

BELLE PLAINE TOWN NEWS AND EVENTS

Electrical substation brings \$\$ to town

New lake to be formed at sand pit

Dump trucks, 25 of them, have been rolling 12 hours a day for several weeks, delivering sand fill for a \$9 million electrical substation in the Town of Belle Plaine. The delivery of 100,000 to 125,000 cubic yards, according to Mike Gonnering, owner of Cloverleaf Sand & Gravel, is enough sand to cover five acres, 24 feet deep, and fill between 7,800 and 8,000 trucks.

The trucks have been moving from his sand pit on Pioneer Road, up County Y and Highway 22 to the construction site. That area, which adjoins the present smaller substation, contained 40 acres of trees, which were logged. The stumps were uprooted and trucked back to Cloverleaf Sand & Gravel, where they are buried.

Gonnering plans to turn the pit into a 20-acre lake with home sites once the sand is removed.

“There will be hills and rugged terrain,” he said, with fish planted in the lake. The new lake will be just west of Cloverleaf Lakes.

Shawano County and the Town of

Belle Plaine have been compensated for the environmental impact, according to Franc Fennessy, director of land management and stakeholder affairs for American Transmission Co. The town received about \$750,000 in a lump sum, with additional annual payments coming in over the 40-year life of the transmission lines.

The money must be used for environmental projects, Fennessy said. The 1999 law states the payments can be used “only for parks, conservation, wetlands and similar environmental uses,” he said. An exception was added in 2003, he said, for local governments that could not spend all the money on the environment, but those uses must be approved by the state Public Service Commission.

Belle Plaine Town Chairman Alvin Bartz said the Town Board has not yet decided how to spend the American Transmission windfall. It has invested the money until decisions are made.

The substation will have large circuit breakers that protect the transmission lines from outages and lightning strikes, Fennessy said. Belle Plaine is the spot where two new power lines intersect.

Town officials

- Alvin Bartz**, chairman
- Harold Polzin**, supervisor
- Robert Tomashek**, supervisor
- Kristine Vomastic**, clerk
- Kay Kristof**, treasurer
- Dennis Hoffman**, constable

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A loader fills a dump truck with sand at Cloverleaf Sand & Gravel. Many loads have been delivered to the substation site on Highway 22.

B.P. Notebook

New restaurant: Construction is under way on AMICOS restaurant next to the Comfort Inn & Suites at Highways 29 and 22. The Hutter family operates AMICOS restaurants in Bonduel and Pulaski, featuring gourmet pizza, hoagies and pasta. The restaurant will seat 200 with a dining room, bar and banquet room. It will employ 25 to 30 people.

Town budget: Chairman Alvin Bartz expects the budget and tax rate to be similar to the 2007 figures, with a state limit of a 3.86 percent increase in property taxes. The largest item in the town budget is road maintenance, costing about \$325,000. The roads to be repaired will be determined in April when the Town Board members tour the town roads. "We have the best roads around," Bartz said.

Maple Lane: The Shawano County Board has halted any attempt to move the Fairgrounds to the Maple Lane area in Belle

Plaine, which includes the Maple Lane Health Care Center. Proposals had been floated to move the fairgrounds out of Shawano, as well as moving the Historical Society and the Sheriff's Department. The County Board decided to keep all in their present locations. The Belle Plaine board sent a letter to the county opposing moving the fairgrounds to Maple Lane.

Gypsy moths: Egg masses and gypsy moths have been spotted in parts of Belle Plaine. Spray with Golden Pest Spray Oil to suffocate the eggs. Spray in late fall through early April when the temperature is above 40 degrees. The moths' favorite trees are alder, aspen, white birch, oak, willow, apple, tamarack and witch hazel.

If you need help in identifying or controlling gypsy moths, the town's contact is Glenn Vander Linden.



Town clerk's hours:

5-7 p.m. Monday and Thursday; 9-11 a.m. Saturday or by appointment

Regular Town Board meetings:

Second Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

Committees:

Planning, Zoning, Gibson Island Stewardship

What permits are required:

Building, liquor license, operator's license, zoning, and oak wilt

How to get

permits: Contact town clerk or the town chairman. In some cases, Shawano County also issues special permits.

Population

estimate: 1,910



A Shawano County Highway Department truck paints white stripes along the side of Cloverleaf Lake Road. A donation from the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe paid for the safety measure on several town roads.

Stockbridge donation paints stripes on town roads

A \$10,000 grant from the Stockbridge-Munsee band of Mohicans provided funds for a Town of Belle Plaine road safety project.

The shoulders of several town roads were painted with a white stripe. That helps drivers navigate on dark nights, including emergency vehicles, Town Chairman Alvin Bartz said.

