



# The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 13 - Number 6  
November 2015  
[www.cityofclearlake.com](http://www.cityofclearlake.com)

## Join in the fun of the 21st Annual CHRISTMAS BY THE LAKE

The Annual Christmas by the Lake event is scheduled for Saturday, December 5th and Sunday December 6th. This year marks the 21st Anniversary of one of the largest and most beloved City festivals. On Saturday, activities include: trolley rides; craft show; crowning of prince & princess; petting zoo; s'more's for kids; Christmas Karaoke; visit with Santa; strolling Dickens characters; lighted parade; and fireworks over the lake.

The fun continues on Sunday with the annual Polar Bear Dip and Kids Treasure Hunt. Other events throughout the weekend include: a holiday concert at the Surf Ballroom with Sara Evans and the Festival of Trees.

Be on the lookout for more exciting new ways to celebrate our 21st Anniversary of Christmas by the Lake. For a complete schedule of events visit [www.clearlakeiowa.com](http://www.clearlakeiowa.com).



## Clear Your Sidewalks

As we approach the winter months, the City asks for the voluntary cooperation all businesses, homeowners, and/or current occupants to remember to clear all sidewalks of snow and ice after each storm.

Many pedestrians, including school children, use the sidewalks in winter. A clear sidewalk prevents injury and allows safe passage.



**Snow Removal Ordinance  
is in effect beginning November 1, 2015  
through April 1, 2016.**





Mayor Nelson Crabb

## Whether it is “Fall” or “Autumn”, it is my favorite season

To me, this is the best time of year. Some people don't share my enthusiasm for Fall/Autumn. They view it as the end of summer and the arrival of cold weather. Make no mistake, I love the summertime

in Clear Lake, but like many of you, my “social calendar” is in overdrive during that time of year with all the events and festivities going on in town. In Fall/Autumn we get to enjoy the best of Friday night football at Lions Field. Front porches are decorated with mums, corn stalks, scarecrows, and jack o' lanterns, as the trees dazzle us with colorful foliage. Talk also turns to when the first frost will occur – not that I look forward to that in particular. Harvest is in full swing, as the farmers work from dusk to dawn. It is also the perfect season to enjoy a piece of pumpkin pie or a cup of cider with a loved one and for us “throwbacks”, you may enjoy reading the lyrics of a particular song popularized, by Frank Sinatra, that seems very appropriate.

### “Autumn Leaves”

The falling leaves  
Drift by my window  
The falling leaves  
Of red and gold

I see your lips  
The summer kisses  
The sunburned hands  
I used to hold

Since you went away  
The days grow long  
And soon I'll hear  
Old winter's song

But I miss you most of all  
My darling  
When autumn leaves  
Start to fall

Since you went away  
The days grow long  
And soon I'll hear  
Old winter's song

But I miss you most of all  
My darling  
When autumn leaves  
Start to fall

Happy Fall/Autumn my friends and thank you for all you do for Clear Lake during all four seasons!

## MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!!

# Municipal Election Right Around The Corner

By Jennifer Larsen, City Clerk

Local elections are right around the corner. The General Election for the City of Clear Lake will be held November 3, 2015. Residents will be voting for three (3) City Council Members (Ward 1, Ward 3, and one At-Large) in this election.

The terms of current City Council Members: Dana Brant, Mike Callanan; and Jim Boehnke all expire December 31, 2015. Callanan is seeking re-election to the at-large position and is running unopposed. Brandt and Boehnke are each seeking the Ward 3 seat. Newcomers Mark Ebeling and Rich Oehlert are each seeking the Ward 1 position.

