



# The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 13 - Number 3  
May 2015  
www.cityofclearlake.com



## Veterans Memorial Golf Club Recognized

Only a few short years ago the All-Vets Golf Course was at the precipice of closure. Attempts were made by the Board of Directors to keep the golf course financially viable, but it simply was not feasible any longer for the non-profit entity to keep operating. The City of Clear Lake recognized the importance of the facility as an important recreational

and tourism asset and purchased the property in May of 2011. The City then assisted a local group of interested citizens and stakeholders in forming the Veteran's Memorial Golf Club Foundation not-for-profit foundation to oversee the day-to-day management and operation of the course.

Representatives of Veterans Memorial Golf Club attended the Iowa Golf Association's Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, April 3rd, 2015. At that event, the VMGC was named the 9-hole course of the year. During the ceremony, VMGC representatives were presented with a plaque memorializing the honor by Iowa Golf Association President, Tom Christensen. Veteran's Memorial was nominated for the award by Clear Lake Mayor, Nelson P. Crabb.

"I appreciate the Iowa Golf Association's recognition of the achievement of the VMGC Foundation Board of Directors and its countless volunteers for preserving and enhancing this important recreational quality of life amenity. The spirit of volunteerism and community-mindedness on display every day at VMGC reminds me of how fortunate we are to live in this Community," stated Mayor Crabb.

VMGC Foundation Board President, Jay Barragy extended his thanks to all of those who have supported the course not only during the past four seasons, but over the many years of the courses' existence. In 1946, VMGC was dedicated to honor those



*Pictured in photo from left to right: Mike Tarr (VMGC Grounds); Mike Oimoen (VMGC Director of Golf); Jay Barragy (VMGC President); Tom Christensen (IGA President)*

Veterans, who so bravely served to protect our freedoms. For more than 50 years their organizations provided outstanding stewardship to the property. "In 2011, the VMGC Foundation board of directors re-dedicated VMGC with a mission to restore the course to its past state as one of the premiere, historical, 9-hole courses in Iowa, as well as a living memorial to the veterans of North Iowa. We are so pleased to have VMGC recognized with this state-wide honor," stated Barragy.

VMGC was granted 501c (3), tax-exempt, status on December 5th, 2012. As a non-profit, all of the potential profits from the operation must be reinvested back into the property and its operation. "The Veterans Memorial Golf Club Foundation believes that the non-profit business model, coupled with strong community support, and a top quality staff has put VMGC in a position to be successful long into the future," added Barragy.

## City of Clear Lake Residents - Let's Go PAPERLESS

Did you know you can get your utility bills online?

Please follow the instructions below to go paperless and receive your utility bill online.

- Visit [www.cityofclearlake.com](http://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 bill by e-bill.

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





Mayor Nelson Crabb

# MAKING A MEMORIAL

Last November, a committee designated by myself and the City Council began the difficult task of reviewing and recommending a “preferred” location for a proposed Clear Lake Veterans Memorial. The idea to create a veterans memorial arose in 2013, during a comprehensive downtown/lakefront planning effort initiated by the City. Clear Laker Gene

Madson had originally proposed the concept and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4868 in Clear Lake had actually endorsed the concept of a memorial prior to that effort.

While there are common characteristics in a site that are important to all, there is a fair amount of disagreement about which site is the most preferred location for such a memorial. Three characteristics come to mind as being the most integral: the memorial should be highly visible; there should be sufficient space for parking; and the locations should be easily accessible for visitors.

For the past several months, my observations are that the appointment of the task force has been a wonderful example of democracy in action. The members have patiently listened to those on all sides of the issue. It was also a nice example of the

City’s elected officials taking an “extra step” to ensure they had a good sense of public opinion on this important matter. There are few things more important to a community than honoring its vets.

It is nearly universally agreed that Clear Lake should have a memorial to honor its veterans. To me, that is something to be very thankful about. In the mid-1970’s, when I was a younger man, I recall how many Vietnam veterans returned home to little, if any, thanks. Fortunately, we have come a long way since those days. It is important to honor the men and women who have sacrificed and served their Country, even if you do not support the particular cause or mission to which they have been assigned.

It wasn’t so terribly long ago that Congress faced a similar matter with the planners of a particular national memorial. The paradox proved that the highly visible and coveted spot so heavily favored by the Project advocates was also one that simultaneously would circumscribe the design of the memorial itself.

Clear Lake is a very patriotic community and its veterans are well-deserving of a significant memorial honoring their service to our Nation.

*Until next time,*

## 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 P.M. on June 4, 1948 with the following members present: Mayor Ward, councilmen Barlow, Johannessen, Larson, Eastman and McGowan. Vern Petersen, representing the State Conservation Commission was present and was authorized by the commission to turn over the State Dock at the foot of Main Street to the city and release the commission of half of its expense of the putting the Dock in the lake each spring and taking the dock out in the fall. Motion was made by Barlow and seconded by Johannessen that the City accept the above authorization of the State Commission. Motion carried, all members voting aye.”*

## Happy Mother’s Day!

By Jennifer Larsen

As editor of the City’s newsletter, I thought I would share with you some interesting facts about one of my favorite holidays, which falls on May 10, 2015.