"We chose roads that were direct routes to somewhere, including the Shawano hospital," he said. "We'll try to do more in the future."

Sections of roads that were striped included Cloverleaf Lake, Grass Lake, Belle Plaine, Spruce, Friendship and Rosebrook. Shawano County road crews did the work.

Summer fun at fair, car show



At left, Ken Kosakowski and Craig Korth, of the Belle Plaine 4-H Club, showed their dairy goats at the Shawano County Fair. Above, Town Supervisor Bob Tomashek waits on a customer at the Shawano Rural Firemen food stand, which included Belle Plaine, Richmond and Waukechon.

Recycling rules

Here is a summary of rules for the Transfer Station on Cloverleaf Lake Road.

- Winter hours start week of Nov. 12: Saturdays, 8 a.m-5 p.m.; Wednesdays, 12:30-4:30 p.m.
- Put garbage in clear plastic bags.
- Recycle plastics marked 1 through 7; glass containers, steel cans, aluminum, paper and cardboard.
- Not accepted are appliances, tires, cement, porcelain, medical waste, engine fluids.
- Bring TVs, computers and microwave ovens to the Transfer Station on the first Saturday of the month for no-fee disposal.
- Shawano's landfill accepts items not taken here, for a fee.



At left, Tracy Ray and Jim Ray, both of Shawano, check under the hood of a 1953 Chevrolet owned by Bill Schoenike of Shawano at the summer car show at Maple Lane Health Care Center in Belle Plaine. Above, a boy looks at a "passenger" in the 1967 Corvette Roadster owned by Doc's Harley Davidson of Bonduel. The car show raises money for the residents of Maple Lane.

Book will chronicle town's 150 years

Happy birthday to us!

Belle Plaine will celebrate 150 years as a town in 2008. Let's start the party.

First up will be a history book, *Treasures in Time*, compiled by Marcalene Rosenow and published by the Shawano County Historical Society.

Special events during the year will include a Heritage Night, tentatively scheduled for February, a display at the Maple Lane Health Care Center's annual car show in July and an exhibit at the Shawano County Fair in August. Details of those events will be announced later.

Marcalene Rosenow has been collecting items of town history, including photos, news clippings and recollections of town residents. Many of the old photos are on display at the Community Center. She's taking it a step further with the book, in collaboration with Darlene Heller, the Historical Society's archive director.

"This type of work is not new to Marcalene, as she has been actively representing Belle Plaine history since 2001 when the county first asked each township to choose someone to represent the town for the Shawano County Sesquicentennial celebration," Heller said. The county's 150th anniversary was celebrated with a 2003 display at the fair.

Rosenow said 70 to 80 residents had contributed photos or stories to the book. Family photos are scanned electronically and returned to their owners. "I thank the people who so willingly shared their stories, newspaper articles and photos to retain our rich history," Rosenow said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn and appreciate the rich history of Belle Plaine."



Darlene Heller, left, and Marcalene Rosenow go through a box of historical photos and stories. They are preparing a book on Belle Plaine's 150 years as a town.

Although she grew up in Waupaca County, Rosenow has been involved in Belle Plaine activities for a half-century, including helping her husband Ken, who was treasurer of the town for 50 years until last spring.

Heller said the Historical Society has already compiled photos and information about the county's schools, churches and cheese factories for annual displays at the county fair. "This is the most comprehensive town history" in Shawano County, she said.

Rosenow is hoping publication is ready for Christmas orders. Limited space means not everything that has been collected will be in the book, she said. "The history will be retained on discs (at the Historical Society), even if it's not in the book," she said. Proceeds will benefit the Society.



Book cover design by Kay Kristof

How to get the book

The Belle Plaine sesquicentennial book will be available starting the first week of December for \$15. Copies will be available by mail for \$20, including shipping and handling. The Belle Plaine 4-H Club will do holiday wrapping if requested.

Locally, the book will be sold at

the Community Center Mondays and Thursdays from 5-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-11 a.m. It will be available at the Shawano County Historical Society Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and at the Associated Bank in Embarrass during office hours.

Contact Marcy Rosenow, 526-2588, or the Community Center, 524-2690, for more information.

Excerpts from Belle Plaine: Treasures in Time

(Recollections by Emil Kriewaldt)

I was five years old when some folks encouraged Gilbert (Emil's father) to run for town clerk. Being town clerk would, of course, mean that Loretta would be totally involved also. They agreed to run and I could sense the nervous anticipation as Election Day approached. Dad was elected and our lives took on new and varied duties.

The dining room table became a much-used desk, work area and conference table. A large heavy black safe took its place in one of the rear rooms. The tax rolls and important documents were routinely placed inside, the door closed with a thud, and the dial spun.

