



BHHA

WELCOME SPRING 2019!

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF BELL HARBOR HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Letter from the President

Greetings from snowy Minnesota! As I enter my sixth winter since joining the BHHA Board, I wanted to share some observations with our members.

Financially and physically we are in good shape. The board of 2013-2014 directed us to build up our capital improvement and reserve funds, and each successive board since has stayed committed to this path. Additionally, we've done our best to not have to raise dues over the last several years, and I'm pleased to let you know we're not going to raise dues for 2019. All of this has made it possible for us to invest in some long-needed improvements – most of you are familiar with the new paved parking and an increased number of parking spaces throughout the grounds. We've made the docks safer by upgrading the electric equipment and enforcing standards for hoist motors. We've invested in beach improvements, and you'll see more in the future. Most of the street and beach lights have been upgraded. We've added kayak and canoe storage, and we've taken your feedback in order to enhance and expand that storage space in 2019. We've invested in improvements to the emergency fire lanes on both sides of Bell Harbor. We've trimmed, removed, and planted trees. We continue to invest in our aging water infrastructure. We've even painted our iconic bell. We've spent more time discussing trash than you can possibly imagine, and I think we've finally figured out how to best streamline our waste management by utilizing the rollaway dumpsters during each of the three summer holiday weekends – this is actually saving us money.

We're currently preparing to invest a bit in storm drainage and runoff. As we see more and more (welcomed!) home and land improvements, we're unfortunately experiencing more and more water runoff issues. We're actively working with the CLEAR Project to prioritize, price, and plan for high-impact projects that will help us address our own challenges while improving the quality and amount of water that runs directly into Clear Lake.

Finally, thanks to everyone who pitches in and makes Bell Harbor a great community. There are too many of you to name by name, but I'd like to call out both current and past board members and officers, our manager, Jon Wiese, Financial, Social, Dock, and other committee members, and all of you who just pitch in and work to improve something on your own. We couldn't be Bell Harbor without all of your efforts. Please consider serving for a term on the board if you can – we'll have some turnover this coming year.

Take care,

Bryan Ott
President, Bell Harbor Homeowners Association

From Jon Wiese, Manager

As our association members change so does the property. The current inventory of homes offers limited space to do much in the way of expanding. Because of that, some have decided to go underground for their additional square footage. Excellent idea for adding the extra living space but what effect is it having on the area around the property and down the street? That is the question brought up by the Board. Many other questions arise such as: is our under-ground infrastructure capable of handling the extra water flow being caused? What issue is it causing to the streets and is it causing deterioration to be sped up of the asphalt roads? Will yearly maintenance costs go up due to more and more erosion? Is there a possibility of a neighbor's yard flooding or someone's yard at the end of the block where the water will all flow to now? What is your opinion? The topic will surely be on the agenda for the annual meeting.

Earth Day Spectacular: Anyone interested in an Earth Day clean-up day for the Association grounds? Do a little clean-up, maybe plant a few flowers here and there, spend some time with other homeowners getting to know your neighbors? Have a bite to eat and some conversation. Will check back in the spring when it gets closer to Earth day but think about it.

2018 has gone and 2019 is upon us. Last season seemed to start and finish in a blink of the eye because of the crazy weather. Looking ahead to the new year. Invoices will be out by mid-January or by the printing of this newsletter you will have already received them. Association dues are staying the same, but the boat slips have increased.

We will be taking advantage of the cold weather this winter to move some of the large boulders from around the new parking area at the lodge to the sea wall. These boulders will be placed in the lake in front of the seawall to help break up the waves before they reach the wall in an effort to prevent some of the erosion and damage to the wall. We will continue to add rocks and boulders over the year. Possibly asking for donations (rocks only) from our homeowners if you have some on some local property you wouldn't mind adding to the wall.

Spring will soon be here, we hope, and with that the landscaping around the lodge parking will be completed along with the seeding of grass around the other new parking areas. The catch basin on the West side of the beach area will be re-shaped (CLEAR PROJECT) and made smaller. The West side of the basin will be cleared to make it level for the new improved expanded version of kayak/paddle board rack area. Also, there has been issue with the beach access to the water. We plan to clear an area in the rocks to install steps and railings that lead from the beach to the water's edge.

Have a safe winter.
Jon

Dr. Keith Thayer

With great sadness, we share with you the loss of Dr. Keith Thayer, a longtime resident of Bell Harbor on December 18, 2018 in Iowa City.

In 1953, Keith married Nancy Delahooke in Charles City, Iowa. Keith graduated from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and served on the University of Iowa Dental Faculty for 37 years retiring in 1993. He lectured widely around the world for over 40 years. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting antelope in Wyoming and pheasants in Iowa. He felt privileged to have climbed Mr. Kilimanjaro (Tanzania, Africa).

