



The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 12 - Number 2

May 2014

www.cityofclearlake.com

RAGBRAI's *Comin' Through Town*

Clear Lake will welcome RAGBRAI XLII on Wednesday, July 23rd as Clear Lake has been designated as a "pass-through" town. The ride will be traveling from Forest City and it is anticipated they will begin arriving by 7:00 a.m., and according to "pass-through" town rules, all RAGBRAI related activities will end at 4:00 p.m.

Promoting Iowa and its communities is what RAGBRAI is all about – and the task of the Planning Committee is to make Clear Lake a town to remember and hopefully a town for riders to return to. In order to prepare for and execute activities that day, many volunteers will be needed to do a variety of things. Individuals, neighborhoods, organizations, and businesses are encouraged to be involved in some way on July 23rd. For more information about becoming a volunteer, contact Kym Barrett, Volunteer Chairman, at 357-3198.

Community members can show off their Clear Lake pride on July 23rd by wearing a Clear Lake RAGBRAI t-shirt. T-shirts are \$20.00 and will be available for purchase at the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce office.



2014 Outdoor Weather Warning Siren Tests



The Clear Lake Police Department will test the Clear Lake Outdoor Warning Sirens the first Monday of the month at noon through the month of October. When sirens are activated, they will be sounded for a period of three minutes. Any activation outside of the dates and times listed means that the sirens have been activated due to a weather warning issued by the National Weather Service.

The Outdoor Warning Sirens will be set off when certain conditions occur; when the National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning for the area, when the National Weather Service has issued a warning of straight line winds in excess of 50 mph or when the National Weather Service has issued a warning of a dangerous lightning storm. The sirens will also be set off if any of these weather conditions have been spotted locally. If a tornado has been sighted or reported to be on the ground, the sirens will remain activated until the tornado has dissipated. In all other cases, the sirens will be sounded for a period of three minutes.

There are a few things to remember about our Outdoor Warning Sirens. They are designed to give an audible warning to people who are outdoors when severe weather is approaching. The sirens are not designed to be loud enough to be heard indoors, although you may hear them indoors if you live close to a siren site. Each siren is capable of covering a one mile radius from its location. If you are outdoors and you hear the sirens; IMMEDIATELY SEEK SHELTER INDOORS. Further information will be available on T.V. or the radio.

Please do not dial 911 to ask why the sirens have been set off, as these calls tie up the telephone line to the Police Department preventing us from receiving emergency calls.



Mayor Nelson Crabb

Economic Development sometimes feels like an episode of “Let’s Make a Deal”

It was a very cold day back in early January that I sat in City Administrator Scott Flory’s office waiting for a conference call with a site selector for a potential large scale economic development project. This was the day (actually it was in the evening) that we were to be notified, up or down, as

to whether 5 months of negotiating back and forth with the site selector would pay dividend.

I don’t think I will ever forget the look on Scott’s face as he glanced over at me while he was on the phone with the site selector and gestured to me a very wide-eyed thumbs up. It was a moment that I knew would have the potential to impact our Community in a positive way for many years to come. This was the evening that Clear Lake had received confirmation that project Windmill Realty, LLC would be located in Clear Lake. A project that would create 164 full-time jobs at \$39,000/year; \$6.5 million annual payroll; result in nearly \$19 million in new tax base; invest over \$65 million in capital to build and equip; and ultimately result in the likelihood of a Fortune 100 Company putting down roots in our City.

Many people I visit with about this project indicate to me that the Interstate must have been the deciding factor in the selection decision. That would be an over-simplification. A Project site selection decision such as this would never be made purely because of an Interstate alone. Every candidate community under consideration for Project Windmill Realty, LLC had proximity to an Interstate or major highway. That factor alone did not distinguish Clear Lake from its competition. It is analogous to saying that all straight “A” (4.0) students should be accepted to Harvard University or discounting the rigorous process that a City goes through in an effort to host the Olympics or the Super Bowl. Clear Lake offered proximity to I-35, while our penultimate rival for the Project, Austin, MN, offered proximity to I-90. In fact, I might suggest a slight edge could have been given to Austin based upon the Midwest territory to be served specifically by this proposed regional warehouse & distribution facility.

Additionally, a great deal of thought and innovation went

into the formulation of the proposed incentive package. It is noteworthy that Clear Lake’s incentive package was actually slightly less aggressive than Austin. Of course, that fact did not reveal itself until long after the site selection decision had been made.

So why Clear Lake? The City of Clear Lake has one of the lowest city tax rates in the State of Iowa, which translates well into the long-term cost of doing business equation. The City invested heavily in the development of an industrial park, with infrastructure designed and built to be able to accommodate such a project. Additionally, the City demonstrated a commitment and willingness to proceed with the Project on terms that were favorable to the legitimate business interests of the Project. Last, but perhaps most important – it is because of the people of Clear Lake; none of the things this City has accomplished over the past decade to help position itself for this type of an opportunity would have been possible without your unwavering confidence and support. You are the difference and I thank you!