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson officially set aside the second Sunday in May in 1914 for the holiday.

Hallmark Cards, which sold its first Mother’s Day cards in the early 1920s, reports that Mother’s Day is the number three holiday for card exchange in the United States, behind Christmas and Valentine’s Day.

About 133 million Mother’s Day cards are exchanged annually, according to Hallmark. After Christmas, it’s the second most popular holiday for giving gifts.

The U.S. National Restaurant Association reports that Mother’s Day is the year’s most popular holiday for dining out.

On a personal note, the best advice my mother, Linda Riley, ever gave me was: “Always stay true to who you are and what you believe in.”

So, it is my pleasure to wish a very Happy Mother’s Day to my mother and I know you will do the same for your mother.

Please note that City Offices will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.



## City Hires New Building Official



**Michael Ritter**

City Administrator Scott Flory is pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Michael Ritter as the City's new Building Official. "Michael's unique set of public and private sector experience make him an excellent fit for the City. We are very pleased he has joined our team in this key role," stated Flory.

Ritter and his wife Brenda live in Clear Lake with their children Kayla and Eric. He has more than 25 years of both public and private sector experience in project management, building inspection and oversight, and has served for several years on the City's Planning & Zoning Commission. Michael earned a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from North Dakota State University.

The Building Official oversees and coordinates plan-checking, issuance of permits, and building inspection procedures for the City. The position also helps to manage the plan check and inspections phases of the development review process and assists in budget, fee development, and administration.

The City's former Chief Building Official, John Marino, retired in April 2015, after serving in that position for more than 30 years.

Michael may be reached at the City's Public Works facility during normal business hours or by email: [mritter@cityofclearlake.com](mailto:mritter@cityofclearlake.com).

## Clear Lake To Have A Fire-Fighting & Rescue Watercraft



Thanks to a very generous private donor, the City of Clear Lake will soon launch the Community's first fire-fighting and rescue boat. The City's fire department has purchased a 26-foot custom built aluminium fire-rescue boat, which is being built at Fraser Shipyards by Lake Assault Boats, LLC of Superior, WI.

The boat will be a multi-purpose watercraft for both fire and rescue operations on the Lake. The 1,000 gallon per minute fire pump can be used to fight fires on or near Lakeshore, as well as fires that may occur on boats that are on the Lake or docked. The pump can also be used to supply water to fire trucks and equipment for fires in the rural areas around the Lake without a municipal water system.

Rescue and safety features include "forward looking infrared" (FLIR) - a night vision camera capable of seeing in the dark, smoke, or fog. The boat also includes a side scanning sonar system used for locating victims beneath the surface of the water. The landing craft style boat has a front bow that lowers into the water to more safely load patients into the watercraft and/or load or unload fire-fighters and equipment. The City and fire department will also purchase a trailer to transport the boat to area communities to assist if necessary.

During the open water season, the boat will be stationed at the Main Avenue boat ramp, on a specifically designed hoist. During winter months, the boat will be stored at fire headquarters.

The City wishes to extend a very sincere appreciation to the donor for making this needed piece of equipment a reality for our Community.

## Sanitary Sewer Back-Ups - Are You Prepared?

### Are you insured against a back-up?

**Report the problem to the City first.** If you experience a sanitary sewer back-up affecting your home's drains please call: 357-5267 during normal business hours and the Police Department at 357-2186 after hours. The City will assist you in identifying the problem. If the blockage is in the City's main line sewers, the City will attempt to clear the blockage.

**Contact your insurance carrier** to discuss adding sewer back-up to your policy. The City is almost always not legally responsible when a sewer back-up occurs. THERE ARE SIMPLY FAR TOO MANY CAUSES FOR A BACK UP THAT THE CITY CANNOT CONTROL. For example, dumping inappropriate items such as grease, diapers, rags, etc into the system can create a blockage. Tree

roots can grow into lines and obstruct flows. Sometimes, your homeowner's insurance will pay for damage caused from a sewer back-up. Not all policies have this coverage and you should check with your carrier and consider adding it.

As a resident, you can play a vital role in preventing sanitary sewer back-ups. To help prevent back-ups, do NOT dispose of inappropriate items by dumping them down the drain or toilet.

The City of Clear Lake has approximately 50 miles of sanitary sewer mains. Each year about 1/3 of the City's sewer mains are inspected and cleaned. Mains requiring a higher level of service are cleaned more frequently. This routine maintenance helps prevent blockages and back-ups.



