



The Clear View

A newsletter for the Citizens of Clear Lake

Volume 19 - Number 2
March 2021
www.cityofclearlake.com

New Combination Jet/Vac Truck Purchase Approved

The Public Works Department is responsible for operating and maintaining the City's sanitary sewer and storm sewer collection systems. A Jet/Vac Truck, is a specialized piece of equipment that is essential for utility maintenance and responding to emergency sanitary sewer overflow. Basically, it is a large truck that has a pump and a tank. The pump is designed to pneumatically suck liquids, sludges, slurries, or the like from a location into the tank of the truck. A Jet/Vac is primarily used for two functions: maintenance and responding to emergency overflows. Maintenance activities include: cleaning underground utility pipes, manholes, wet wells, storm drain inlets and miscellaneous debris removal, as needed. The Jet/Vac is also critical in responding to emergency sanitary sewer back-ups.

At its January 18, 2021 meeting, the City Council approved the purchase of a new 2020 Vactor 21001 PD Sewer Truck from MacQueen Equipment of St. Paul, MN, in the amount of \$486,411.

The Public Works Department currently operates a 2006 Camel Jet/Vac Truck, which has required significant repairs of late and will not guarantee reliability during an emergency need. Recent Community development (residential, commercial, and



industrial) has also expanded utility infrastructure that will need to be maintained by the Public Works Department.

The new Vactor truck should be in operation this spring

Spring Large Item Cleanup Date Set

The 2021 Spring Large Item Pickup will begin on Monday, April 26th. 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 April 21st listing the items the City will and will not pick up. **All items must be at your curb by Monday, April 26th 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 28th. Items that require a sticker are furnaces, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, stoves, washers, dryers, microwaves, trash compactors, copy machines, water heaters, fluorescent light fixtures, televisions, computer monitors, and printers. Pickup of appliances in all areas will be Thursday, April 29th. Please have all appliances **with stickers attached** by the curb no later than 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 29th. The City does not pick up items in alleys. **The City also WILL NOT pick up items in garbage cans, cardboard boxes, plastic bags, or any cardboard. The city may refuse to pick up items if it is determined to be an abusive pile (see picture).** 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, mice and



keyboards, input devices, scanners, video and surveillance cameras, fax machines and cordless phones for recycling. Many of the above items may be recycled free of charge at the Landfill.

Reminder: the Snow Removal Ordinance is in effect through April 1, 2021.



Mayor Nelson Crabb

After 25 years, it was time for a remake of Clear Lake's Welcome/Entryway Signs

We often are reminded about first impressions; they matter. For me personally, within the first 5 minutes of meeting someone, I have already made an initial judgement. The same can be said when I walk into a new store or business.

Many people form first impressions about communities in the same way. How are the streets, street name signs, and so on. Welcome/Entryway signs do

more than just identify that you are in the governmental boundaries of a community. In many ways they create an impression with visitors about what they may experience in a community. Do they appear "Welcoming"? Do they adequately represent the Community's brand?

Clear Lake has worked hard to develop a sense of place and an overall high quality of life for our residents and visitors alike. As I evaluate the current Welcome/Entryway signage, I'm not sure if I were coming to the community for the first time that I would know what a vibrant community this place really is today. In other words, what is there about them that distinguishes Clear Lake from a myriad of other communities. Are they reflective of the fact that we have one of the most beautiful natural resources in the State of Iowa; that we have the largest 4th of July celebration in the State; that seven years ago the City

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 Clear Lake City Council met in regular session on April 7, 1961, at 8:00 o'clock p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Secory and Councilmen Anderson, Nesbit, J. Johnson, Eddy and A. Johnson. Howard Knutson, Jack Dominic, James King, Earl Berge and E.B. Stillman representing the Clear Lake Community School District requested the Council to pave North 20th Street 550 feet north of Main Avenue. They informed the Council that they had an estimate cost for 6 inch reinforced concrete with integral curb, 33 feet wide at \$4.80 per square yard. The city engineer called their attention to the matter of drainage in this area before any hard surfacing of streets take place. This was followed by a discussion of deficiency and assessments. The city engineer was directed by the Council to prepare a plat and schedule of assessments for both asphalt and cement paving and also to survey the High School Parking Lot to see if it might be drained to the north through the present storm sewer. These plans are to be ready for a meeting in June with the School Board."



landed McKesson Corporation (now a Fortune 5 company) to build its most recent state of the art warehouse and distribution center here; and that we are now home to one of only 27 National Historic Landmarks in the State of Iowa – the venerable Surf Ballroom.

A few years ago (2017), one of the projects that I took a special interest in advocating for was "way-finding signage" for the Community. It was important especially in a community with many attractions and one whose street system is curvilinear around a lake, to ensure our visitors had as little difficulty as possible finding their way around.



