

A scenic view of a bridge over a river. The bridge has a wooden deck and metal railings. Below the bridge, a concrete structure with a metal railing is partially submerged, with water cascading over it, creating a small waterfall. The river is surrounded by rocks and greenery. The text "Bridge" is written in a large, white, cursive font, and "Clear Lake and Clearwater" is written in a smaller, white, cursive font below it.

# Bridge

*Clear Lake and Clearwater*

Saturday, May 29, 2021

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# City of Clearwater

Hello! My name is Andrea Lawrence and I am honored to be the mayor of Clearwater.

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to the city of Clearwater and say hello again, to residents and to familiar faces. I also want to give the city staff a large thank you for working diligently through the pandemic and remaining flexible and adaptative as rules on how to work safely changed a lot over the past year and continue to change. Staff remained available in traditional and nontraditional ways and kept everything running. I also want to welcome our newest staff member who started this year, Sarah Johnson. You can find other dedicated, professional staff, city council, fire department members and my contact information on our website.



**MAYOR**  
**Andrea Lawrence**

Follow us on *Facebook* or look at our website from time to time for surveys, announcements, and minutes. Since our meetings have been on *Zoom* for about a year, they are very convenient and easier to attend. You don't have to even be in the city to participate! If you want to be a more active in city affairs, currently both the Planning Commission and the Economic Development Authority have open positions. The dedicated, hardworking, and professional fire department also has openings. Public safety is a top priority, be a part of it! If you want to contribute to the city's success, here is your chance! It takes a great deal of work to manage all aspects of a successful, productive city. We are looking for citizen partners to work with our have a dedicated staff to continue to be both. Join us by contacting City Hall for more information.

I hope while you are here, you take advantage of our many beautiful parks that have continued to see upgrades through this year. If disc golf, fishing, canoeing, archery, basketball, baseball, ice skating, tennis, pickle ball, hockey, biking, sitting on the grass, having a picnic or playing in a playground is not your thing, then stop by an area business for something to eat, a bit of shopping, a haircut or to complete your errands.

A giant thank you to the City Public Works employees who worked hard moving lots of snow this winter, as well as making ice for skating in three of the city parks. As the weather warms up and yards get cleaned up, they are busy getting the yard waste too! As the seasons change, and we spend more time outside, feel free to give the crews a wave.

We want to hear from you! Please contact one of the members of City Council, me or a city employee with questions or concerns.

I look forward to seeing you around town! Hopefully we all get to see a little bit more of each other this year. On behalf of city officials, administration, and staff, I thank you for your continued support as we strive to provide services that will carry us into the future. As always, I am only a phone call or email away and I welcome you to share your ideas and concerns with me.

*Mayor Andrea Lawrence*

## City Council

### CLEARWATER COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Andrea Lawrence-Wheeler  
Kris Crandall  
Richard Petty  
Lindsey Luhmann  
Wayne Kruchten

## City Staff

City Admin./Clerk/Treasurer:	Annita Smythe
Deputy Clerk:	Deb Petty
Accountant:	Sara Johnson
Public Works:	John Schmidt
	Mike Flynn
	James Kirchenbauer
	Abe Knowles
	Nick Schmidt
	Mike Flynn
Fire Chief:	Ryan Pridgeon
Assistant Fire Chief:	Mike Keller

Website: [www.clearwatercity.com](http://www.clearwatercity.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/cityofclearwatermn](https://facebook.com/cityofclearwatermn)  
Phone: 320-558-2428  
Address: 605 Co. Rd. 75,  
P.O. Box 9, Clearwater, MN 55320  
Hours: M-Thurs 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Friday - Closed

### CLEARWATER COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City Council meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. During the pandemic, meetings have been held via *Zoom*. Login credentials to each meeting may be found on the city's website. Once the pandemic emergency has ended, the City Council will return to in-person meetings at City Hall. Meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend. Requests to appear on the agenda must be received no later than the Wednesday prior to each meeting date.



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Thurs-8am-Noon, Fri-8am-5pm, Sat-By Appointment



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# Clear Valley Business Connections

## OFFICERS - 2021

President - Glenna Soenneker - Mary Kay

Vice President - Lori Johnson - Johnson Materials, Inc.

Secretary - Jenny Massmann - American Heritage Bank

Treasurer - Eron Bordson - Clearwater Family Chiropractic

Social Media Secretary - Alyx Johnson

Board of Directors - Angie Simon, Lake Central Bank

Jean Schermer - Lake Central Bank

Roger Maleska - Mn Wearables

## CLEAR VALLEY BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

The Clearwater Economic Development Corporation was incorporated in October of 1987 for the purpose of promoting the Clearwater area. The group then expanded to include businesses of Clear Lake and the surrounding townships. The EDA was dissolved and the name of the organization was changed to Clear Valley Business Connections, to more accurately reflect its networking focus.

Meeting Times:

Quarterly Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Next CVBC meeting dates:

July 8 - Meeting location to be determined

October 14 - Meeting location to be determined

January 13, 2022 - Annual Meeting & Chili Contest

If you own a business, we invite you to come and be part of the enthusiasm that Clear Valley Business Connections has for the Clearwater/Clear Lake area.

If you live in the area, we encourage you to patronize our local businesses. They are the life blood of the community.



**2021 CVBC OFFICERS & BOARD.** Board member Jean Schermer, Lake Central Bank, Board member Angie Simon, Lake Central Bank, Board member Roger Maleska, MN Wearables, CVBC Treasurer Eron Bordson, Clearwater Family Chiropractic, CVBC President Glenna Soenneker, Mary Kay, CVBC Secretary Jenny Massman, American Heritage Bank, CVBC Vice President Lori Johnson, Root of Wellness, CVBC Social Media Secretary Alyx Johnson, Johnson Materials. (Photo by Mary Nehring).



# Clear Valley

## BUSINESS CONNECTIONS



“Bringing Clearwater, Clear Lake and surrounding area businesses, industries and organizations together to foster growth, understanding and support.”



**Clear Valley Business Connections** meets quarterly over lunch at various locations in Clear Lake & Clearwater. Any business owner or representative in the area is encouraged to visit a meeting! Annual dues are \$50 per business.

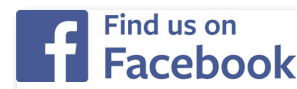
- Benefits:**
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  - Awareness & Availability of Community & Business Resources • Member Networking
  - Business Expo • Business Directory • Informational Guest Speakers
  - Past Sponsor & Organizer of Music in the Park

### 2021 CVBC Business Members

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American Heritage Bank  
Becker Spine  
Chalk Couture - Kim Welle  
City of Clearwater  
Clearwater American Legion  
Clearwater Family Chiropractic Clinic-  
Eron Bordson, DC  
Clearwater Public Library  
Clearwater Tax & Accounting  
Clearwater Travel Plaza  
Clearwaters Outfitting/Northwest Canoe  
Coborns  
Crandall Help Desk  
Franklin Outdoor Advertising  
Grace's Massage Therapy  
Irrigation Management  
Johnson Materials, Inc.  
Lake Central Bank  
Lake Central Insurance Services  
Mary Kay - Glenna Soenneker  
McDonald's Meats

McDowall Custom Embroidery  
Minnesota Wearables-Roger Maleska  
Norlien Fine Art  
Now IT Connects  
Parkway Auto Transport, Inc  
Patriot Newspaper  
Premier Real Estate- Lynne Crandall  
Rejoice Lutheran Church  
Restorations & Construction Services  
Root of Wellness, LLC-Lori Johnson  
Royal Renovations  
St. Cloud/Clearwater RV Park  
St. Cloud Financial Credit Union  
Sunset Ridge Ranch  
T & R Meat Processing  
Taco Gringo  
Thousand Hills/Lifetime Grazed  
Torch Sauce  
Tri-County Alliance Church  
Tri-State Pump & Control  
T.O. Plastics

For information or the next  
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or email: [gsoenneker@gmail.com](mailto:gsoenneker@gmail.com) or  
[jennym@logbank.com](mailto:jennym@logbank.com)



Search Clear Valley Business Connections



# Area Church Directory

## Clearwater Churches

### Clearwater United Methodist Church

Pastor: Alison Hendley, 320-558-2581,  
405 Main St. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am.

### Freedom Bible Church

605 Lime St. (Old Clearwater Post Office).  
Services: Sun. Bible Study 9:30am & 6pm, Sun.  
Worship 10:45am, Wed. Bible Study 7pm.

