



The Clear View

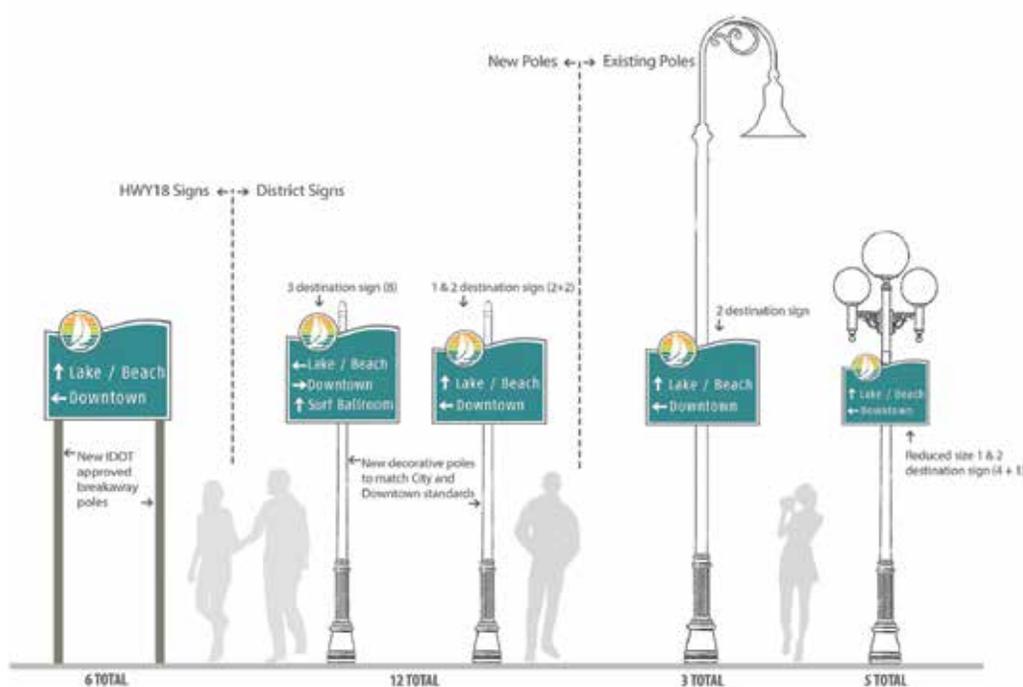
A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 15 - Number 1
January 2017
www.cityofclearlake.com

Clear Lake Wayfinding Signage to be implemented in 2017

What is “Wayfinding”? Wayfinding is the art of using landmarks, signage, and environmental cues to help visitors navigate and experience a community or district without confusion. These cues should be seamlessly connected, well planned, and esthetically pleasing. They should create a positive first impression and a sense of security and comfort.

As part of the City’s Iowa “Great Places” Surf District grant; a Wayfinding Signage Project was proposed. This project was initiated because there is a distinct absence of pedestrian wayfinding cues, information, and signage to landmark destinations in Clear Lake.



A local project advisory group, consisting of members of the Chamber of Commerce, North Iowa Cultural Center & Museum, and the City have been working with a project consultant for several months now on design and location issues. A presentation was made to the Clear Lake City Council on September 6, 2016, and the concept plan was also presented to the Chamber of Commerce Board at its annual retreat.

The initial phase of the Wayfinding Project is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

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 on to 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 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.



Mayor Nelson Crabb

An underlying challenge: Preserving the past, but at the expense of the future?

Like many of you, I have recently found myself in the middle of a prevailing community conversation regarding the proposed demolition of some older buildings in downtown Clear Lake. This has become a rather vexing and polarizing subject and the reactions and opinions are broad-ranging and can be rather lively, in particular on social media. It seems that no one is reluctant to express their 2-cents worth, which isn't necessarily a negative thing, as it shows that our citizens feel a sense of pride and engagement with their community.

One thing I have taken note of, however, is that a rather unique juxtaposition unfolds in the conversation: economic development vs preservation; the future vs the past. It is easy for most people to get excited about new development and potential new job opportunities, especially when it involves one of the Community's most tenured and respected businesses. However, I understand the sentimentality that many associate with a Community's architecture and urban landscape.

The cultural and social identity of our Community, as expressed through its historical architecture is important. But, perhaps equally important is for a Community to progress. Is

every old building worth saving? I believe, like most would, that it is important to carefully evaluate and do what can reasonably be done to preserve our past. However, I also believe it is vital for a city to grow. One thing I have learned in life is that, despite that change is inevitable; we are very resistant to change. Preservation is not the right tool to combat change. I will be the first to boast about downtown Clear Lake and its scale, quality, and charm and I think a greater conversation is appropriate regarding proactive efforts that may be implemented to enhance those very attributes.

