



The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 12 - Number 6
November 2014
www.cityofclearlake.com



Christmas by the Lake Marks 20th Year

The Annual Christmas by the Lake event is scheduled for Saturday, December 6th and Sunday December 7th.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of one of the largest and most beloved City festivals. On Saturday, activities include: trolley rides; craft show; crowning of prince & princess; petting zoo; chili cook-off; s'more's for kids; Christmas Karaoke; visit with Santa; strolling Dickens characters; lighted parade; and fireworks over the lake.

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

Be on the lookout for more exciting new ways to celebrate our 20th Anniversary of Christmas by the Lake. For a complete schedule of events visit www.clearlakeiowa.com.

City Holds First Meeting in New Council Chambers



On Monday, October 6, 2014, the Clear Lake City Council convened for its inaugural meeting in the former Community Room at City Hall, which has been recently remodeled to serve as the City Council chambers. The new council chamber provides much more space than the council's previous meeting space at City Hall. With nearly 1,880 square feet of space, the chamber has an occupancy rating of 125 people – about 80 more than the previous chamber. It also features a modern audio/visual system, which

allows the use of a speaker system for council meetings for the first time. The audio system improvements will greatly improve recording of the meetings for rebroadcast on the City of Clear Lake website and the local access channel CLVision channel 1.

The Clear Lake municipal building is undergoing its first substantive physical improvement in 50 years. Renovations to the administrative portion of the building, which began earlier this summer, have been completed. The council Chambers and building itself is now more fully ADA compliant and the 50 year old single-pane glass windows and doors have all been replaced.

Seating capacity has been increased to eight now at the dais. The seating increase also accommodates other City officials, as well as other City boards and commissions which have more members than the Council. High efficiency lights now illuminate the chambers, as well.

A re-dedication ceremony will be held later this year.



Daylight Savings Time Ends

On August 8, 2005, former President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This Act changed the time and dates for Daylight Savings Time in the United States, beginning in 2007. Daylight Savings Time will begin on the second Sunday in March and end the first Sunday in November. So, before you head off to bed on November 1st, make sure to turn your clocks back one hour.

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



Mayor Nelson Crabb

Come Fly With Me

Since I moved to Clear Lake many years ago, a number of commercial airlines have served the communities of Clear Lake and Mason City, as well as the greater North Iowa area. The most recent being Great Lakes Airline, which left in January

of this year. Some have been more successful than others obviously. One thing remains constant, however, and that is the importance of commercial air service for this area.

In my conversations with site selectors and prospective decision-makers looking to locate new businesses and industries, commercial air service is always a topic of discussion. I can tell you it is to the region's advantage to ensure the long-term viability of commercial air service as an economic development tool.

Air Choice One is the most recent airline to attempt to make a go of it in the region. This new airline is based in St. Louis and will offer 24 flights per week to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. The US Department of Transportation gave them a two-year Essential Air Service contract.

I had the opportunity to meet the CEO of Air Choice One at a Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce event not very long ago. He indicated to me that he was eager to introduce our area to their dependable service and a new hub (Chicago). Under the former carrier(s), flights from Mason City went to Minneapolis.

I would encourage you to continue to support the airport and to give Air Choice One a try.

Until next time,



Before you go South....

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

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

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

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 October 21, 1974 at 7:30 o'clock P.M., called by Mayor Floyd Nesbit with the following members present: Mayor Nesbit, Councilmen Unga, Hankenson, Godden, Petersen and White. City Engineer Johnson suggested we think about a new Street Sweeper as the one we now use is five years old and would take from \$1,500 to \$3,000 to repair it. He stated there are several different types running in price from \$35,000. The Council was of the opinion that the one we have should be repaired, and Councilman Godden suggested the Engineer get some Quotations on some sweepers with a trade-in of the old one."

12th Avenue South Street Resurfacing Project

One of the major street maintenance projects for the City of Clear Lake for 2014 is the resurfacing of 12th Avenue S. The Project entails limited storm sewer work, roadway reclamation, and hot-mix asphalt resurfacing. Street resurfacing will occur between the east side of the S. 8th Street intersection to approximately 75' west of the existing box culvert at the creek along 12th Avenue S. Storm sewer improvements will include installation of two intakes and RCP piping to the creek at the S. 15th Street intersection.

Roadway reclamation will be completed for the entire



length of the Project and will include pulverization of the existing 24' wide asphalt surfacing and subgrade to a depth of 12'. The pulverized section will be graded and compacted prior to the installation of flyash material to form a stabilized base for the final wearing course. A 24' wide 2" HMA surfacing will then be installed over the top of the base.

Following a competitive sealed bid letting, the City Council awarded the construction contract to Heartland Asphalt of Mason City. The amount of the contract is \$220,559. Work on the Project began on October 8th and is expected to be completed on or before November 14th.



Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze

It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these 10 items off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

- Have furnace inspected and serviced annually.
- Inspect wood for fireplace or wood stove. Check for creosote build-up annually.
- Only burn dry seasoned wood.
- Check fireplace screen or heat-tempered glass for good condition.
- Have a metal container to use for cooled ashes.
- Stay at least 3 feet away from the fireplace, wood stove, or other space heaters.
- Use portable space heaters with automatic shut-off.
- Plug space heaters directly into an outlet (not an extension cord).
- Test smoke alarms.
- Test carbon monoxide alarms.

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

Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11th
Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27th
Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th
New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1st

Snow Removal Ordinance is in effect beginning November 1, 2014 through April 1, 2015.

The Clear View Newsletter is printed on recycled paper

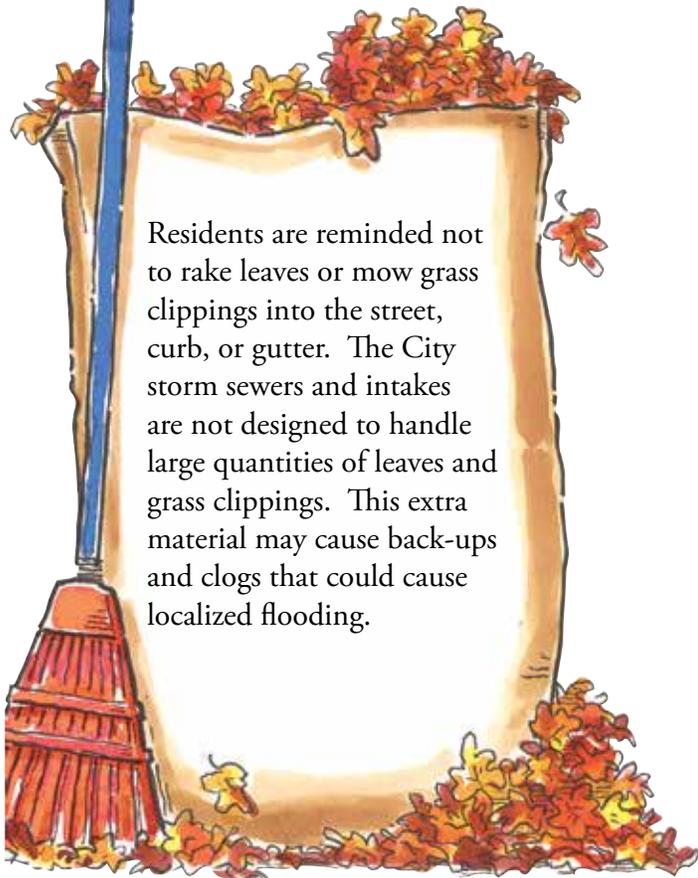




Aquatic Center memberships make a great holiday gift!!

Discounted memberships are on sale now for the 2015 season.

Keep leaves, grass out of streets Dispose of Leaves Properly



Residents are reminded not to rake leaves or mow grass clippings into the street, curb, or gutter. The City storm sewers and intakes are not designed to handle large quantities of leaves and grass clippings. This extra material may cause back-ups and clogs that could cause localized flooding.

Fun Activities at the Clear Lake Public Library

Middle School Events

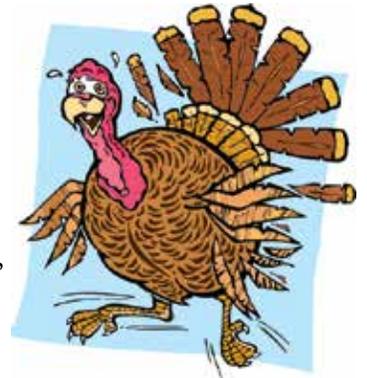
HOOPLA! is for 6th – 8th graders. Middle school students are invited to play the library's Wii and board games, or bring their own, on Friday, November 21st from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. On Tuesday, December 30th, at 6:30 p.m., middle school students are invited to the library to solve a "New Year's Eve Mystery" to celebrate the upcoming holiday. Please contact the library, at 357-0315, to register, or email at librarylady831@yahoo.com

Winter Wonderland Family Event

A Winter Wonderland Family Night will be held at the Clear Lake Public Library on Monday, December 29th, from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., as an open house event. Please come to the Children's Department downstairs to enjoy stories about winter and snow, with lots of participation for the children. There will also be games, as well as a winter craft for the children to build and take home. Please register by calling 357-0315.

WIN YOUR THANKSGIVING TURKEY

Start practicing today to prepare for the annual holiday free throw shooting contest and attempt to win a free turkey. The event is scheduled for Sunday, November 2nd, at 12:00 p.m., at Clear Creek Elementary Gym (enter through the west doors). Teams must include an adult and child who are related to one another. This competition is free and is divided by the age of the child. Ages 6-9 move in 4 feet from the free throw line and shoot at a 8-foot high basket; ages 10-11 move in 2 feet and shoot at the regular basket; and 12-14 year olds and adults shoot regulation free throws. All winning teams will receive a free turkey. Registration is held the day of the event.



Help Keep Your Driveway Clear

It has happened to all of us at some point. You have shoveled your driveway and shortly thereafter a City snowplow comes by and deposits a ridge of snow at the end of your driveway.