### Rejoice Lutheran Church – ELCA

Pastor: Jim Bump, 320-558-6851,  
1155 County Road 75. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am.

### Church of St. Luke

Father: Dennis Backer, 320-558-2124,  
17545 Huber Ave NW. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass  
8am & 10am, Weekday Mass Tues.-Fri. 8am/Sat. 9am.

### Tri-County Alliance Church

Pastor: David Fogal, 320-558-2750,  
8464 160th St NW. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun.  
Worship 10:30am. Wed. Nights (Sept.-May) - Free Family Meal  
5:30pm; Bible Adventure Club, Pre-K-6th Grade Students,  
6-7:30pm; Youth Group Grades 6-12, 6-7:30pm.

## Silver Creek Area Churches

### Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor: Ken Tatkenhorst, 763-878-2820,  
11390 Elliot Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am

### Silver Creek Community Church

Pastor: Zach Pryor, 320-963-3957,  
4282 114th St NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am, Sun.  
Fellowship 10am, Sun. School 10:30am.

## Clear Lake Area Churches

### Living Waters Church

Pastor: Mark Stahl, 320-292-0250,  
7830 Church St. Services: Sun. Worship 10am,  
Wed. Bible Study 6:30pm.

### Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Pastor: Josh Reber, 320-743-2919,  
8641 Main Ave.  
Services: Sun. Worship 8:45am, Sun. School 9:45am.

### St. Marcus Catholic Church

Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-743-2481,  
8701 Main Ave.  
Services: Sat. Confessions 4:15pm, Sat. Mass 5pm,  
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### FRONT COVER PHOTO:

Photo taken by Penny Leuthard of the Clearwater Dam and bridge.

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**320-558-6851**

[www.rejoicelutheranchurch.org](http://www.rejoicelutheranchurch.org)





# Clearwater Public Library continues to offer resources for everyone

By Penny Leuthard, Staff Writer

Although there have once again been a few changes over the past year, the *Clearwater Public Library* continues to offer resources for everyone in the community.

"This year the changes have all been about convenience," said Librarian Shelly Kuelbs.

One of the biggest changes is the curbside pick-up service for patrons. Last spring Clearwater was selected as one of five libraries in the *Great River Regional Library* system to implement the pilot system, which has since grown to all 32 branches. Patrons can either make an appointment or call once they arrive at the building.

"Our greatest challenge this year has been finding ways to continue offering services the Clearwater community relied on," said Kuelbs. "We started with curbside pick-up and the response from patrons was heartwarming. Their enthusiasm for being able to once again check out a book really gave us the boost we needed to keep working through the challenges."

The library has also added Print2GO. Patrons can send their print jobs directly to the library for printing from their own devices, even from home. Patrons just stop by the library to pay for and pick up the prints.

As a branch of *Great River Regional Library* (GRRL), the *Clearwater Public Library* is able to offer patrons access to any of the one million books, CDs and DVDs available in the system using their library card, which is free to apply for.



CLEARWATER LIBRARIAN, Shelly Kuelbs, said the past year has been challenging but rewarding. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)

*CW Library Continued On Page 11*

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The Clearwater Library utilized drive-up service during the pandemic of 2020-21. (Photo by Penny Leuthard).



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# Senior Living

## Central Minnesota Foster Grandparent Program

### Allowing children and seniors to mutually benefit from an intergenerational relationship

Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program provides the opportunity for stipend volunteers age 55+ to make a lasting contribution to their community by mentoring children in 100+ nonprofit volunteer sites across Central Minnesota. Foster Grandparents volunteer a minimum of 15 hours per week; many give up to 40 hours. In 2020, 205 Foster Grandparents served 142,672 hours, working with more than 10,900 children. Volunteer sites often say that they don't know how they would ever replace their Foster Grandparents because of all of the good that they do.

### Providing a valuable "natural" resource

Foster Grandparents are valuable resources for children and for their volunteer sites. They offer wisdom and the benefit of their knowledge, various talents, and experience to children and to the service site. Often a Foster Grandparent fills a void left in a child's life when his/her own grandparents live at a distance or are deceased. A Foster "Grandma" or "Grandpa" gives each special child valuable one-on-one attention, encouragement, and unconditional love.

### Offering themselves in service to Central MN's children

Foster Grandparents volunteer throughout the 16 Central Minnesota counties served by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud: Benton, Douglas, Grant, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin counties. Children in these counties are waiting for their Foster Grandparent. There is always a need to register more Foster Grandparent volunteers and more service sites.

### Catholic Charities

911 18th St., N.

St. Cloud, MN 56303

Ph: 320-650-1550, Ph: 800-830-8254

[www.ccstcloud.org](http://www.ccstcloud.org)

Catholic Charities is a non-profit organization that advances the charitable and social mission of the Diocese of St. Cloud. We build communities, promote family life, and enhance human dignity by providing quality services to meet the physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families of all faiths and beliefs.

## Senior Dining

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Annandale City Hall  
30 East Cedar Street,  
Annandale, MN 55302  
320-274-3891

Becker Senior Dining/Meals on Wheels  
Woodbriar Apartments  
12115 Rye Street, Becker, MN 55308  
763-261-4466

Buffalo Senior Dining  
Community Center  
206 Central Avenue, Buffalo, MN 55313  
763-682-6036

Maple Lake Senior Dining/Meals on Wheels  
Maple Manor West Apartments  
555 West 2nd Street, Maple Lake, MN 55358  
320-963-5771

Monticello Senior Dining  
Monticello Senior Center  
505 Walnut Street Suite 3, Monticello, MN 55362  
763-295-2000

St. Cloud Senior Dining  
Whitney Senior Center  
1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud, MN 56303  
320-650-3068



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# From the Editor



The Clearwater and Clear Lake business communities, *Clear Valley Business Connections* and the *Patriot Newspaper* present you with the 2021 *Clearwater-Clear Lake Bridge Communities Guide*.

“Bridge” was conceived in entertaining the idea that the two communities are separated by the Mississippi River, but the bridge connects them.

This guide is the effort of advertising support from our many local businesses and organizations and stories from our contributing writers Penny Leuthard and Mark Kolbinger, whose dogged efforts keep the communities of Clearwater and Clear Lake informed. Profiles of all the local government offices and services are also provided.

This publication is created where we think it should serve as a valuable community reference. Peruse the stories of local merchants and businesses. Visit and help support the area businesses featured in this guide. It's called a guide to do just that — aid you in finding neighborhood goods and services and to keep things local and your communities thriving.

We're proud to partner with these local merchants to bring you the best of Clear Lake and Clearwater .

Penny wrote a feature updating the goings-on at your local library in Clearwater. As mentioned in the article, it has been a challenging year for the Clearwater-Clear Lake branch library of the *Great River Regional Library*, but the staff are enthusiastically working to give area citizens a great resource for patrons.

Penny has written a feature on the *Clear Valley Business Connections* group and their mission to build a strong business community. The organization recently held their annual business expo that was deemed a fantastic success.

Penny wrote a feature on the *Clearwater Fire Department* and their new turnout gear they were able to purchase after they received \$30,000 from the CARES Act funding program.

And she wrote an update on the tradition of *Clearview Elementary* and the challenges they faced in the year of COVID-19.

Mark Kolbinger wrote a spectacular tribute article last December honoring the 32 years of dedicated service of Bob Arnold, a life-long citizen and valuable city council member with the *City of Clear Lake*. We thought it was worthy of being re-printed in this comprehensive guide.

Advertising sales were accomplished by Carol Hanson, Heidi Hansen and Mary Nehring, who logged many hours ensuring all businesses and entities in the local area were provided an opportunity to advertise their products and services in this year's guide.

Clearwater and Clear Lake present more than two small, neighboring towns trying to survive and thrive in the 21st Century. The two communities tend to work well together to provide existing and future citizens a great place to live. That's creating bridges, not walls. That's what makes this little area of Central Minnesota so special.

Copies of this Guide are being circulated May 29 as an insert to our *Patriot Newspaper* in the Clearwater and Clear Lake areas, with copies also available for pickup at *McDonald's Meats* in Clear Lake, *Coborn's* in Clearwater, the *Clearwater and Clear Lake City Halls* and, of course, the *Patriot Newspaper* offices.

Thank you again. Best regards.