Clear Lake voters will be able to cast their ballots on November 3rd at either one of two “vote centers”. The vote centers will be located at Clear Lake City Hall, 15 N 6th Street and the Clear Lake Church of Christ, 2010 – 14th Avenue N. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Clear View Newsletter is printed on recycled paper



## 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 8:00 o'clock P.M. on December 13, 1948 with the following members present: Mayor Ward, Councilmen Barlow, Larson, Eastman and McGowan. The meeting was called for the purpose of electing a Councilman for second ward to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Carl Johannessen. Nominations were in order and the name of E.L. Secory was presented and on vote by ballot Mr. Secory received four votes and was unanimously elected Councilman for second ward. Mr. Secory was called and accepted his election to office of Councilman and qualified by receiving the oath of office administered to him by Mayor Ward.”*

## Before you go South.....

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about snow. The City of Clear Lake encourages "Snowbirds" to plan ahead. Property owners are reminded that the City Code requires that all snow and ice must be removed from public sidewalks within 48 hours of the end of a snowfall. Snowbirds are encouraged to arrange for the removal of snow/ice from their property during the winter months.



It is also helpful if you leave instructions on how you want to handle payment of your utility bill while you are away. There are several options you might consider for payment of your monthly water bills while you are gone during the winter months: 1) customers can pay and manage their utility bill online at [www.cityofclearlake.com](http://www.cityofclearlake.com); 2) customers can fill out an "Automatic Bill Payment Plan" form and have their monthly water bills automatically deducted from their checking or savings account at their bank; 3) customers can pay their water bills in advance estimating the cost for the months they plan to be away; 4) customers can give the Utility Billing Department a forwarding address to mail their monthly billings; or 5) remove the water meter from the property and turn it into the water plant. Additionally helpful is a phone number and address, or the name of a local contact, should the usage on your water meter show an irregularity that might indicate a broken water pipe, etc.

Please contact the Utility Billing Department at 357-5267 with questions.

## Stop the Leaks

If your water bill seems high, it may be due to a leak, such as a dripping faucet. Even a slow drip can use as much as 5,000 gallons of water per month. A steady stream can use up to 21,000 gallons per month. A toilet that runs continuously can use as much as 4,000 gallons of water per day. To check for a toilet leak, put a few drops of food coloring in the tank and see if it seeps into the bowl. If it does, replace the flapper valve and/or the rubber gasket at the bottom of the tank.



Your meter is a valuable tool in detecting water leaks in and around your home:

1. Make sure no water is running.
2. Turn off all faucets and water-consuming appliances.
3. Read your water meter. Write down the current reading, including tenths.
4. Read the meter again after 30 to 60 minutes. If the meter reading has changed, you have a leak.

If you have any questions, please contact the Water Department at 357-3911 or the Utility Billing Department at 357-5267.

## Did You Know?

In the last 6 months of 2015 the Clear Lake Police Department:

- Answered 4,873 calls for service.
- Investigated 90 thefts; 40 vandalism; 24 burglaries; and
- Arrested 14 people for operating while under the influence.



## Inspect Your Mailbox

City snowplow operators pay close attention to avoid mailboxes within the right-of-way. Mailboxes are rarely hit by plows. Instead, the mailbox or the mailbox and post are toppled by the snow rolling off the end of the snowplow.

The Public Works Department is asking homeowners to inspect and evaluate the condition of their mailbox and its support post prior to the onset of winter weather. The mailboxes and the posts that support them do require occasional maintenance or even replacement.

Residents should check to assure that mailboxes are firmly attached to the post and that the post is constructed sturdily enough to withstand the weight of the snow as it comes off the end of a snowplow. Homeowners should also check their mailbox to assure it has not begun to lean out into the street.

Residents are also reminded that they are responsible for clearing their mailbox area of snow to ensure mail delivery.



