



# The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

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www.cityofclearlake.com

## New Clear Lake Watershed Coordinator Selected

James Sholly, of Spirit Lake, IA, has been selected to be the new Clear Lake Watershed Coordinator. Jim is the current "Iowa Great Lakes Watershed Project Coordinator", working for Dickinson County Soil & Water Conservation District, since 2014. He earned a Master of Science in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences from South Dakota State University and a Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Biology from Bemidji State University.

Mr. Sholly will be employed by the City of Clear Lake, with his position receiving funding support from Cerro Gordo County, the City of Ventura, the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake, as well as an EPA 319 grant. Both Hancock and Cerro Gordo County Soil & Water Conservation Districts will also remain active with Lake Improvement projects and initiatives in the watershed. Jim will be based out of the Clear Lake Parks & Recreation Office.

"The selection process was especially difficult. There were several strong candidates who sought the position", stated Mayor Nelson P.

Crabb. "We are thrilled to have Jim coming on board in this important capacity. He possesses the necessary skills and abilities to move this "multi-jurisdictional" water quality initiative in the right direction", said City Administrator Scott L. Flory. Search committee representative Terry Unsworth indicated that Jim's background with Clear Lake's dredging project and his familiarity with the local fisheries department and staff, including Iowa DNR officials was a strong advantage in his favor.

Mr. Sholly's annual salary will be set at \$50,000 and he is slated to begin work on April 25th. Jim is married (Bri) and he and his spouse intend to relocate to Clear Lake in the very near future.



**James Sholly**

## Police K-9 program receives donation

On March 3, 2016, the 3rd grade class at Clear Creek Elementary presented CLPD Officer Cory Gute with a check for \$500.00 for the department's canine program.

Each year the 3rd graders make and sell miscellaneous items and donate the profits to an organization of their choice.

During the Consumers and Producers unit, students make a variety of items such as pillows, travel mugs, key chains, sport necklaces, bracelets, picture frames and many other items. Students advertise and sell the items at their music program at the Surf Ballroom and after expenses the remaining profit is donated to an organization of their choice.

Officer Gute was presented with a check from the class on March 3rd. This is the third consecutive year the class has elected to donate to the K-9 program. The 3rd grade class also donated a portion of the proceeds to the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce for use of the trolley during Thursday's on Main.



## Sailing Ahead With Facebook

The City of Clear Lake has had strong success utilizing Facebook as a communications method for keeping residents and visitors alike engaged in what is happening with our City government and much more. When you check the City's facebook page, you will find a wide array of information. The City fully recognizes the ever-changing needs of 21st Century society to utilize information technology. "This is a great method for us to reach out to our Community and interested parties to share valuable information about important happenings and events involving the City government," stated City Administrator Scott Lawrence Flory.

# Image may not be “everything”, but it’s critically important



Mayor Nelson Crabb

My now adult children grew up towards the end of the decade immortalized as simply “the 80’s”. One of the popular sports figures from that era, who was in his athletic prime at the time, was tennis star Andre Agassi. Now, I don’t remember much about him, other than a television commercial he did for Canon about a particular camera. I don’t even recall the camera, but what I do recall and, likely many of you do as well, is the slogan from that advertising campaign: “image is everything”.

As a City, we are very conscious of creating quality experiences for our residents and visitors. We use bricks and mortar, parks, natural resources, and community festivals and events to create and enhance people’s perceptions of our Community. Our business community also contributes to what our visitors and residents perceive about our City. The City’s Chamber of Commerce has actively supported new events to help our image shine.

In order to promote positive community and economic development, “image” is critical. Today, it is not enough to say that your community is a great place to live and work, you need to be able to prove it. Fortunately, Clear Lake has been blessed with a progressive

City Council, private sector, and many residents that share a common goal of “investing” in our community to enhance its image.

The City is making investments, along with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce, and the downtown merchants to improve safety experiences for our downtown shoppers, residents, and visitors. Recently, the City upgraded all the City-owned 3-globe decorative light fixtures to LED lighting. The improved light reduces light pollution and provides a crisp white light. Soon, the brick paver sidewalks will be reconstructed. Along with the flower baskets, new benches and trash receptacles will soon also be added to the streetscape. These things all enhance and create an inviting atmosphere for shoppers and visitors alike.