A message from acting Police Chief McChesney



Rex McChesney

Dear Valued Residents & Visitors,

For many of you reading this newsletter, we may need no formal introduction as I may have known you for many years. However, for other newer residents or visitors I would like to formally introduce myself as your acting Police Chief. I have been employed with the City of Clear Lake Police Department since 1986. It has been a privilege to serve this fine community and I am greatly enjoying leading your police department.

The Clear Lake City Council took action to confirm the Mayor and City Administrator’s recommendation to name me acting Police Chief on March 3, 2014. I am honored to serve the citizens of Clear Lake in this role. My wife and I care deeply about Clear Lake having lived our entire lives together and raising our family here – I do not take this appointment lightly.

I view this appointment as a challenge and an opportunity to utilize my abilities for the betterment of the City. I am currently developing short and long term goals and initiatives to successfully navigate this transitional period.

The Police Department will continue to work as a team with the same resolve to protect & serve. I have an open door, should you need anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

Rex McChesney, Acting Police Chief

Office: 641-357-5267

Cell: 641-529-6099

e-mail: clpdchief@netins.net

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 o’clock A.M. with the following members present: Mayor Nesbit, in Chair; Nichols, Godden, Petersen, Unga, and White. Moved by Unga, seconded by Nichols to authorize the City Administrator to hire Dave Klousia as a bookkeeper in the City Administration area, at \$3.75 per hour effective October 26, 1977. Roll Call All Ayes.”



Longtime City Hall Accounting Clerk Retires

After 36 years of greeting Clear Lake residents and customers visiting City Hall, David Klousia has decided it is time for the next chapter in his life. On Friday, April 4, 2014, the longtime City employee greeted former co-workers and members of the Community at his retirement party held at Clear Lake City Hall. Klousia was hired on October 26, 1977.

"I've been an accounting clerk my entire career, fortunately I like the job. I also liked that I was able to develop relationships and become so well acquainted with so many people over the years", stated Klousia.

"Dealing with the public isn't always the easiest job, but Dave excelled at being responsive to their concerns and was a good listener", added City Administrator Scott Flory. "When I began my career at City Hall there were no computers and all entries were done by hand, now with the advancements in technology most everything is much more streamlined", stated Klousia.

Klousia noted that he will miss the people and his co-workers most of all. He also added that, "most of the people I started with at the City are long since gone, but I have stayed in touch with many of them".

Dave and his wife, Sue, plan to remain in North Iowa and travel.

The Clear View Newsletter is printed on recycled paper



City of Clear Lake Residents
Let's Go PAPERLESS...



By getting your utility
bills online

To sign up to receive your water bill by e-mail; please visit us at
www.cityofclearlake.com

- Click the link on the left hand side that says "View/Pay Utility Bill"
- Under the heading that reads "How to VIEW Utility Bill" click the link "Click here to view your bill"
- The link will take you to our payment processor's website where you can register to receive your water bills by e-mail.



Clear Lake Ordinance Requirements & Guidelines:

- 1) Property must be mowed as often as necessary to keep grass or weeds below six inches (6").
- 2) Noxious weeds must be cut prior to seed bearing stage.
- 3) May 1st is generally the beginning date of the season for enforcement.

Any property in violation (including the right-of-way area adjacent to the property) is subject to nuisance enforcement actions by the city, and if it is necessary to abate the nuisance, there is a charge for the actual service and an administrative fee will also be assessed to the property owner.

Complaints regarding high grass or weeds can be made to the City's Public Works office at 641-357-6135 or clpwd@netins.net.

As a reminder, grass clippings may not be blown into the street.

City Council approves street resurfacing projects

A busy year of street improvements will soon get underway with the resurfacing of the following streets:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 2nd Avenue N.: | between N. 3rd and N. 6th Streets; and |
| 3rd Avenue N.: | between N. Lakeview Drive and N. 3rd Street; and |
| 14th Avenue S.: | between S. Shore Drive and S. 8th Street; and |
| 15th Avenue S.: | between S. Shore Drive and S. 8th Street. |

The work will generally consist of grinding and removal of a portion of the existing asphalt or concrete pavement, followed by the placement of a new layer of asphalt. Through traffic and access to driveways will be restricted during the resurfacing activities.

These street segments were identified as part of the City's Comprehensive Pavement Management Report that was prepared in 2007. The report provides the City a comprehensive guide in determining its street improvement projects.

The City Council awarded the construction contract to Heartland Asphalt (Mason City) in the amount of \$286,156 on March 3rd. The Project completion date is June 20th.



Senior Sailing

Come to downtown Clear Lake for Thursdays on Main! This Chamber event features live music, featured entertainment, classic cars, a bounce house, hand-powered kiddie train rides, our retail stores stay open late, vendor street and farmer's market, topped off with a movie in the park!