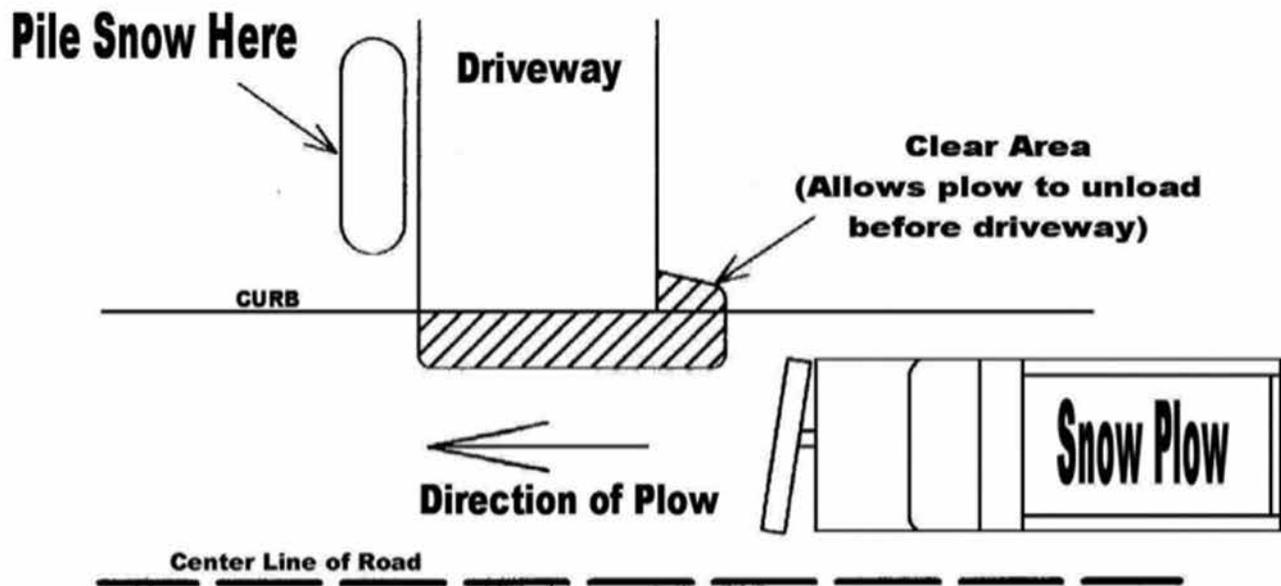
Here is a tip you can use to try and mitigate the size of snow ridge you get at the end of your driveway. As you face the street, shovel snow from your driveway to the right, which is the same direction as the snow plow travels.

Alternatively, residents may simply wish to wait until

after the plows have cleared the snow on the street from curb to curb before attempting to clean their driveway apron. Significantly more snow will fall from the end of a plow onto a cleared apron than onto a snow covered apron.

Plan where you are going to pile up the snow, if we are experiencing a heavy snowfall. Don't block your view from traffic in the street or pedestrians in the sidewalk with huge piles of snow.

Driveway Plowing Policies



Curbside Mailboxes sometimes suffer snow damage



During snow plow operations, particularly those that have wet and heavy snow, it is not uncommon for curbside mailboxes to be damaged. The damage is typically the result of the impact from heavy, wet snow being discharged from the plow blade. Although we are sorry for the inconvenience this causes, we must clean the entire road. This often means heavy snow will hit your mailbox as the trucks go by. It can snap your post and destroy the

box and can easily crack and break the plastic mailboxes, if it is a bitter cold morning. There is no escape from some of the hardships of an Iowa winter. That includes the toll it takes on our mailboxes. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in our efforts to keep our streets clear. Generally speaking:

- If a mailbox that conforms to City ordinance is damaged as a result of "physical contact" of a snowplow or other piece of snow removal equipment, the City will pay to offset the cost of replacing the mailbox with a standard issue mailbox.
- If a mailbox is damaged as a result of the weight or impact of snow and ice being moved by a City snowplow, but there has been NO "physical contact" with the box by a piece of City equipment, the City will NOT assume responsibility for the cost of repair or replacement of the box.

For guidance on proper curbside mailbox installation in order to reduce the likelihood that your mailbox might be damaged during snow plow operations, please contact the Public Works Department at 357-6135.

City of Clear Lake Directory

CITY DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY911
 Non-Emergency Police.....357-2186
 Building Inspection357-6135
 Cemetery357-6135
 City Administrator357-5267
 City Attorney357-2139
 City Clerk357-5267
 City Hall357-5267
 Fire Department.....357-2613
 Absolute Waste Removal357-4517
 Mayor.....357-5267
 Parks & Recreation.....357-7010
 Planning & Zoning357-6135
 Public Library.....357-6133
 Public Works.....357-6135
 Landfill of North Iowa.....357-5452
 Clear Lake Sanitary District.....357-2019
 Water Department357-3911

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 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 Chryl 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.



The

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Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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