



# The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 13 - Number 2  
March 2015  
[www.cityofclearlake.com](http://www.cityofclearlake.com)



## CLEAR LAKE Earth Day

Refresh Yourself  
Your Community  
Your Planet

## Celebrate Earth Week

Celebrate community and Clear Lake with a week of Clear Lake Earth Day activities. 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).

Activities kick off on Saturday, April 11th, with an Art of Recycling Show and Sale at the Clear Lake Arts Center, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On Thursday, April 16th, the North Iowa 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.

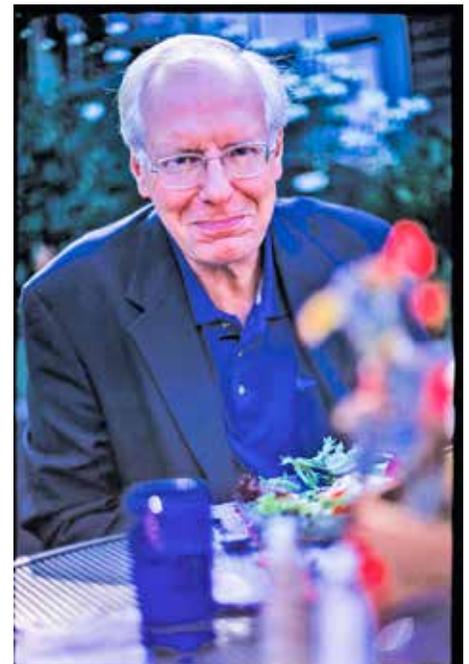
The region's popular early-season, chip-timed, 5k and 10k race begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 18th. Register in advance at [www.earthdaynorthiowa.org](http://www.earthdaynorthiowa.org). Also, on Saturday, April 25th, the "Community Cleanup" will take place. Check out [www.earthdaynorthiowa.org](http://www.earthdaynorthiowa.org) for the latest activities for the whole family throughout the week to celebrate Earth Week in Clear Lake.

The Clear View Newsletter is printed  
on recycled paper



## Earth Week at the Clear Lake Public Library

On Monday, April 20th, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., there will be an "Earth Week Family Night" at the Clear Lake Public Library. The event is centered on trees and their importance to our environment. A guest reader will read in the "Story Corner" and children will be able to



take home their own spruce or fir tree to plant, as well as make their own tree card game. The event is most appropriate for children preschool age through lower elementary age and their accompanying adults. Please phone the library to sign up at 357-0315.

Dan Kaercher, retired founding editor-in-chief of Midwest Living Magazine and Iowa Public Television host, will be at the Clear Lake Public Library on Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m. His program on Iowa lands, parks, and natural life will give you a glimpse of the rich heritage we have here in the Midwest. Kaercher spent years traveling in nearly all of Iowa's 99 counties in search of close-to-home attractions and getaways to share with his loyal readers and viewers. You'll be amazed to learn what hidden treasures you may not have realized were right in your own community.

For more information on these two events please contact the library at 357-0315.



Mayor Nelson Crabb

# SO, "WHAT'S IN A NAME"?

*"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would still smell as sweet."* Some of you may recognize this famous question posed by Juliet to Romeo in the immortal play "Romeo and Juliet," by William Shakespeare.

A name has value and power. Every one of us is recognized by our name. It is the way we introduce ourselves. It is more than a simple grouping of alphabetical letters.

By the time you are reading this newsletter, the name of the "Mystery" company that the City has been working with on project Windmill Realty LLC, since October of 2013, will have been revealed publicly. City Administrator Scott Flory and I were the only two members of our Community to know the actual identity of this "heir apparent" to project Windmill Realty LLC. It is a moment of pride for our community.

These types of success stories do not just simply happen overnight; they are earned and are dividend for years of advance investment-minded decision-making, although sometimes a little luck is a welcome thing too. The City began developing the Larry Luker Memorial Industrial Park just shortly after I assumed the office of Mayor. In that capacity, I had the privilege of watching all of the infrastructure be constructed, including: the roads, water mains, sanitary sewer mains, storm sewer, and a 1 million gallon elevated water storage tank (a landmark in the sky) that would ultimately be pivotal to locating this project in Clear Lake. Likewise, I have had the good fortune to see the City approve many development agreements with private companies that have contributed to what is now nearly a full industrial park.

