping operations begin when streets are significantly clear of ice and snow accumulations. This typically occurs late in March or possibly early April. Temperatures play an important part in the start up of spring sweeping operations. Because a sweeper requires water to minimize dust, the air temperature needs to remain above 36 degrees for efficient operation of the sweeper. Rain can also hamper street sweeping because too much water on the street reduces sweeping effectiveness.



The city owns two street sweepers that are used for cleaning streets and city parking lots. Sweeping operations cover all paved streets, approximately 80 miles, on a routine basis. Once the sweepers begin seasonal operations, they are each assigned to specific routes and will continue sweeping assigned routes until the entire city has been swept. The sweeping of streets continues on a routine basis throughout the warm weather months.

Street sweeping helps remove sediment, debris, sand and other materials from the street to prevent the materials from getting into the storm sewer system. This reduces the environmental impact since the storm sewer system leads directly to local creeks as well as some intakes leading directly to Clear Lake.

# Large Item Cleanup Program

The 2014 Spring Large Item Pickup will take place April 7th to April 10th. Residents are encouraged to use this opportunity to dispose of large items that cannot be discarded through their weekly garbage service. The Large Item Pickup map will appear in the Clear Lake Mirror Reporter on April 2nd, listing the dates the City will pick up in your area and the items that will and will not be picked up.

City residents can have old appliances and/or electronic items picked up during Large Item Cleanup for a cost of \$15 an item.



**Stickers can be purchased for \$15 each at Clear Lake City Hall, 15 North 6th Street. Stickers must be purchased by 5:00 p.m. on April 9th.** Items that require a sticker are: furnaces, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, stoves, washers, dryers, microwaves, copy machines, water heaters, fluorescent light fixtures, televisions, computer monitors, and printers. Pickup of appliances in all areas will be on April 10th. Please have appliances with stickers attached to the curb by no later than 7 a.m. on April 10th.

Please also be aware that the City WILL NOT pickup any items that may be recycled through the Landfill of North Iowa's electronic waste-recycling program. Landfill customers may drop off VCR's, DVD players, stereo equipment, clock radios, gaming equipment, computer towers, mice and keyboards, input devices, scanners, video surveillance cameras, fax machines, and cordless phones for recycling. Many of the above items may be recycled free of charge at the Landfill.

# Yard Waste Disposal Options



Residents are reminded that the burning of leaves and grass clippings is prohibited within the city limits. The City offers weekly curbside leaf and grass clipping collection within the city limits, as well as the City's yard waste collection site as alternatives for disposal of yard waste.

Absolute Waste Removal will begin curbside collection beginning April 7. Absolute Waste will collect leaves and grass clippings in biodegradable bags or an open garbage container on your regular garbage collection day. They will initially pick up your garbage and then return later the same day to pick up leaves and grass clippings.

Alternatively, you may haul your leaves and grass clippings to the City's yard waste collection site located at 1419 2nd Avenue South. The site is open Monday and Wednesday, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The site is also available during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Please contact City Hall at 357-5267 or Absolute Waste Removal at 357-4517 with questions. As always, your anticipated cooperation in keeping Clear Lake an attractive community is most appreciated.

## Discover over 100 Digital Magazines with Zinio

Zinio is a digital magazine source subscribed to by the Clear Lake Public Library. Recently the library joined with other area libraries to provide a larger collection. Now, more than 100 popular magazines are available. In order to access the new and expanded collection, go to [www.rbdigital.com/masoncityia](http://www.rbdigital.com/masoncityia).

**Current users:** The first time you visit the collection you will need to create a new library account using your Clear Lake Public Library card number just as you did before. You do not need to create a new Zinio account.

**New users:** Create a library account at the above website. Then to view the magazines, you will need to create a new Zinio account as well. Follow the prompts on the website or pick up a print guide at the adult desk. For more information contact the Library at 357-6133.



## Senior Sailing

The Senior Citizens Center of Clear Lake is looking for those 60 years and older to become interested in the activities offered at the center. Being involved in these organizations promotes health, independence, and a greater sense of self-worth in the aging population. In 2007,



a study by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability found that "nationally less than 10 percent of older adults regularly participate in senior center activities."

We invite you to call us at 357-5443 or stop in at our location at 105 S 4th Street to talk with us about the center's activities, Congregate meal program or Meals on Wheels. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

## Al Batt returns to the Library as part of the Quasiquicentennial Celebration



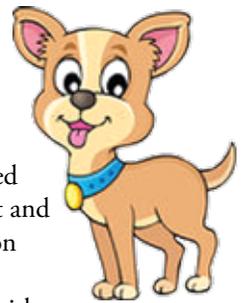
Beloved storyteller Al Batt will be returning to the Clear Lake Public Library on Monday, April 14th as part of the Library's Quasiquicentennial celebration during 2014. Batt is a really likeable guy who knows how to tickle the universal funny bone. He is a journalist who writes weekly nature and humor columns as well as having a regular nature program on Minnesota public television. He is well known in the "birding" world having been named

"Birder of the Year" by Wildbird Magazine. He will frequently disappear into the woods to meditate on more ways to entertain his audiences who love his laidback style and down home stories.

Join the Library in one of the many activities planned for the Quasiquicentennial Celebration on Monday, April 14th at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact the Library at 357-0315.

## Reminder to Pet Owners

As a reminder the deadline for purchasing your 2014 dog license(s) is March 31, 2014 without penalty. If purchased before the March 31st deadline, the fee is \$3.00. On and after April 1st, a \$1.00 penalty charge per month is added for each license. License may be purchased at City Hall, 15 North 6th Street and proof of current rabies vaccination must be presented at the time of licensing. Please call 357-5267 with questions.



Please note that City Offices will be closed for Good Friday on Friday, April 18th.

The Clear View Newsletter is printed on recycled paper



# City of Clear Lake Directory

## CITY DIRECTORY

### EMERGENCY .....911

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month)

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

## Parks & Recreation Board

(Meets 4<sup>th</sup> 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
Lori Broghammer	

## Board of Adjustment

(Meets as needed)

Mike Grandon	Cerise Sissel
Gail Robinson	Bob Swanson
Fred Muth	

Visit The City Of Clear Lake Website at [www.cityofclearlake.com](http://www.cityofclearlake.com).



The

March 2014

# Clear View

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



**15 North 6th Street  
P.O. Box 185  
Clear Lake, IA 50428**

**City Office  
(641) 357-5267**

**Fax  
(641) 357-8711**

**PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Clear Lake, IA  
Permit No. 2**

**Residential  
Postal Patron - ECRWSS**

The City of Clear Lake, Iowa publishes The Clear View 6 times a year. Copyrights are not exercised and there are no restrictions on the use or reprinting of any material appearing in this newsletter. The newsletter is produced on behalf of the City of Clear Lake by the City Administrator and City Clerk, printed by the Clear Lake Mirror Reporter, and provided to citizens of the City without cost. The newsletter's purpose is to disseminate information about the activities of your City government. No ads or commercial announcements will be published. The newsletter is printed in the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November each year.