*William B. Morgan*

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*CW Library Continued from Page 7*

Along with traditional materials, GRRL also offers a digital library of ebooks, and eaudiobooks, which are free to download. Patrons can apply for an e-card online, which gives them access to all digital material. Patrons now have access to Hoopla as well, with Hoopla book and video access on demand, no waiting.

Another service offered is access to several research databases, including LinkedIn Learning, Pronunciator, genealogy, and teacher and student references.

The library has public internet stations available for patrons, as well as wireless access for laptop computers, and a convenient self-checkout station. New this year is internet hotspots, which can be checked out from the library for one week with unlimited data.

Regular programming for all ages is still limited, so during this time take and make kits for youth are being offered as often as possible. There are also several virtual programs being offered for all ages through the GRRL system. Both summer and winter reading programs are available in person or using the Beanstack app, and the Try It Yourself kits have become very popular.

"I'm thankful for the understanding of our patrons during this time of COVID," said Library Assistant Tera Fogal. "The kindness and respect shown to staff and fellow patrons has shown how the Clearwater Library is an oasis of education, information, and normalcy in our ever-changing world."

The Friends of the *Clearwater Area Library* is a volunteer group that meets to discuss needs of the library as well as fundraisers to help pay for those needs. The group holds book sales and runs Second Chapter used bookstore, which is located at the rear of the library. The proceeds of all fundraisers are used to help fund library programs.

"The *Clearwater Area Friends of the Library* is a small group of patrons that love our library and value its existence in the community," said President Mary Torgersen. "Since the library first



**THE CLEARWATER AREA LIBRARY** is located at 740 Clearwater Center in Clearwater, MN. (Submitted Photo)

opened the Friends have enhanced the programs, services, and facilities that help to make our library so welcoming."

Kuelbs, Fogal, and other staff members are always available to answer questions in person or by phone whenever the library is open.

"Thank you, Clearwater, for loving your library," said Kuelbs.

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# Parks & Recreation

## Clear Lake:

### The Chet Goenner Pavilion

The Chet Goenner Pavilion is located in the main city park behind the fire station building. It is a beautiful facility with a large kitchen and serving area as well as many picnic tables for lots of seating. There are indoor bathrooms and the main area of the pavilion is finished in knotty pine wood and has been recently remodeled. There are two extended covered areas with seating on each side of the pavilion as well as gorgeous landscaping in the front and side areas.

Flowers and shrubs are in full bloom for the whole summer rental season. Cost for rental of the pavilion facility is \$125 per full day, which includes the use of the full kitchen. There is a wonderfully equipped playground immediately in front of the pavilion which makes it a truly desirable location for family gatherings and special event parties. There is a large paved parking area in the front of the building as well. Please contact the city clerk at 320-743-3111 for information and booking dates.

### Hunter Lake Bluffs Development Park

Located near the intersections of Hunter Lake Drive and Natures Edge Road. The park offers a small picnic shelter, basketball hoop and playground equipment.

### Clear Lake Township Park

Clear Lake Township Park is located south off Cty. Road. 8 (River Road SE) on 8th Ave. The park offers walking trails, restroom facilities, rest area and off-leash dog park (dogs must be leashed when entering park area). Smoking and alcohol is prohibited. Visit: [www.clearlaketownship.org/park](http://www.clearlaketownship.org/park)

## Clearwater:

### Eldorado Park

Located on 880 Kelsey Ave NW. The park has new playground equipment, soccer field and lots of open space for other activities.

### Lions Park

The Lions Park & Pavilion is located at 1100 Cty. Road 75 in Clearwater. There is a tennis court, ice skating rink (winter only),

playground equipment, and a basketball court. There is a pavilion to rent for special events. Please call City Hall at 320-558-2428 for scheduling.

### Riverside Park

Riverside Park is located at the intersection of Main St. and Cty. Road 75 at 11 Main Street. It houses the old Mill Pond, which is reputed to be a pretty fair fishing site.

Riverside Park also offers shaded picnic sites, playground equipment and lots of open space.

### Sportsman's Park/Ballfield

The Sportsman's Park is located south of Cty. Road 75 on Cty. Road 143, 20802 27th Ave. E. The park has a designer 18-hole disc golf course, children's play set, and baseball fields.

There is a pavilion to rent for special events. Please call City Hall at 320-558-2428 for scheduling.

### Spring Street Park

Spring Street Park is located in Clearwater's historic downtown area at the corner of Spring & Oak St. at 310 Spring St.

The park features a new play set, a half-court basketball area, a picnic table and lighting.

### River County Bike Trail

In the City of Clearwater, this trail connects three of the city parks: Sportsman's, Riverside and the Lions Park. It provides pedestrians and bicyclists a safe route through the city.

The trail is open all year.

### Archery Park

Clearwater's newest recreational addition is the Archery Park located in the Wayside Rest on Cty. Road. 75 just northwest of Hwy. 24. And for easy access from one park to another, four of the city's six parks are connected and accessible by a paved walking/biking trail, which was completed in 2015. The trail will someday be part of a bigger regional trail, connecting with Monticello to the east and St. Cloud to the west.

*Parks Continued to page 14*

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# Clearview Elementary continues tradition of excellence during challenging year

By Penny Louthard, Contributing Writer

Clearview Elementary School continued its tradition of excellence this year while transitioning to multiple learning models during COVID. Whether in hybrid, distance learning or in-person classrooms, faculty, staff, students, and families rose to the occasion.

"All teachers and staff went above and beyond to meet the needs of students and families," said Principal Meredith Boucher. "And always with a positive attitude."

Clearview Elementary is a PreK-Grade 5 school that offers families two outstanding educational choices: a traditional English classroom or a Spanish Immersion classroom.

The Spanish Immersion program introduces the Spanish language to students in kindergarten and continues to immerse them in Spanish throughout second grade. Beginning in third grade, students are introduced to English during Language Arts for 30 minutes a day.

Due to COVID challenges this year, Amity interns, who normally help staff the immersion program, were not on site. Amity interns come from foreign countries to spend the school year with students who are learning to speak their native language and are similar to student teachers in that they both assist and learn how to be teachers themselves. Clearview is hopeful that they will be able to welcome back Amity for the 21-22 school year.

Another unique program at Clearview is the continuing partnership with the DNR and community volunteers to restore the 42-acre



Clearview Forest, including restoring a natural prairie site, cleaning out dead and diseased trees, and removing invasive species. Students benefit from this exciting outdoor "classroom."

"We are very proud of our school community," said Principal Boucher. "We worked hard all year to create consistent learning for kids regardless of learning model. We look forward to welcoming students back in September!"

A part of St. Cloud Area School District 742, Clearview is a top-ranked elementary school located on State Hwy. 24 between Clearwater and Clear Lake.

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# Parks & Recreation

## County/State Parks:

### Lake Maria

Visitors who come to *Lake Maria State Park* will enjoy one of the few remaining stands of the “Big Woods,” a maple, oak and basswood forest that once covered part of southern Minnesota.

The park is perfect for hikers, backpackers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers who enjoy the challenge of the rolling terrain. Take a stroll on the boardwalk which winds through a marsh.

Backpack sites, located on remote lakes and ponds throughout the park, are just two miles from the trailhead parking lot. New log camper cabins, located near lakes and ponds, provide bunk beds for six people and a table and benches for campers who want more of the creature comforts.

*Lake Maria State Park* is home to the Blandings turtle, easily identified by bright yellow spots on its shell. It is one of Minnesota’s threatened species.

*Lake Maria State Park* is located at 11411 Clementa Avenue, N.W., Monticello, MN.

### HOURS:

Best time for contacting someone in the park: Friday through Sunday, from 11 am - 2 pm Other times, leave message on machine, 763-878-2325.

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/lake\\_maria/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/lake_maria/index.html)

### Warner Lake Stearns County Park

1485 Cty. Road 143

Clearwater, MN 55320

Parks Office 320-255-6172

[parkinfo@co.stearns.mn.us](mailto:parkinfo@co.stearns.mn.us)

A 264 acre site surrounding the 30-surface-acres of Warner Lake. The initial establishment of this site occurred in 1973 when the Campfire Girls Inc. donated the 33-acres known as Camp Suima to Stearns County for public recreation purposes.