Our City has excelled in recent times at delivering a comfortable and enjoyable life style experience. We enjoy a statistically significant crime-free City. More and more, Clear Lake is becoming a place where young people want to return because we are able to offer more employment opportunities and an active calendar of unique events to support such a demographic.

Thank you for all your hard work in helping make Clear Lake’s image so positive!

*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 regular session on May 15, 1972 at 7:30 o’clock p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nesbit, Councilmen Tanner, Unga, Petersen, Godden and Hankenson. The Council discussed the request from the Chamber of Commerce to block off the streets around the Park for the 4th of July Celebration. The streets would be blocked off from June 29th through July 4th. The Chamber of Commerce pays for the extra Police, reimburses the Park Commission and pays for the power hook-ups. The Chamber of Commerce usually pays \$500 for Police. Motion was made by Godden, seconded by Hankenson, to allow the request from the Chamber of Commerce to block off the streets around the Park from June 29th through July 4th for the 4th of July Celebration. Motion carried, all voting aye.”*

## 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.



# 2016 Outdoor Emergency Warning Siren Test Schedule

The cities of Clear Lake and Ventura have scheduled the 2016 spring and summer outdoor siren test dates. Sirens will be tested on the first Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m., if the Monday is a holiday the makeup day for the test will be Tuesday. The test dates are as follows: May 2nd; June 6th; July 5th (Tuesday); August 1st; September 6th (Tuesday). The department will utilize social media, such as our Facebook page, as a reminder of siren test days.

The purpose of the sirens is to notify people who are outdoors with an audible warning to seek further information, and possibly shelter. When activated, sirens generally sound for a period of one minute. Sirens sounding outside of the testing date and time indicates that there is severe weather for our area.

Please do not call 911 on testing days to ask why the sirens are activated. These calls tie up emergency lines into the department.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. *When are the sirens activated?* Generally, according to the outdoor warning system guidelines, sirens will be sounded for:
  - Tornadoes (including warnings)
  - Thunderstorms with winds of 70 mph or greater (potential for whole trees to snap or uproot)
  - Golf ball sized hail or larger (potential for windows to break)The same siren tone will be used for all threats. The sirens may be sounded multiple times during the event. There will be no all-clear signal from sirens.
2. *What should I do when I hear the sirens?* When the sirens are sounding tune to local media outlets to gain more information and seek shelter if necessary.
3. *Why is there no all-clear signal?* People should be indoors seeking shelter and monitoring local media for updates on the storm. The sirens are not designed to be heard indoors, although often they can be heard inside. Sounding an all-clear signal may encourage people to go outside in order to hear it.
4. *Why will the outdoor warning sirens be sounded for hail and wind?* When thunderstorm winds exceed 70 mph, trees can be uprooted or snapped. Hail that is golf ball sized or larger can break windows. Both of these events pose a direct risk to life if people are caught outdoors.
5. *Why can't I hear the sirens in my house?* Sirens are a warning system designed only to alert those who are outside. Due to construction designs and building density, there is no way to design a siren system capable of penetrating all structures.

## Boat Fire Prevention Tips

It's easy to forget about the importance of fire safety once you board a boat and begin to cruise on the open water. It's as simple as this, prevention is your best protection this summer! However, accidents do happen, and it CAN happen to you. It is very important to have all safety measures in place to help all boaters safely deal with a fire or emergency situation. Take a few minutes to develop a prevention plan by taking these few smart steps.

**Detecting fire:** Fit smoke alarms inside the boat. Optical sensor alarms with hush buttons, and sealed for life batteries, are the best smoke alarms for boat use. Fit the alarms properly so that a fire in any place aboard the vessel will be detected quickly. For maximum fire safety and prevention, we recommend fitting multiple alarms and link them so when one alarm detects a fire, all alarms will sound. Check the batteries regularly and make a habit of testing the alarms