Please note that City offices will be closed on the following days:

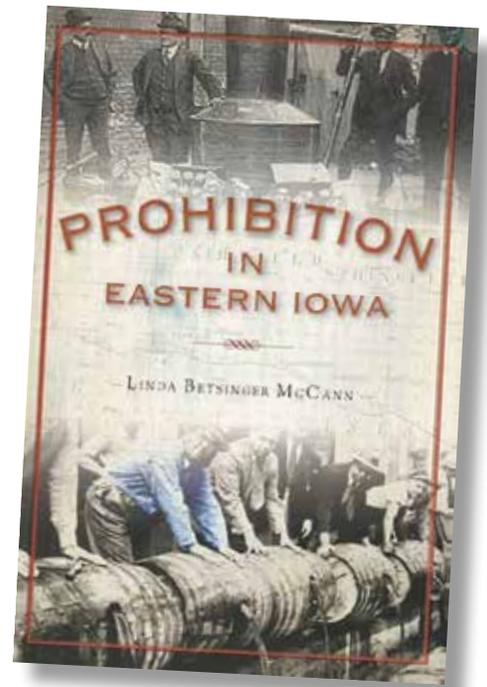
- Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26th
- Day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 27th
- Christmas Day, Friday, December 25th
- New Year's Day, Friday, January 1st

## “Prohibition in Eastern Iowa” Author to visit the Clear Lake Library

Linda Betsinger McCann, author of “Prohibition in Eastern Iowa”, will be at the Clear Lake Public Library on Tuesday, November 17th, at 6:30 p.m., to talk about her book. Linda grew up with a grandfather who made his own home brew, so she thought nothing of people doing this. She watched “The Untouchables” on television, and thought of the Prohibition era as something that was exciting. The research she did for this book changed the way she perceived those 13 years in history and its significance.

Her book covers the gamut from farmers who grew corn used in making illegal liquor, to the bootleggers who trafficked it, and the gangsters who sold it; eastern Iowa saw its fair share. The book contains excerpts of interviews with regular people who were swept up in the craziness, as well as gun battles on two land highways. You may be surprised at how this period in our national history transpired and impacted Iowa.

McCann also authored the “Lost Towns” series part of the Iowan books historical series, including: Lost Bremer County, Lost Butler County, Lost Black Hawk County, and the new Lost Linn County.

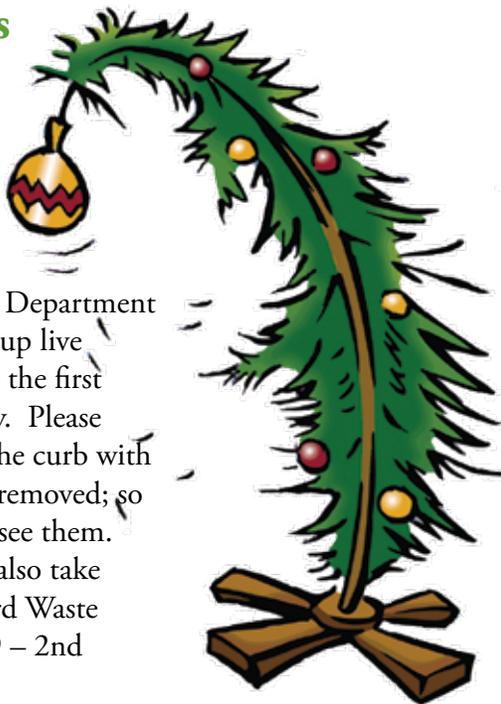


**Aquatic Center**  
memberships make  
a great holiday gift!

Discounted  
memberships are on  
sale now for the 2016  
season.

### Christmas Tree Pickup

The City Street Department will be picking up live Christmas trees the first week of January. Please have them on the curb with all decorations removed; so the drivers can see them. Residents may also take them to the Yard Waste Facility at 1419 – 2nd Avenue South.



## Fun Activities at the Clear Lake Public Library

### Christmas by the Lake Storytime

We invite you to a warm and wonderful storytime in the Children’s Department of the Clear Lake Public Library on Saturday, December 5th from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for preschool families ages 3 and up. There will also be a second session offered for children ages 6-12 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Come enjoy a story, craft, and yummy snack.

### Winter Wonderland Family Event

A Winter Wonderland Family Night will be held at the Clear Lake Public Library on Monday, December 28th from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. as an open house event. Come to the Children’s Department downstairs to enjoy stories about winter and snow with lots of participation for the children. There will be games and winter craft. Please register by calling 357-0315.

