



# The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 18 - Number 6  
November 2020  
www.cityofclearlake.com

## PD Adds Another Hybrid to Fleet

The police department is going green! Well, not literally, but the department recently took delivery of its second hybrid vehicle in October. The patrol car is a 2020 Ford Police Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) Interceptor, otherwise known as a Ford Explorer.

The department's first hybrid Ford SUV entered police service in early 2020. While hybrid vehicles have been available for law enforcement for years, the options to choose from generally limited its use and were not ideal for patrol operations, especially in North Iowa. When Ford introduced the SUV Hybrid model, city and department staff thought it would be a great fit for the PD.



Patrol cars 36 and 41 are the Clear Lake Police Departments hybrid vehicles.

"We loved the idea of not only saving money on fuel costs, but the vehicle would produce a smaller carbon footprint," said Police Captain Mike Colby. Estimates show that each hybrid patrol car will annually reduce this footprint by 25,000 pounds of CO2 and save around \$1,600.00 in fuel.

Ford also made several positive interior and exterior changes to the 2020 SUV model. "Changes inside the compartment allow us to incorporate better consoles for our electronic equipment, officers have more leg room, and the back storage area is larger," said Colby.

The fuel cost savings over the life of the vehicle will have an immediate impact on the department's budget, but the reduction in pollution each year can have a long-term impact in our environment.

Units 36 and 41 are the department's hybrid models. Squad 41 will be on patrol in the near future after it receives its graphics and the equipment is installed.

## Promotions at the Police Department

At the September 8th Clear Lake City Council Meeting, Mayor Nelson Crabb swore in the Police Department's two newest lieutenants.

Officers Brandon Heinz and Cory Gute were promoted to lieutenant in early September after completing an intensive selection process. Lt. Gute has been with the department for over 11 years and was the department's K9 handler. Lt. Heinz has served the city since 2015. He had prior military law enforcement experience in the US Air Force and had a supervisory role at the Cerro Gordo County Jail.

One promotion was to fill a vacancy left by Lt. Paul Chizek, who recently retired after 32 years. The second was due to a restructuring of the police department that will provide an additional supervisor for the patrol division. "We worked with the city to implement our plan for better staffing of supervisors on each of our three patrol shifts," said Police Chief Pete Roth. "I am grateful for the city's support and excited for the professional opportunity for Lieutenants Heinz and Gute."

Both new lieutenants will join Lt. Deb Ryg as watch com-

manders. Lt. Ryg will supervise the day shift, Lt. Heinz evenings, and Lt. Gute overnights.



Lieutenant Cory Gute



Lieutenant Brandon Heinz



Mayor Nelson Crabb

## Two important dates: November 3rd and November 11th: Vote and say “Thank you” to a Veteran.

“Armistice Day” – a celebration of those who served in World War I – was officially re-named “Veterans Day” in 1954 by President Eisenhower. Veterans Day celebrations began in November 1919 when the Armistice was signed at the end of World War I. President Wilson spoke these words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the council of the nations...”

Veterans Day is about the dedication and sacrifices made by the men and women – and their families and loved ones – who have faithfully answered the call to serve their Nation in both times of war and peace. Too often Veterans Day is most remembered by the general public as a day that the government offices, banks, or post

office are closed. Most years Veterans Day comes and goes without much in the way of pomp & circumstance. Unfortunately, because of this, it is easy to forget that the freedoms we enjoy today, such as the right to vote for example this November 3rd, came with a price.

If you haven’t voted already in-person at the Courthouse or via absentee ballot, I encourage you to exercise your right and cast your vote on Tuesday, November 3rd. The Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and those residing in Ward 1 & Ward 2 will vote at City Hall, 15 N 6th Street and those residing in Ward 3 will vote at the Church of Christ, 2010 14th Ave N.



