



BELLE PLAINE

NEWS & EVENTS

Winter 2012

We'll do lots of voting in 2012

At least four elections are scheduled


With Wisconsin's new Voter ID law in place, town of Belle Plaine election workers will face challenges as they conduct spring and fall primaries, general elections and possibly a recall vote in a busy 2012.

"Make sure you bring along your driver's license or photo ID," Town Clerk **Kristine Vomastic** urged voters. The new law requires voters to produce a photo ID, which could include a driver's license, a college, military or tribal identification card or an ID card issued free at Motor Vehicle sites.

Another change in the law requires voters to sign the polling list at the voting site before they vote. Their name must match the name on the voter registration list. They can no longer use a witness to prove their identity. The town's only polling place is the Community Center on Highway 22.

New residents will be required to live in the voting district for at least 28 days, rather than 10 days, and must provide the address where they most recently voted. Vomastic said new residents should bring proof of residency, such as a utility bill.

Absentee voting rules have also changed, she said. In-person absentee voting at the Community Center begins the third Monday before an election and ends at 5 p.m. the Friday before the election, she said. Vomastic has regular office hours on Monday nights and Saturday mornings, and can arrange special hours.



Feb. 21 — Primary for county judge
April 3 — Spring election for county board, judge, school boards
Aug. 14 — Fall primary for U.S. Senate, Congress, legislature
Nov. 6 — General election for President, Senate, Congress, Legislature
?? — Wisconsin governor recall
 Polls open at 7 a.m., close at 8 p.m.

Voters who wish to cast absentee ballots by mail must register with a photo ID on their first request. A photo copy of their driver's license would be acceptable.

Besides the four scheduled elections, a recall vote on the Wisconsin governor is likely to be held during the summer.

With all the changes in voting rules, the town's poll workers will get several hours of training, Vomastic said. The polls will be staffed in two shifts, with three-person shifts for the spring primary, five-person shifts for the April and August elections, and seven-person shifts for the presidential election.

Marcalene Rosenow and **Pat Mahnke** are chief inspectors. Workers include **Judy Ann Pahlow, Donna Loesl, Bonnie Olson, Donna Dallman, Bonnie Utke, Jim Stempa, Joan Sousek, Heather Wilke, Ruth Prignitz, Craig Avery, Nancy Bennett, Carol Gilbert, William Gilbert, Joanne Jonas, Jeanne Zietlow, Pam Owen** and **Kim Dillenburg**.

Inside this issue:

Town update	2
Celebrate July 7	3
Garbage Q & A	4
County Board	5
Long Lake news	6
Town budget	7
New bridge opens	8

Fishing Derby set for Feb. 4

The Clover Bares Snowmobile Club is sponsoring its annual Fishing Derby Saturday, Feb. 4, on Cloverleaf Lakes.

The all-day ice fishing event is headquartered in a tent in front of Mickster's and the town boat landing. Food and beverages are available and numerous prizes are awarded.

Raffle tickets are available for \$1 per ticket or six for \$5 at area establishments and at the event.

Prizes are \$500, \$250, \$100, \$50 and \$25.

Fishing prizes will be awarded in the adult and children categories. Weigh-in for fish will be from noon to 4 p.m.

Tom Weniger of the Clover Bares said conditions on the ice are "pretty good" and are expected improve as colder weather moves in.

The Clover Bares maintain a network of snowmobile trails in Belle Plaine and adjoining towns.

Mild winter (so far) saves on snowplowing costs

By Alvin Bartz

Greetings in 2012. I hope your holiday season went well.

At this time last year, we had spent about \$20,000 on snow-related costs. If the mild weather continues, we should have additional money in our highway budget for maintenance and new construction.

Last year showed some recovery in building, with 25 permits issued. We had three new houses built, but the majority were smaller projects. New construction helps keep tax rates more even as the levy gets spread over more assessed value.

I want to remind again about driveways that are not accessible for emergency vehicles. We will not come in with the larger equipment if there is not adequate clearance.

It appears elections will be a big part of our budget again. We pay up to seven election workers, 14 for a double shift, from about 6 a.m. to 9 or 10 p.m. for each election. Besides the cost of

Belle Plaine chairman's message

the election itself, we need to put legal notices in the paper, train poll workers, test election equipment, plus the growing amount of work that absentee voting makes for the clerk. Something needs to be done so special interest groups can't force a recall election every time they don't like who gets elected.