In retirement he and Nancy took several volunteer-in-mission trips through the church doing construction and dentistry. These trips were both in and out of the country.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; and their sons, Gregory, Scott (Nina Rollow), and Bradley (Diane), two grandchildren, Zachary and Gina, plus several nephews and a niece. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister June Calhoun, son James, and daughter-in-law Stefanie Thayer.

Construction Project Reminder

For those of you who are planning construction projects, please know that they need to be approved by the Property committee. Get your application and see sample projects on our Web page before you start any construction.

What's Happening!

Do not forget about all of the things to do in Clear Lake during the year. "Like Us" on Facebook to stay informed of Bell Harbor happenings and follow the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce for community events. I will try to keep posting the upcoming events on there and if you sign-up for the chambers e-mail updates you will receive weekly e-mails with everything happening at the lake for that week. It is great during the summer also to get reminders of all of the special events that happen that you might not be aware of.

Homeowner Information Updates

Do not forget to keep Jon updated on any address changes, phone number changes or e-mail changes so I can update your files.

Thank You Everyone!

Garbage Area

Reminder that last year surveillance signs and painted instructions on the concrete stating, "NO DUMPING," and, "NO LARGE ITEMS." This means that we are watching for illegal dumping that includes trash that does not fit into a dumpster and items left on top of the dumpster lids. For easier access to the dumpsters, simply open the gate in front of any dumpster to get closer. Please also inform your children who do the trash chores about this as they have been observed mixing recyclables with garbage and leaving bags on top of dumpsters. It's a messy business that is no fun to clean up. Thank you for being a good neighbor!

No Burning

Just a reminder, Bell Harbor does not allow burning of leaves or refuse at any time during the year. For your convenience, please dispose of your yard waste in a brown yard waste bag and place it on the street edge near your property. The bell harbor manager will see that it is taken to the green waste center for recycling.



Knoer Lodge Rental Information

Knoer Lodge will be opening for the season starting
March 1, 2019
For Rental Prices please go to...
www.bellharborhomeowners.com.

Fun News to Share... Did You Know

ONLY IN YOUR STATE is a newsletter that highlights many of the hidden sites, restaurants, parks, stories and historic areas to see in the State of Iowa. This was an article in one of the December issues and we thought it would be fun to share. To subscribe to the free newsletter just email newsletter@onlyinyourstate.com



The Most Criminally Overlooked Town in Iowa And Why You Need To Visit

Iowa is brimming with amazing towns just waiting to be discovered. Tucked away in north-central Iowa is a charming little lake town that may be overlooked, but it's definitely worth discovering. Clear Lake is easily one of the most underrated cities in the state, and a true hidden gem. Here's why you need to visit.

This charming lake town has a population of 7,777, making it small enough to comfortably get around, and big enough to have plenty of sights to see.



First, pay a visit to Clear Lake State Park and take in the sights. Whether you want to take a stroll around the lake or just explore the hiking trails, there's so much natural beauty to take in. If the weather is nice, there's a great beach where you can swim. You can also take part in water recreation, like fishing and water skiing. There's also a beautiful campsite if you want to spend the weekend.



Another fun lake activity is taking a lake cruise on Lady of the Lake. They offer public cruises, so you can enjoy being on the water and taking in the scenery. To learn more about cruises, call 641-357-2243. Once you've visited the lake, head downtown for some shopping and sightseeing. You can explore the charming shops downtown, or just stroll around town and just take in the local flavor. Stop for lunch at Starboard Market. This amazing restaurant offers delectable sandwiches, soups, salads and baked goods to die for. 310 Main Ave., Clear Lake, IA.



Once you've refueled, pay a visit to the Central Gardens of North Iowa. Here, you can wander around the grounds, soak in the beauty and enjoy the calm, reflective atmosphere. 800 Second Ave. North, Clear Lake, IA. No trip to Clear Lake would be complete without a visit to the monument where the music died, a piece of rock & roll history. After Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson performed at the Surf Ballroom, their plane crashed, killing all of the passengers onboard. You can visit the field where the crash occurred, as well as the Surf Ballroom where the legendary performance was held. Located at 460 North Shore Dr., Clear Lake, IA.

Other interesting topics in a recent newsletter:

The Award-Winning Dutch Bakery In Iowa That's Known For Its Old-Fashioned Ways
 The Oldest Church In Iowa Dates Back To The 1860s And You Need To See It

Next Board Meeting

The next scheduled board meeting will be Saturday, March 23, at 8:00 a.m. in the association office. If there are topics that you would like us to discuss, please contact any board member or Jon before March 1, 2019.

Like the [Bell Harbor Homeowner's Association page](#) on Facebook to follow what is happening in Bell Harbor anytime from your computer, tablet, or smart phone.



Please contact the manager if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns for anything in Bell Harbor. Jon can be reached at the office, (641) 357-2085 or email bellharborhome@gmail.com

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