The first Thursdays on Main is scheduled for June 12th and will be held every Thursday, with the exception of July 3rd, until August 21st. Activities on Main Avenue begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m. All activities are free, thanks to our generous sponsors. The schedule for the month of June is as follows:

June 12th – Danny Grouse will perform on the 400 block of Main (next to Larson's Mercantile) from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.; Special Entertainment on the 300 block of Main (SE corner of City Park) by Black Belt Academy at 6:30 p.m.; and the Movie "Gravity" (rated PG 13) in the City Park bandshell at 9:00 p.m.

June 19th – Spenser Rahm will perform from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.; Special Entertainment by Dancin' With Roxie at 6:30 p.m.; and the Movie "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2" (rated PG) at 9:00 p.m.

June 26th – You Knew Me When will perform from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.; Special Entertainment by Denny's School of Dance at 6:30 p.m.; and the movie "Safe Haven" (rated PG 13) at 9:00 p.m.

For the latest information visit the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce website at www.clearlakeiowa.com.



We've recently had a small sample of spring-like weather. Was it enough to get you started on plans for Spring/Summer 2014? Is there a graduation reception, birthday or anniversary party, or family reunion in those plans? If so, please consider the Clear Lake Senior Center as a possible venue for your next event. We are conveniently located within walking distance to City Beach, City Park, and downtown. There is plenty of free parking and our building is handicap accessible. Call for rates and available dates, the calendar is filling up fast!

Have you started your spring cleaning yet? Our members are frantically cleaning attics, basements & garages, getting ready for our next BIG event, a garage sale. We will be holding the first of what we hope will become an annual event on Saturday, June 21st, beginning at 8:00 a.m. You will find the useful & unique, the collectible & recyclable, and undoubtedly just the item you were looking for.

Things are "buzzing" at the Clear Lake Senior Center. Stop by for coffee, or just to look around, we'd love to have you join us!

Clear Lake Library Announces Summer Reading Programs



"Spark a Reaction" is the Clear Lake Public Library's Summer Reading Program for students going into grades 6th to 8th and is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

The program will run June 2nd to July 19th. Keep a summer reading record to be eligible for weekly prize drawings and to earn "Book Bucks," a t-shirt, and a chance for the grand prize: a limo ride on the first day of school! Special Programs will be held throughout the Summer. Please contact the Children's Department at 357-0315 for more information.



"Fizz, Boom Read!" is the theme of this year's summer reading program at the Clear Lake Public Library. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the program will run for seven weeks from June 2nd to July 19th. To register, use the form available at the library, or phone 357-0315 on or after Monday, June 2nd. Pick up free sheets needed to keep track of minutes read; as points add up, the children earn prizes at various levels, plus earning "Book Bucks" which can be spent at the Scholastic Book Fair, to be held from July 21st – 31st. Special programs will be held throughout the summer. Contact the Children's Department at the Library for more information.

Get ready for the fun!



The Clear Lake Aquatic Center will open on May 24th at 1:00 p.m. To avoid long waits, purchase your season pass early. You can pick one up today at City Hall, Parks & Recreation or download the membership form at www.cityofclearlake.com.

We are excited to begin another fun season at the pool and look forward to seeing all of you there.

Clear Lake Parks & Recreation Summer Activities

The Parks & Recreation Department Summer Activity Guide is now available. Copies are available at the Parks & Recreation office or at City Hall. You may also access the information online at www.cityofclearlake.com or you may call the department at 357-7010.

Below is a list of some of the youth and adult activities that will be offered throughout the summer.

- Little Lakers Day Camp (1st & 2nd grades)
- Operation Adventure Day Camp (3rd & 4th grades)
- Small Adventures (4 years old – Kindergarten)
- Playgrounds (1st – 3rd grades)
- Special Activities (4th – 7th grades)
- 4H Clover Kids (K – 3rd grades)
- Digging in the Dirt (K-3rd grades)
- Computer Adventures Tech Camp (5th – 7th grades)
- Golf Lessons (youth & adult)
- Tennis Lessons
- Dance Clinic
- Cheerleading Camp
- Turbo Tumbling
- Kids Fishing Camp
- Cutting Edge Fitness for Kids (ages 7 – 14)
- Co-Ed Sand Volleyball
- Co-Ed Kickball League
- Adult Fitness Classes

BARBEQUE SAFETY TIPS

The Clear Lake Fire Department would like to remind you of the following safety tips while grilling out this summer.

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area by declaring a 3-foot “kid-free zone” around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when cooking food.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Use only outdoors! Never use grills indoors or in closed spaces.

Charcoal Grills

- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have ignited, never use combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

Propane Grills

- Check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will reveal escaping propane quickly by releasing bubbles.
- If you determine your grill has a gas leak by smell or the soapy bubble test and there is no flame: Turn off the propane tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- All propane cylinders manufactured after April 2002 must have overfill protection devices (OPD). OPDs shut off the flow of propane before capacity is reached, limiting the potential for release of propane gas if the cylinder heats up. OPDs are easily identified by their triangular-shaped hand wheel.
- Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers’ instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane cylinders in building or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

Please note that City offices will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.



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
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.



The Clear View

May 2014

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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