The mild winter has allowed us to get a head start on our summer construction work. I would like to thank the adjacent property owners on Friendship Road for the cooperation we had on clearing the right of way.

Just a reminder to our town residents. If you're making plans for a family reunion or other large gathering, it's not too soon to reserve the town's new picnic shelter overlooking Round Lake. Contact town Clerk **Kristine Vomastic**.

Have a safe winter driving season.

Belle Plaine town notebook

* Treasurer **Kay Kristof** will collect property taxes at the Community Center on Jan. 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. and Jan. 31 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tax payments also can be mailed to Treasurer, N2940 Spruce Road, Clintonville, WI 54929. Or money can be left at either Shawano or Embarrass Associated Bank locations. The first installment is due Jan. 31 to Kristof. Second installment is due July 31 to the County Treasurer, Courthouse, 311 N. Main St., Shawano, WI 54166.

* All dogs in the town must be licensed and have proof of vaccination. Licenses will be issued by Constable **Dennis Hoffmann** by mail at N4301 Pine Ridge Road, Shawano, or at the Community Center on the same dates as the tax collection above. Hoffmann said the deadline for all dogs to be licensed is April 1. Fees are \$5 for neutered male or spayed female or \$10 for unneu-

tered male or unspayed female.

* Reservations are being taken for the town's new picnic shelter overlooking Round Lake. The facility can be rented for \$30 for residents or \$40 for non-residents. The Community Center is also available for rental. See the town clerk for details.

* Winter hours for the Collection and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road are Wednesdays from noon to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Jim and Corey Retzlaff** are the Recycling Center caretakers.

* Town Clerk **Kristine Vomastic** reminds residents that she has office hours Mondays from 5 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Community Center.

* The town is seeking more fire and emergency medical personnel. First Responders provide health care at accident scenes and to ambulance patients. The town pays for the training. Call Lt. **Tom Kristof** at (715) 853-3937 for more information.

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 to 7 p.m. Monday; 8:30 to 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: 1,855

It's not too early to plan for summer activities

By Dennis Thornton

This may be the winter edition of this newsletter, but I'm going to make a New Year's prediction that we will have a spring and summer later this year.

Some people can't wait. We've had inquiries already about the Independence Day celebration on the lakes, a highlight of every lake resident's social calendar.

It seems that the Fourth of July falls on a Wednesday in 2012, the exact middle of the week. The fireworks, Kiddie Parade and Pontoon Parade traditionally are held on the Saturday closest to the Fourth. The Fireworks Association and CLPA have decided to hold the events on Saturday, July 7. The Kiddie Parade will begin at the boat landing at 10 a.m., the Pontoon Parade will start to circle the lakes at 6:30 p.m. and the fireworks will start kabooming at dusk.

One added attraction to the July 7 festivities will be the third annual Art Fair, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the picnic shelter overlooking Round Lake. The Art Fair has previously been held on the Sunday of the Independence Day weekend. Now Kiddie Parade goers can walk up the hill and enjoy the art in the park. Artists can find an application form on our website.

* Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association members overwhelmingly approved some changes in the corporate bylaws last fall. The vote was 103-1 in favor.

