



BELLE PLAINE

NEWS & EVENTS

Spring 2012

Town considers appointive posts

The Belle Plaine Town Board is studying options, including converting the clerk and treasurer positions from elective to appointive, or combining the two jobs into one full-time position.

Any change would require a referendum, probably placed on the November ballot.

Town Chairman **Alvin Bartz** said both jobs are getting more complicated, with increases in state mandates, paperwork, amount of taxes collected and bills paid, and supervision of the town's election process.

"With an election, there's no guarantee that a qualified candidate would be elected, although we've been fortunate over the years," Bartz said. "And there's a need for more office hours to deal with residents' problems."

Clerk **Kristine Vomastic**, who's in the middle of her third two-year term, said it took a couple of years before she was comfortable with all of the duties. She keeps town office hours on Monday nights and Saturday mornings, while holding a full-time job.

The clerk files numerous reports with the state, keeps up on election laws and trains workers, deals with correspondence and writes checks. The treasurer collects more than \$2 million in taxes, handles deposits and balances bank statements.

The Town Board would hire an appointive clerk and treasurer. A combined position could pay a better salary.

Under the current system, town voters elect a clerk and treasurer. Pay is \$12,500 for clerk and \$7,500 for treasurer.

Town Board seeks interim treasurer

The Belle Plaine Town Board is accepting applications for treasurer to fill the remainder of the term replacing **Kay Kristof**, who resigned on March 31. Kristof, who had served for five years, cited the pressures of a career and her children that made it difficult to find adequate time for the job.

Applicants should submit a resume to Chairman Alvin Bartz, Belle Plaine Community Center, N3002 St. Hwy. 22, Clintonville, WI 54929, by May 7. Experience in accounting and working with Quick Books, as well as having time for office hours, are encouraged. The treasurer and clerk write checks, maintain bank accounts and the treasurer collects taxes at the end of the year. Clerk **Kristine Vomastic** will take over the treasurer's duties until a replacement is appointed, which is expected at the May 14 Town Board meeting.

The interim appointment runs until April 2013.

Garbage collected on both sides of road

Harter's Fox Valley Disposal will begin collecting garbage on both sides of the road in the Cloverleaf Lakes area. Previously, the company had asked residents to place their garbage bins across the road from the lake side, but that created traffic issues. Residents can place the bins at the end of their driveways.

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Mark your calendars for these events

- Here are some local highlights of the summer:
- May 5:** Craft sale to benefit Fire Department, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Community Center.
 - May 19-20:** Long Lake rummage sale, Community Center.
 - May 25-27:** nlc Foundation rummage sale, Community Center.
 - May 26:** CLPA annual meeting, 10 a.m., Rustic Resort. Craig Johanesen will have a lakes history.
 - July 7:** Kiddie Parade, 10 a.m., town boat landing.
 - July 7:** Art Fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Round Lake picnic shelter.
 - July 7:** Pontoon Parade around Pine and Grass Lakes, 6:30 p.m., theme is Returning Veterans.
 - July 7:** Fireworks on Pine Lake, dusk, presented by Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association.
 - Sept. 1:** Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon, 9 a.m., Rustic Resort.

Cost of maintaining town roads goes up again

By Alvin Bartz

We checked town roads several weeks ago and most came through the thawing and freezing this winter fairly well. Blacktop costs are expected to be up at least 10 percent, which means about a \$10,000 or more per mile increase. We awarded the crack-filling work to Shawano County this year. The cost will be about the same, plus it will help the county budget.

Board of Review and open book are coming up in May (see below). I would encourage you to call Associated Appraisal if you have a question on your assessment value. In most cases, the issues are worked out.

Farm machinery will be on the roads as the planting season is under way. I planted corn on April 14, the earliest in the 135-year history of our farm. Be aware that the operators of the larger machinery of our day cannot always see a car behind them, especially if making a left turn into a field or driveway.

Belle Plaine chairman's message

Is it too early for gardening? **Bonnie Olson** had peas in before **Bill Ninman** this year. They planted several weeks ago. Some follow the Farmers Almanac for planting dates. Longtime resident **Ervin Drews** always said the correct time to plant potatoes was Good Friday. If you don't have them in the ground, you missed it.

