



# BELLE PLAINE NEWS & EVENTS

Fall 2010

## Grant helps fund boating projects

Boaters on Cloverleaf Lakes will benefit by construction of two concrete boat ramps at the boat launch site on County Highway Y. Also planned is construction of a parking lot for up to 20 vehicles with boat trailers across the street from the boat launch on what is known as the Stieg property.

The Town of Belle Plaine will receive a state grant covering 45 percent of the estimated \$52,000 cost of the project.

The DNR's Wisconsin Waterways Commission awarded \$23,655 toward the estimated cost of \$52,566. Town Supervisor **Dennis Thornton** wrote the grant application and appeared before the Commission in Sturgeon Bay in August to present the town's case.

Currently, there is no boat ramp at the launch site and some

boaters have difficulty launching their craft. The ramps will be on either side of the present pier, which will be moved to the center for easier access. There is one regular parking space and one handicapped-accessible space on either side of the boat monitor shed, with other vehicles and trailers parking on the shoulder of County Y. Town Chairman **Alvin Bartz** said he has had concerns about safety in that area, with boaters, children and dogs darting into traffic.

The parking area would be south of the current snowmobile trail and a wetlands area, with a 50-foot wooded buffer area along the road. There would be a walking trail to the boat launch area.

The town's share of funding would come from the American Transmission Co. money that compensated the town for high-voltage lines and a substation built on Highway 22. The funds must be used for environmental projects.

Another part of the project, although not covered by the state grant, is developing a park on the 10-acre Stieg property. A picnic shelter is under construction atop the hill on that property on Round Lake Drive, overlooking Round Lake.

**Mike Nelson's** crew cleared out brush and dead trees, poured concrete for the 30-foot by 50-foot open air structure, and plans to finish construction soon. Bathrooms and a water line have been roughed in, but would added in the future. Picnic tables and other amenities are planned.



Longtime Belle Plaine resident Betty Retzlaff is superintendent of antiques at the Shawano County Fair. More photos, page 5.

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## 250 compete at Cloverleaf Triathlon

A record 250 athletes turned out to compete in the fourth annual Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon on Sept. 4.

Centered at the Rustic Resort, the event included a swim, bicycle ride and run at various distances. Proceeds went to the Clintonville Area Swim Team, headed by **Mary and Lee Wetzel**. The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association was a co-sponsor and benefited from the raffle of a pair of Green Bay Packers tickets.



Swimmers start their Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon in Pine Lake.

# Bridge building will alter traffic patterns next year

By Alvin Bartz

We are wrapping up blacktopping and shouldering for 2010. The projects were nearly complete by the end of August.

Plans for the new bridge on Highway 22 north of Highway 29 into Shawano are still on schedule to begin construction in the spring of 2011. Traffic will be closed in the construction area and

## Belle Plaine chairman's message

alternate routes will need to be taken to go into Shawano.

We have a number of walk/run events in September in the lakes area. Please use caution when driving while these events are in progress.

Area farmers were challenged by the weather this year, dealing with the heavy rainfall since Memorial Day. And now the hot, windy weather is ripening the corn and soybeans very quickly.

Farmers with machinery as well as drivers of automobiles need to be alert during this busy time on the roads to ensure a safe harvest season.

Town budget time is approaching quickly. I expect we will be able to hold the line with the town budget for our local tax levy.

If you missed entering items at the fair in 2010, try entering in 2011. The fair is always a great event to meet your friends and neighbors.

## School tax levies to rise

Belle Plaine residents in both the Shawano and Clintonville school districts will face increases in equalized tax levies.

Shawano School District voters approved a 5 percent increase for the 2010-11 school year on a 77-51 vote. The levy will increase by \$571,592. Depending on the equalized valuation, that will mean an estimated 48 cents per \$1,000 increase.

Clintonville Public School District residents approved an increase of nearly 11 percent of \$6,754,113, up from \$6,087,987 last year. The estimated rate will be \$12.17 per \$1,000, up from \$10.94.

## Belle Plaine town notebook

Wisconsinites will go to the polls in September and November to choose among candidates for state and federal offices. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at the Belle Plaine Community Center for the primary election.

Winners will appear on the ballot in the general election Tuesday, Nov. 2, with Belle Plaine's polls open the same hours.