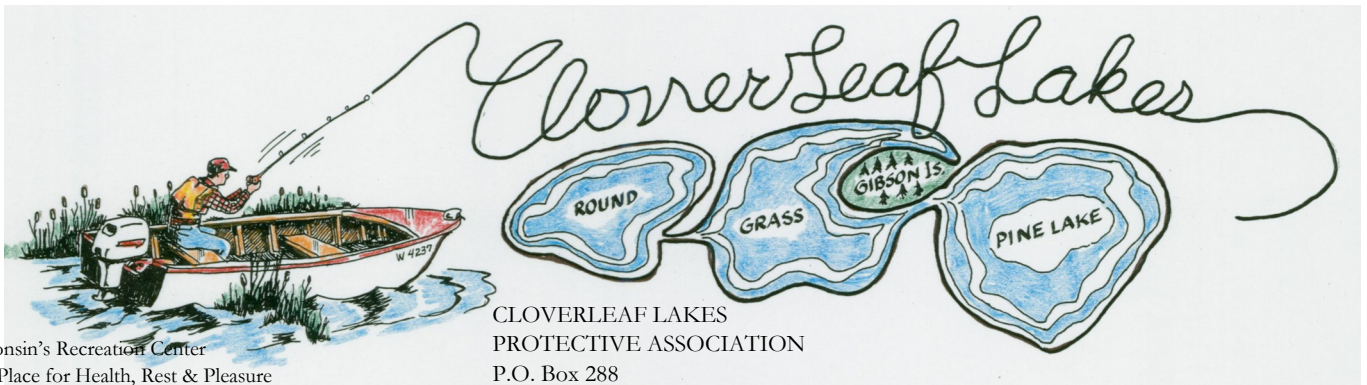
CLPA president's message

Amendments included a method to dissolve the association (an unlikely event) and compensation for workers (although we're all volunteers). The changes were necessary for the corporation to apply to the Internal Revenue Service for 501 (c) (3) status to allow donations to the CLPA to be tax-exempt. That will allow the association another avenue of funding such projects as treatment of aquatic invasive species.

Our treasurer **Fran West** has been working with an accountant to prepare paperwork to submit to the IRS for the change in tax status. We'll find out in a few months whether our application is accepted. In the meantime, please pay your \$25 dues (see page 7 for a form to fill out).

* I'd like to join our lake community in congratulating **Carl Bruggink** on the honor of having the basketball court at Clintonville High School named after him. He served as boys basketball coach in Clintonville for 40 years and has returned to coach the junior varsity girls team this year, as well as helping his granddaughter coach the varsity girls.

Carl is vice president of the CLPA Board of Directors in addition to his many charitable endeavors. He's one of the all-time legends and great guys in Clintonville's history.



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

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Carl Bruggink, Vice President

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"Preserving our lakes for future generations"

Frequently asked questions about garbage, recycling

Harter's Fox Valley Disposal began house-to-house garbage and recyclables collection in the Town of Belle Plaine the first week in January. Here are some frequently asked questions about the new service.

Q. Why did the town contract with Harter's?

A. The town expects to save \$25,000 to \$50,000 a year under the three-year contract with Harter's.

Q. Will the Transfer Station and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road remain open?

A. Yes. Residents on some private roads (Rustic Circle, Shady Lane, Long Lake Drive and North Shore Drive as well as the trailer parks) will not have access to house-to-house pickup and can use the Recycling Center. Other town residents may use the Recycling Center if they wish, however the town will pay more for garbage and recyclables dropped off there.

Q. When is garbage pickup and what are the hours of the Recycling Center?

A. Garbage will be picked up Thursday (have it on the curb by 6 a.m.) and recyclables will be picked up every other week. The schedule was distributed with the property tax bills. The Recycling Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 4 p.m. Wednesdays during the winter and spring.

Q. Will the garbage compactor and container be available at the Recycling Center?

A. Yes. The Town Board voted to purchase a new compactor and container to replace the one that had been leased from Waste Management for many years. It should be available at the site in the next couple of weeks.

Q. If I didn't get a 95-gallon garbage bin, how do I get one? If I got one and don't want to use it, where do I take it?

A. The new garbage bins were not left at some of the part-time residences, especially around the lakes. When residents return, they can call Harter's at (715) 253-2619 or (888) 804-8556 to get a bin. Residents who don't want a bin can take them to the Recycling Center and get a receipt saying they turned them in. Additional containers are available from Harter's for \$65 apiece.

Q. Who will pay for the garbage and recycling service?

A. The service will be paid for by town revenues, mostly property taxes. There will be no additional fee for garbage service. Some other municipalities charge \$100 or more in additional fees.

Q. If I put my garbage and trash in the bin, where do I put recyclables?

A. Recyclables (plastic, paper, cans, glass and cardboard) can be mixed and placed at curbside. They can be placed in con-

tainers, bags or grocery bags. Items that can be mixed together include plastic bottles and containers, glass, steel cans, aluminum, cardboard and paper. Recyclable paper includes newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail and cereal boxes. Unacceptable paper includes paper towels, tissue paper, waxed paper or paper that has grease or food on it.

