



The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 13 - Number 1
January 2015
www.cityofclearlake.com

Surf Ballroom & Museum Prepares for 2015 Winter Dance Party

The Surf Ballroom & Museum is pleased to announce the artists who are schedule to appear at the "2015 Winter Dance Party" event, scheduled for Wednesday, January 28th through Saturday, January 31st.

The event kicks off on Wednesday with a Winter Dance Party Family Sock Hop featuring entertainment by The Whiteside-walls.

Thursday night features Lou Christie and Bill Haley Jr. and The Comets, who will be making their first



Surf Ballroom Winter Dance Party appearances. Additional performers on Thursday include original 1959 Winter Dance party guitarist, Tommy Allsup, along with The Whitesidewalls, who are known for keeping every-one rockin' & rollin' all night long.

Friday night's Sock Hop, traditionally known as "The Mad Hatter's Tea Party", will feature Big Sandy and His Fly-Rite Boys, L.A. Party Dolls and Cadillac Casanovas. "The Friday night Sock Hop has always been a fun night for fans to dance to the songs they remember best from the era," said Event Producer, Shane Cooney. "That tradition continues with our Friday evening entertainment line-up. In addition, this year's Sock Hop will feature special guest Big Sandy and His Fly-Rite Boys, who made a fast impression on our guests when



they first performed here in 2012. This year, they plan to pay tribute to the late Ritchie Valens, who was a tremendous influence upon their musical direction," he concluded.

Frankie Avalon will headline the "Three Stars Memorial Concert" on Saturday night. "We are thrilled to have Frankie Avalon involved in our 2015 event. As one of the replacement headliners during the 1959 Winter Dance Party Tour, he has strong ties to the Winter Dance Party story we work hard to promote," said Laurie Lietz, Executive Director. Additional performers on Saturday evening will include The Crystals, who appeared during the 1996 and 2002 Winter Dance Party events; Brian Hyland who appeared in 2001 and 2009; and John Mueller's Winter Dance Party, who will return to bring an authentic and heartfelt tribute to Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson during the "Three Stars Finale" at the conclusion of the event. Saturday's show will also feature the legacy of Ritchie Valens, as Chris Montez returns to perform and pay tribute, once again, on the very last stage that Ritchie played.



For complete weeklong series of events and updated information about the event, please visit www.surfballroom.com or contact the Surf's office at (641) 357-6151.



Marian Park Skating Rink

The Clear Lake Parks & Recreation Department maintains an outdoor skating rink, which is located in Marian Park on 2nd Avenue N. & N. 12th Street. When the weather is cooperating and stays cold, Parks & Recreation staff begin to put layers of water on the rink to build up the base of the rink. It is a time consuming process and can only be done during ideal temps....not too cold and not too warm. Once the rink is set, skating is permitted at any time (unless water is being applied to the rink). Warming house hours are Monday thru Friday, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Saturday

and Sunday, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday night is designated as "High School" night.

Skating is free to the public, but we do ask that you abide by posted rules at all times



The Clear Lake Police Department and the Public Works Department would like to remind everyone that the Snow Removal Ordinance is in effect through April 1, 2015.



Mayor Nelson Crabb

Happy New Year

I am writing this article as we are about to embark on a new year. This is always a relevant time to reflect on the past, as well as look forward to the future. As we come to the end of another successful year here in Clear Lake, I want to thank each of you for your help. Over the years I have come to realize that Clear Lake's success is owed in large part to the overwhelming number of positive, civic-minded, people who call this Community home.

Clear Lake has much to celebrate as we turn the pages of the calendar to 2015. The City continued to remain aggressive with infrastructure improvements in 2014. Construction work commenced on several major capital improvement projects, including: N. Shore Drive/N. Lakeview Drive Street Reconstruction (\$2.3 million); N. 6th Street, between 10th Ave N. and US Hwy 18 (\$150,000); Northwest Water Tower (\$2.3 million); City Hall/Police Department Renovation (\$1.3 million); 12th Ave S. Street Resurfacing (\$225,000); and Water Treatment Plant Pump Replacement Project (\$400,000) just to name a few of the most notable. Fortunately, through the stewardship of the City administration, we were able to secure State and Federal grants for several of these projects to defray the costs to the citizens of Clear Lake.

Economic development was a high priority of the City in 2014. Many new commercial and industrial development projects began construction. The City saw tremendous activity in the business park with the construction of a new pediatric dental clinic; expansion by Mercy with a new clinic; and construction of a new building for TTI. A new Dollar General store also began construction on US Hwy 18. Soon, a new Quick Star Convenience Mart will also break ground east of the I-35 & US Hwy interchange (east of Willow Creek Court).