\* Winter hours for the Collection and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road will begin Oct. 1 and run through May 1. Regular hours are Wednesdays from noon to 5 p.m.; and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Monday morning collection hours

end the week of Oct. 1.

\* Constable **Dennis Hoffmann** reminds people dropping off unwanted dogs or strays at his residence to not leave them there unattended if he is not home. Hoffmann picks up stray dogs, cares for them and tries to find them new homes. He also issues dog licenses.

\* The Belle Plaine Men's Card Group will meet on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. until noon from now on. Organizer **Ed Stuebe** says, "We have been playing Sheepshead for the past year and would welcome any new players. Remember—we play for chips and bragging rights only (no money) and do not allow politics during card playing hours." If you have any questions, please call Stuebe at 823-2682.

### Belle Plaine officials

Alvin Bartz, chairman

Harold Polzin, supervisor

Dennis Thornton, supervisor

Kristine Vomastic, clerk

Kay Kristof, treasurer

Dennis Hoffmann, constable

Newsletter editor: Dennis Thornton



Belle Plaine Community Center

N3002 St. Hwy. 22

Clintonville, WI 54929

(715) 524-2690

### **Town clerk's hours:**

5-7 p.m. Monday; 8:30-11 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

**Population estimate:** 1,910

# Mother Nature fills our lakes to capacity

By Dennis Thornton

Rain, rain stay away. We had more than enough in this tropic-like summer.

Fortunately, water levels are receding on Cloverleaf Lakes after nearly 10 inches of rain in July and six inches in June. That had waves splashing over piers and some boats stranded in boat lifts. Nobody was happy. Still, it's interesting to remember that in July, just a year ago, less than an inch of rain fell and some boaters were complaining about low water levels.

The lake association has been proactive in its limited role during these stormy months. Here are some things we've done:

—Kept the town-owned dam on Rustic Drive open. In fact, it hasn't been closed since last fall. The CLPA is committed to keeping the dam open as long as the water level is above 72 inches, as measured below the culvert on Highway Y. Scott Koehnke, water management specialist for the DNR, said, "You are absolutely correct that you are doing all that you are required to do by law by keeping the dam open during high water events."

—Hired the Shawano County Sheriff's Department for water patrols at overtime pay. The periodic water patrols are aimed at preventing reckless boating on the lakes. One of the new laws that they are enforcing is the slow no-wake within 100 feet of the shore (as well as other boats and piers). The town and lake association also asked for voluntary slow no-wake on Pine and Grass

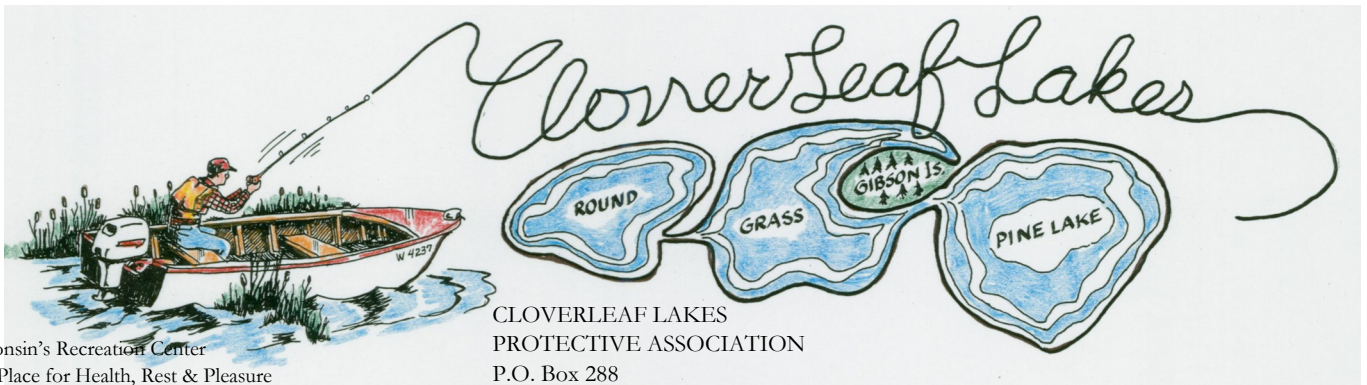
## CLPA president's message

Lakes, during the highest water level period in July, to slow down some of the big boats and help prevent shoreland erosion.