Q. What do I do with large items, such as furniture, appliances or tires?

A. Harter's will pick up bulky items on the fourth week of every month at curbside. Call Harter's for a fee schedule for pickup of those items. They also can be dropped off at the Recycling Center.

Q. Will there be an opportunity to drop off and recycle electronic items such as computers and TVs?

A. Those items will be collected by Harter's monthly or can be dropped off at the Recycling Center for a fee. The town is planning spring and fall clean up for large items at no cost, as well as disposal of electronic items at no cost.

Q. Will non-residents be able to use the Recycling Center?

A. The Town Board is considering issuing identification cards or stickers to residents. The town pays \$46.50 a ton for recyclables left at the facility, plus a fee of \$140 to \$150 a load for each container of garbage or recyclables hauled from the Recycling Center. It is unfair to ask residents to pay for those costs if they come from non-residents.

Q. How do I dispose of yard waste?

A. The town maintains a compost site for disposal of tree limbs and leaves on Range Line Road. It is open during the summer and fall months on Saturday mornings.

Q. Will garbage be collected on holidays?

A. During weeks where holidays fall on Mondays or Thursdays, collection will be delayed one day. During 2012, those dates will be Fridays June 1, July 6, Sept. 7, Nov. 23 and Dec. 28.

Q. How much did the town spend on garbage collection and the Recycling Center in 2011?

A. Total costs were nearly \$200,000 for all garbage and recycling services. The new contract with Harter's is expected to reduce that figure considerably. The amount saved will be determined by how many use the house-to-house pickup, which is less expensive than using the Recycling Center.

Q. What will the town do with the savings from the new contract?

A. More money can be used for other town services, including town road maintenance, the fire department, parks and government services such as elections.



Shawano County Board race highlights April 3 vote

Redistricting and a reduction in the size of the Shawano County Board put two incumbents in the same district, which includes part of Belle Plaine.

Sandy Polzin and **John Ainsworth** will compete for the District 16 seat that includes the eastern part of Belle Plaine, east of Highway 22, and most of the town of Waukechon.

Bonnie Olson will run unopposed for the seat in District 17, which includes the western portion of Belle Plaine as well as most of the town of Richmond.

The newsletter asked the three candidates to submit biographical information as well as accomplishments on the board and challenges for the future. Their answers are printed below.

John Ainsworth was born in Shawano, seventh of nine children of Henry and Pauline (DeSwarte) Ainsworth. He attended Dallman School, Lincoln School and graduated from Shawano High School in 1958. He is a lifelong resident of the town of Waukechon. He is married and the couple has four children and nine grandchildren.

With family help, John farmed from high school until their two sons assumed management of the farm in 1993. During that time, he served about 10 years on the Board of Directors of Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and its affiliates. He served one term on the Farm Credit Board. After resigning from the Farm Bureau board, he ran for election to the Wisconsin Assembly and was elected eight consecutive times. During those 16 years, he chaired the Rural Affairs and then the Transportation committees. He retired from the Assembly in 2006. He has served the past two terms on the Shawano County Board.



John is part of a family with extensive County Board history. Henry and two of John's brothers, Gordon and Vernon, have served on the board.

"While inflation continues to increase the cost of almost every one of our purchased goods and services, I strongly believe that the cost of governmental services must remain within that inflationary increase. More rapid increases tend to destroy the incentive necessary for people to improve their own position in society and, thus, society in general," Ainsworth said.

Bonnie Olson has been a county supervisor for nearly two years. "It has been one of the most interesting endeavors I have undertaken," she said.

"Because of the 2010 census, all areas of the country go through a mandatory redistricting. In March of 2011, the County Board voted to reduce the number of supervisors from 30 to 27. My district will now be number 17 instead of number 18 and the boundaries of all the districts have been moved. In my first term, the sale of Maple Lane was finalized, the board made some changes to benefit the Historical Society and we continue the work on deciding the site of an evidence building."

"I have lived in Shawano Co. for over 25 years and my husband and I have owned and operated an electrical business here in Belle Plaine the entire time. We have four children and I enjoy being active in my church and the community. My personal ac-

Sandra "Sandy" Polzin is the current 16th District County Board supervisor and is running for a fifth term in the April election. Due to redistricting at the county level, part of the town of Waukechon is now in District 16. A Belle Plaine resident, she and her husband Harold operate Harold Polzin's Electrical and Heating Services.