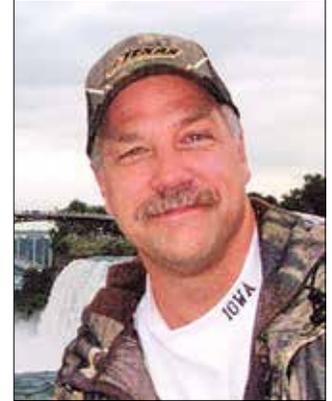
While the announcement of the name of the Company to succeed Windmill Realty LLC is the culmination of a nearly 18-month long process, it is not the end, but just the beginning of what I hope will be a long and prosperous partnership with our Community.

Most importantly, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the residents of Clear Lake for their continued patience, equanimity, and support for the process that contributed to this success story. Scott and I shared with one another long ago, that it is doubtful that this Project could have been achieved in any other community in Iowa. Thank you!

Until next time, my very best to you and yours!

# Remembering Rex - Newsletter Dedication

In late December, the City of Clear Lake lost a valued friend and long-time employee, Rex McChesney. Rex worked for the Clear Lake Police department for 28 years. He was a life-long resident of Clear Lake, graduating from Clear Lake High School in 1981. In November of 1986, he began work for the Clear Lake Police Department and was subsequently promoted to lieutenant in 2006 and in April of 2014 was named Chief of Police.



"I quite vividly recall the day when Rex and Jodie broke the news to City Administrator Scott Flory and I that he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer," stated Mayor Nelson Crabb. "Both Scott and I were speechless, but I recall his courageous spirit at the time. Rex was not going to let that disease beat him. Rather, on December 26th, 2014, he won his battle to get to heaven."

City Administrator Scott Flory recalled McChesney as a "spiritual man who, even in difficult times, maintained a positive outlook on life. He lived life abiding by the maximum the "Golden Rule" and conducted himself with eminent grace. I admired his courage. Many days he would be taking chemotherapy in the mornings and go to the office in the afternoon and evening the very same day."

City Clerk Jennifer Larsen shared her memory of the evening that the Council confirmed Rex's appointment as Chief of Police. "As City Clerk I attend all the City Council meetings, one of my most cherished memories is watching Jodie pin the Chief of Police badge on Rex's uniform following his appointment. She was with him by his side in his pinnacle moment as a police officer and every day in his fight against cancer."

It is the intention of the Mayor, City Council, and City



Administrator that the March 2015 edition of the Clear Lake City newsletter be dedicated in the memory of Chief Rex McChesney.

# City Building Official Getting Wired for Retirement



**John Marino**

After more than 30 years of checking codes and inspecting structures, along with a variety of other miscellaneous tasks, John Marino is retiring from his position as Building Official in April. Marino stated that he has enjoyed making a difference in the Community and now looks forward to having more time to spend enjoying other things with his family and friends. "The City has

experienced a significant amount of building construction in the last 12 years and it has been my pleasure to have been a part of making sure it has been done safely and orderly," stated Marino.

"John has been a great ambassador to the Community and liaison between the building contractors and the City. He will be sorely missed and his contributions are much appreciated," stated City Administrator Scott Flory.

## **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 Regular session on March 17, 1969 at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Secory, Councilmen Jacobson, Johnson, and Crane. Absent: Mayor Nesbit and Councilman Ver Steegh. Motion was made by Crane, seconded by Johnson, that all water meters sold from now on be installed with a remote reader on each at a approximate price of \$12.50. Anyone wishing a remote reader can apply now and receive one when they are available. Motion carried, all voting aye."*

## Watermain Flushing Schedule set for Spring

The Clear Lake Water Department will begin flushing watermains in April. Flushing will be done from April 20th to April 22nd, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Why does the City flush watermains? 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 watermains? 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 watermains? 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.