—Encouraged shoreland restoration. The CLPA obtained a DNR grant and also has been providing matching funds for property owners who install buffer zones and rain gardens with native plants. That does two things: the deep roots prevent shoreland erosion and the plants soak up rain and prevent excessive runoff into the lakes. That could be a long-term solution.

The CLPA has no authority or control downstream from Rustic Drive. Private individuals have helped speed the flow of water by removing a beaver dam and clearing vegetation. The beavers have since rebuilt their dam.

\* The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association will be updating its Directory this fall and winter, with publication expected early in 2011. The book includes names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mails for lake residents. It is available free of charge to dues-paying CLPA members or for \$25 a copy. It features information about the community and town, maps of the lakes and advertisements for local establishments. It is updated every three years. Anyone wishing to advertise can contact a CLPA board member.



Wisconsin's Recreation Center  
The Place for Health, Rest & Pleasure  
CLPA incorporated in 1936

CLOVERLEAF LAKES  
PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 288  
Embarrass, WI 54933-0288

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

*"Preserving our lakes for future generations"*

### Board of Directors

**Dennis Thornton**, President

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# Parades, art show, golf highlight summer on lakes



Steve Joosten wears the colors at the Kiddie Parade on July 3. Steve and Molly Joosten are organizers of the annual event, which featured 160 kids.

Summer fun had fireworks popping, golfers swinging, kids and pontoons parading and artists showing their wares on Cloverleaf Lakes.

Fourth of July organizers **Steve and Molly Joosten** presided over more than 160 youngsters in the annual Kiddie Parade, then a dozen boats paraded that night. First place in the Pontoon Parade went to the **Romberg** family, second was the **Gribsbach** entry and third went to the **McManns**.

Steve Joosten thanked **Mike and Patty Fletcher** of Fletch's Corner Store for donating ice cream treats, **Barry Hosking** for distributing the treats to Kiddie Parade participants, **Paula Bleck** for handing out trinkets and the judges for the Pontoon Parade. Of course, the Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association led by **Mike Nelson** put on the aerial show.

A new event, Cloverleaf's Art by the Lake, brought a huge crowd to Buzz and Mac's the next day. **Marv Letven** and **Meghan Krueger** organ-

ized the event for the CLPA.

The CLPA Golf Outing, which raised about \$7,000 to benefit lake protection efforts, was led by **Jim Aumann** and **Kurt Popp**. The association recognized Popp for 13 years of work on the event with a plaque and a golf club.

Winners were the **Mike Fletcher** foursome in the men's category and the foursome led by **Stan Kleiss** for the mixed group. Hole sponsors included Wright Auto Parts, Janet Wickman, Torborg's Lumber of Clintonville and Shawano, Klein Auto, Co-Vantage, Fletch's Corner Store, Zimdars Hardware, Dennison Retail Lumber, Associated Bank, Mike Nelson Services, Pine Manor, Buzz and Mac's, M&I Bank, Steinke Auto, Wanezck & Jaekels, and Yaeger AMSoil.

Leading off the summer was the Carp Capture event. **Ryan Bevernitz** placed first and **Erik Wolff** was second, with 10 entries. The effort removed 34 carp from the lakes.



The Romberg family created the winning entry in the July 3 Pontoon Parade.



Spectators check out some of the paintings and photography at the Cloverleaf's Art by the Lake event.



Max Wilde, Dick Thurow and Lori Martin load their golf carts and get set to tee off in the Golf Outing at Clintonville Riverside Golf Course.



Jim Aumann, left, presents a plaque of appreciation to Kurt Popp for his 13 years of helping to organize the CLPA Golf Outing.



Geno Johnson is the proud owner of the original eagle painting by Dan Bleck. He was the high bidder in a silent auction.



Jenna Schauer and Adam Bartz get ready to show their pigs at the Shawano County Fair. They are members of the Belle Plaine 4-H Club.



Fair judge Bonnie Olson, left, presents the grand champion ribbon for apples to Richard Pahlow and JudyAnn Pahlow of Belle Plaine.

## Belle Plaine helps Historical Society

By Darlene Heller

Proceeds from the history book on Belle Plaine, "Treasures in Time," will help the Shawano County Historical Society expand its Heritage Park home.