### Amenities Include:

Reservable Shelters, Picnic Areas, Hiking Trails, Cross Country Skiing Trails, Winter Walking/Dog Walking/Snowshoeing/Fat Tire Bicycle Trails, Access to Snowmobile Trail Boat Access (Electric motors or non-motorized watercraft), Bicycle Campsite, Group Camps, Play Area, Swimming Beach (No Lifeguard/Swim at your own risk), Fishing Pier, Prairie Restoration Site, Plant List.

### Hours:

Open year round from 6 am to 11 pm

Shelters open 8 am - 10 pm

[www.co.stearns.mn.us/Recreation/CountyParks/WarnerLakeCountyPark](http://www.co.stearns.mn.us/Recreation/CountyParks/WarnerLakeCountyPark)

## Local Area Sports:

### Clear Lake Lakers Amateur Baseball

[clearlakelakersbaseball.atomicleagues.com](http://clearlakelakersbaseball.atomicleagues.com)

### Clear Lake/Clearwater Area Youth Baseball Association

P.O. Box 176, Clear Lake, MN 55319

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[www.clayba.com](http://www.clayba.com)

## Golf Courses:

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## Outfitters:

### Clear Waters Outfitting Company,

100 Pine Street, P.O. Box 398, Clearwater, MN 55320

Office/store: 320.558.8123 • [www.cwoutfitting.com](http://www.cwoutfitting.com)

Established in 2009, *Clear Waters Outfitting* is the only Central Minnesota canoe and kayak retail store and outfitter on the banks of the Mississippi River.

*Clear Waters Outfitting* is extremely fortunate to be located on a special stretch of the Mississippi River and we cannot help but want to share it with you. Designated “Wild & Scenic” by the DNR, many miles along this stretch are still in their natural state due to the protection, regulations, and zoning that are associated with this title. Very few river stretches have this designation and protection.

This stretch of the Mississippi River is shallow with a rocky bottom - poor conditions for motor boats but ideal for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and stand-up paddle boarding. With a gently flowing current void of any rapids, dams or falls, the paddling is relaxing and the fishing is spectacular. According to Field and Stream Online, the 47 mile stretch of the Mississippi between St. Cloud and Dayton (which includes our stretch) is in the top 10 for river fishing for small-mouth in the United States. Many consider it world class due to the limited motor traffic, river accessibility, and special fishing regulations.

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RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES join members of the Clearwater Twp. board in removing bog debris from the public access at Nixon Lake after the removal of a floating bog in July. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)

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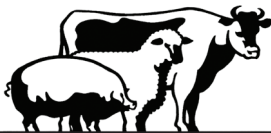
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# Clear Waters Outfitting gets people out on the water

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer

There are a lot of things that make the Clearwater and Clear Lake area unique. One of them is the Mississippi River that cuts between the two communities, which was just what Dan and Sandra Meer were looking for when searching out a location for their new business, *Clear Waters Outfitting*.

"We were looking for a place to do outfitting and get people out on the water," said Sandra Meer. "We found this, bought the building, and built a second one. It's a very unique location and gives us access to the river."

The section of the Mississippi River *Clear Waters Outfitting* is located on has been designated as one of Minnesota's "Wild & Scenic" river locations by the DNR (St. Cloud to Anoka section). The designation is due to the miles of river that are still in their natural state due to management planning and zoning ordinances.

The river along this stretch has a gentle current and shallow, rocky bottom, making it ideal for canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddle boarding. The flow and river structure makes it ideal for a variety of fish, and in fact, the stretch is considered world class smallmouth bass fishing.

"We're bringing paddling to the community," said Sandra Meer. "This stretch of the river is good for both beginners and seasoned paddlers, and it's a great location between St. Cloud and the metro area."

Business was slow in the beginning – their first full season was 2010 – but once the Meers found their niche and word started getting out, things started taking off.

Around 2012 stand up paddle boarding (SUP) became popular, giving *Clear Waters Outfitting* a couple years of great growth



SANDRA AND DAN MEER'S goal is to spread the passion for paddle sports through their business, *Clear Waters Outfitting*. (Submitted Photo)

*CW Outfitting Continued On Page 18*



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# Childcare School Directory

*Licensed Day Cares: For a list of licensed daycare providers, please use these resources:*

## Sherburne County

Contact Social Services 800-433-5239  
[www.co.sherburne.mn.us/socialservices](http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/socialservices)

## Wright County

Contact the Resource & Referral Service 866-511-2244  
[www.co.wright.mn.us/342/child-care-providers](http://www.co.wright.mn.us/342/child-care-providers)

## Stearns County

Contact Human Services 320-656-6000  
or use the daycare locator at:  
[www.co.stearns.mn.us/online-services/daycaresearch](http://www.co.stearns.mn.us/online-services/daycaresearch)

## Area Schools:

### Annandale Independent School Dist. 876

[www.isd876.k12.org](http://www.isd876.k12.org)  
125 Cherry Ave N, Annandale  
320-274-5602

### Clearview Elementary School

[www.isd742.org](http://www.isd742.org)  
7310 Highway 24, Clear Lake, MN 55319  
320-743-2241 [Clearview@isd742.org](mailto:Clearview@isd742.org)  
Principal - Meredith Boucher

### St. Cloud Area School District 742

[www.isd742.org](http://www.isd742.org)  
1000 44th Ave N, Suite 100  
St. Cloud, MN 56303  
320-253-9333

### Clearview Kidstop - (School age childcare K-6)

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7310 Highway 24, Clear Lake, MN 55319  
320-743-2243

KIDSTOP is a school-age child care program for K-6 located at 14 schools in the St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids-Rice, Sartell-St. Stephen and ROCORI school districts. Kids love KIDSTOP because they have so many activities to choose from, including Power Hour homework help, computer access, gym activities, outdoor games, arts and crafts or just hanging out with friends. Parents love it because they know their kids are in the hands of youth guidance professionals who really care about them. KIDSTOP provides a way for parents to give their kids a quality before and after-school experience at an affordable price. KIDSTOP gives kids daily opportunities that parents know are vital for their child's healthy growth.

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CLEARWATER AREA VETERANS Ron Lashinski, Arnie Searcy, and Mike Hanson were awarded Quilts of Valor during Three of a Kind's annual fundraiser for Eagles Healing Nest in Sauk Centre in July. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)



before it leveled off. Then kayak fishing started getting big and gave the business another boost.

Each year the business hosts the BronzeBack Classic Fishing Tournament that brings in people from all over the upper Midwest. New and seasoned anglers are welcome.

"The upper Mississippi River is known nationally for world class smallmouth bass fishing," said Dan Meer.

*Clear Waters Outfitting* carries all kinds of paddling gear and equipment. They specialize in short and long day trips and offer paddle sport rental services, outfitting, shuttle services, overnight trips, paddle boarding, and kayak fishing. They also sell high quality, well-known brands of canoes, kayaks, SUP boards, and outdoor gear.

What makes the business so unique is how much they have to offer, including test paddling before purchase, and having experts on site who can offer help and advice to paddlers of any experience.

Their experts are certified by the ACA (American Canoe Association). They teach classes on location as well as work with area community education programs.

The past year during the pandemic was good for sales

but not for river trips, largely because they were unable to offer shuttle services due to restrictions.

"We were able to maintain sales as a lot of them happened remotely and online, which kept us in business over the last year," said Dan Meer. "Demand has been high. We try to keep everything in stock and are constantly getting a new supply in."

Canoe and kayak repairs have also picked up.

"With the big boom and the cost of new increasing, a lot of people are starting to get their old ones fixed," he said. "The paddle sports industry as a whole has seen a boom. It's a hot topic right now as people can get outdoors and still social distance. People are cooped up and want to get out."

*Clear Waters Outfitting* is located at 100 Pine Street, right next to Clearwater's historic Main Street. All experience levels are welcome, so everyone is invited to stop by, call them at 320-558-8123, or visit their website at [cwoutfitting.com](http://cwoutfitting.com).

"Our goal is to spread the passion of paddle sports," said Sandra Meer.





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# Community Info

## Clearwater - Clear Lake Emergency Food Shelf

The *Clearwater-Clear Lake Emergency Food Shelf* is located in the *Lions Park Building* off County Road 75. The food shelf hours are Monday 5:30 to 7 pm, Tuesday mornings from 9 until 11 am and Tuesday evenings from 6 until 8 pm and Wednesday 3 to 5 pm.

The food shelf supplies its clients with a three day emergency food supply. If you are in need of this service, please bring in proof of address and identification to ensure that we are serving only Clearwater, Clear Lake residents.

