



Fall & Winter 2022/2023
Volume 6, Issue 1

The Wave Watcher

Clear Lake Historical Society Annual Meeting and Open House at New Location a Great Success!

Dozens of people filled the rooms of the Clear Lake Historical Society at its Annual Meeting and Open House on Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 2:00 pm at our new location at 800 1st Ave. S. Guests had the opportunity to see the transformation of the former Parks and Recreation building into the Clear Lake Historical Society Museum and Research Center. The 1913 craftsman style house is now repainted to original colors and woodwork and floors are cleaned. The research room is up and running with print resources and access to several research databases. Exhibits are still in the process of being completely set up as items come out of storage.



Current Historical Society Hours of Operation

May 1st through September 30th

Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 am –
2:00 pm or by appointment.
(call 641-430-7729)

October 1st through April 30th

Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am –
2:00 pm or by appointment.
(call 641-430-7729)



Touring in and around Clear Lake

The Clear Lake Historical Society has been busy updating old and creating new tours of our community and lake. A full driving tour around the lake itself highlighting key landmarks is nearly completed and ready for printing. In addition, a walking/driving tour of the historic homes in Clear Lake is also nearing completion. It is hoped that both will be available by Memorial Day. The project has been completed with monetary assistance from the Nicklos and Leandra Andersen Family Fund of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. Keep watching for updates on Facebook and our website www.facebook.com/ClearLakeHistoricalSociety There is so much to see and do in Clear Lake!

Clear Lake’s Seawall now on National Register of Historic Places

On Friday, January 6, 2023 the City of Clear Lake and Clear Lake Historical Society received notice from the National Historic Landmarks Program of the National Park Service that Clear Lake’s Seawall, constructed in May of 1936, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The process to have the seawall listed on the National Register of Historic Places began in October of 2021 with the Clear Lake Historical Society working alongside Michelle Cunliffe and Scotney Fenton from RDG Planning & Design throughout the procedure. City Council minutes from 1933 - 1935 were searched to establish the timeline of discussions between the City of Clear Lake, Clear Lake Park Board, the Iowa State Conservation Commission (DNR today), Iowa Highway Commission (IDOT today) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Photographs and maps were located were to document that the seawall was constructed by workers from the Mason City Transient Farm, a division of the WPA and that local granite fieldstone was used to build the wall along with local lumber and fill dirt. Clear Lake’s seawall sets on the footprint of the former White Pier, which was destroyed by a tornado in 1931.

The recent restoration and preservation project completed in May of 2022 ensures that the seawall will be available for visitors and community members to enjoy for generations to come.

It’s Time to Renew Your Membership with the Clear Lake Historical Society!

Membership in the Clear Lake Historical Society lasts for a calendar year, that is January through December. Now is the time to your membership or possibly become a new member of the Clear Lake Historical Society, which is a non-profit organization. Levels of membership are listed below and your check made payable to the Clear Lake Historical Society, can be mailed to our address below. A membership form can be found on our website; the address is below.

We operate based on the devoted work of volunteers, fees collected through memberships and generous donations. We often also apply for grants to accomplish specific large projects, but membership fees cover our day-to-day costs. No one in our organization receives a paycheck. Now that we have moved into our new location at 800 1st Ave South, membership dollars become even more crucial to us.

We value our members greatly and thank those of you who have already become members of the Clear Lake Historical Society and have joined our group of dedicated volunteers of all ages who are passionate about learning, preserving and sharing Clear Lake history. If you are not a member, think about becoming one, make new friends, renew old acquaintances and help protect and preserve our community’s story. Jump in, the water is fine! ☺

Bowman (students and seniors)	\$15.00		Pilot	\$100.00
1 st Mate	\$25.00		Captain	\$250.00
Crew (family)	\$60.00		Navigator	\$1,000.00

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