## Middle School Summer Reading Program

“Unmask!” is the Summer Reading Program for kids going into 6th through 8th grade. The summer reading program will run May 26th through July 18th. The middle school age special programs will range from a “Heroes Unmasked” Jeopardy game to making your own dwarf beard. The first special program will be making Super Hero Selfies on Tuesday, June 9th, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please call 357-0315 for additional details and to sign up for each event. Besides special programs, keep a summer reading record to earn “Book Bucks”, a t-shirt, and a chance for the grand prize: a limo ride of the first day of school! Please contact the Children’s Department at, 357-0315, for more information.



## Promotions at Library



*Martha Boyes (Left) and Frankie Taylor have been promoted at the Clear Lake Public Library.*

Jill Pannkuk, Director of the Clear Lake Public Library, is pleased to announce the promotion of two library employees. Martha Boyes has been hired as the Assistant Director of the Clear Lake Public Library. She has worked at the library for the past 10 years as the Youth Services Librarian, and recently served as Interim Director. She holds a Bachelor’s degree from Iowa State University and a Level IV Certification from Iowa Library Services. Before working for the Clear Lake Public Library, Boyes worked for the Clear Lake Community School District as a building secretary. Her library experience includes being the director of the Wellman-Scofield Public Library, Wellman, Iowa for 4 years. She and her husband, Jeff, have lived in Clear Lake for over 20 years and have two grown sons. Her hobbies include reading, stitching, and painting.

Francesca (Frankie) Taylor has been hired to fill the position of Youth Services Librarian at the Clear Lake Public Library. Frankie graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education in May 2014. She is currently working on her Master of Library and Information Science degree through the University of Iowa. Previous to being hired as the Youth Services Librarian, Frankie had worked in the Adult Department of the Clear Lake Public Library since July of 2014. Frankie resides in Clear Lake.

## Get ready for the fun!



The Clear Lake Aquatic Center will open on May 23rd, 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](http://www.cityofclearlake.com). We are excited to begin another fun season at the pool and look forward to seeing all of you there.

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM



“Every Hero has a Story” is the theme of Clear Lake Public Library’s summer reading program sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The program will run for eight weeks, from May 26th to July 18th. Registration begins Tuesday, May 26th. To register, use the form available at the Library, or phone 357-0315 on or after Tuesday, May 26th.

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 20th to August 1st. Special programs will be held throughout the summer. Contact the Children’s Department at the Library for more information.

## Door-to-Door Sales

The City requires that all individuals traveling door-to-door selling products for commercial or business purposes (i.e., for profit) be licensed and register with the City Clerk.

As part of the licensing application review process, in order to better protect the public safety, City staff conducts criminal background checks on each individual selling. Upon approval, the City issues a license. If a peddler or solicitor comes to your door, do not hesitate to ask to see their license from the City to sell.

This activity is allowed only during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There are a number of license exemptions, however, for route delivery persons, students, and civic organizations. Please check with the City Clerk to determine if a license is required.

If you do not want this type of activity on your property, you may display a sign on your property indicating “Peddlers or Solicitors Prohibited”. If you encounter any issues or concerns with a peddler or solicitor, please contact the Police department at 357-2186.

The Clear View Newsletter is printed on recycled paper



# North Shore Drive STP Reconstruction Project

## 1st Avenue North to 7th Avenue North

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Contract Amount: \$2,331,188  
Completion Date: June 28, 2015

Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. (V&K) is a private engineering firm hired by the City of Clear Lake to provide engineering and construction administration for this project. Please contact the project team members below with any questions or concerns.

### PROJECT PHASES

Construction of these improvements is taking place in stages to provide local access to the best extent possible.

- Stage 1: North Shore Drive from 1st Avenue North to 4th Avenue North.
- Stage 2: North Shore Drive from 4th Avenue North to 5th Avenue North.
- Stage 3: North Shore Drive from 5th Avenue North to Buddy Holly Place.

Work on all 3 stages may occur simultaneously, however access to North Lakeview must be maintained at either 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Avenue North.



### WORK COMPLETED TO DATE

- Water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and subdrain.
- PCC paving from 7th Avenue North to Buddy Holly Place.
- PCC paving of North Lakeview from Main Avenue to 1st Avenue.
- PCC paving of 1st Avenue North from Lakeview Drive to North Shore Drive.
- Removals, grading, and aggregate base course from 1st Avenue North to 4th Avenue North.

### UPCOMING WORK

- PCC paving from 1st Avenue North to 4th Avenue North.
- Removals, grading, aggregate base course, and paving from 4th Avenue North to Buddy Holly Place.
- PCC driveway approaches - 1st Avenue North to Buddy Holly Place.
- 5' wide PCC sidewalk - 1st Avenue to Buddy Holly Place.
- PCC bike lane along North Lakeview Drive
- Sodding • Street lighting • Street trees



### Questions Contact:

**Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.**  
Jason Petersburg, Engineer  
jpetersburg@v-k.net

**City of Clear Lake**  
Joe Weigel, Public Works Director  
jweigel@netins.net

**This and other City construction project information can be found at [www.cityofclearlake.com](http://www.cityofclearlake.com)**



# 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

## 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

May 2015

## Clear View

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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