**The food shelf phone number is 320-558-2954  
24/7 answering service.**

If you wish to make a donation to the Food Shelf:

**Mail: P.O. Box 324, Clearwater, MN 55320**

**Drop off: During food shelf hours**

**Food shelf bin: Entryway of Coborn's.**

*Please call to arrange a drop off time other than Tuesdays.*

## Clearwater area library

The Clearwater Branch of the *Great River Regional Library* is located at 740 Clearwater Center.

The *Great River Regional Library* provides residents with books, children's books, magazines, large print books, newspapers, compact discs, books on tape and videos. The staff at the library is your information source. The staff utilizes extensive regional resources and, when necessary, the resources of libraries throughout the state and region.

### Hours of operation at the Clearwater Branch:

Monday: 1-4 pm; Tuesday: 10 am to 1 pm & 3 to 6 pm;  
Wednesday: 3 to 8 pm; Thursday: 10 am to 1 pm; Friday: 3 to 6 pm; Saturday: 10 am to 1 pm; Sunday: CLOSED

**Please contact 320-558-6001 if you need  
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# City of Clear Lake

## City Council and Staff

As Mayor and on behalf of our citizens, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Clear Lake, a city on the move. Clear Lake is located at Highway's 10 & 24. It is close enough to the big-city amenities of St. Cloud, yet distant enough to provide a small-town lifestyle. Clear Lake is rich in history and loved by all who have been touched by its warmth, charm and friendliness.



**MAYOR**  
**Tim Goenner**

Lastly, as Mayor I have truly been inspired by how everyone in our community has stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone is feeling the negative impact locally and nationally and will be felt long after our public life returns to normal. I will continue to work with the Council and Staff to better our community for everyone. The city makes choices that may not be easy, but in doing so they are putting everyone in the best position to serve Clear Lake well into the future. As a lifelong resident of Clear Lake, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our City. It is truly a special place to visit, work, live and raise a family.

*Mayor Tim Goenner*



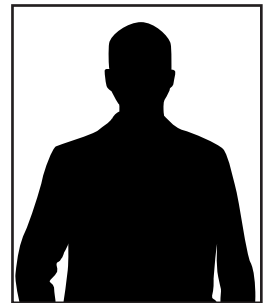
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**Stefany Janish**



**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**Kristin Brandt**



**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**Karen White**



**VACANT COUNCIL MEMBER SEAT**

**City Council meetings** are held on the first Monday of every month at 7 pm. The meetings are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend. Meeting location is 7684 1st Ave West.

## Clear Lake City Hall



**CITY CLERK**  
**Kari Mechtel**



**PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR**  
**Dustin Luhning**



**PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE**  
**Matt Landwehr**

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Phone: 320-743-3111 Fax: 320-743-4307  
Email: [cityofclearlake@frontiernet.net](mailto:cityofclearlake@frontiernet.net)  
Website: [www.clearlakemn.govoffice2.com](http://www.clearlakemn.govoffice2.com)

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## City of Clearwater

### Recycling/Refuse

The city has organized collection for refuse and recycling services. There are three sizes of bins available. Charges for service are on your city utility bill along with other utilities. Please contact City Hall for questions related to service.

### Boards & Commissions

The city is always looking for new members to participate on local Boards and Commissions. This is a great way to contribute to your community and help guide decisions related to the city's growth. Please consider serving on one of the following:

**Planning Commission**

**Park Commission**

**Economic Development Authority**

**Sewer Authority**

See our website for a description of the activities for each Board or to apply.

### Parks & Trails

The city has several neighborhood parks and trails throughout our community. See descriptions of the amenities located at each in the Parks and Recreation section of the Community Guide.

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# CVBC continues its mission to build a strong business community in your hometown

By Penny Leuthard, Staff Writer

Clear Valley Business Connections (CVBC) was started in 1987 to foster growth and bring area businesses together. The organization is a volunteer chamber-style business networking group that represents businesses and organizations from the cities of Clearwater and Clear Lake as well as Clearwater, Clear Lake and Lynden townships. However, all area business owners are welcome to be a member.

"CVBC is a great group of businesses that really care about the community they live in," said President Glenna Soenneker.

The group meets quarterly to update each other on what's happening or new at their businesses, discuss current issues and plan events. The Clearwater and Clear Lake mayors, township supervisors and Wright and Sherburne Co. sheriffs are always invited to attend in order to provide reports on what's been happening in the area.

The CVBC encourages businesses to join the organization to get to know their business network and welcomes them to sign up to have their place of business either host a CVBC quarterly meeting or a Good Morning Clear Valley event. Good Morning Clear Valley was initiated



**CLEAR VALLEY BUSINESS CONNECTIONS hosts the Explore Clearwater/Clear Lake Business Expo each spring to promote shopping local and encourage the community to meet and get to know local business owners and what they have to offer. (Photo by Penny Leuthard).**

to help local businesses get to know each other better and provide more opportunities to network. Companies can sign up to host a breakfast (or appetizers after hours) and highlight what they do at their own business.

The CVBC's biggest event has been its Explore Clearwater/Clear Lake Business Expo, which is held annually in the spring. Now in its 4th year, it was begun to promote shopping local

and encourage the community to meet and get to know local business owners and what they have to offer.

The expo features giveaways and prizes, and businesses promote themselves as well as any positions they may be hiring for. A representative from CVBC is also in attendance for anyone with questions on the organization.

The expo is held in conjunction with the *Clearwater American Legion's* monthly made-to-order breakfast to help build traffic for both events.

New CVBC initiative this year has been the reintroduction of 'Music in the Park' to Clearwater, which the organization will be hosting. The goal is to have two to three performances this year and then request feedback from the community. The first event is tentatively scheduled for the end of May.

Now in its 13th year, the CVBC has partnered with the *Patriot* to create the annual *Clearwater/Clear Lake Bridge Community Guide*. Along with local feature stories, businesses and organizations are given the opportunity to advertise what they have to offer residents, and paid CVBC members are listed in the guide's full-page CVBC advertisement.

The publication is distributed each spring to all Clearwater and Clear Lake residents as well as public offices. Additional copies are

*CVBC Continued on Page 23*



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Serving on the 2021 CVBC board are President Glenna Soenneker, *Mary Kay*, Vice President Lori Johnson, *Root of Wellness*, Secretary Jenny Massmann, *American Heritage Bank*, Social Media and Co-Secretary Alyx Johnson, *Johnson Materials*, Treasurer Eron Bordson, *Clearwater Family Chiropractic*, and board members Angie Simon, *Lake Central Bank*, Jean Schermer, *Lake Central Bank*, and Roger Maleska, *MN Wearables*.

Businesses interested in more information or joining the CVBC are encouraged to contact Glenna Soenneker at [gsoenneker@gmail.com](mailto:gsoenneker@gmail.com) or Jenny Massmann at [JennyM@logbank.com](mailto:JennyM@logbank.com).

"Please patronize and support your local businesses," said VP Lori Johnson. "We're the ones who are there for the community and support the schools, organizations, and events in return."



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## Clearwater Organizations:

*Clearvalleybc@gmail.com*

All former military members are welcome to join our *Clearwater American Legion Post 323* support organization. If you were not in the military, you are still more than welcome to help keep the legion going. Women who would like to support can join our American Legion Auxiliary Unit at 323, and Sons of American Legion invites sons of military members to join and become a member.

Contact Carol Mason 612-812-8065

President Megan Wandersee

[www.clearwater28.com](http://www.clearwater28.com)

Meeting Time: 7:30 pm, 2nd & 4th Wed. (excluding Jan. & Feb.)

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More information at: [www.clearwaterlionismn.com](http://www.clearwaterlionismn.com)

[www.silverbulletsaddleclub.com](http://www.silverbulletsaddleclub.com)

*Organizations continued on page 25*

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The image shows the logo for Hassan Sand & Gravel, which consists of a stylized 'H' inside a square frame. To the right of the logo, the company name 'HASSAN SAND & GRAVEL' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the logo and name, there is a list of products and services: Decorative Rock, Landscape & Drainage Supplies, Screened Topsoil & Garden Mix, Wood Mulches & Chips, All Types of Driveway Aggregates, Synthetic Turf Products, Fieldstone Boulders & Steps, Natural Quarry Stone Products, Rubber Mulches & Landscape Products, Play/Volleyball Mason Sand, Concrete & Asphalt Recycling, Trucking & Skid Loader Services. At the bottom of the image, there is a red banner with white text that reads: 'Clip this ad & save \$20 off your purchase of \$100 or more! Expires 12/30/21'. Below this banner, there is a black banner with white text that reads: 'Open: Mon-Fri 7am - 4pm, Sat: 7am - Noon'. To the right of the text, there are four logos for payment methods: AMEX, VISA, DISCOVER, and MasterCard. At the bottom of the image, there is a red banner with white text that reads: '13530 Willandale Rd. Rogers, MN LARGE SELECTION! 763-428-2393 www.HassanSand.com'.

