



# The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 18 - Number 2  
March 2020  
[www.cityofclearlake.com](http://www.cityofclearlake.com)

## Dive into Springtime Fun with Clear Lake Earth Day Activities



It's time to think Spring, and in Clear Lake that means the community TrashBash; Green Expo; 5k/10k Race; Outdoor Fest and more!

Don't delay in registering for your favorite TrashBash cleanup site or it may be taken. Space is limited for your business or organization at the Green Expo. Registration for these events and the popular early season 5k/10k is online at [www.earthdayclearlake.org](http://www.earthdayclearlake.org).

Clear Lakers are fortunate to live in a community where "people make the difference" with a lake heralded as North Iowa's greatest natural asset.

### Refresh Yourself Your Community Your Planet @ the 23rd Annual CLEAR LAKE EARTH DAYS

- TrashBash Community Cleanup April 20th – 25th
  - Green Expo April 23rd from 4:00 to 7:00 @ The Surf
  - OutdoorFest April 25th @ City Park
- 5k/10k race begins at 9:00 a.m.  
Tug of War; Bounce House; Fun Run; Family Games; Food from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Checkout [www.earthdaynorthiowa.org](http://www.earthdaynorthiowa.org) or Clear Lake Earth Day on facebook for the latest activities for the whole family to enjoy to celebrate Earth Week in Clear Lake.

## Large Item Cleanup Date Set

The 2020 Spring Large Item Pickup will begin on Monday, April 20th. 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 notice will appear in the Clear Lake Mirror Reporter on Wednesday, April 8th listing the items that will and will not be picked up. **All items must be at your curb by Monday, April 20th at 7:00 a.m. regardless of which area of the city you are located.**

City residents can have old appliances and/or electronic items picked up during the Large Item Cleanup for a cost of \$15 an item. Stickers are non-refundable and 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 Wednesday, April 22nd. 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 will be on Thursday, April 23rd. Please have appliances with stickers attached by the curb no later than 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 23rd.

The City does not pick up items in alleys. The City also **WILL NOT** pick up items in boxes or other containers. The City is not responsible for broken glass. Please also be aware that the City **WILL NOT** pickup 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; clock radios; gaming equipment; computer towers; mouses 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.





Mayor Nelson Crabb

## TWO SPECIAL ELECTIONS SET FOR MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>

On March 3rd the eligible voters in the Clear Lake Community School District and the North Iowa Area Community College District will go to the polls to decide the fate of two separate ballot questions. In accordance with Iowa law, during an even-numbered year, a special election can only occur on the first Tuesday in March, or the second Tuesday in September. Each referendum will require a 60% majority for

approval.

The Clear Lake Community School District's proposal is to issue up to \$18 million in general obligation bonds to fund various improvements, including an approximately \$10 million dollar health, recreation, and wellness center that would ultimately be operated by the City. Other projects include securing the elementary school entrance; repairing and improving the elementary, middle, and high schools; and the athletic facility at the Lions Field Complex; and constructing additions to the middle and high schools.

In December 2019, the NIACC Board of Trustees approved placing a ballot question before the eligible voters this spring that will fund the development of Regional Career Centers, expand and enhance workforce training programs, and provide for infrastructure

improvements on the NIACC campus.

The March 3rd ballot measure calls for a \$15 million bond which would be assessed across all 11 counties in the NIACC service area. The approximate cost to taxpayers is \$0.84 cents per month in property taxes for a home with an assessed valuation of \$100,000.

I wanted to take a moment to clarify some terminology that you may hear associated with these kinds of matters. For example, what is a **"bond referendum"**? A bond referendum, as it applies to ballots, is when a local unit of government (city, county, school district), places a question before the voters as a "ballot measure", asking them to approve or deny additional proposed spending.

What is the purpose of a **bond referendum**? Under Iowa law, a local government (city or county government, school district, etc.) holding a referendum for the purpose of issuing general obligation bonds must specify general categories of capital projects for which bond proceeds may be used. However, due to the lengthy process involved with designing the finite details of these projects, final costs can vary from concept estimates.

You also hear the term **"general obligation bond"** a lot with reference to these matters. General obligation bonds are backed by the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the issuing body (city or county government, school district, etc.) and are considered public debt.

I certainly cannot use the City newsletter as a tool to endorse either of these measures, of course. That would be wrong and is not allowed under Iowa law. But I do encourage you to exercise your right to vote. Many times voter turnout in special elections is low. Every election is important and every election has consequences.

If you have any questions on where you vote, check the City's web site to locate your voting precinct, which is based on what ward you reside in.