# 2016 Fiscal Year Budget Highlights

On March 2, 2015, the Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2016 fiscal year budget (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), in the Council Chambers, at City Hall. The City Administrator's budget message, which provides a summary of the "tentative" budget, can be found on the City's website: [www.cityofclearlake.com](http://www.cityofclearlake.com). The entire budget can also be reviewed at the public library or City Hall. This article, however, provides a few highlights.

The City Council is required by State law to adopt a "tentative budget" and set a date for a public hearing. At the time of the hearing, the Council will continue to deliberate the budget proposal and may revise it before adopting a final budget, after receiving public comment on March 2, 2015.

The tentative budget assumes no increase in the property tax rate from the FY 15 budget. This marks the 10th consecutive year that the City has held the tax rate the same – absent the rate increase associated with voter approved \$2.3 million bond issue for the Fire Station building project in 2010. For FY 16, the City's property tax base increased by 3.7% to roughly \$521 million.

The budget reflects total expenditures among the various programs of \$12,141,766 – of which \$7,189,992 is directed towards operations, \$1,107,436 is directed towards debt service, and \$3,844,338 for capital improvements. It is projected that the City will have a June 30, 2016 ending cash balance in the general fund of \$2,468,097, which represents roughly 45% of the general fund's budget.

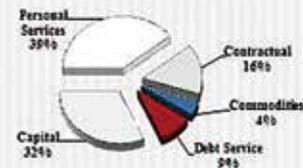
Once again, the City of Clear Lake will feature one of the lowest levels of general obligation indebtedness not only in Iowa or the Midwest, but in the United States. While most cities in Iowa have G.O. bond indebtedness in the 70% range, Clear Lake has only 9% of its bonding capacity outstanding. That coupled with Clear Lake's strong levels of fund reserves makes it one of the most financially sound cities in the State of Iowa and the Midwest.

As always, it is important to remind residents that the City receives roughly one-third of the total property taxes that a home owner pays to the County Treasurer. Often, citizens mistakenly believe that the city is the sole beneficiary of their entire property tax payment. **Two-thirds of the property tax asking goes to taxing entities other than the City of Clear Lake.** Property taxes fund such departments as: library, parks & recreation, police, ambulance, & fire.

Mayor Nelson P. Crabb stated that, "It is important to note that the budget is not prepared in a vacuum, input from the community and direction from the City's elected officials is taken into consideration and incorporated into the plan. While the overall budget document is roughly 100 pages or so in length and chock full of tables, graphs, and charts, this article in the City newsletter has been prepared in another effort to share the budget information with you."

## Total FY 16 Expenditures

- Total Budget is \$12,141,766
- Operating Budget \$7,189,992
- Capital Budget \$3,844,338
- Debt Service \$1,107,436

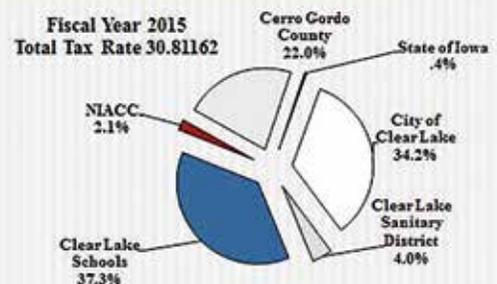


## Debt Capacity

- 5% of Assessed valuation
- Fy 16 Capacity used is 9%
  - Capacity \$42,357,800
  - Outstanding Debt \$3,635,500



## Total Tax Bill Components



## Large Item Cleanup Program Takes Place April 13 - 16

The 2015 Spring Large Item Pickup will take place April 13th to April 16th. 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 8th, 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 15th.** 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 16th. Please have appliances with stickers attached by the curb by no later than 7:30 a.m. on April 16th.

## 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.

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.



### REMINDER:

The Snow Removal Ordinance is in effect through April 1, 2015.

## Reminder to Pet Owners

As a reminder the deadline for purchasing your 2015 dog license(s) is March 31, 2015 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 3rd

# 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 Clear View

March 2015

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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Clear Lake, IA 50428**

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**Fax  
(641) 357-8711**

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Clear Lake, IA  
Permit No. 2**

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