# 'Re-Revitalizing' Our Downtown Sidewalks

by Nelson Crabb, Mayor

A defining characteristic of Clear Lake's distinctive downtown business district is its brick paver sidewalks. Clear Lake's brick paver sidewalks complement the City's historic store fronts and add a certain ambiance and charm to the City. Downtown would lose a considerable amount of its allure and character, which draws residents and out-of-town visitors, without them and the decorative street lights. Granted, a typical cement sidewalk would be cheaper and less maintenance (and more mundane) than the brick pavers, but it is hard for me to imagine what downtown would look like without them.

Undoubtedly, some may give little thought to the downtown brick paver sidewalks as they walk upon them. To them, it may simply be just another walking surface. Others see more of an artistic expression, as each brick paver is strategically and systematically set into a particular pattern, unifying the buildings on opposite sides of the street.

Brick paver sidewalks were originally installed in downtown Clear Lake in the mid-1990's as part of the re-construction of Main Avenue, between N. 8th Street and N. Lakeview Drive. They were chosen mostly for their appearance and because it was part of an effort to "revitalize" downtown, at least aesthetically.

The brick paver sidewalks that parallel Main Avenue were constructed differently than the practice that has been utilized by the City in more recent times and on more current projects, such as City Beach, N. Lakeview Dr. Seawall, and the 400 block of N. Shore Drive. The "old" method involved placing 1-2" of sand over 4-5" of compacted clean gravel over the base. The contemporary practice is to place the brick pavers over an inch or so of sand, on top of a 4" thick cement base, on top of 4-5" of clean gravel, on top of the base.

From the perspective of the pedestrian, the condition of the Main Avenue brick paver sidewalks leaves something to be desired in terms of their walkability. Because of the manner in which they were constructed, maintenance is challenging. The freeze-thaw cycles have created surface unevenness and resulted in potential trip hazards for persons with mobility challenges – which sometimes include me. Many have aged poorly and are faded or, in some cases in disrepair.

Over the past thirteen years, the City has processed eleven claims related to trips and falls on the downtown sidewalks. Of course, once the City is made aware of a potentially hazardous condition it is addressed through a repair process. However, it has become apparent that is only a band aid solution to a much larger issue.

In October, the City authorized a preliminary evaluation to address aspects related to the re-construction of the downtown brick paver sidewalks. Primarily, the City will be considering improvement alternatives to ensure that the brick paver sidewalks are safe for the long-term. A meeting will be conducted with the Chamber and downtown business community to solicit input on a variety of topics related to the initiative. This is something that the City wants to carefully consider and your input as a resident or visitor is most appreciated.

Lastly, over the years the Chamber has estimated it has sold several thousand commemorative brick pavers. Like many of you, I also have one. Naturally, all efforts will be taken to ensure that those pavers are replaced in their current location, if at all possible.



## Daylight Savings Time Ends



On August 8, 2005, former President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This Act changed the time and dates for Daylight Savings Time in the United States, beginning in 2007. Daylight Savings Time will begin on the second Sunday in March

and end the first Sunday in November. So, before you head off to bed on October 31st make sure to turn your clocks back one hour.

The Fire Department reminds us that this is also a good time to change the batteries in all of your smoke detectors.



# 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	Bennett Smith
Diane Glynn	Pat Weigel
Elizabeth Cherry	

## Parks & Recreation Board

(Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month)

Tim Raber	Chyrl Bergvig
Brenda Anderson	Darron Jones
Linda Hopper	Amy Hogg
Scott Lester	

## Planning & Zoning Commission

(Meets last Tuesday of each month)

Lori Broghammer	Julie Angle
Al Penfold	Arnold Prohaska
Chyrl Bergvig	Al Duea
Davin McLeod	

## 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

NOVEMBER 2015

# Clear View

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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