The book, edited by **Marcalene Rosenow**, was written to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Belle Plaine.

This year's Shawano County Fair included a photo display of the county's railroad depots, including in Belle Plaine, early businesses in the village of Zachow and new Century Farms. The primary focus was to commemorate the coming of a new replica of the former Zachow Depot, which will be built at Heritage Park in the near future.

Acting as hosts, **Terry Radtke**, president of the Zachow Historical Committee, as well as members of the Shawano County Historical Society, greeted visitors wearing striped overalls and caps accompanied with the traditional red handkerchief around the

neck. A nearby TV was showing scenes of various local railroad depots with a sound track of train sounds. The display area was appropriately decorated with railroad artifacts by Society members headed by Marcy Rosenow.

Nearby, members of the Society and local authors were waiting on visitors interested in purchasing books, including those on the history of Belle Plaine and Hartland. Both towns paid for printing costs and donated revenues from the books to the Society.

The Historical Society is placing revenue from the books into a building fund for a proposed new year-round museum/archive. During research for those books, a considerable amount of new history was collected.

The Society is most grateful to all residents of Shawano County who are helping the Society save its historic resources. It is also grateful to the County Board for voting to make Heritage Park a county park.



Wayne Van Der Linden is the official onion slicer for the Shawano Rural Firemen food stand at the County Fair. Belle Plaine, Richmond and Waukechon firefighters operate the popular stand.

# Gibson Island has new trail, fewer invasive weeds

A new Gibson Island trail was developed this spring. Volunteers **Russ and Kery Kafka, Denny and Kathy Nodolf, Marv and Gerri Olson, and Dennis and Joy Krubsack** marked the trail with fallen wood from the forest. This well-marked North/South trail provides a new view and a more level terrain for visitors to enjoy.

Due to the weather, we have had an increased number of trees fall on the property this year. Some trees remain where they land while others have been moved—the oak wait for the safe cutting period after Oct. 1, when oak wilt has diminished. However, all trails remain open for walkers.

We are happy to report that most visitors of Gibson Island have been respectful (less vandalism and garbage this year) and are following the guidelines that have been established to protect the property, wildlife and the visitors themselves (poison ivy is alive and well). We have received many comments on how visitors have enjoyed their Gibson Island hikes as they braved the 2010 mosquito hatches. Due to the care and attention of ALL of us, it is a wonderful feeling knowing that future generations will have the same opportunities to enjoy this special place as we do.

A dedicated group of lake area residents has gathered together to remove invasive plants from Gibson Island and surrounding areas. We named the group G.I.V.E. or, “Gibson Island Volunteer Endeavor.” **Kris Doan**, Master Gardener from the Wolf River Association, met with several folks over a period of weeks to train them in identifying and removing plant invasive species. Volunteers teamed up in the following projects: **Joy Krubsack** and **Peggy Nerby** removed mullein and dames rocket plants; **Craig Johanesen** is removing reed canary grass and will



**Kris Doan, right, shows how to pull and dispose of invasive weeds on the path to Gibson Island. Watching are Joy Krubsack, Molly Joosten and Steve Joosten.**

work with Kris and others this fall to mark and remove black locust trees and buckthorn; **Kathy Akey** and **Marv Letven** removed garlic mustard plants; **Molly and Steve Joosten, and Ben and Leah Smejkal** (and their three kids) are working on removing oriental bittersweet vines.

We appreciate all the hard work these volunteers are doing on the island this year. Removing invasive plants helps to maintain our native vegetation. They GIVE their best so we can all enjoy the island for years to come!

—Joy Krubsack and Kris Doan

## Homemakers group plans rummage/bake sale Sept. 25

The Bizi-Belles Homemaker Club will host a rummage and bake sale Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Belle Plaine Community Center on Highway 22. The sale will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be a big selection to choose from, with 12 households donating items to the sale.

Ten women formed the Bizi-Belles club, a University of Wisconsin-Extension Homemaker Club, in Belle Plaine in 1977.

Shawano County receives lessons from the state office in Madison, trains representatives from each club who, in turn, take the lessons back to their local clubs. They teach everything from the metric system to basic car care to reading labels (ingredients in processed foods) to flower arranging.