Until next time,  
Nelson P. Crabb  
Mayor

## 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 March 30, 1963 at 9:00 o'clock A.M. with the following members present: Mayor Myhr, Councilmen Eddy, Johnson, Baum, Atkinson and Bohning.*

*The City Council met with Glen Doty, District Engineer, G. W. Fiddick, District Maintenance Engineer, and W.H. Nicholas, Commissioner, all of the Iowa State Highway Commission in regard to the proposed access control on Highway 106 from the intersection of South Eighth Street east to the corporation line. The group went out to view the area concerned and in particular the property of the Clear Lake Auction Company. The group returned to the Council room and also in attendance were Bob and Jay Pedelty.*

*After considerable discussion the proposed resolution was tabled until the Highway Commission can prepare access plats for the Council's information."*

## City offices will close on Good Friday

City offices will be closed Friday, April 10th, in observance for the Good Friday holiday and will re-open at 8:00 a.m. the following Monday, April 13th. This will not affect garbage or recycling collection.



### Reminder:

the Snow Removal Ordinance is in effect through April 1, 2020.

# FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET HEARING

Since November of 2019, the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator Scott L. Flory, and City staff have been working on the budget for the 2021 fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2020 and ends on June 30, 2021. At its meeting on March 2nd, the City Council will set the date for the public hearing on the proposed FY 21 municipal budget for 6:00 p.m. on March 16th.

The proposed tax rate for FY 21 will remain at \$9.70/\$1,000 of taxable valuation. For FY 20, that was the 4th lowest tax rate in the State of Iowa for cities with a population of greater than 4,000. The recommended tax rate of \$9.70 /\$1,000 of taxable valuation would result in a tax bill for City government services of \$767 in 2020-21, for a residential property with an assessed valuation of \$150,000 (with Homestead Credit). Consequently, the property tax impact, resulting from the proposed FY 21 tax rate would be approximately \$27 a year less for FY 21 for a

residential property with an “assessed” valuation of \$150,000 in Clear Lake.

The budget reflects total expenditures among the various programs of \$20,268,511 - of which \$8,839,405 is directed towards operations, \$890,131 is directed towards debt service, and \$10,538,975 for capital improvements. Total general fund revenues for FY 21 are projected at \$7,780,913 and anticipated expenditures are \$7,849,959. The single largest source of revenue for the City is, of course, the property tax. The property tax is based on the value of property owned. It is often called an ad valorem tax because it is set according to physical value. In FY 2021, **property taxes will represent roughly 30% of total revenues.**

The budget must be certified to the State by no later than March 30th.

## Spring street sweeping operations to begin

One sure sign that spring has sprung is when you see one of the City’s street sweepers in operation. Spring sweeping of snow and ice control aggregate will begin when streets are significantly clear of snow and ice, usually late-March or early-April, and when significant risk of a late snowfall has passed. Priority is given to the areas that drain into Clear Lake.

During the spring, City street sweepers will be working to remove debris that accumulates on the streets over the winter months. Sweeping is necessary for vehicle and pedestrian safety, street maintenance, surface water quality and environmental concerns. By removing the sediment from the streets, the quality of the storm water run-off is improved before, in many cases, it ultimately enters Clear Lake.

Sweeping from construction projects is the responsibility of the

contractor, until such time as the project is accepted by the City. Typically, the first sweeping of the year is a slow process, in most cases 5 m.p.h. or less. If you have a request or concern regarding street sweeping, please contact the City’s Public Works Department at 357-6135 or by email at [jkorenberg@cityofclearlake.org](mailto:jkorenberg@cityofclearlake.org).



## Pothole Alert!

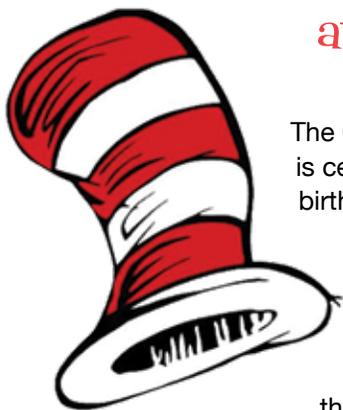
While the warmer temperatures of spring can be a welcome relief from a long cold winter, they also bring the vexation of a motorists – potholes. These pavement maladies form when there are thaw and freezes in short period of time. Potholes form when water flows into cracks and freezes as the temperatures decrease. The frozen water then expands and breaks the surrounding pavement.

To patch potholes, City crews use a cold-mix

asphalt material. When the temperatures are warmer, they use a hot-mix asphalt material.

There are more than 80 miles of streets and alleys in Clear Lake. The City does the best it can to be proactive in filling potholes, but the public’s assistance in reporting them is always appreciated. To report a pothole, please contact the City’s Public Works Department at 357-6135 or by email at [jkorenberg@cityofclearlake.org](mailto:jkorenberg@cityofclearlake.org).