# Community Organizations

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## Young at Heart:

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1155 Cty. Road 75, Clearwater  
320-558-6851

3rd Thursday of every month for cards. 10:30 am - lunch at noon followed by entertainment or a program. Suggested donation \$5.00.

## Clear Lake Organizations:

### Clear Lake Lions:

P.O. Box 127, Clear Lake, MN 55319  
Meeting on 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm,  
4180 105th Ave., Clear Lake.

The *Clear Lake Lions Club* was formed in 1973 by 26 community oriented individuals. Today, the *Clear Lake Lions Club* is a local community service organization whose members are part of *The International Association of Lions Clubs*, the largest service organization in the world. The Lions motto is "We Serve". Our mission is to serve the needs of our local community through several volunteer projects.

Please contact any Lions member or one of the officers listed on our website. [www.clearlakelionsmn.org](http://www.clearlakelionsmn.org)

### Clear Lake Lionesses:

The *Clear Lake Lionesses* is a non-profit organization of women who support the people of the local area. Our goals include community benefit by aid to the ill, handicapped and financially stressed. We have monthly meetings from March thru November. For more information please call 320-743-3534.



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# Clearwater Fire Dept. receives lightweight turnout gear

By Penny Leuthard, Staff Writer

Clearwater firefighters are more mobile and more comfortable on scene after receiving new, lightweight turnout gear.

The department used CARES Act funds for the purchase, which included 25 sets of coats, pants, and boots. New helmets were also purchased.

Prior to receiving the new gear, firefighters had been wearing jumpsuits to medical calls where they didn't need as much protection, however they were hard to get into quickly.

The new coats and pants are constructed of the same protective outer shell but don't include all of the inside layers traditional fire-fighting turnout gear is made of. They're safe to wear in all situations with the exception of structural fires; during those calls the firefighters will wear their original heavyweight gear.

The new coats are longer for added protection, include all the reflective elements required, and are personalized on the backs with each firefighter's last name for easy identification. Along with allowing firefighters to be more mobile and less burdened down with weight, the coats and pants can be easily washed and dried, a task that is much more difficult with traditional turnout gear.

The newly purchased helmets are also an upgrade. The front of each is personalized with firefighters' names and they're colored coded;



firefighters wear a specific color depending on their rank in the department. Both of these features allow for quick identification during stressful situations where every minute counts.

As an added bonus, the new helmets' protective visors tuck up inside them, a money-saving feature over the old helmets, which flipped up over the top.

"These helmets cost more up front but will be cheaper in the long run," said Fire Chief Ryan Pridgeon. "The visors on the old helmets often get broken when they're flipped up, and they're expensive to replace."

Total cost of the new protective gear was \$33,000. The fire department used their \$30,000 of CARES Act funds for the purchase. The rest of the money was provided by Clearwater Twp., which donated the \$3,000 they had left over from their own CARES Act funds.

The Clearwater Fire Dept. is always looking for firefighters. Anyone who would like to apply is encouraged to stop by city hall to pick up an application.

**FIRE CHIEF RYAN PRIDGEON** dons one of the new turnout gear sets purchased by the Clearwater Fire Dept. with CARES Act funds. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)



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PARTICIPANTS IN THE CLEARWATER LEGION RIDERS Homeless Vets Run gather outside the St. Francis Legion last year. (Submitted Photo)

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THE NEW CLEAR LAKE TWP. HALL opened their doors to their first meeting in November. The address is 7938 116th St. SE in Clear Lake. Final touches to the building and grounds were to be completed over the next several months. Below, members of the American Legion raised a flag upon its grand opening(-Submitted Photos).



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763-765-3000

800-433-5228

[www.co.sherburne.mn.us](http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us)

Sherburne County Sheriff

non-emergency number:

763-765-3500

800-433-5245

Veterans Services:

763-765-3100

800-433-5243

### **Stearns County Government Center:**

705 Courthouse Square

St. Cloud, MN 56303-4701

320-656-3600

[www.co.stearns.mn.us](http://www.co.stearns.mn.us)

Stearns County Sheriff

non-emergency number:

320-259-3700

### **Wright County Government Center:**

10 2nd Street N.W., Buffalo, MN 55313

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[www.co.wright.mn.us](http://www.co.wright.mn.us)

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## Hospitals

### **CentraCare Monticello Hospital:**

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# Fire Departments



## Clearwater Fire & Rescue Department

The *Clearwater Fire & Rescue Department* is here to serve and protect both life and property of the citizens and visitors of the City of Clearwater and Lynden and Clearwater townships.

The *Clearwater Fire & Rescue Department* is structured with a chief, assistant chief, two captains, four lieutenants and 24 fire-fighters. Many of our fire fighters are able to respond during the day due to the flexibility of their employers. Several members live in the townships and carry medical bags and AEDs in their vehicles. This improves our flexibility, shortens our response time and has saved lives.

The *Clearwater Fire & Rescue Department* is prepared to respond to emergency calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In addition to fire suppression, the department provides first responder emergency medical services, vehi-

cle accident extrication as well as water/ice rescue service.

Additionally, many members of our department possess a variety of specialty training so that we may provide the best possible response to the many emergencies that we are called for. We have personnel trained in fire investigation, hazardous materials response and mitigation, etc.

Please 'friend' us on our *Facebook (Clearwater Fire & Rescue, MN)* page to see what the *Clearwater Fire Department* is all about and what we do to be prepared to service our community.



SENIOR LINKAGE LINE

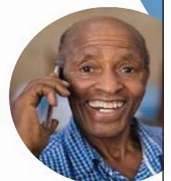
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# Fire Departments



## Clear Lake Fire Department

**2021 CLEAR LAKE FIREFIGHTERS.** Front row, left to right: FF Ben Goenner, FF Regan Johnson, FF Kari Mechtel, FF Jill Lietha, FF Kiel Golly, FF Jason Foradory, FF Travis Malikowski, FF Tyler Marklowitz. Middle row, left to right: FF Logan Draack, Asst. Chief Craig Miller, Captain Colleen Knafla, FF Branden Weis. Back row, left to right: FF Weston Ludwig, FF Nathan Legatt, FF Mathew Davis, Asst. Chief Chad McKay, Fire Chief Ron Koren, Captain Chad Koren, Lieutenant Ryan Leaders, Lieutenant Chad Nelson, Lieutenant Ryan Peterson, Captain, Matt Lunser, Asst. Chief Barry Schuldt, FF Jamie Carr, FF Ross Imholte. Not pictured: Captain Kevin Lietha, FF Harvey Doble, FF Barb Rucks.

The *Clear Lake Fire Department* was established in 1899. Located at 8670 1st Ave West, – 320-743-5638.

*Clear Lake Fire Department* also operates out of our Station 2 located in Palmer, MN. Having this second station allows us to provide faster coverage to all of our coverage area.



**THE CLEAR LAKE Fire Dept's mascot, Leo the Firefighting Dog. (Submitted Photo)**



**MARSHALL KAPROTH gets a hand down after his fire truck ride during the Clear Lake Fire Dept.'s open house in October of 2019. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)**



# Community Events

## Clearwater:

**June 25-26** - Demo Derby at the Clearwater Rodeo grounds  
[www.silverbulletsaddleclub.com](http://www.silverbulletsaddleclub.com) - 6pm

**July** - Veteran, Customer, and Employee Appreciation Day - Annual Patio Party, *Nelson Bros. Clearwater Travel Plaza.*

**July** - Rejoice Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School 6 to 8:30 pm 320-558-6851

**August** - Clearwater Legion Homeless Vets Run

**August** - Clearwater Fire Department Open House

**August** - Church of St. Luke's Vacation Bible School presents Mighty Fortress...In Jesus the Victory is Won! Pre-school age 4 – 6th grade, 6 to 8:30 pm.