On at least one evening each month the Town Board would meet around the large dining room table. I recall being in awe of the important men who arrived those evenings. Art Schultz, Ed Redman, and Theodore Bart are the names I remember. Mother would always know where anything was should the Board need some information. She would also provide some very nice snacks or dessert.

The really busy time of the year was preparing the tax rolls. I think this influenced me in becoming a math teacher. Dad, Mother



Gilbert Kriewaldt served as town clerk for 35 years from 1935 to 1970, with help from his wife, Loretta.

and I would change off reading the numbers and operating the adding machine. I enjoyed punching in the numbers and pulling the lever. Each page had to be verified by adding the vertical columns, the horizontal columns, and then adding those totals to get matching grand totals. Matching brought smiles. It was a moment of great joy when the entire rolls came out to the penny.

One of the onerous duties befalling us was paying the bounties on the rats and gophers brought in by township residents. Sometimes an estimate or accepting the count of the bounty hunter was the prudent and less odorous way to go.

Dance at lake

On Sunday evening, September 2, a dance will take place at the People's Park and Resort on Cloverleaf Lakes. The Biel Girls Orchestra of Beaver Dam has been engaged to furnish the music and a good time is promised to all who attend. —Clintonville Tribune Gazette, Aug. 13, 1917



The W.J. Krause Cheese Factory was one of many in the Town of Belle Plaine during its early days.



Belle Plaine Calendar

Nov. 12: Town Board, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 19: Budget hearing, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 10: Town Board, 7:30 p.m.

Jan 14: Town Board, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 31: First half of taxes due

Feb. 2: Clover Bares Fishing Derby, Cloverleaf Lakes

Feb. 11: Town Board, 7:30 p.m.

March 10: Town Board, 7:30 p.m.

April 14: Town Board, 7:30 p.m.

Did you know?

The town contracts with Shawano County to plow snow. Town Chairman Alvin Bartz said he orders plowing if two inches or more falls. Less than two inches or on weekends, "we see if the weather can help us" by melting the snow, he said. The crews use sand on hills, curves and intersections. Less salt is used on roads near the lakes.

It's time to hunt for muskies on Cloverleaf Lakes

By Bob Tomashek

The boating season is nearing its end, but that does not mean that the activity on the lakes is stopped. Now until ice is on the Lakes is muskie season and most of the fishermen you will see on the lakes are fishing for muskies. The legal size muskie to keep is 40 inches. A year ago, the largest muskie to get caught that I knew of was 50 inches. That is a big fish.

The public boat launch on Grass Lake belongs to the Town and it is the Town's responsibility to keep it operational. Two years ago, we started charging to launch a boat, \$2 for Belle Plaine residents and \$3 for non-residents. Each year we collected just over \$5,000 and it looks like this year will be the same. The money is used to pay half of the boat monitor's salary (\$2,500) and the other half is used to pay other expenses such as rental on the porta-potty. The boat launch is self-sustaining. The other half of the boat monitor's salary comes from a state grant. If you divide \$5,000 by the \$3 and \$2 fee, you have about 1,800 boats coming onto the lake through the boat launch. Then ice comes on the lake and the ice shanties are normally taken on the lake through the boat launch. This can be a very busy place but one that gives a lot of people enjoyment.



Above, some of the 160 participants in the Cloverfest Run/Walk walk past Round Lake on Oct. 7. Below, swimmers dive into Pine Lake in the Tri Cloverleaf Lakes triathlon held Sept. 1.



Water quality improving, stuff is selling on Long Lake

By Ken Sojka

Friends, on Long Lake we are continuing to have fun with a little work thrown in and some naps are taken now and then. The good news is our lake biologist finds the water quality on the lake is improving. It was not bad to start with. It's a tribute to the care most residents give the lake.

Well, we did it! We liked it. We did it again! We were good at it. It felt good. We had fun doing it. We did it again and again! We sold stuff during the Long Lake Garage Sale Extravaganza held on Memorial Day weekend. (shame on you if you thought we were doing anything else) the holiday weekend (except for one day) brought lots of people out. However, there were plenty of family activities also, which seemed to limit lake residents' participation. You name it, we probably sold it: Clothes, guns, furniture, toys, jewelry, appliances, fishing equipment, gardening

plants, electronics, etc., etc., all at unbelievably low prices. Why, one couple even got into such a selling frenzy, they started giving stuff away.

I heard rumors (not sure they're true) some of the ladies took my suggestion and gave away kisses for every \$10 of sales. (or maybe they just had too many margaritas.) We gave the margaritas away free (just kidding). I tried to give out kisses, but every time I held out my arms, the women ran away screaming. Really hurt my ego.

