



Clear Lake Association

Fall 2023 Newsletter

SIGNS OF FALL AT THE LAKE

We are grateful for a beautiful summer, which was especially welcome after the hail and ice storms of the winter. Although many of the trees haven't yet started to change color, it's beginning to feel like fall in the air. The physical end-of-season actions, like taking out boats and docks, cutting back perennials, and moving in dock furniture are signs that summer is over. Whether you can extend lake time longer into the year or if you are returning to your "other life", we have some news in this issue to keep you updated about Clear Lake happenings (Photo at right: Fall Décor on S. Clear Lake Drive)



The annual Clear Lake Association Public Meeting was held Saturday, July 15, and minutes from that meeting are available online. (clearlakefun.org then click on ASSOCIATION). The 10-member Board has been busy throughout the summer, focusing on CLA goals to maintain and support projects that benefit the Clear Lake community. Response to annual membership dues and donations to support these projects has been strong this year and we appreciate the continued financial support for *your* Association in these areas:

~ **FIREWORKS** ~ **BUOYS** ~ **NEWSLETTER** ~ **LITTLE LIBRARY** ~ **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

The September Board meeting was one of transition – not only from one season to another, but also of changing roles on the board. On behalf of the entire board, our appreciation goes to retiring Secretary Beth McCracken. Beth - along with husband George who retired as Treasurer from the Board last year - have worked many hours to organize our files, procedures, and communications. The Clear Lake Association is in a very good position because of their attention to detail and organizational skills. Thank you, George and Beth. Beth will continue to produce the CLA Newsletters.

This summer we welcomed new board members Alex Connett and Brent Myers. Both Alex and Brent have deep Clear Lake roots and are invested in working to support our great community. They, along with continuing members, planned for tasks that need to be addressed over the winter and coming spring. Fireworks Chair Mandy Gleave announced the date for next year's show.



SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2024, AT 10:00 PM

Mandy has also found a provider for post-fireworks site clean-up, a concern since Pyrotecnico Company does not remove the debris. **Tyson Johnston with Pi Performance Group LLC** has volunteered to do the clean-up for the 2024 fireworks show so West Clear Lake Drive can be reopened in a timely manner. The Board appreciates Tyson stepping forward to help make the annual fireworks show possible. (Photo: Scene from Clear Lake July 2023 fireworks show)

Four grant requests were submitted to the CLA board at the September meeting. Based on the income Clear Lake Association received from your donations in addition to Membership Dues, the board decided to award grants to the following organizations.

- **Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy** - Lake Level Sponsor for July 8, 2024, Fun Day
(Photo at Right: new CTLC Director Caroline Barth receives Clear Lake Association Grant from Alex Connett)
- **Fremont Fire Department** – update system for firefighters to receive emergency calls.
- **Steuben County Underwater Rescue & Recovery Team** – integrated mapping system for their new drone
- **Indiana Search & Response K-9 Team** - for radio & medical equipment harnesses.



Any organization is eligible to submit a Grant Request that meets at least one of the following requirements:

1. Promotes, conserves, maintains, protects, or restores natural resources associated with the Clear Lake area.
2. Benefits the residents of Clear Lake and adds value to the Clear Lake community.
3. Promotes favorable public relations for the Clear Lake Association or provides a means by which the mission or activities of the Association can be augmented.

The two-page Guidelines for Requesting Contributions forms can be obtained from any CLA Board Member or by emailing the president's address below. All grants are due by September 1 each year and will be awarded after review at the mid-September CLA Board meeting.

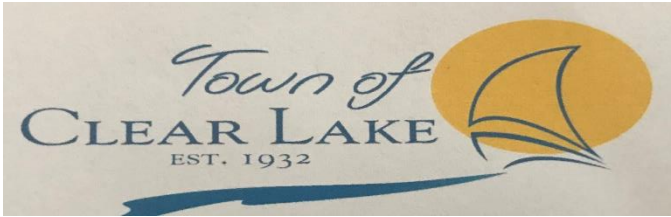


Thanks to John Wilhelm for repairing the “Cottages” sign that was damaged last year by a vehicle. It is back in place at the corner of 700 E and West Clear Lake Drive. These reflective signs were a project of the Association many years ago to help guests identify cottages around the lake.

Please email me with any suggestions or comments about your Clear Lake Association. Have a safe, healthy winter. Looking forward to 2024 as another great year at the lake.