Additionally, it would be remiss of me not to mention project Windmill Realty, LLC. The \$65 million warehouse & distribution center project spearheaded by the City that a current Fortune 100 company will soon call home. It was a very cold late evening in January of 2014, when representatives of the project contacted City Administrator Scott Flory and I, after months of negotiations between the City and the developer, to announce their decision to select Clear Lake. It has been exciting over the past year to dialogue with project representatives about what a business and construction friendly City we have. These statements are from individuals doing construction work all over the United States and directly reflect on the pro-business attitude of the administration of this City. The building superstructure itself is slated to be complete with construction in April of 2015. Following that, the interior of the building will begin to be outfitted with "state-of-the-art" equipment pertinent to its operations. It is anticipated the facility will be operational in November of 2015.

Clearly, availability of housing and workforce will be major issues our Community must address in 2015 and beyond. These are not issues that face Clear Lake alone. Many cities in Iowa and beyond are struggling with those same concerns.

I remain most grateful for the opportunity you have given me to serve this Community. I love Clear Lake and all who call this great City home. Once again, on behalf of our entire organization, I wish you and your families a happy and successful new year.

With warm regards,



Pannkuk hired as new Library Director

Jill Pannkuk, a native of North Iowa now working in Washington state, has been hired as the new director of the Clear Lake Public Library.

Pannkuk is originally from Forest City and her husband is from Britt and his family still farms in the Britt area.

She has been a library director for nearly 19 years, including 12 years in Harlan, Iowa; a little more than six years in Liberal, Kansas; and most recently in Sedor-Wooley, Washington, a city of about 10,000 population where she worked for the Central Skagit Library District.

"When I got the opportunity to come back to North Iowa, I jumped at the chance. I like Iowa – and this will give me a chance to be closer to family," stated Pannkuk.

Jill did her undergraduate work at Grandview College in Des Moines and earned a master's degree in Library Science from Clarion University in Pennsylvania.

"I've always liked libraries, ever since I was a child. I like working with the public and having the opportunity to provide information to them," stated Pannkuk.

Mrs. Pannkuk, who will begin her new duties on January 5th, succeeds Jean Casey who retired after serving as library director for 30 years.

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 on May 29, 1959 at 7:30 o'clock P.M. with the following members present: Mayor Secory and Councilmen Nesbit, Jorgenrud, Anderson, Eddy and Johnson. "Councilman Jorgenrud informed the Council that Earl Ashland was willing to sell to the City all of the former Clear Lake Lumber Company property located between Main Ave. and 1st Ave. N. with the exception of the portion of the property now occupied by the Coffee Shop and Jacobson's Barber Shop, for the sum of \$45,000.00. It was his suggestion that the City Hall, jail and fire department building be built on the 1st Ave. No. side of the property and the present city hall be sold and the present city office building and police station be torn down and the area converted for park use. He was authorized by the Council to try and negotiate the sale of the property, subject to legal procedure for the sum of \$40,000.00."

City Begins Retrofitting of Decorative Street Lights with LED Bulbs



The City of Clear Lake maintains approximately 174 decorative street lights. Street lighting constitutes a significant portion of municipal energy consumption and expenditures. In November, 2014, the City's Public Works department retrofitted the eight (8) multi-globe style decorative street lights on N. Lakeview Drive, between Main Avenue and 1st Avenue N., with LED retrofit kits.

The conversion in the decorative post-top luminaires is estimated to save the City approximately 75% in energy costs, with an additional environmental greenhouse emission reduction. Additional savings in maintenance will also be realized with the long life of the LED retrofit bulbs. "The LED lights will provide 360 degree directional illumination for pedestrians, motorists, and downtown businesses," stated Joe Weigel, Public Works Director.

Preliminary research by the City included studying new alternative fixtures and retrofitting the existing fixtures. After an analysis of products available, including test installations, it was determined that retrofitting the existing decorative post top fixtures was the best alternative for the City. Two 29 watt and one 36 watt LED Retrofit bulbs were selected to replace existing (2) 100 watt and 150 watt high pressure sodium source. It is anticipated that the City will retrofit the balance of its decorative street lights by June of 2015.