## Come Celebrate Dr. Seuss at the Library

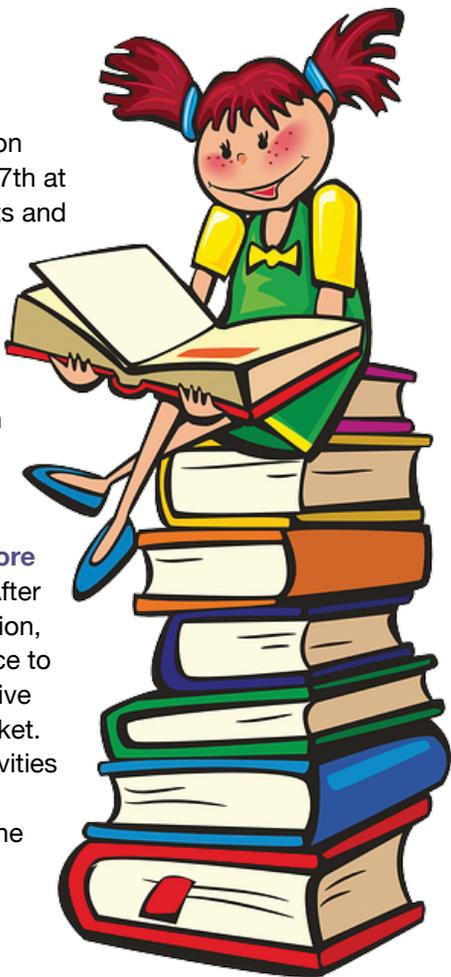


The Clear Lake Public Library is celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with an open house on Monday, March 2nd from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join us for a fun night of celebrating all that is Dr. Seuss, focusing on the book *Happy Birthday to You!* There will be games;

activities; and a craft. The event is open house format, with story time taking place at 6:00 p.m. Wear your festive Dr. Seuss apparel or buy a Cat in the Hat hat that evening for only \$3.00.

## 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Kick-Off

Help us kick-off this program on Saturday, March 7th at 2:30 p.m. Parents and caregivers of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers are invited to join us to learn about our newest early literacy program; **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**. After a short presentation, you'll get a chance to sign-up and receive your starting packet. There will be activities for toddlers and preschoolers in the room during the presentation, so feel free to bring them along.



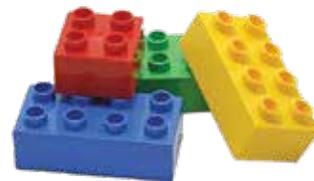
## Homeschool Hangout

The library is starting a new group just for those families that homeschool. We'll meet the second Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. The first few meetings we'll just get to know each other, see what ages we have in attendance, learn about library resources, and make plans for what we want this group to look like in the future. Use this time to work or just as a social event with other homeschooling families.

We welcome everyone to join us!

## Spring Break at the Library

The library will be full of activities to participate in during Clear Lake's spring break March 9th through 13th. Join us on Tuesday, March 10th from 2:00 to 4:00 for Lego Day Open Build; Wednesday, March 11th from 2:00 to 4:00 will be a "Crafternoon" at the library making creations from our craft supplies. On Thursday, March 12th beginning at 2:00 will be Lego Derby day. Registration is required in order to derby and you may register by calling 357-0315. All ages are welcome at these programs.



## Earth Day Celebration at the Clear Lake Public Library

Earth Day is celebrated around the world on April 22nd each year. Join us at the library on Wednesday, April 22nd at 3:30 p.m. to create Earth Day Seed Balls from recycled paper. All ages are welcome to come get a start on their spring planting!

The Clear View Newsletter is printed on recycled paper



## Is it Spring yet?

Although winter may be winding down, residents are reminded that we have seen some pretty significant snowfall events well into April and even early May the last several years.

The Public Works Department is determined to provide residents with the best possible snow removal services. This can only be achieved through a true partnership between residents and the City. The City generally commences plowing operations when snow accumulations are approximately two inches on City streets. Snow plowing and pre-treatment application will occur as determined by the Public Works Director based on total accumulation, prevailing conditions, and weather forecasts. The City makes every effort to remove all snow from each street as soon as possible when plowing becomes necessary. In doing so, we ask our residents to consider where they park their cars during snow storms. As a reminder, there is NO on-street parking during a declared “snow emergency”. Please check the City’s various facebook pages and website for more information and posting in that regard.

The City sincerely appreciates your efforts in making sure the streets are passable for our snow removal operations.