Margaret Carlson
Clear Lake Association President
president@clearlakeassociation.org





NEWS FROM AROUND THE TOWN

Road Construction

By now you have seen all the orange signs indicating that road improvements are happening. Town of Clear Lake received \$1 million from INDOT via the Community Crossing Matching Grant. The Town must provide a 25% match for the monies. Three sections of our roads will be improved with this grant. The first section will be Quiet Harbor, the second will be from N 700 E to the bridge at Sunset Bay Court and the third will be from 700 feet west of Lakeview Drive to Lakeview Drive. The goal is to have all sections paved by the middle of October.

The Town will be incorporating the use of grassed swales (see photo) when possible, instead of drains. This will promote the management of storm water at a slower and controlled rate as well as act as a filter medium removing pollutants and allowing stormwater infiltration. This will help to protect the water quality here at Clear Lake. Thank you in advance for your patience during this project. Please also alert any of your contractors or provider services who might be traveling in these sections of construction.



Trash/Sewer

You should have already received your notice of trash and sewer increases, effective January 1, 2024. We were fortunate to have at least one company bid on the trash services here at Clear Lake. Thank you, Washler!

Employees

Welcome Brody Sowles to the Street/Sewer team! You will see him out and about if you haven't already. Please introduce yourself.

Information

The Town of Clear Lake considers communication with its property owners an important goal. Thus, there are two ways to keep in touch with what's going on in your town government, even if you live somewhere else in winter.

- www.townofclearlake.org website as updated information, as well as a monthly one-page newsletter.
- If you haven't already done so, please sign up for reachalert.com. You can decide if you want to receive updates by email or text that will keep you informed of current happenings, such as road closures, town meetings, or special events.

Molly Weber, Council Member

MARSHAL'S REPORT

We have had a safe summer thus far, and as the Town Marshal, I would like to thank each resident for doing their part to make this happen. With fall approaching, please be aware there are still many walkers, bicycle riders and golf carts on the roadway. Whether on foot or in a vehicle, please obey all traffic laws. This includes riding/driving on the right side of the roadway, stopping at stop signs, and yielding the right of way to other traffic. Walkers and runners *always* need to face traffic.



As a reminder, to operate a golf cart on the public roadways of Clear Lake, the operator must possess a valid driver's license. There are currently over 280 golf carts registered within the Town of Clear Lake.

As autumn sets in on the lake community and things begin to slow down, I want to take a moment and remind everyone to use common sense when preparing your seasonal residence for the winter. Please refrain from making changes to your seasonal residence which makes it apparent nobody is home in the off season. For tips on how to protect your home while away on vacation or for seasonal homes, visit the National Crime

Prevention Council site at <https://www.ncpc.org/> or simply google "tips for protecting homes while on vacation". Most of the sites I have visited have some good tips which work for seasonal residences, such as lake homes. Please remember to lock your vehicles, as well as your houses. **DO NOT** leave the keys in your car, van, or truck. Most thefts involving vehicles occur because the vehicles are unlocked, and the keys left inside.



I would like to remind everyone who is coming to and from the lake to look for and report any suspicious activity right away. This basic level of a neighborhood watch program has proved to be very successful. We, at the Clear Lake Police Department, want to remind all our residents of an easy phrase: **"See something, say something"**. If you see suspicious activity or something that just doesn't look right, we encourage you to contact us immediately at our **dispatch number (260-665-3131)** or 911 in the event of an emergency. We need the help of all our residents to keep a safe and secure community.



The officers will be working varying shifts throughout the fall and winter months to help deter crime. If you see one of us out, please feel free to stop us, if nothing else just to say "hello". I want to thank each one of you for allowing myself and the other officers to serve you.

Chris Emerick
Clear Lake Marshal

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



If you have a change of address or contact information over the winter, please email Town Clerk Jennifer Sattison. Deadline for updated information to be included in the 2024 Clear Lake Directory is Feb 1. (jennifer.sattison@townofclearlake.org)

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY

Wow! What a terrific summer! Here's a snapshot of what the CLTLC has been doing *and* what's planned for this fall.

Welcome to our new Executive Director, Caroline Barth!

On September 1, we welcomed Caroline Barth as our new Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Executive Director. Originally from Hicksville, Ohio, Ms. Barth is a lifelong summer resident of Clear Lake. Her love for the lake coupled with her experience in both soil and water quality, grants, leadership, project planning, budgeting and communication will serve the Conservancy and the Clear Lake community well. Ms. Barth earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Wittenberg University and is completing a Master of Science in biology in December 2023 from Bowling Green State University. Please extend a warm welcome to Caroline when you see her out and about in the community!