So, I am very excited about the Council's approval of new Welcome/Entryway signage for our City. The new signs will be located near US Highway 18 and I-35 (Exit #194); N 8th Street and US Highway 18; Buddy Holly Place and US Highway 18; and 4th Ave S and I-35 (Exit #193).

I would be remiss not to thank all those involved with the earlier welcome signage project that was accomplished back in the 1990's. Also, many thanks to all those who have contributed their thoughts and ideas towards the new signage project!



~ Until next time

City offices will close on Good Friday

City offices will be closed on Friday, April 2nd, in observance of the Good Friday holiday and will re-open at 8:00 a.m. the following Monday, April 5th. This will not affect garbage or recycling collection.

City Receives “Clean” Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2019-20

The City of Clear Lake has once again received an unmodified (“clean”) opinion according to the annual audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 performed by Bohnsack and Frommelt LLP, certified public accountants, and presented in December, 2020.

Each year, in accordance with Iowa law, the City hires an independent auditor to evaluate the accuracy of the City’s financial reports, test internal controls, and perform related auditing functions. Once again this year, the City received a “clean” audit report which found no material weaknesses in internal control and no instances of noncompliance with federal grant requirements material to the financial statements.



The City’s revenues totaled \$14,584,192 for the fiscal year, an increase of \$1,694,834 from the prior year. Revenues included \$7,719,018 in property taxes, \$1,926,824 of other taxes, \$3,071,773 of charges for services, \$1,566,496 of operating grants and contributions, and \$300,081 of other revenues.

Expenses for City operations for the year totaled \$13,430,675, an increase of \$1,217,959 from the prior year.

The City’s financial report was found to meet the highest standards for financial reporting by government entities. The purpose of the report is to present a fair and understandable picture of the City’s financial position as of the end of the prior fiscal year and to look for possible ways to improve the City’s financial operations.

A copy of the audit report is available for review at the City’s offices at 15 N 6th Street, Clear Lake, Iowa. The report is also available on the City of Clear Lake’s website at: www.cityofclearlake.com, and the Auditor of State’s website at <https://auditor.iowa.gov/audit-reports>.

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.

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 Building Department is in the process of developing a permit for a new fence to coincide with the requirements outlined in the City Code in regards to placement, size and type of fencing allowed. It is recommended that you contact Mike Ritter, Building Official, at 357-6135 or by email at mritter@cityofclearlake.org 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.



Reminder to Pet Owners

As a reminder the deadline for purchasing your 2021 dog license(s) is March 31, 2021 without penalty. If purchased before the March 31st deadline, the fee is \$3.00. On and after April 1st, a \$1.00 penalty charge per month is added for each license. Licenses may be purchased at City Hall, 15 North 6th Street and proof of current rabies vaccination must be presented at the time of licensing. Please call 357-5267 with questions.



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.

Dive into Springtime Fun with Clear Lake Earth Day Activities

It’s time to think Spring, and in Clear Lake that means the community Earth Day Activities.

Community Cleanup day will be Saturday, April 24th however, don’t delay in registering for your favorite TrashBash cleanup site or it may be taken. The popular early season Earth Day 5k/10k race will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 17th and registration is online at www.earthdayclearlake.org.

The ever-popular Green Expo is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 22nd and a decision on whether the event will be held virtually or in person will be made closer to the date of the event. Visit 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.



CLPD's 24-hour communications center completes upgrades in 2020

The Clear Lake Police Department (CLPD) is fortunate to operate a 24-hour communications center comprised of dedicated and caring dispatchers. They provide public safety service to the cities of Clear Lake and Ventura 24/7/365.

The department currently has six full-time dispatchers, one part-time, and one communications supervisor. They staff three shifts; days, evenings, and midnights. Dispatchers also work closely with the other area communications centers and various public safety agencies.

As Clear Lake is a 'destination' community, the population fluctuates constantly. Summer months can almost double the permanent year-round population. Many events held in or around the lake can triple that number. CLPD dispatchers must be able to adjust to these changes and the increased call volume.

Even though many of the area's 2020 summer events were canceled due to Covid-19, the communications center completed several major projects. This included joining the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS), replacing radio equipment, upgrading the 911 phone system, and hiring additional personnel.

By joining ISICS, the department completed a five-year project to upgrade to a digital radio system which included all city departments (e.g., fire, public works, and water). The new radios have greater coverage and employees have the ability to communicate with agencies around the state. "It was a long journey to get us to this point," said Clear Lake Police Chief Pete Roth. "We could not have accomplished this goal without the support of many people and organizations. Especially the financial commitment from the Cities of Clear Lake and Ventura and the Cerro Gordo County 911 Service Board."

One of the personnel additions in April, 2020 was the hiring of a dedicated Communications Supervisor, Erin Froning. Since that time,

Froning oversaw the ISICS implementation, upgrades to the 911 phone system, hiring an additional full-time dispatcher, a minor communication center remodel, and the increased training that accompanies new equipment and a new employee.