Are we going to do it again? We're not telling ... yet... if we do, you all are invited to come and buy some of the best bargains around and maybe even have some margaritas.

The Packers are winning. The Brewers were almost in the playoffs. Fish are jumpin'. Life is good.

Sojka is editor of the Long Lake Property Owner's Association Newsletter.

Town committee tackles planning, zoning issues

By Ed Stuebe

The Town of Belle Plaine is in the process of putting together a Comprehensive Plan by a group of volunteers from the town. All meetings are open to the public. Committee members are: Alvin Bartz, Chairman, Harold Polzin, Bob Tomashek, Greg Riesenberg, Heather Krueger, Tom Laude and Ed Stuebe.

This Comprehensive Plan (Smart Growth) is mandated by state law. It must be done and in place by 2010 and consists of the following elements: Issues and opportunities, including goals, objectives and forecasts for the next 20 years.

Areas include agriculture, natural and cultural resources; land use; transportation; utilities and community facilities; housing; economic development; intergovernmental cooperation; implementation.

Since the first meeting in March of 2006, the committee has explored “what do you value about your community” and “what are the key trends facing your community?”

Belle Plaine issues include the Transfer site (dump), compost site, Wolf River Treatment Plant, Maple Lane Nursing Home, the electric substation on Highway 22, the two church camps, Sandy Beach, Steig property and Gibson Island.

Some goals we felt were important. Reinforce zoning for “Prime Agriculture,” cluster new home growth, review zoning ordinances regarding “land use,” designate areas to be used for “light industry” and

“commercial.” We would like to minimize zoning conflicts with other municipalities by communication and cooperation. We identified one area of light commercial that might be expanded slightly (Highway 22 and north of Cloverleaf Lake Road). Some other items discussed were more white lines on select roads in the town, do some crack filling on roads using chip seal and to identify “uncontrolled intersections.” We discussed the possible extension of the sanitary sewer near the Round Lake area. We will also revisit Highways 29/22 zoning.

We have been working on a “vision statement” for our town. This is not finalized as yet, but is something like this:

“We envision that the area will remain a family oriented, rural community striving to preserve its agricultural heritage, pastoral setting, and natural resources, including ground and surface water, woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife. The Town will manage growth which will lead to appropriate development to meet various housing needs and allow for potential commercial development.”

Our meetings in 2007 have been structured around land use. We are making sure zoning maps are correct and are also considering asking for changes to assist us in keeping Belle Plaine the way residents want it.

Our town focused on possible annexation issues involving the City of Shawano.

Projections are that our Comprehensive Plan will be done by fall of 2008.



The Oak Wilt Fungus Control Ordinance prohibits cutting and pruning oak trees between April 1 and Oct. 1 of each year without a written permit. Transporting any oak wood or bark infected with oak wilt fungus into the town is prohibited for one year following cutting of the wood. Upon application for a permit with proper written statement of a certified forester, the clerk may issue a permit to cut a tree.

Did you know?

Residents should check with both the town and the Shawano County Planning and Development Department to see if permits are needed before beginning any construction. There are town and county regulations on structures, setbacks from roads or lakes and other requirements.



Town Chairman Alvin Bartz, left, accepts a framed print of a Gibson Island sunset from Jim Aumann, a member of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association board. The CLPA donated the print, made from a painting by lake resident Dan Bleck, to the town to hang in the Community Center.

Belle Plaine Community Center
N3002 St. Hwy. 22
Clintonville, WI 54929

From Alvin Bartz **Town chairman's corner**

There are several areas I would like to cover in our third newsletter.

In the past, we have contracted to blacktop private driveways through the Shawano County Highway Department. This was a considerable savings to the home owners. The county will discontinue this practice because of a legal battle with independent contractors.

The county has adopted an ordinance requiring changing emergency numbers by your driveway to a flag-style sign that is lettered on both sides and is placed perpendicular to the roadway. This should help in locating your residence from either direction. We are currently in the process of selecting a design and color. There will be specific rules on where the post is placed in relation to your driveway.

We have been having some problems with the placing of minor buildings such as garden sheds or



gazebos. In the past, we have not required a permit. However, side yard and road setbacks must be maintained, as well as minimum water setbacks in the case of lake lots. The county does require a permit if you are within 1,000 feet of a lake or 300 feet from a river.

Currently, we are in the budget process for 2008. I expect the tax rate to be about the same as last year. We have worked to secure outside funding such as room taxes, boat launch fees and, the past two years, gaming funds from the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe of Mohican Indians, to do some of the things we probably would not do if they were on the tax rolls.

The winter driving season will soon be upon us. Take a little extra time and keep it safe out there, especially during the holiday season.