Over the 33 years the Bizi-Belles have been members of the Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education (formerly Wisconsin Extension Homemakers), they have also had

many fund-raisers, donating the proceeds to community projects and to benefits for family emergencies. The club has given to cancer and muscular dystrophy funds, the Shawano hospital, SAFPARC and Christmas gifts for needy children.

## Cloverfest Run/Walk Sept. 26

The Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association is planning the seventh annual Cloverfest 3.5-mile Run/Walk. The date is Sunday, Sept. 26, starting at 10 a.m. at the Rustic Resort. Registration is from 8-9:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Fireworks Fund and Shawano County Humane Society. Entry forms can be picked up at the box attached to the promotional banner on Cloverleaf Lake Road or at area businesses. Anyone who has items to donate or to raffle can drop them off at N2574 Rustic Drive.

# Electronics recycling rules take effect in state

As of Sept. 1, disposal of electronic devices will not be allowed in landfills or by incineration in Wisconsin.

In Belle Plaine, residents can dispose of these devices by taking them to the Recycling and Collection Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road. They are taken to the Shawano landfill to begin the recycling process.

Dropping off an old TV, computer or microwave costs between \$5 and \$15 for each item. The fee schedule includes, computer monitor, \$10; TV (19-inch or less), \$10; TVs, (20-inch or

larger), \$15; microwave ovens, \$10. Miscellaneous items, \$5 each, include VCRs, DVD players, CD players, printers, small copiers, fax machines and AM/FM radios.

The ban on incineration or landfilling covers everyone in Wisconsin and applies no matter where a device was purchased or who used it. Households, schools, businesses, governments and institutions are all covered under the ban.

Electronics contain reusable materials including precious metals, steel, glass and plastics.

## Shoreland team will focus on rain barrels, rain gardens

Install a rain barrel; install a rain garden; add a composting pile.

The Shoreline Restoration Team will be focusing on these positive actions in 2011. For additional information, lake residents can attend educational events and tours of participating properties in the spring and summer of 2011. Watch for further information about dates and times.

In addition,

\*A native plant sale will be scheduled in the spring of 2011.

\*Painted rain barrels will be available for sale in 2011.

\*The CLPA will continue to support residents who install shoreline restoration projects, including rain gardens, with matching funds up to \$1,000. This matching funds program continues through 2014.

Continue to watch for signs along the lake and along the road that alert you to shoreline restoration projects underway. Watch for progress as you drive around on pontoon rides, or walk around the lakes. Many of the signs contain an informational page on what you can do to prevent run off into the lakes. Watch for new signs as they go up. Request a sign if you want one.

We'll be creating and distributing a list of reputable local companies that sell native plants, and companies that assist with shoreline restoration projects.



Wildflowers in several different colors, grasses and sedges are part of this shoreland restoration planted in 2008 and 2009.

Contact any shoreline restoration team member with questions. Shoreline Restoration Team Members are:

**Kery Kafka:** rkkafka@sbcglobal.net or (414) 559-4618

**Joy Krubsack:** jkrubsack@hotmail.com

**Kathy Nodolf:** dknodolf@gmail.com

**Dan Bleck:** dkbleck@dbleck.com

**Angie Bleck:** akbleck@msn.com

**Dennis Thornton:** thorngb@frontiernet.net



Cloverleaf Lakes kayak enthusiasts listen as Jamee Peters, left, owner of Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort near Lakewood, talks about kayaking techniques. The event was part of the Adventures in Lake Living educational series sponsored by the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Workers lay down a fresh layer of asphalt at the intersection of County Y and Adams Beach Road this summer, as a roller waits to pack it down. The project, which included redoing culverts to solve a drainage problem, was one of several town road projects on which the town spent about \$300,000. The Shawano County Highway Department contracted for the work.

### Belle Plaine calendar

- Sept. 13:** CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.
- Sept. 13:** Belle Plaine Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.
- Sept. 14:** Primary election, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Community Center.
- Sept. 26:** Cloverfest Run/Walk, 10 a.m., Rustic Resort.
- Oct. 11:** CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.
- Oct. 11:** Belle Plaine Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.
- Nov. 2:** Election, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Community Center.
- Nov. 8:** CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.
- Nov. 8:** Belle Plaine Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.