While on the subject of training, over the past several years the department increased annual training hours for dispatchers. As the public safety communication profession continues to evolve, especially in the area of technology, CLPD is working to be prepared for this changing environment. "We continue to prioritize training for dispatch," said Froning. "Online and virtual learning has presented us with many opportunities to train on a regular basis." Dispatchers are now able to access online classes during their shifts instead of attending in person sessions.

If you ever need to contact us, know that the communications staff is ready to serve and assist you. You can always stop in at the police station, call 357-2186, email police@cityofclearlake.org, or message them through the department's social media accounts @clearlakeiapd.



Pictured is Paige Conklin, Evening Shift Dispatcher.

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 a 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.

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.





Adult Crafting at the Library

Craft along with others during this monthly program hosted via Zoom the second Thursday of each Month. On Thursday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m. we will follow along with a CreativeBug project and create a macramé key chain. April's project will be Creative Doodling Part I on Thursday, April 8th at 6:00 p.m. Registration is required and is limited to 12. Those registered will be able to pick up a take-and-make from the library, with that month's craft materials. To register you must email clplassist@gmail.com with your name and age. Once you are registered, we will send you a Zoom link to join and instructions for picking up your crafting materials.

Monthly Grab & Go Bags

Each month the children's department puts together a Grab & Go packet. Each bag is appropriate for preschool through 5th grade, and is filled with book recommendations, crafts, & activities, and are available on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. You may call 357-0315 to inquire about availability.

Even if you aren't traveling for Spring Break in March, you can go on a beach vacation with our Grab & Go bag starting March 1st. On April 5th, celebrate the start of Spring with a Grab & Go bag that will feature a goodie from Central Gardens of North Iowa.

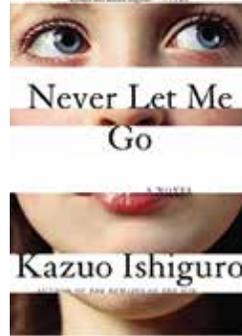
Zoom into Story Time!

Join the fun for young families at the library's free "virtual" weekly story time for children age five and younger and their families, held from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. 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@cltel.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! We hope to "see" you there.

Adult Book Chats and Books on Tap

The Clear Lake Public Library's Book Chats & Books on Tap will continue via Zoom during March and April. The library's March book choice is *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. From

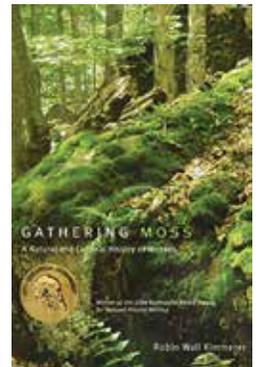


the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Remains of the Day* and *When We Were Orphans*, comes an unforgettable novel. Hailsham seems like a pleasant English boarding school, far from the influences of the city. But, curiously, students are taught nothing of the outside world and are allowed little contact with it. This novel is at once heartbreakingly tender and morally courageous about what it means to be human.

Join the Book Chat on Tuesday, March 16th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. or Books on Tap on Wednesday, March 17th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Zoom link can be found on the library's website or the Facebook page.



April's Book Chat and Books on Tap will feature *Gathering Moss* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Mosses are common but largely unnoticed element of the natural world. *Gathering Moss* is a beautifully written mix of science and personal reflection that invites readers to explore and learn from the elegantly simple lives of mosses. Drawing on her diverse experiences as a scientist, mother, teacher, and writer of Native American heritage, Kimmerer explains the stories of mosses in scientific terms as well as in the framework of indigenous ways of knowing.



Join the Book Chat on Tuesday, April 20th from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. or Books on Tap on Wednesday, April 21st from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Zoom link can be found on the library's website or the Facebook page.

Earth Week at the Library

Join us for Earth Week April 18th through the 24th for some Earth Day themed fun! The Clear Lake Earth Day Committee will be putting together a special craft grab & go, will host some virtual programming, and hopefully celebrate outdoors if the weather is nice. Follow us on Facebook or visit our website for more detailed information closer to the events. Don't forget to sign up to help with Trash Bash that week by visiting <http://earthdayclearlake.org>.



City of Clear Lake Directory

CITY DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY911

Non-Emergency Police.....357-2186
 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 Library.....357-6133
 Public Works.....357-6135
 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 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 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	Bev Currier
Allen Geilenfeld	Sean Moran
Barb Olson	Laurie Calgaard
Tamara Schwichtenberg	

Parks & Recreation Board

(Meets 4th 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	Mark Bale
Andy Meyer	Arnold Prohaska
Chyrl Bergvig	

Board of Adjustment

(Meets 1st Tuesday of each month)

David Klang	Kirby Schmidt
Fred Muth	Walt Muskovich

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



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March 2021

Clear Lake, Where People Make The Difference



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