## 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 November 19, 1962 at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Myhr, Councilmen Eddy, Johnson, Bohning, Baum and Atkinson. V.A. Hinds, Water Plant Superintendent, discussed the purchase of fluoridation equipment. He informed the Council that he had quotations for the powdered feeder which is a dry chemical powder at \$1,788.15 and would require making a separate room on the third floor of the plant with the installation of a dust collector or bag filter which would be an extra cost. The liquid feeder was priced at \$964.00 and would be installed in the present chemical feed room and that the installation would be a simple matter as all openings were already provided for. He also informed the Council that the powdered chemical would cost slightly less on per capita basis than the liquid chemical. The Council discussed the two quotations and felt that the liquid type chemical would present less problems than the dry type. Motion was made by Eddy, seconded by Bohning, that the Council recommend purchasing the liquid type feeder. Motion carried, all voting aye.”*

## Before you go South.....

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about winter. 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 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:

- Customers can pay and manage their utility bill online at [www.cityofclearlake.com](http://www.cityofclearlake.com).
- 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.
- Customers can pay their water bill in advance estimating the cost for the months they plan to be away.
- Customers can give the Utility Billing Department a forwarding address to mail their monthly billings.
- Residents can also remove the water meter from the property and turn it into the water plant.

Additionally helpful is a phone number and address, or the name and phone number 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.



## Clear Lake Announces Pick for New Director of Finance

The City of Clear Lake is pleased to announce that it has selected Creighton Schmidt as its new Director of Finance. Schmidt will replace Linda Nelson, who retired after more than 30 years with the City.

Schmidt, 33, a native of Cedar Rapids, IA, has more than 10 years' experience with Marriott International. He came to Clear Lake from the Washington D.C. metro area, where he was a Multi-Property Director of Finance and Accounting. His career with Marriott Corporation involved various finance and accounting positions in: Coralville, IA; Newport, RI; San Jose, CA; and Salt Lake City, UT. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting (B.B.A); Bachelor of Business Administration, Business Management (B.B.M); and a Master of Business Administration (A), with Distinction, all from the University of Iowa, Tippie College of Business.

City Administrator Scott Flory stated that, "While in Coralville, Creighton worked closely with the City of Coralville and was highly recommended by City officials in that Community. Mayor Crabb, City Staff, elected officials, and I all spent significant time with him during his visit to Clear Lake and we look forward to him providing strategic financial leadership and management to our City departments so that we may collaboratively accomplish the goals and priorities of the City. Creighton's combination of education, management, and the depth of his strategic financial planning experience made him the best fit for our organization."

Schmidt and his wife Ashley have 3 children and have recently relocated to Clear Lake. He began his duties with the City on September 21st.



## Weigel hired as Office Clerk

City Hall is pleased to announce the addition of Britney Weigel to their staff as the Office Clerk. Britney's first day with the City was August 10th.

Britney grew up in rural Garner. She attended North Iowa Area Community College and received her Associate of Arts & Associate of Business Degrees. Her previous professional experience was with the Clear Lake Community School District.

Britney is also a Licensed Realtor in the State of Iowa. Britney stated that she is looking forward to serving the community and is enjoying being a part of the City Hall team.

She resides in Clear Lake with her husband Tyler and their son William.



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.

## City Hall Closed during the Holidays

The City of Clear Lake Administrative offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, in recognition of Veterans Day. Also, City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, 2020, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Further, offices will also be closed on Friday, December 25, 2020, for the Christmas holiday and Friday, January 1, 2021 for the New Year's Day holiday.



# City Crews Ready for Winter

Clear Lake's Public Works Department is ready for winter and prepared to keep approximately 87 miles of local streets and alleys clear of snow and in safe condition.

To keep traffic moving, crews first plow collector and arterial streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting result in unsafe conditions; it resumes when conditions improve. The City calls a snow emergency after snow accumulates to two inches or more. However, an accumulation of consecutive snowfall events of less than two inches may initiate plowing.

## Safety around snowplows

Efficient, effective snow removal requires public cooperation. For example:

- Reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 50 feet from snowplows and sand trucks (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited).
- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass vehicles while they're plowing snow.
- Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching.
- Never build snow forts or snow sculptures in the snow piles on the boulevard.
- Keep garbage cans and recycling carts in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks if it snows on collection days.
- Listen to weather forecasts so you're not in transit when a storm hits.

## Parking on public streets

Parking is prohibited on public streets until snow has been plowed to the curb line. Vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snow plows and those still in violation after 24 hours, may be towed.



### City of Clear Lake Snow Ordinance Nov. 1 to April 1

Please remember to:

- Drive** cautiously and safely;
- Do not** park in the street;
- Do not** push or blow snow into the street;
- Clear** your sidewalks and areas around fire hydrants of snow/ice; and
- Ensure** your mail can be delivered by clearing snow and ice from around your mailbox.