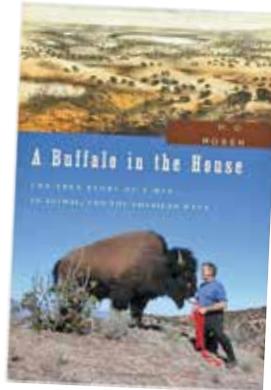


## Adult Programs offered at the Library

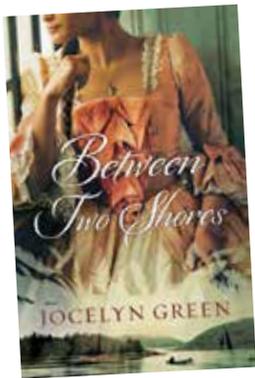
### Book Chats and Books on Tap

You now have two opportunities each month to participate in the Library’s book discussion. In addition to the regular Book Chat held on the third Tuesday at noon at the Library, Books on Tap will be held at Lake Time Brewery on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

In March, the book discussions will be held on Tuesday, March 17th at noon at the Library and on Wednesday, March 18th at 6:00 at Lake Time Brewery and the book will be *Buffalo in the House*. A sprawling suburban house in Santa Fe is not the kind of home where a buffalo normally roams, but Veryl Goodnight and Roger Brooks are not your ordinary animal lovers. Over a hundred years after Veryl’s ancestors, hand-raised two baby buffalo to help save the species from extinction, the sculptor and her husband adopt an orphaned buffalo calf of their own. *Buffalo in the House* tells the story of a household situation beyond any sitcom writer’s wildest dreams.



In April, the book discussion will be held on Wednesday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. at Lake Time Brewery and on Tuesday, April 21st



at noon at the Library and the book will be *Between Two Shores*. The daughter of a Mohawk mother and French father in 1759 Montreal, Catherine Duval finds it is easier to remain neutral in a world that is tearing itself apart. Against her better judgement she helps her ex-fiancee flee from her Father. Using her knowledge of the landscape, they escape by river. She’s risked becoming a traitor by choosing a side, but will the decision cost her even more than she anticipated? The author of *Between Two Shores*, Jocelyn Green will also be in

attendance at the Book Chat at the Library on April 21st at noon.

### Special Programs

*Lessons From the Holocaust* presented by Brad Wilkening will be held on Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30 p.m. This program challenges us to answer the question: How far does our circle of care extend? Providing historical background information on the rise of the Nazi party and how Hitler came to power, in addition to a video provided by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. Brad Wilkening spreads the message of being an upstander even in today’s world. Join us for a very powerful and inspirational program.

Oh La La – French Influence on 18th Century America presented by Jocelyn Green will be held on Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m. You know the United States began as thirteen British colonies but what about the early French influence on the continent of North America? Showcasing three major cities as case studies, award-winning historical novelist Jocelyn Green will share how the French shaped New Orleans in the 1720s, Montreal before 1759, and Philadelphia during the French Revolution of the 1790s. We’ll go beyond military presence and explore the lesser known roles women played from midwives to fur smugglers to lacemakers. Green inspires faith and courage as the award-winning and bestselling author of numerous fiction and nonfiction books that have garnered starred reviews from Booklist and Publishers Weekly. She graduated from Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, with a B.A. in English with a concentration in writing. She loves Mexican food, Broadway musicals, strawberry rhubarb pie, the color red, and reading with a cup of tea. Jocelyn lives with her husband Rob and two children in Cedar Falls. Visit her at [www.jocelyngreen.com](http://www.jocelyngreen.com)



Other adult activities include Adult Coloring on the 1st Thursday of each month at 1:00; Movie Mondays on the 4th Monday of each month at 1:00.

# City of Clear Lake Directory

## CITY DIRECTORY

**EMERGENCY .....911**

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 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

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <br>Mayor<br>Nelson P. Crabb<br>357-3839         | <br>At-Large<br>Dana Brant<br>641-420-1180  | <br>At-Large<br>Mike Callanan<br>357-5911         | <br>First Ward<br>Mark Ebeling<br>641-201-0430       |
| <br>Second Ward<br>Bennett Smith<br>651-271-5267 | <br>Third Ward<br>Gary Hugi<br>641-903-1948 | <br>City Administrator<br>Scott Flory<br>357-5267 | <br>City Clerk/Editor<br>Jennifer Larsen<br>357-5267 |

**City Council meetings  
are the first and third Mondays  
at 6:00 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month)

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Tom Arndorfer         | Bev Currier |
| Allen Geilenfeld      | Sean Moran  |
| Diane Glynn           | Pat Weigel  |
| Tamara Schwichtenberg |             |

## Parks & Recreation Board

(Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month)

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Tim Raber        | Chris Hogg     |
| Trish Fundermann | Carrie Shannon |
| Jake Kopriva     |                |

## Planning & Zoning Commission

(Meets last Tuesday of each month)

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Lori Broghammer | Davin McLeod    |
| Andy Meyer      | Arnold Prohaska |
| Chyrl Bergvig   | Mark Bale       |

## Board of Adjustment

(Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month)

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| David Klang | Kirby Schmidt |
| Fred Muth   | Bob Swanson   |

**Visit The City Of Clear Lake Website at [www.cityofclearlake.com](http://www.cityofclearlake.com).**



The

March 2020

## Clear View

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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(641) 357-8711**

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