6. *How can I get alerts when I'm at work or in my house?* For alerts indoors, every home and business should have a NOAA Weather Radio. A NOAA Weather Radio is like a smoke detector for severe weather, and it can wake you up when a warning is issued for your area so you can take appropriate action. For further information go to: [www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/). Also, most news outlets and the National Weather Service have apps you can download for your smartphone.
7. *Will the sirens warn me of every dangerous storm?* No. The safest approach is to be proactive and use all of the information available to protect yourself and your family from threatening weather. Nothing can replace common sense. If a storm is approaching, lightning alone can be a threat. Sirens do not warn of approaching lightning. Outdoor sirens are only one part of a warning system that includes preparation, a NOAA Weather Radio, and local media.
8. *Who activates the sirens?* Sirens are typically activated by City or County officials, usually dispatch or emergency management personnel. In the Clear Lake/Ventura area, the on-duty dispatcher is responsible for activating the sirens.
9. *Where are the sirens located?* The Clear Lake Police Department is responsible for the sirens at: N 5th Street and HWY 18; 7th Avenue N and N 20th Street; N 35th Street and Main Avenue; S 8th Street and 12th Avenue S; HWY 18 and Park Lane; 2380 E Lake Street (Ventura); Ventura Elementary; Ventura Heights; Dogwood Avenue (near Tanglefoot Girl Scout Camp); & S Shore Drive and 235th Street.

For further information visit [www.co.cerro-gordo.ia.us/departments/emergency-management-agency](http://www.co.cerro-gordo.ia.us/departments/emergency-management-agency) or [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).



every 2 weeks, or after spending a long period of time away from the boat. Smoke alarms save lives, but only if they work!

**Have an Emergency Plan:** An emergency plan is key, so everyone aboard knows what to do in case of a fire. There are three very important safety devices all passengers must be able to locate:

1. Emergency cut-off valves and switches.
2. Life jackets – make sure there is one for each passenger and each jacket is in GOOD condition.
3. A flashlight, to aid an emergency at night.

Additionally, remember to keep all exits clear with keys easily accessible. In the event that you must call 911 for emergency rescue, always know where you are on the water so you may notify emergency services of your location. This saves time, which could potentially save a life!

# Tips for Bicyclists

The Police department is gearing up for bike patrol and would like to share some reminders with the community about bicycle safety and rules for the road.

Bicycle riding is fun, healthy, and a great way to get around Clear Lake. But it is important to remember that a bicycle is not a toy, it is a vehicle. The Police department, along with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reminds all riders to have fun and be safe.



## Safety tips:

- Inspect your bike, make sure it is operating properly.
- Protect your brain! Wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet.
- See and be seen – wear neon, fluorescent, or other bright colors when riding day or night.
- Control your bike – carry books and other items in a backpack or in a bike carrier.
- Watch for and avoid road hazards.
- Avoid riding at night – if you have to ride at night, make sure you have a working headlamp on the front and reflector(s) on the rear of your bicycle.
- Secure your bicycle when parked.

In Iowa, a bicycle is considered a vehicle and cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities to follow the rules of the road as motorists. When riding, always:

- Go with the traffic flow. Ride on the right in the same direction as other vehicles. Go with the flow of traffic – not against it.
- Obey all traffic laws. A bicycle is a vehicle and you're a driver. When you are on the street, obey all traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- Yield to traffic when appropriate.
- Ride in a straight line, not in and out of cars.
- Stay alert!
- Watch for parked cars.
- Bicycle riding on sidewalks is prohibited in the business district and other areas where directed or posted.

If you have questions about riding safely please contact the police department.



# Clear Lake Aquatic Center opens May 28<sup>th</sup>

Are you ready for some summer fun? The Clear Lake Aquatic Center will be opening the weekend of May 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day Weekend). Open

Swim Hours will be from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. each day. Due to school being in session, the following week the pool will be closed until Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>, after that the Aquatic Center will be open for the summer months and follow the regular weekly schedule published in the Activity Guide.

Daily admissions are \$3.50 per individual 3 yrs. old and up, with children under 2 being free. Yearly Pool Memberships are available at discounted rates if purchased prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>. So hurry into the Parks and Recreation office or City Hall and sign your family up today!

## OFF TO THE RACES WITH READING!

The Clear Lake Public Library Children's Department is excited to 'Get in the Game' and energize and encourage young readers to read this summer for our Summer Reading Program "On Your Mark, Get Set....

Read!" The eight week program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, begins on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and runs through July 22<sup>nd</sup>. During the month of June we have an exciting lineup of entertainers who are coming to visit us at the library. The activities kick off with a visit from Dan Wardell from the PBS Reading Roadshow on June 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10:15 a.m. We are also looking forward to a visit from Silly Sally the Clown on June 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., and from Mike Prestbly the Magician on June 24<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. Please contact the Children's Department at the Library for more information. As always, please phone 357-0315 to register for all special programs.