City Welcomes Recent Employee Additions to Public Works and Water Departments

The City's Public Works and Water departments are pleased to introduce some new faces on staff. These positions are not new positions, however, but are simply to fill recent vacancies. City Administrator Scott Flory stated, "It is rare that the City of Clear Lake has job openings in any of its departments. So it was not surprising to see an overwhelming response to the position announcements. At a time when many employers are struggling to find sufficient, capable employees, the City is fortunate to be viewed so strongly as an organization many aspire to work for."

Justin Morrow, who began his duties with the City on May 1, 2014, works at the Water Department. Justin and his wife, Hilary Reynolds, recently relocated back to Clear Lake with their twin boys, Asher and Brody. Justin, who is an avid runner, stated that he enjoys living in and working for such a great community.

Dustin Andrea, Public Works Department, began his duties with the City on December 1, 2014. Prior to his employment with the City, Dustin worked for Dean Snyder Construction of Clear Lake. Dustin stated, "I am excited for the opportunity to work for the City and I look forward to serving the residents of the community." Dustin resides in rural Clear Lake with his wife, Staci, and their children, Skylar and Paige.

Jason Dunning, Public Works Department, also began his duties with the City on December 1, 2014. Jason previously worked for Absolute Waste Removal in Clear Lake as a swing driver. "Although I've only worked for the



New employees Dustin Andrea, Jason Dunning, and Justin Morrow.

City a short time I enjoy the diversity that each day offers," stated Jason. Jason resides in Clear Lake with his wife, Estella, and their four children, Lexi, Caden, Addison, and Christian.

Newsletter Dedication ~

In late October, the City of Clear Lake lost a valued friend and long-time employee, Dean Wood. Dean worked in the City's public works department for nearly 19 years. Undoubtedly, many residents would have seen him operating a snow plow, street sweeper, or a variety of other equipment for the City. "He was always one of those guys you wanted around. When we needed him, he was there," stated Public Works Director Joe Weigel.

"Our entire organization remains deeply saddened by the loss of a member of our City of Clear Lake family. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and those fortunate enough to have been his friends," stated

Mayor Nelson P. Crabb.

"City employees devote their lives to serving the needs of the residents of the City of Clear Lake. At these times, we are reminded of just how precious life truly is. As an organization, we will truly miss Dean and all he contributed to making Clear Lake a better place," stated Scott Flory, City Administrator.

It is the intention of the Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator of Clear Lake that this newsletter be dedicated in the memory of Dean Wood.

Residents Reminded to Keep Sidewalks, Hydrants Clear of Snow and Ice

With the snow season upon us, please be a good neighbor and make the sidewalks safe for everyone. Residents are reminded that it is a City ordinance (Chapter 136.03) to remove snow from sidewalks within 48 hours following a snowfall. Snow placed on sidewalks by City plows where the sidewalk meets the street is the responsibility of the property owner to remove.

As a general rule, the City does not patrol the sidewalks to identify problem areas. However, if the Public Works Department receives a “citizen request” about a sidewalk, City staff will tag the property, which advises that the snow must be removed. If the snow remains on the walkways, the City crews or a contracted firm (without further notice) may come and clear the walkways of the snow. The cost of this snow removal, plus an administrative cost, is then billed to the property owner. These costs shall represent a tax-lien against said property.

Please also keep in mind that it is a violation to shovel, blow or plow snow from your private property or from a sidewalk onto any public highway or street. If you hire a contractor to take care of your snow removal, please inform them not to push the snow into the street or across the street. Be considerate of your neighbors

Keep Warm – Stay Safe!

As the temperature outside drops, Clear Lake families take to the indoors to stay warm. What they may not realize is that turning up the heat can increase the risk of home heating fires. Everyone can help reduce the number of home heating fires in our community by taking some simple precautions and using heating equipment properly.

The National Fire Protection Agency and the Clear Lake Fire Department recommend some simple home heating safety tips, so residents can help keep our community safe and warm this winter.

- Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3-feet away from heating equipment.
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect for cracked, frayed or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.
- Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home – when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.

and place the snow from your driveway and sidewalk on the parking adjoining your property, or in your yard.

Property owners who have a fire hydrant near their homes are also urged to keep the hydrant clear of snow so that it is clearly visible from the street. This simple act can save valuable time in the event of an emergency, and may even save a life.

To report an unsafe sidewalk, please contact the Public Works Department at (641) 357-6135.

Salt Sidewalks Sparingly

Do you know what happens to the salt and deicer you put on your sidewalks or driveways once it has melted the ice and snow?

