



The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 15 - Number 2
March 2017
www.cityofclearlake.com

DARE Program returns to Clear Lake school



The Clear Lake Police Department has teamed up with Clear Creek Elementary to provide the new Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program called Keepin' it REAL to the fifth grade class. The new evidence based curriculum took Penn State and Arizona State Universities approximately 20 years to develop. Keepin' it REAL replaces the original 1983 D.A.R.E program started in Los Angeles that focused primarily on "Just say no!"

D.A.R.E. classes teach youth critical thinking skills and resistance strategies. The curriculum has 10 lessons that focus on self-awareness and management, responsible decision making, understanding others, relationships, communication skills, and handling challenges. The 10 lessons are arranged in a scaffolding process, starting with basics about responsibility and decision making and then building on each other allowing students to develop their own responses to real life situations.

The program is designed to teach youth to control their impulses and think about risk and consequences resulting in more responsible decisions. D.A.R.E. America believes that if you can teach youth to make safe and responsible decisions, it will guide them to healthy choices not only about drugs, but across all parts of their lives.

The new program is interactive which allows students to retain more of the information and role play different life scenarios such as:

- Peer Pressure
- Defining problems and risky situations
- Signs of Stress
- Communication styles
- How to report bullying
- Help networks
- Using the DARE decision making model: Define Assess Respond Evaluate

D.A.R.E America requires that only uniform police officers who have completed an 80 hour training school teach D.A.R.E. Officer Brandon Trapp completed his D.A.R.E. training in 2011 and has taught in the Iowa Falls School District prior to coming to the Clear Lake Police Department. Officer Trapp began teaching at Clear Creek Elementary in January 2017. He instructs 99 fifth graders.

Chief Roth was also a previous D.A.R.E. instructor in the West Des Moines Community School System. According to Roth, "D.A.R.E. allowed me to build positive relationships with students and the schools. I am excited for Officer Trapp to begin this process at Clear Creek."

Officer Trapp will teach 10 lessons to the fifth grade class and will conclude the program with a graduation ceremony this spring.

CLFD has rookie school openings

Like protecting others? Making a difference in your community? Making new friendship with lasting bonds? The Clear Lake Fire Department currently has openings to become a volunteer fireman for the upcoming rookie school session. We are looking for committed individuals that want to make a positive impact on people in their community.

Department missions:

- Prevent the loss of life
- Fire Prevention
- Public Education
- Protect the Environment
- Positively impact the community

Fire fighter advantages:

- New challenges and obstacles
- Training and skills
- Equipment
- Personal Reward
- New Friendships

Some recruiting must haves:

- Must be 18 years of age
- Live within the city limits of Clear Lake or 2 miles from the fire station
- Hold a valid driver's license and pass a background check
- Commit to the time needed to volunteer and train
- Help with different types of department functions in the community

Email us today with questions or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Clear Lake Volunteer Fire Department at pio@clearlakefire.com.





Mayor Nelson Crabb

From the Mayor's Desk

You may have recently seen in the news media that the City's Economic Development Agency – The North Iowa Corridor – has retained a consultant to assist the Cities of Clear Lake and Mason City, as well as Cerro Gordo County, prepare a new strategic plan. That reminds me of a quote from a past political luminary of an earlier era. Our 34th President, Dwight D. Eisenhower once said that, "Plans are worthless, but planning

is everything." This leads me to something that someone quite a bit less noteworthy (me) tells people when they inquire why Clear Lake has become so successful as a City government: "the 'process' is the product." Sometimes, what goes into the development of a plan may be as beneficial or more than the plan itself.

While it may be obvious as to why cities need a plan – and Clear Lake develops a strategic plan every year for the upcoming two years – what about a multi-jurisdictional regional economic development agency? In my opinion, it is vital – or at least the "process" and the "planning" is vital. For example, what appears to be favorable for one entity in a partnership may not be favorable to another. A project that brings in some may drive out others. There is no perfect algorithm to determine the costs and benefits of a project or initiative. But, local economic development officials and partners can be empowered to make better decisions and improve community opinion if they have a strategic plan that is broad based and the culmination of community input.

To create an effective regional plan, well, that involves working

together; partnering with our peer governments, businesses, non-profits, and stakeholders. Once the Plan is developed, that document provides the tool to measure prospective decisions against and determine the value and impact of future projects and to make more informed decisions about which to pursue and, equally as important, which not to pursue. In other words, the Plan holds people accountable to stay on task and not lose focus every time a red herring comes along.