Some say the City should do more to promote retail downtown. But often times, local governments are criticized for taking initiative and getting involved in things other than streets, water, sewer, police, fire, solid waste collection, and other core government functions. I recall roughly 11 years ago, our downtown looked very different. There were many empty storefronts. I remember myself, City Administrator Scott Flory, and City Councilman Terry Unsworth taking trips to Eagle Grove and Osage to recruit two new prospective businesses for downtown Clear Lake, those efforts ultimately led to a new owner for the vacant Larson's Mercantile and Emerson's-by-the-Lake buildings. The City also initiated a "Downtown Development Incentive Program" that many of the businesses currently in place downtown have benefited from.

What I think I have learned from some of these experiences is that not every effort can or should be government led. That sometimes the strongest initiatives are citizen-based and driven. At times such as these, I find myself caught betwixt and between the ethos of two political titans of the 20th century. Reagan, who famously said: "The problem is government" and Churchill, who opined: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others."

Happy holidays from my family to yours and wishing you a healthy and prosperous 2017!

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 at 8:00 p.m. on January 29, 1937. Members present: Mayor Phillips and Councilmen Hunting, DeBruyn, Scherf, Wright and Andersen. Plans for remodeling of Surf Ballroom were re-submitted to the Council by C.J. Fuchs and H.P. Hanson of the firm of Hanson & Waggner, Architects, Mason City, Iowa, for further inspection. Motion was made by DeBruyn and seconded by Wright that the application of C.J. Fuchs, made in open meeting of the council, for permit to build the entrance tower up to the property line and the addition to the said building up to within one foot of his property line on the sidewalk side, be granted. Motion carried, all members voting aye."

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

New Year's Holiday • Monday, January 2nd
President's Day • Monday, February 20th

The Clear View Newsletter is printed on recycled paper



Hard Water Season

by: Jim Sholly – CLEAR Project

The CLEAR Project would like to remind everyone venturing out onto the ice this winter to always remember SAFETY FIRST. The general rule of thumb is to stay off the lake until there is at least 4” of ice, at that point it is reasonably safe for foot travel. It will take at least 8” before ATV’s and snow machines should start venturing out and greater than 12” before light vehicles should attempt to travel on the lake. Remember that ice is weakest near rocky points and around the bull rush beds near shore. For Clear Lake, it is never advisable to travel by ice between the main lake and the little lake as the ice in that zone is constantly changing and often much weaker than any of the surrounding area. The best ice forms when temperatures stay below 20 degrees with little to no snow on the ice. Once the first big snow storm of the year hits, ice conditions are often not visible and the lake will build ice at a much slower rate. One of the best safety tips to keep in mind is to always travel in pairs, the buddy system could allow for



a rescue or to alert trained professionals of an emergency situation. The CLEAR Project wants everyone to be safe when venturing out onto the lake this season. To find out more tips for winter ice safety and what you can do to improve our lake, visit www.clearproject.net.

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.

ATTENTION PET OWNERS!

Dog licenses for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 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 2017 dog license(s) is March 31, 2017 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 bonafide purpose of sale and which are kept under contact restraint, do not need to be licensed. Please call 357-5267 with questions.





Clear Lake Police Department Celebrates Academy Graduation

The Clear Lake Police Department is pleased to announce the academy graduation of Officer Ashley Lopez. She successfully completed over 15 weeks of training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and graduated along with 33 other law enforcement officers on Friday, December 9, 2016. Ashley served in a leadership position as the class secretary/treasurer, which is chosen by the class during an election held several weeks into the session.

Officer Lopez is assigned to Patrol and will complete a vigorous field training program before being assigned to a watch on her own. The department has three certified field training officers (FTO's) who will assist in her training.

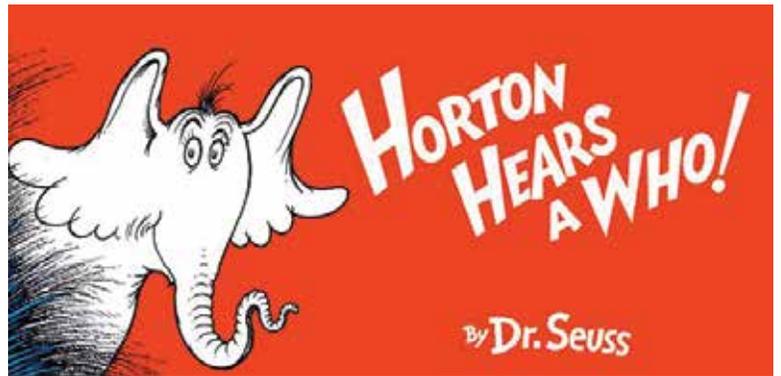
Ashley resides in Clear Lake with her husband Carlos and her two daughters. She is anxious to serve the community and live out a dream of becoming a police officer. Off-duty, Ashley enjoys spending time with her family, biking, and exercising.