## City Code Prohibits Long-Term Parking

Just a friendly reminder that the City Code (Chapter 69.05) prohibits the use of public streets for long-term vehicle storage, including boat trailers. Vehicles parked on the street must be moved every 24 hours or they may be subject to citation and/or towing at the owner's expense.

Please note that City Offices will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

# Tall Grass & Weeds

## Stormwater & Grass Clippings

With the return of spring rain, the grass is nicely transforming from brown to green once again. This has brought both riding and push mowers out of their winter hibernation.

City code Chapter 52 requires the following:

**52.05 Uniform Height Specifications.** Grass, weeds or brush shall be cut, mowed, and maintained so as not to exceed the following height specifications.

1. Developed Residential Areas – not to exceed six inches (6”).
2. Undeveloped Residential Areas – not to exceed twelve inches (12”).
3. Business and Industrial Areas – not to exceed six inches (6”).
4. Agricultural Areas – not to exceed eighteen inches (18”).

Grass, weeds and brush which are allowed to grow in excess of the above specified limitations are deemed to be violations of this chapter.

Not only are high grass and weeds unsightly, but they pose a fire hazard, block visibility for drivers, harbor rodents and snakes and contribute to pests like mosquitoes and chiggers.

If your grass is taller than height specifications listed above, you will receive a certified notice and will have 10 days to mow it. If you don't, a city contractor will do the job for you - BUT it won't be cheap. **The average bill for a residential lot is \$100** (INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE FEES) payable within 30 days. Failure to pay for mowing may result in a lien being placed against the property.

Also, when mowing your yard, please make certain that you do not blow grass clippings into the street. When mowing, make the first few passes with the lawnmower blowing the grass clippings into the lawn, and not the street. Take care to use a broom or leaf blower to blow excess grass clippings off the street and sidewalk back into the lawn. Do not use a hose to wash the grass or leaves into the street and down storm drains.



When lawn clippings are picked up by storm water run-off they are carried directly to our local streams and Lake. Grass clippings contain phosphorus. According to the U.S. EPA, phosphorus is one of the most troublesome pollutants in storm water run-off and it is considered the primary cause of water quality problems



in our lakes, ponds, and streams.

Grass clippings contribute nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which cause unwanted and uncontrolled growth of algae and aquatic weeds in the waterways. Increased algae growth is observed as green algae blooms or “scums” on lakes and ponds. Too much algae is harmful to a lake system. It blocks sunlight and prevents other plants from growing.

## CAMPFIRE SAFETY



### Rules and Regulations

As spring arrives, and we soon enter the relaxing and festive summer season, the Clear Lake Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the safe ways to enjoy a relaxing campfire, along with a few rules to keep in mind.

First and foremost, the department reminds you that the Clear Lake City Ordinance does not allow for open burning. However, citizens are allowed to enjoy recreational fires.

By definition, a recreational fire is: a fire used for cooking and cannot be used for the purpose of burning trash or leaves. Recreational fires must also comply with the following:

- Recreational fires cannot be conducted within fifty (50) feet of a structure or combustible material, unless contained in a barbecue pit. Burning is permissible within twenty-five (25) feet of a structure if the pile size is three (3) feet or less in diameter, and two (2) feet or less in height. Conditions that could cause the fire to spread to within 25 feet of a structure should be eliminated prior to ignition.
- Buckets, shovels, garden hose or a fire extinguisher with a minimum of a 4\_A rating shall be readily available for use at recreational fires.
- A person knowledgeable in the use of fire-extinguishing equipment should always be present at a recreational fire, and constantly be tending to the recreational fire. An attendant shall supervise the fire until it is extinguished.
- The Fire Chief (or his designee) is authorized to require that recreational fires be immediately discontinued if such fires are determined by the Chief (or his designee) to constitute a hazardous condition or neighborhood nuisance.

Be safe, be smart, prevent emergencies – from the CLFD, we wish you the happiest summer season as you enjoy the Lake and all the fun-filled activities Clear Lake has to offer.

# 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. Nelson  
357-3839



At-Large  
Gary Hugi  
357-6579



At-Large  
Mike Callanan  
357-5911



First Ward  
Mark Ebeling  
641-201-0430



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)

Gail Robinson	Cherise Sissel
Fred Muth	Bob Swanson
David Klang	

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



The  
**Clear View**

May 2016

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**

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