In Clear Lake, from my perspective at the seat of the head of our City government, I see our community having evolved into sort of a "paragon of lifestyle." As someone who has lived here nearly 50 years, this has not always been the case. As the "New Millennium" rolled in, Clear Lake began to adapt to a new age. Today, Clear Lake is a community that prides itself on quality of life; deeply immersed in environmental quality and recreational, cultural and entertainment activities. The cause for this recent success: the people, teamwork.

I am a believer that a community shouldn't compromise its quality of life for the simple sake of growth. Growth doesn't necessarily mean "improvement". Clear Lake's City government has invested in housing projects and subdivisions; industrial parks; public safety; downtown business development; art, cultural, entertainment, and recreational projects; streets and other infrastructure. Call me cliché, but I have always believed in the "build it and they will come" philosophy. I can point to the McKesson project as a classic example of how our long-term community investment strategies have paid dividend.

It is my hope that this new Vision North Iowa Plan focuses on our region's most valuable asset – its people. I believe that with the right influences, it can become, not a plan of the North Iowa Corridor or any particular government, but the "people's plan."

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 at 8:30 p.m. on April 5, 1935. Members present: Mayor Phillips and Councilmen Ott, DeBruyn, Scherf, Wright, and Andersen. Motion was made by DeBruyn and seconded by Wright that A.B. Thornbury be appointed Garbage Collector and Sanitary Police from May 1st, 1935 to March 31st, 1936 at a salary of \$175.00 payable \$35.00 on the first day of each of the months of June, July, August, September, and October, 1935 and he be authorized to collect \$1.00 per month from individuals for whom he collects and disposes of Garbage. Motion was carried, all voting aye."

Call Before You Dig

Residents undertaking projects involving digging and excavating are reminded to call Iowa One Call. Iowa law states that if you are excavating, including digging, you must call Iowa One Call

at least 48 hours in advance (of your digging) in order to minimize the risk of damaging any type of underground facilities (electric, gas, communications/television, water and sewer). The service is free, and so is the phone call. Making the phone call can help eliminate the risk of disrupting service, and greatly reduce the potential risk of serious personal injury. Before any digging or excavation starts, Iowans need to know they should first call Iowa One Call at 811 to have their utilities marked. It's not only in their best interest, it's the law.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Please note that City offices will be closed for Good Friday on Friday, April 14th.

The Clear View Newsletter is printed on recycled paper



City Replaces 20-Year-Old Aerial Bucket Truck

In December, 2016, the City's Public Works Department received its new aerial lift (bucket) truck. The purchase was authorized by the City Council in late-November, 2016, after the solicitation of sealed competitive quotations. Funding had been allocated for the purchase in the City's FY 2017 Municipal Budget.



FY 2018 City of Clear Lake Municipal Budget proposal

By City Administrator Scott Lawrence Flory

Each year, starting in November, the City Administrator and Finance Officer begin working in collaboration with the Mayor, City Council, and City Departments to develop a budget document that will be presented to the City Council in January for review and approval prior to the start of the new fiscal year on July 1st. It is the goal of the City Administrator to generate a user-friendly, meaningful document that will accurately reflect both the vision and goals of the City Council, as well as the interests of our citizens.

The City Council will consider adoption of the proposed fiscal year 2018 proposed budget during its regular meeting on Monday, March 6, 2017, at City Hall. The proposed budget was first presented to the City Council by City Administrator Scott L. Flory, on February 6th. That presentation was followed by a second presentation on February 20th. At the February 20th meeting, the Council set the date for the public hearing on the budget proposal for March 6th. Notice of the hearing was published in the newspaper, as required by law, on February 22nd. By law, the budget must be certified to the County Auditor by March 15th.

The proposed tax rate for the City of Clear Lake for the 2018 Fiscal Year, which begins on July 1, 2017 and ends on June 30, 2018, is \$9.80/\$1,000 of taxable valuation. The City's share of the overall tax rate is proposed to decrease for the 2nd consecutive year. For FY 17, the tax rate was decreased by nearly \$0.50/\$1,000 of taxable valuation, from \$10.54 to \$10.04 /\$1,000 of taxable valuation. For FY 18, the proposed tax rate is \$9.80; a decrease of roughly \$0.25/\$1,000 of taxable valuation. The City's share of the tax rate has, therefore, decreased by nearly \$0.75/\$1,000 of taxable valuation over the last 2 years.