Clear Lake Chamber Annual Meeting

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual Meeting & Award presentation January 24th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Ventura Community Center. The cost of this event is \$25 per person.



Call the Chamber office at 357-2159 to make reservations or reserve online at www.clearlakeiowa.com with your membership login. Cancellations require 24-hour advance notice.



Come Celebrate Dr. Seuss at the Library

The Clear Lake Public Library is celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with an open house on Monday, February 27th, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Dr. Seuss' story "Horton Hears a Who!" will provide the theme of the night. Please register by contacting the Children's Department at 357-0315.

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! The Cat in the Hat will make an appearance at the library during the hour, in honor of the event. Bring along your camera to take your child's picture with The Cat in the Hat! If you have Cat in the Hat attire, please wear it. Cat in the Hat hats will be on sale for \$2.00 during the event. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

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, 2017.

Surf Ballroom & Museum Prepares for 2017 Winter Dance Party



The Surf Ballroom & Museum is pleased to announce the artists who are scheduled to appear at the “2017 Winter Dance Party” event, scheduled for Wednesday, February 1st, through Saturday, February 4th.

“The 2017 Winter Dance Party lineup promises to be another fantastic celebration of rock ‘n roll performances, friendships, and history. The Surf continues to search for and is pleased to welcome new performers to our legendary stage. We are always delighted to welcome back longtime friends of the Surf and Winter Dance Party event,” stated Surf Ballroom & Museum President, Jeff Nicholas.

Johnny Rogers “History of Rock ‘n Roll Show” will kick off the Surf’s event on Wednesday evening, during the annual Winter Dance Party Family Sock Hop. Johnny will transport the audience back in time when you could go to the local malt shop with your favorite girl and dance the night away.

Thursday night’s entertainment lineup features Lloyd Price (“Mr. Personality”), Jack Scott, and The Holly Rocka Rollaz, along with Tommy Allsup, whom has an extremely strong tie to the event as the original guitarist on the 1959 Winter Dance Party Tour. Allsup continues to be a fan favorite, having performed at this annual event for 12 consecutive years.

Friday evening’s Traditional Sock Hop will feature The Whitesidewalls, Orbison & The Everly Brothers Reimagined, The Del Shannon Show Starring James Popenhagen and the Tailfins. “The Friday night Sock Hop continues to be 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. The Whitesidewalls have been a part of the event many times back to the beginning and continue to be fan favorites, and we’ve added the Del Shannon Show Starring James Popenhagen in honor of our event’s very beginnings, when Del Shannon was a regular performer in the

Tribute’s lineup.”

Saturday evening’s entertainment lineup will feature a headlining performance by legendary rock ‘n roller Johnny Rivers, who is best known for his hits “Poor Side of Town”, “Baby I Need Your Lovin’,” and “Memphis.” Other performers scheduled to appear on Saturday evening will include: Albert Lee and Friends and The Fireballs featuring Jimmy Gilmer and George Tomsco, who have performed during the Winter Dance Party event in previous years, as well as a first time performance by Rockabilly Music’s Danny B. Harvey & Annie Marie Lewis. Albert Lee first appeared at the Surf’s Winter Dance Party in 2006 as part of The Crickets performance, returning in 2013 and performing each year since.

Also on Saturday, The Killer Vees, featuring Jeff, Tommy and Matt Vee along with Ar J Stevens and George Maurer, will reunite at the Surf Ballroom one last time to say goodbye to their father, uncle, friend, mentor and band leader Bobby Vee. Complete with Bobby’s touring string section and cast members from Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story helping out on background vocals, this significant show will be held on Saturday, February 4th as the encore following the annual Three Stars Finale. “This is not a show we ever wanted to do,” said Tommy Vee. “But Dad loved playing the Surf, the ballroom and the fans meant the world to him so this feels important to us and I know it would make Dad smile.”

For a complete weeklong series of events and the most current information about the event, please visit www.surfbalroom.com or contact the Surf’s office at (641) 357-6151.

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 Mark Ebeling 641-201-0430
 Second Ward Tony J. Nelson 515-306-1223	 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
Tamara Schwichtenberg	

Parks & Recreation Board

(Meets 4th Wednesday of each month)

Tim Raber	Chyrl Bergvig
Linda Hopper	Darron Jones
Amy Hogg	

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	Cerise Sissel
Fred Muth	Bob Swanson
David Klang	

Visit The City Of Clear Lake Website at www.cityofclearlake.com.



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January 2017

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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