Much of it ends up in storm drains, which empty directly into the nearest body of water. This can harm or kill fish and other aquatic life. It can also hurt the plants in your yard. Reduce the amount of salt or deicer you use by:

- First removing as much snow and ice from your sidewalk or driveway as possible.
- Using only the amount recommended by the manufacturer – or as little as needed to keep sidewalks and driveways safe. (Applying more than needed will not speed up the melting process).
- Applying a small amount of deicer before a snowfall to reduce the amount of product needed overall.
- On dry days, sweep up loose salt and throw it in the trash so it doesn't wash into nearby waterways. Healthy environments require year-round consideration from everyone.

Digging out Hydrants Saves Valuable Time for Fire Service

With heavy snow fall in North Iowa, fire hydrants sometimes get the brunt of it. Snowplows, snow blowers, and shovelfuls can hide a very important tool for fighting fires. Fire hydrants are located on many businesses and private homeowner's property. Property owners who have a fire hydrant near their homes or businesses are urged to keep the hydrant clear of snow so that it is clearly visible from the street. A hydrant that is covered can create a difficult situation when a fire crew arrives to a neighborhood and is unable to locate the hydrant.

Limited or no access to a hydrant is a loss of valuable time when minutes and even seconds count. Property loss and unsafe environments for fire crews without water can be reversed with an ample supply of water that the hydrants provide. Most Fire apparatus carry only 500 to 1,200 gallons of water and in an extreme environment such as a fully involved fire in a home, that amount of water can be used up in only a few minutes. Hooking into the City's water supply at the hydrant, gives fire crews necessary continuous volume of water that may be needed to protect you or your neighbor's property from further loss. Please help firefighters by clearing away the snow buildup around your neighborhood hydrants.



Join in the fun as the Color the Wind Kite Festival celebrates its 13th Anniversary

Don't miss the "Color the Wind" kite festival which will be held this year on Saturday, February 21, 2015, at the downtown seawall. Each winter, Clear Lake hosts this unique event that draws large and engaging crowds. In spite of the blustery weather last year, kite flyers who traveled to Clear Lake from all over the Midwest braved the cold and kept their huge kites flying all day.

Last year, stunt kite teams "Fire & Ice" and "180GO" entertained crowds throughout the day making their stunt kites perform choreographed routines set to music. Iowa Public Television (IPTV) spent the day filming the 2014 festival and the program was featured on "Iowa Outdoors" during December of 2014 giving Clear Lake and the event statewide promotion.

Weather permitting, this year's event is expected to be an even bigger than last year. Bring your own kite or buy one in the Lakeview Room and join the fun out on the frozen lake. Hot food and beverages will be available from the lunch wagon on site or you can take advantage of the many fine restaurants throughout the community.



For more information and a current schedule of events visit www.colorthewind.org, or call Larry Day, event organizer, at 641-529-0693.

Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party



The Clear Lake Public Library is celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with an open house on Monday, February 23rd, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dr. Seuss' story, "McElligot's Pool," will provide the theme for the night.

A guest reader will read Dr. Seuss stories in the story corner at intervals during the evening. There will be door prizes, activities and games, including: fishing, floating objects in water, and making an eel with a head at both ends from a mobius strip.

The "Cat in the Hat" will also make an appearance at the library during the first hour of the event. If you have a "Cat in the Hat" hat, please wear it. "Cat in the Hat" hats will be available for purchase for \$2.00 each. Bring your camera to take your child's picture with "The Cat in the Hat"!

Please register for the event by phoning the Children's Department at 357-0315.

Attention Pet Owners

Dog licenses for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2015, are now due. The City Ordinance requires all dogs over six months of age to be licensed with the City of Clear Lake. Licenses may be purchased at City Hall, 15 North 6th Street. For licenses purchased before the March 31st deadline, the fee is \$3.00. The deadline for purchasing your 2015 dog license(s) is March 31, 2015, without penalty. On and after April 1, a \$1.00 penalty charge per month is added for each license. Proof of current rabies vaccination must be presented at time of licensing. Dogs kept in State or Federally licensed kennels, which are kept or raised solely for the bona fide purpose of sale and which are kept under constant restraint do not need to be licensed. Please call 357-5267 with questions.



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

New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1st
President's Day, Monday, February 16th

The Clear View Newsletter is printed on recycled paper



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
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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
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**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	Bennett Smith
Diane Glynn	Pat Weigel
Elizabeth Cherry	

Parks & Recreation Board

(Meets 4th 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)

Michael Ritter	Julie Angle
Al Penfold	Arnold Prohaska
Chyrl 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.



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January 2015

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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