**August 20-22, 2021** - 40th Annual Clearwater Rodeo Presented by the Silver Bullet Saddle Club at the Clearwater Rodeo grounds  
[www.silverbulletsaddleclub.com](http://www.silverbulletsaddleclub.com)

**August** - Tri County Alliance Church Vacation Bible School. "The Greatest Show." Call or email to register 320-558-2750  
 - [teachurch@frontiernet.net](mailto:teachurch@frontiernet.net)

**August** - Church of St. Luke's Parish Festival. 10 am Mass with praise and worship music, pork chop dinner, lots of fun for everyone. Festival concludes with the 4 pm raffle. 320-558-2124.

**September** - Golf for Hope  
[www.clearwatertravelplaza.com](http://www.clearwatertravelplaza.com)

**September** - Rejoice Lutheran Church Lutfisk and Swedish Meatball Dinner Fall Festival. Watch for more details or call 320-558-6851.

**October** - Walk for Hope  
[www.clearwatertravelplaza.com](http://www.clearwatertravelplaza.com)

**December** - Kids Christmas Party & Toys For Tots - Clearwater Legion

**December** - Santa on the fire truck/Clearwater Fire Auxiliary. Christmas Central, Clearwater Legion



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## Clear Lake:

**June** - St. Marcus Church Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School, Clear Lake. Ages Pre-K through 5th grade, 9 am to Noon.

**October** - Clear Lake Fire Department Open House

## LOCAL AREA EVENTS

**July** - Wright County Fair - Howard Lake [www.wrightcounty-fair.org](http://www.wrightcounty-fair.org)

**September 11, 2021** - Palmer Day - Always the Saturday after Labor Day.



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- Heritage Days
- Ditch Cleanup
- Clearwater Rodeo

Monthly Meetings the 2nd Tuesday of each month  
7 pm at the Clearwater Lions Pavilion–1100 CR. 75

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# Township Information

## Clear Lake Township:

Township Hall  
Located in Clear Lake City Hall  
email: [clearlaketwp@hotmail.com](mailto:clearlaketwp@hotmail.com)  
website: [www.ClearLakeTownship.org](http://www.ClearLakeTownship.org)

Chairman: Gary Gray	<a href="mailto:cltwpchair@hotmail.com">cltwpchair@hotmail.com</a>
Vice Chair: Bud Stimmler	<a href="mailto:cltwpvicchair@hotmail.com">cltwpvicchair@hotmail.com</a>
Supervisor: Ross Imholte	<a href="mailto:cltwpsupervisorross@hotmail.com">cltwpsupervisorross@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer: Paul Goenner	<a href="mailto:cltwptreasurer@hotmail.com">cltwptreasurer@hotmail.com</a>
Clerk: Peggy Berger	<a href="mailto:clearlaketwp@hotmail.com">clearlaketwp@hotmail.com</a>
Deputy Clerk: Gary Anderson	<a href="mailto:cltwpdeputy@hotmail.com">cltwpdeputy@hotmail.com</a>
Roads/Public Works: T. Vander Eyk	<a href="mailto:cltwproads@hotmail.com">cltwproads@hotmail.com</a>

Monthly township board meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7 pm, *Clear Lake Township Hall*. To request an agenda item, email [clearlaketwp@hotmail.com](mailto:clearlaketwp@hotmail.com)

## Clearwater Township:

Township Hall  
15015 Hwy 24, Clearwater  
320-558-4011  
email: [clearwatertwp@frontiernet.net](mailto:clearwatertwp@frontiernet.net)  
website: [www.clearwatertownship.org](http://www.clearwatertownship.org)

Officers:  
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Vice Chair: Scott Miller  
Supervisor: Rose Thelen  
Clerk: Jean Just  
Treasurer: Cassie Kenning

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<a href="mailto:rosethelen@frontiernet.net">rosethelen@frontiernet.net</a>
<a href="mailto:clearwatertwp@frontiernet.net">clearwatertwp@frontiernet.net</a>

## Briggs Lake Chain Association:

Website: [briggslakechainassociation.com](http://briggslakechainassociation.com)

### Briggs Lake Board Members

Brad Kipp, President, Adele Munsterman, VP, Debbie Stacey, Secretary, Diane Tiegs, Treasurer, Rosalie Musachio, Past President, Debbie Affeldt, Cheryl Larson, Lynn Miller, Roger Miller, Pamela Simonson, Scott Ruiter, Wayne Smith, Karen Jones, Margret Macaulay.

**Elk**  
Debbie Stacey  
Debbie Affeldt  
Wayne Smith  
Margaret Macaulay

**Julia**  
Lynn Miller  
Roger Miller  
Pamela Simonson  
Karen Jones

**Rush**  
Adele Munsterman  
Scott Ruiter

*There are things  
about growing up  
in a small town that  
you can't necessarily  
quantify.  
— Brandon Routh*

## Lynden Township:

Township Hall  
21367 Cty. Road 44, Clearwater  
320-774-8507 (leave message)  
email: [clerk@lyndentownship.net](mailto:clerk@lyndentownship.net)  
website: [www.lyndentownship.net](http://www.lyndentownship.net)

### Township Supervisors

Chairman: Dave Johnson 320-558-4649  
[dave.johnson@lyndentownship.net](mailto:dave.johnson@lyndentownship.net)

Supervisor: Tom Plaggerman 320-266-1561  
[tom.plaggerman@lyndentownship.net](mailto:tom.plaggerman@lyndentownship.net)

Supervisor: Dennis Niemi 320-266-4867  
[dennis.niemi@lyndentownship.net](mailto:dennis.niemi@lyndentownship.net)

Township Clerk: Jenny Schmidt 320-774-8507

Deputy Clerk: Kelli Schuh

Township Treasurer: Jean Schermer 320-241-2738

Deputy Treasurer: Dan Torgerson

## Palmer Township:

Township Hall  
4180 105th Ave, Clear Lake  
320-743-2100

Office Hours: Wednesdays 8 am - 4 pm  
Phone: 320-743-2100  
Fax: 320-743-2100  
email: [palmertwp@gmail.com](mailto:palmertwp@gmail.com)  
website: [palmertownshipmn.org](http://palmertownshipmn.org)

Township Supervisors:  
Mike Ganz 320-743-3479  
Richard Larson 320-743-5320  
Steve Demeules 320-743-4749

Township Clerk:  
Amy Bragelman 320-743-2100

Township Treasurer:  
Roger Johnson 320-743-2792

Palmer Park Pavilion Rental Information, call the Township Hall.



MANY OF CLEARVIEW'S TEACHERS AND STAFF held homemade signs during a parade in their annual end-of-the-year sendoff, telling students they were missed and wishing them well. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)





THE KETTLE IN CLEARWATER permanently closed their doors in February due to the COVID-19 pandemic, state restrictions and lack of employees. (Submitted Photo).



TCA'S LIVE NATIVITY brought the true meaning of Christmas to Clearwater last Christmas. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)



CLEARWATER LIBRARY ASSISTANT TERA FOGAL with some of their Winter Reading Program prizes from January's Winter Reading Program. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)

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MEMBERS OF CLEARWATER SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION and other volunteers collected donations for Clear Valley Toys for Tots last December. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)

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This material was developed, in part, under grant #SP020435 from ONDCP, SAMHSA & HHS.

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# "Open" Signs Take on New Meaning for Small Business Owners

## State Point

More than a year into the pandemic, the "open" sign in countless online and retail storefronts has evolved into a universal symbol of the grit of small businesses. Tenacious entrepreneurs nationwide made a way to stay open in spite of all the obstacles.

As part of an effort to amplify these inspiring stories, Wells Fargo has commissioned three artists to design custom "open" signs for businesses that persevered and is also pointing entrepreneurs to resources that can help.

Dedicated to showcasing



women and diverse voices, illustrator and graphic designer Sophia Yeshi, is paired with Rostography, a woman-owned business based near the Colville Reservation, outside of Seattle. Owner Roxanne Best shifted from in-person yoga and photography classes to outdoor stand-up paddleboarding classes and photography that embodies her love of nature.

Precision Productions, a new rental music studio, was just about to open its doors when the pandemic hit. Optimistic owner Kasey Phillips, who hails from Trinidad and Tobago, pivoted to a hybrid in-person and virtual studio model, never wavering from his plan to expand the music scene and own his first studio. Taking cues from music while paying homage to Phillips's Caribbean roots, Korean-born illustrator Deborah Lee, known for her use of bold, vivid colors, is interpreting how Precision Productions made a way to stay open.