Caroline Barth,
Executive Director

Knee High Naturalist Programs

We wrapped up another great summer season of our Knee-high Naturalists program. Kids of all ages learned about Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab, clean water and healthy soil, fishing and even yoga. We know it is mission critical to introduce our youngest generation to the joys and wonder of nature, and our staff is already working on ideas for next summer.



Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Fun Run

The July 8, 2023, Run Day Fun Day was a tremendous success, thanks to our many sponsors, volunteers, and all the participants! Including our generous sponsor support, we raised over \$58,000 for the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy!

Contributions are the heart and soul of our success! Your commitment provides the support we need for successful water quality enhancement, natural areas preservation, and environmental education.





The Run Day Fun Day held at the Clear Lake Lutheran Church Pavilion included well over 200 people of all ages participating in the 5K, 10K, 1 mile, and other fun activities (including the Koeneman Lake Scavenger Hunt, face painting, carnival bounce house, and a DJ). Mark your calendars for next year:



The second **Run Day Fun Day** will be held on **Saturday July 13, 2024**.

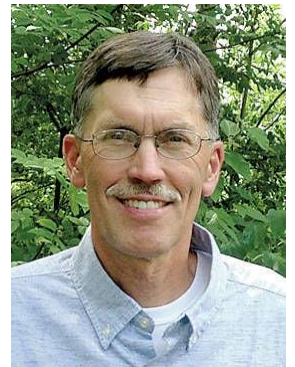
Fall 2023 Event - Big Day Hike at Brennan Woods

On October 14 at 9 a.m., Fred Wooley, a retired Pokagon State Park naturalist will lead a **Big Day Hike at Brennan Woods** and the Clear Lake Nature Preserve. This is the second year the event is hosted at Clear Lake as part of a statewide event in cooperation with Indiana Audubon and the Indiana Land Protection Alliance. This is a worldwide event bringing awareness to the need to understand the reason for conservation. The Global Big Day theme this year is Water: Sustaining Bird Life.

Donations to the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy are always welcomed. You can help protect and preserve the area for generations to come! We are honored with your support for our work to preserve these irreplaceable natural treasures for today and for the future.



Doug Mulvaney
Board President
clearlakeconservancy.org



FALL TIPS FOR A HEALTHY LAKE



Each year we like to remind everyone of the importance of preparing not only your structures for winter, but also how to prepare your lawn and yard waste to protect our beautiful Clear Lake. “Fall” describes exactly what we expect to happen with our leaves. As tempting and convenient as it might seem, we ask you to **keep leaves, grass, and other yard waste out of the lakes, wetlands and inlets and out of Conservancy Preserves**. If you hire individuals or a company to assist with your leaf clean up, *please* help them understand that putting leaves in the lake is damaging.

Consider these other fall tips:

- If you (or your lawn service) apply a fall lawn fertilizer application, do so sparingly and only use non-phosphorus fertilizer (the middle number on the bag should be “0.”)
- Leave a strip of unfertilized lawn along the lake edge to create a buffer.

- Use the Town of Clear Lake's Leaf Pick-up Program.
- Always pick up pet waste.

Ways to Dispose of "Non-Mulchable" Yard Waste:

- Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) accepts "non-mulchable" yard materials such as grass clippings, leaves, and brush. No stumps or land clearing materials.
- The closest site is located at CR 175 N, NW of Angola, adjacent to the Steuben County Fairgrounds. Check their website at www.niswmd.org/ or call 260-587-3063 for more information.

Used Motor Oil and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal:

- Clear Lake Marina will dispose of used motor oil. Call 260-495-4915 for details.
- Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District has a program to properly dispose of residential hazardous waste materials including paint, light bulbs, batteries, and other items. Details at www.niswmd.org/hhw_residential.htm.

Stop the Spread of Invasive Aquatic Plant Species:

- Thoroughly rinse all watercraft and trailers BEFORE entering and AFTER exiting any lake, river, or stream.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A sure sign of fall is Baker's Produce Stand with pumpkins and mums. Thanks, Lisa and Chris, for all the delicious corn and tomatoes (as well as other veggies and fruit) this summer.



Annual membership contributions to The Clear Lake Association provide funding for the publication and distribution of this Newsletter. The purpose of this publication is to communicate activities of the Clear Lake Association, the Town of Clear Lake, and other Clear Lake organizations to all property owners. If you would like to receive CLA Newsletter, please send your email address to: Beth McCracken, Editor (bmccracken404@gmail.com) Thank you.