The taxable valuation for the 2018 fiscal year (1/1/16) continues the positive trend of growth in the Community. The taxable valuation for FY 18 is \$586,296,745, which is a \$38,580,902, or 6.5% from FY 17. This is despite an increasing commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential rollback. The residential rollback for FY 18 is set at 56.94%, which is a slight increase from FY 17's rate of 55.63%.

The proposed FY 18 budget reflects total expenditures among the various programs of slightly over \$14 million; of which \$8 million is directed towards operations & maintenance; \$5.4 million is directed towards capital; \$635,000 is directed towards debt service. Projected ending cash balance for June 30, 2018 in the General Fund is \$3.4 million, which is roughly 52% of the general fund operating budget. The City's Constitutional debt limit for FY 18 is \$46.8 million and the City currently has used only \$2.3 million, or 5%, of its General Obligation debt borrowing capacity – one of the lowest levels of indebtedness in the Country. Generally, municipal finance advisors suggest operating in the 65-70% range.

The entire budget can be viewed on the City's web site.

The City purchased a 2016 ABM VST-47-1 (demo) unit, with very few miles on it. The purchase price was just under \$130,000 and with the private sale of the City's former bucket truck, the net cost was roughly \$122,000.

This is one of the more versatile pieces of equipment that the City employs. Primarily, it is used for tree trimming and removal purposes. However, it is also utilized for traffic signal maintenance and repair work; street lighting work; getting on top of buildings; and Christmas decorations.

The new truck has many features that the old truck lacked and will allow work to be done in a much safer manner for the City public works crews. The former bucket truck was a 1997, 2-wheel drive, with much more limited boom height.

Large Item Cleanup Program

April 3rd - April 6th

The 2017 Spring Large Item Pickup will take place April 3rd to April 6th. 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 March 29th, 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 5th. 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 6th. Please have appliances with stickers attached by the curb by no later than 7:30 a.m. on April 6th.

Please also be aware that the City WILL NOT pick up 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, 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.

Watermain Flushing Schedule set for Spring

The Clear Lake Water Department will begin flushing watermain in May. Flushing will be done from May 1st to May 3rd, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Why does the City flush watermain? 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 watermain? 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 watermain? Residents may experience low water pressure and some discolored water when the Water Department crews are flushing in their neighborhood. Any change in 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.

Earth Day clean up and activities planned



Celebrate community and Clear Lake with a week of Clear Lake Earth Day activities. Sign up your family, neighborhood, or business today and lend a hand by giving back to the community in April. You may take a suggested site or choose one of your own. On Thursday, April 20th, the North Iowa Green Expo will be held at the Surf Ballroom, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Find out the latest on healthier food, homes and lifestyles. Numerous local businesses will showcase their green products and representatives from several local and statewide non-profits will be available.

The region’s popular early-season, “chip-timed”, 5k & 10k races begin at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 22nd. Register in advance at www.earthdaynorthiowa.org. Also, on Saturday, April 22nd, the “Community Cleanup” and outdoor festival will take place. Check out www.earthday-northiowa.org for the latest activities for the whole family throughout the week to celebrate Earth Week in Clear Lake.

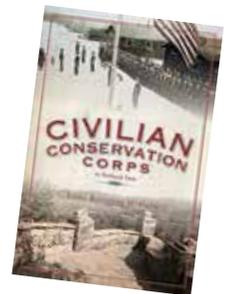
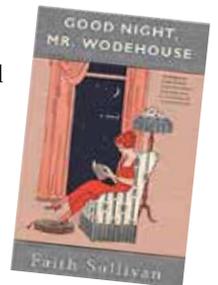
Earth Day Celebration at the Clear Lake Public Library

On Monday, April 17th, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., there will be an Earth Week Family Night at the Clear Lake Public Library centered on butterflies and their importance to our environment. Children will be able to work on a butterfly craft and play some games in the children’s department. It will be an open house format. The event is most appropriate for toddlers up to 3rd grade and their accompanying adults. Those interested in participating should phone the library to sign up at 357-0315.

Two Authors to visit the Clear Lake Public Library this Spring

The Public Library is pleased to announce that they will be hosting two interesting and popular authors for adults this spring. Faith Sullivan will be visiting the library on Tuesday, March 28th at 6:30 p.m. Born and raised in southern Minnesota, Sullivan lives in Minneapolis with her husband and is the author of seven award-winning novels including Goodnight, Mr. Wodehouse, The Cape Ann, Gardenias, and The Empress of One.