"As an artist, it was rewarding to support not just a small business that stayed open in tough economic conditions, but one that's a platform for creativity," says Lee.

Writer, illustrator, visual artist and community organizer Gabriela Alemán has a passion for helping combat food insecurity. With her comics and pop art aesthetic, she's working to bring the mission of PREP Atlanta to life, which focuses on offering diverse food truck owners and caterers access to a commercial kitchen. During the pandemic, PREP Atlanta was a venue for keeping the city's restaurant and food industry afloat, including for many Black-owned businesses. Aleman will combine her art with a shared dedication to feeding the community as she depicts PREP Atlanta's grit.

This project comes on the heels of the July 2020 announcement of the Wells

*Open to Page 42*

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Fargo Open for Business Fund, a roughly \$420 million small business recovery effort providing grants to nonprofits that serve small business owners. The fund was created by donating all gross processing fees from Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans made in 2020. The company has also committed not to take a profit from the second round of PPP. Overall, the Open for Business Fund is expected to translate into roughly \$1 billion in available financing and 7.5 million hours of technical assistance for small business

owners, helping them close the gap on rent, utilities and employee pay, while accessing expertise to adapt for the future.

To learn more about available support or to download an artistic "Open" sign, entrepreneurs can visit [wellsfargo.com/](https://wellsfargo.com/) together.

"Today 'open' signs represent much more than they used to, embodying the ingenuity required to pivot in this ever-evolving economy," says Jenny Flores, head of Small Business Growth Philanthropy at Wells Fargo. "We are

inspired every day by small business owners pushing through these tough times, particularly those who have been hard hit. This effort aims to shine a light on stories of resilience so entrepreneurs can learn from each other and seek the resources needed to keep their dreams alive."



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# Bob Arnold retires after 32 years of service to Clear Lake

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

When the Clear Lake City Council meets in January, 2021, it will be the first time in 32 years that Bob Arnold won't be there to make motions and participate in the decision-making process.

Since he first ran for election in 1988, Arnold has been a fixture in the City of Clear Lake and a popular, trusted member of the city council. He chose not to run for re-election this year, as he and his wife are moving out of the city and into a new home near the Territory Golf Course in St. Cloud which better suits their needs for the future.

## No Axe To Grind

Arnold, well regarded as a humble public servant with great listening skills, didn't have a particular axe to grind when he first became involved. In fact, it was quite the opposite.

"When I ran for council in 1988, I wanted to be involved in what was going on in the city," recalls Arnold. "Also, my dad, Phil, was a previous mayor and council member and encouraged me as well. He actually passed me his books!"

Thus began his career in local government that has spanned parts of five decades, and has been defined by a tremendous amount of growth in the city he has lived in his entire life, except for a couple of years in the 1970's.

Being a part of that growth is something that Arnold is grateful to have been involved with because of his deep affection for the city itself. It's also what he considers the most enjoyable aspect of his service.

"In the past 30 years the city has doubled its population to over 600 people," says Arnold. "I've enjoyed being a part of the growth of the city that my family and I have called home for five generations."

## Proud Accomplishments

Arnold lists several issues that over the years were the most important to the city and the surrounding communities.



**MAYOR TIM GOENNER (L) presented outgoing council member Bob Arnold with a plaque last December commemorating his 32 years of service to the residents of Clear Lake. (Submitted Photo).**

Some of these include the joint Clear Lake-Clearwater sewage system, the Clear Lake Fire Dept. starting a substation serving the Palmer area, as well as the construction projects involving City Hall, Goenner Pavilion, the maintenance building and upgrading parks.

"While the council directed these efforts, it should be noted that the Lions and Lioness organizations helped to finance these improvements," adds Arnold.

Perhaps the most important issue he worked on was the providing safe water for the residents.

"The city had such high nitrates in the water, it was necessary to find new sources for drinking water," remembers Arnold. "Two new wells have been dug since the original water tower was constructed in the late 70's."

## Leadership

In addition to his successful work on city issues, Arnold has always been highly regarded by city staff members who find his style of governance to be truly collaborative. When staff talk about his leadership, it is easy to understand why he is such a popular figure in

the city.

"Over the years Bob has earned trust by being authentic, displaying empathy for the people of his community and listening to his constituents," says Clerk Kari Mechtel. "All of them, whether he agrees with them or not, and he has always accepted his public service as a privilege."

Former Clerk Marilyn Bujalski sees some of the same attributes that have led to Arnold's success.

"I had the pleasure of serving as city clerk and working with Bob as a city councilman for many years," says Bujalski. "Bob always made decisions based on what would be in the best interest of the residents of the City of Clear Lake."

While city staff think highly of Arnold, his colleagues on the council also heap praise on the man, as he has served as a living, walking encyclopedia of the history of the city, its people and the entire community.

"Experience and knowledge of past events in the city are important and we have been fortunate enough to have Bob contribute these assets the past 32 years," says former Mayor Bill Kiffmeyer.

Current Mayor Tim Goenner has an appreciation for Arnold's demeanor, as well as his dedication to the city.

"It has always been clear to me that Bob loved our city, he took his role as council member and acting mayor seriously, and he did what he believed was right," says Goenner.

## Not Always

### a Bed of Roses

While Arnold says there were many positive aspects to being on council, there were some rough patches as well.

"Several times over the years it was necessary to do the unpopular task of raising taxes to pay for water and sewer improvements," says Arnold, who thinks that keeping an open mind and listening are two important factors to success.

"Many of these improvements were necessary to meet the State of Minnesota standards for water and sewer. Some were in response to growth which is a sign of a healthy city."

As he moves on to another chapter in his life, Arnold demurs from speaking of his

*Arnold to Page 46*



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legacy, but does hope that he has worked well with others and made the city a better place.

"I would like people to look back over the past 32 years and be able to say they had a council that was approachable, listened, and considered the needs of all," says Arnold.

That's probably exactly what his father would have said as well.

#### **In Their Own Words**

Here's what people are saying about the retirement of Bob Arnold from the CL City Council.

"32 years of public service, hundreds of meetings, thousands of phone calls, countless projects and unforgettable memories. Thank you for everything you have done for me, it will never be forgotten, plus I will miss you

walking into a meeting with just a minute to spare. Happy Retirement!" -City Clerk Kari Mechtel.

"I can remember when we would reference past residents names when trying to describe a location within the city which then would confuse those who had no idea what we were talking about. Oh, the good old days. On any given council agenda you would make decisions that would impact several generations on topics ranging from fire protection, budget, taxes, parks, rates, water quality, sewers, road...to name just a few. Thank you for being an outstanding Acting Mayor to myself and to the rest of the community. Best wishes." -Mayor Tim Goenner.

"Bob, through the 11.5 years we served on the council, I appreciated the steadiness

and wisdom you brought to our deliberations. That will be missed. Thank you for your service!" -Dale Powers

"He will be greatly missed on the city council and I sincerely hope he will have a wonderful retirement, and enjoy life to the fullest." -Marilyn Bujalski

"You will be missed, Bob. Thank you for everything you have done for me and the city."

-Public Works Director Dustin Luhnig

"Bob, thank you for all of the years of service you've given to the city and the support you've given to the fire department. The one thing that stands out about you was you were never shy about asking the questions everyone else was afraid to ask. You'll be missed." -Fire Chief Ron Koren

"Thank you for the years of dedication you have given to the City of Clear Lake. It has been a pleasure working with you and I wish you nothing but the best! Take care and enjoy retirement!" - Karen White.

"Thank you Bob for making my first two years on the city council feel so welcoming! I very much appreciated that you were always so willing to explain things and help me when I needed history or clarification on a matter. You have a wonderful perspective when working through issues or topics that always takes the city's residents and the future outlook into consideration! You will be missed. Enjoy your new home! Blessings." -Kristin Brandt



BOATSWAIN'S MATE SEAMAN EVAN SAND, from Clearwater, MN, uses the ship's binoculars to search for contacts on the bridge-wing of the guided-missile destroyer USS Barry (DDG 62) as the ship conducts routine underway operations in the Taiwan Strait. Barry is assigned to Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15, the Navy's largest forward-deployed DESRON and the U.S. 7th Fleet's principal surface force, forward-deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Lieutenant Junior Grade Samuel Hardgrove).



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