Sandy served on the County Board's Administrative Committee and was chairperson (four years), Public Property chairperson (two years) and Finance (two years).

Sandy cited two issues that will be important in the coming term.

"Frank Pascarella, administrative coordinator, has terminated his employment and has accepted a position with Chippewa County. His last day was Jan. 13 and the position has not been filled."

"A controversial issue before the County Board is the evidence storage issue, whether to construct or remodel a building. That has been debated for about five years."

"I would appreciate your support in April," she said.

(Note: Polzin did not submit a photo for publication.)

complishments for 2010-2011 were getting elected to the County Board, getting my pilot's license, learning to make margaritas from scratch and shooting an 11-point buck right here in Belle Plaine."

"I am currently serving on the Social Services Board which continues to provide meals for the elderly, the Committee on Aging and the Airport Commission, which finally wrapped up the huge fencing project. I had the opportunity to represent Shawano County in Madison as an ambassador for the Wisconsin Counties Association and I was also able to be part of Leadership Shawano County. I'm looking forward to another two years of being a public servant to the residents of district 17 and working with our town officials when I can. I thank you all for your confidence and welcome hearing from anyone who may have concerns about issues in the county."

Gibson Island invasives removed

By Kris Doan

The Gibson Island Volunteer Endeavor (GIVE) has made some excellent headway on the island removing invasive species. In 2010-2011, volunteers removed the following:

Mullein: over 900 plants removed.

Dames Rocket: over 110 plants removed.

Garlic Mustard: over 1,000 plants removed (first year plants sprayed once).

Reed Canary grass: seeds cut, one full bag.

Oriental Bittersweet: several hundred vines removed and burned and plant vines sprayed (three times) in the fall.

Black Locust: over 30 small trees removed and 10 bigger trees girdled and sprayed (twice) in the fall.

Buckthorn: over 25 plants removed and stumps sprayed (we need to do this again this fall as stumps are re-sprouting).

A big thank-you to all the volunteers who have helped with our efforts.

Judgeship, school board on ballot

A primary election will be held in Belle Plaine on Tuesday, Feb. 21, featuring one contest. Voting is from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Community Center.

Three candidates are running to be Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court judge. Appointed incumbent **William Kussel Jr.** is being challenged by Shawano-Bonduel Municipal Court Judge **David Winter** and **John Selsing** of Berlin. The two top contestants will be on the April 3 ballot.

For Shawano's School Board, three candidates will compete in the Feb. 21 primary for the Shawano area seat. Incumbent **John Granchay** will face challengers **James Rush** and **Tyler Schmidt**. The two high finishers will join unopposed incumbents **Jay Jones** and **Alan Heins** on the April ballot.

In the Clintonville School District, four people will compete April 3 for three seats on the board. Incumbents **Pat Schley**, **Jim Dins** and **Clyde Tellock** are challenged by **Lori Martin**.

CLPA shoreland project ongoing

Matching funds are still available for Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association members who wish to plant native plants or rain gardens on their shoreland properties.

Contact **Kery Kafka** (rkkafka@sbcglobal.net) or any member of the Shoreland Restoration Committee for details.



A single ice fisherman tries his luck on a mid-January day on Round Lake. A warmer than average winter has limited the number of fishing shanties and kept vehicles off the ice.

Long Lake warns ice anglers

By Shanda Hubertus

Ice alert: Please be careful when venturing out on the ice. With the unseasonably warm winter and varying temps, the ice is not thick enough for any type of vehicle in many spots. Remember, the lake is spring fed, so those areas are not as thick as the rest of the lake. The shore lines remain open in areas and ice is very thin. If you are allowing people to pass through your properties onto the lake, be sure to warn them as well.

Long Lake plans rummage sale

Rummage Sale: We will again be holding the Long Lake Annual rummage sale the week before Memorial Day. Please be sure to save any treasures you may wish to donate to the cause. Remember we are a 501 (c) (3) organization, so any donations are tax deductible. You can begin to drop off donations in April. To arrange a drop off or pick up, contact Shanda at (715) 367-2309. We look forward to seeing you at the sale!