Linda McCann will be visiting the library on Wednesday, April 12th at 6:30 p.m. and will share information about her book Civilian Conservation Corps in Northeast Iowa. The Civilian Conservation Corps was a federal program during the depression years to help young men find work and also to refresh our natural resources. They worked in many state parks, and constructed buildings and dams. They also worked with soil erosion projects building terraces, dams, and teaching rotation of crops. McCann was able to interview seven men who had been in the Civilian Conservation Corps and shares their memories.





**Volunteers Needed
For Upcoming Northwest
Sports Show In Minneapolis
March 23-26, 2017**

Use this Link to Sign Up Today for a Spot!
<http://signup.com/go/PWDkmJ>

Volunteers will give information about Clear Lake, answer questions, and hand out our Visitor Guide, giveaway items, and any other info requested by visitors. Volunteers will receive a free ticket to the Sport Show and we will reimburse for parking.



Vacation/Overnight Rental Properties within Residential Neighborhoods

The City is looking for your input about regulating short-term/ overnight rental properties within residential neighborhoods.

Clear Lake, like many vacation destination communities across Iowa and the United States, has started to see owners of a single family homes renting out property for short-term periods, such as a week or weekend. These properties are currently regulated no differently than homeowner occupied properties, not as commercial properties such as hotel/motels, and consequently lack the regulations that those properties are subject to. In light of the popularity of this rental market, we can expect more property owners to consider offering their properties for this use.

The City is interested in Community opinion on the matter and assessing options on addressing this issue and is seeking your input. Listed below are just a few of the questions to be considered:

1. Should short-term rentals be allowed in residential neighborhoods?
2. Is there a concern for the loss of community character with the addition of this use? What implications are there with short-term rentals; noise, parties, and parking/too many vehicles?
3. If short-term / overnight rentals are allowed with a Business License, what needs to be included in licensing? For example, regular inspection for rental properties, with penalties for landlords who crowd more occupants in than the City allows?
4. What care of the property and clean up should be needed? Does the owner need to live on site or hire a property manager?
5. What is necessary to prevent excessive traffic, parking shortages, loud noise, and increased garbage and sewage?
6. Are there areas within the residential neighborhoods that would be more appropriate for short-term / overnight rentals? Are there lot size limits to mitigate impacts?

Many communities are facing this issue. Although it is relatively new, with the emergence of online reservation service companies being available to property owners. We hope to hear from you. Please send your comments to the City's building official, Mike Ritter at: mritter@cityofclearlake.com

Why You Need a Building Permit

The City of Clear Lake requires that a building permit be issued before any new construction, alteration and/or addition is started within the City.

What is a Building Permit? A building permit is a license that grants legal permission to start construction of a building project. Permits also allow the enforcement of the codes that have been adopted as law by the City of Clear Lake and they provide the means for the Building Official to inspect construction to ensure that minimum standards are met and appropriate materials are used.

Pothole Alert!

It's that time of year again when potholes begin to appear. Potholes are created when moisture seeps into the pavement, freezing, expanding and then thawing. This weakens the pavement. Traffic loosens the pavement even more and it eventually crumbles and pops out. Spring temperatures warm the cold pavement, melting and evaporating any frozen water. This creates air pockets that can eventually cause the pavement to break up. If you find a location with potholes, please leave a message with the Public Works Department at 357-6135.

When do I need a Building Permit? A permit is required for ANY construction that physically changes or adds structure to your property including, but not limited to, the following:

- Addition to the principal building
- Construction of/or addition to garage
- Construction of decks and patios
- Construction and placing of storage sheds
- Installation of siding
- Roof/shingle replacement
- Window replacement
- Construction or replacement of sidewalks, approaches, and driveways

The City currently does not require a permit for a new fence, however, City Code does outline certain requirements for placement and size of a fence.

It is recommended that you contact Mike Ritter, Building Official, at 357-6135 or by email at mritter@cityofclearlake.com about Code requirements or zoning restrictions before you finalize your plans. Cost of a building permit is proportional to the dollar value of your Project.

City of Clear Lake Directory

CITY DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY911
 Non-Emergency Police357-2186
 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 Library357-6133
 Public Works357-6135
 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 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 Severson
 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.



The

March 2017

Clear View

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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