## Snow Ordinance in effect Nov. 1st

# Inspect your Mailbox

The Public Works Department is asking homeowners to inspect and evaluate the condition of their mailbox and its support post prior to the onset of winter weather. The mailboxes and the posts that support them do require occasional maintenance or even replacement.

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 street 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 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.

## Children's Activities at the Library

### **ZOOM INTO STORY TIME!**

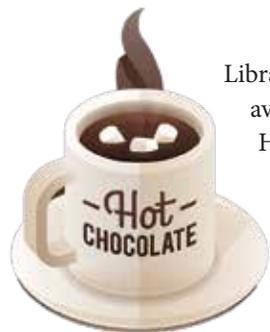
Join the fun for your families at the library's free "virtual" weekly story time for children age five and younger and their families on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to 11:00. Dates for November story times are November 4th, 18th, and 25th. Learn important early literacy skills, hear some of the newest books in our collection, and learn about what else the library is doing during these weekly meetings.

To ensure safety in our Zoom room, please email Brianna at [librarykids@ctel.net](mailto:librarykids@ctel.net) to get the meeting ID and passcode. If you've never used Zoom before, we're more than happy to walk you through getting it set up so you're ready for our virtual programs.

### **Grab & Go Bags**

The Clear Lake Public Library Children's Department recently started creating Grab & Go bags for families to pickup and take home. Each bag revolves around a theme (past examples include Paul Bunyan, 4th of July, Hispanic Heritage Month, Pumpkins) and include crafts, activities, and book recommendations for children. Most bags are appropriate for preschool-5th grade. Bags are available on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last. Dinosaur themed bags "DINovember" will be available starting on Monday, November 2nd and in support of Home for the Holidays: Christmas by the Lake Weekend a Christmas themed bag will be available for pickup as well beginning on Saturday, December 5th. To inquire about availability please call 357-0315.

## Cocoa & Crafts to go



For adults and teens the Clear Lake Library will have "Take and Make" packets available the weekend of Home for the Holidays: Christmas by the Lake Weekend. You may stop by the Library on Saturday, December 5th between 10:00 am. And 2:00 p.m. to pick up your cocoa and crafts packet.

Each packet will include materials needed to make a paper flower ornament and yarn pompoms. Along with a holiday movie and picture association quizzes you will also receive packaged cocoa.

Packets are limited, so make sure to stop by early.



## ADULT BOOK CHATS AND BOOKS ON TAP

The Clear Lake Public Library's Book Chats & Books on Tap will continue via Zoom during November and December.

The library's November book choice is **Horizontal World:**

**Growing up Wild in the Middle of Nowhere.** Author Debra Marquart will be joining us for the discussion.

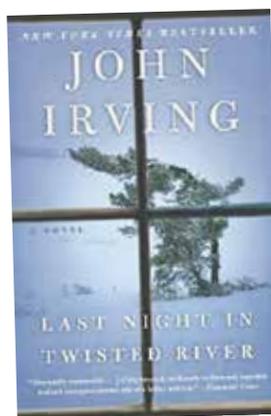
**Horizontal World** is an evocative memoir of growing up on a family farm in rural North Dakota, on land her family had worked for generations. Reflecting on her desire to escape the difficult life, her relationship with and her admiration for her father, and the influence of place on personal identity. Debra Marquart is a distinguished professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Iowa State University.

She is the author of six books and her work has been featured on NPR. Join the Book Chat on Tuesday, November 17th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. or Books on Tap on Wednesday, November 18th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Zoom link can be found on the library's website or Facebook page.



December Book Chats & Books on Tap will feature "Best Reads of 2020." In December, instead of discussing a single book, we will discuss our favorite reads of 2020 as well as what is slated to come out in 2021. Due to the fact the book for January is nearly 560 pages, it will be available in November to allow for additional time to read it. The January book will

be **Last Night in Twisted River** by John Irving. Join the Book Chat on Tuesday, December 15th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. or Books on Tap, Wednesday, December 16th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Zoom link can be found on the library's website or Facebook page.



The Clear View Newsletter is printed on recycled paper



# 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

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

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



## The Clear View

November 2020

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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