Town site considered for dog park

The Shawano Dog Park Unincorporated Association would like to use five to 10 acres of the Maple Hills Recreation Area, owned by Shawano County, to exercise pets. The property is on Highway 22 south of Shawano.

Dog Park members would fence the property, **Kristi Sipple** told the county Public Property Committee recently, at a cost of about \$50,000. Volunteers would manage the area and raise funds for its upkeep. "We would take anything right now, as we don't have a location for dogs to go," she said.

Town government holds line on budget, taxes

Despite cuts in some state government aids, the Belle Plaine Town Board held the budget and tax levy in check. The property tax rate for the town actually fell 0.9 percent on the bill taxpayers received in December 2011.

State aids for the town fell from \$226,631 in 2010 to \$204,918 in 2011. Those aids include shared revenue, transportation aid and a recycling grant.

The tax levy used for the 2012 budget is \$402,858 and the total budget is \$795,780.

The town expects to save between \$25,000 and \$50,000 on garbage and recycling under a new contract with Harter's Fox Valley Disposal (see page 4). That includes house-to-house pickup throughout the town and keeping the Transfer and Recycling Center open. The town spent nearly \$200,000 in this category in 2011.

Fire department expenses will decline from about \$75,000 to about \$43,000. The town paid off its share of a new fire engine for the Shawano Rural Fire Department in 2011.

The biggest item in the budget for 2012 will be town road maintenance and repair. The budgeted amount is \$355,455, up

from \$330,000 in 2011. That covers price increases in asphalt and other materials.

The town pays for a part-time boat monitor at the County Highway Y launch site, which is covered by launch fees paid by boaters and by a DNR invasive species grant. The town also budgeted \$7,500 each for Cloverleaf Lakes and Long Lake to chemically treat aquatic invasives.

The town is expecting 50 percent reimbursement for a DNR invasive species grant and also for a grant to construct boat ramps and a boat trailer parking lot.

An additional expense this year will be four (and possibly a recall) elections (see page 1). The election workers' and town clerk's pay will cost about \$25,000, up from \$20,000.

The town's share of Belle Plaine residents' property tax bill is just over 10 percent. School districts get the largest share, followed by Shawano County and the technical school district.

Check for lake/town news at
www.CloverleafLakes.com

2012 CLPA Annual Membership: Please Join Now

Please make your check for \$25 payable to Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, fill out and clip this form, and send it to CLPA, P.O. Box 288, Embarrass, WI 54933-0288. Or, print out the membership form at www.CloverleafLakes.com and send it in. The membership is for the calendar year 2012.

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Address (if different): _____

Dues \$ 25.00

I would like to make an additional donation of \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Thank you! Note: Be sure to include your e-mail address so you can be added to the CLPA's e-mail list (managed by Ed Stuebe) to receive late-breaking information about the lakes.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

New Highway 22 bridge (finally) open

After a long summer and autumn of finding alternate routes into Shawano, Belle Plaine residents welcomed the opening of the new bridge spanning the Wolf River on Nov. 4.

Town Chairman **Alvin Bartz** led the dedication of the \$3.7 million structure, along with Shawano Mayor **Lorna Marquardt** and other officials. The bridge replaces the 1930s steel span on Highway 22.

The bridge also has a pedestrian/bicycle lane that leads from Highway B in Shawano south to the corner of River Bend in Belle Plaine and links with the town's wayside frequently used by anglers. That path will be paved in the spring.

Bartz noted that the bridge is vital to the



Belle Plaine Chairman Alvin Bartz introduces Shawano Mayor Lorna Marquardt during the November dedication of the new Highway 22 bridge spanning the Wolf River.

Belle Plaine community, which relies on it to get to work and shopping.

Work by contractor Kramer and Sons, supervised by the Department of Transportation, was completed on schedule.

Belle Plaine calendar

Feb. 4: Clover Bares fishing derby on Cloverleaf Lakes, all day.

Feb. 13: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

Feb. 13: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.

March 12: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

March 12: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.

April 3: Spring primary election, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

April 10: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

April 10: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.

May 26: CLPA annual meeting, 10 a.m., Rustic Resort.