Don't forget entering your vegetables and fruit in the Belle Plaine booth at the Shawano County Fair this year.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

If you have upcoming events in Belle Plaine or ideas for newsletter stories, contact **Dennis Thornton** at thorngb@frontiernet.net or 823-9151. The summer newsletter is planned for mid-June.

Belle Plaine town notebook

* Open book on property taxes is scheduled for May 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Board of Review for those appealing their assessments will be May 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. Second installment of property taxes is due July 31 to the County Treasurer, Courthouse, 311 N. Main St., Shawano, WI 54166.

* Residents are reminded to keep their dogs off their neighbors' property. Constable **Dennis Hoffmann** said the town's dog ordinance says it is unlawful to have a dog that "habitually barks or howls to unreasonable annoyance of any person" and that dogs should be on a leash or be confined to a pen.

* 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.

* The boardwalk to Gibson Island will be closed to visitors until the end of May under DNR rules, while the pair of bald eagles are nesting nearby. Access is available by water and the pier will be put in soon.

* Pay increases for the clerk, from \$12,500 to \$14,000, and constable, from \$12 an hour to \$14, were approved at the annual meeting. The new rates will take effect after the 2013 election. The annual meeting was adjourned to 9 a.m. April 28 because the financial report was not ready.

* 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. **Daryl George** at (715) 823-3122 for more information.

Belle Plaine officials

Alvin Bartz, chairman

Harold Polzin, supervisor

Dennis Thornton, supervisor

Kristine Vomastic, clerk

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

Salute our returning veterans at Pontoon Parade

By Dennis Thornton

What could be a better time than Fourth of July weekend to honor our nation's veterans, especially those who have returned (and those who didn't) from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Please join the lake association in saluting veterans by entering your pontoons and other boats in the annual Pontoon Parade on Saturday, July 7. Area vets are invited to ride in the parade, which forms at 6:30 p.m. off Gibson Island and circles Pine and Grass Lakes. Appropriate decorations could also win you a monetary prize for having one of the three top themed-boats.

The parade will be followed by the annual fireworks display. Earlier that day, the Kiddie Parade and Art Fair will both kick off at 10 a.m.

Vendor entries are coming in already for the Art Fair, which will be set up around the picnic shelter overlooking Round Lake. We hope to have more artists, food and entertainment in this, the fair's third year.

* We have a special treat lined up for the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association's annual meeting on Saturday, May 26. It begins at 10 a.m. at the Rustic Resort.

Craig Johanesen, whose family has been on the lakes for about a century, will share some history of the lakes. He has done a great deal of research into the history and is a member of the Clintonville Historical Society.

CLPA president's message

Board members and committee chairs will update the membership on aquatic invasive species, shoreland restoration, the group's finances and other business items. Three-year terms are expiring for me and for **Carol Wegner**, who is CLPA secretary. We invite anyone interested in serving on the board to place their names in nomination. A free lunch will follow the meeting.

Residents who haven't yet paid their annual \$25 dues can mail in the form on page 7 or pay at the annual meeting.

* The lake association is entering the age of online social media by setting up a Facebook page. You can "like" or "friend" us by searching for Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association on Facebook.

Kris Doan, one of our hard-working board members, set up and will maintain the page. We will post messages, dates of meetings and news along with photos of the lakes. Feel free to visit and interact with the page.

We also have a web page, www.cloverleakes.com, which is updated periodically with news and upcoming events. It also has documents about the lakes, CLPA board minutes, information about Gibson Island and a photo gallery. The latest newsletter is also available on the site.



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

"Preserving our lakes for future generations"

Board of Directors

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(715) 823-9151

thomgb@frontiernet.net

Carl Bruggink, Vice President

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(414) 430-9067

Lakes resident White honored for volunteer work

By Joan Sousek

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Sometimes it's strong backs and big muscles that make volunteers most helpful, but in **Dorothy White's** case, two much smaller body parts help her to be an outstanding ThedaCare At Home (Shawano hospice) volunteer.

They are her ears.

"She is a wonderful listener, an exceptional listener," said **Angie Krueger**, the program's volunteer coordinator. "I think she could write a book on all the stories she's heard from her patients."

Dorothy, 78, who lives at W8514 Lakeview Circle on Cloverleaf Lakes, is the recipient of the annual Shawano Area Community Foundation Health Care Volunteer award sponsored by Shawano Medical Center and ThedaCare Physicians.

Dorothy is being honored for 20 years and 2,000 hours of service, first with Shawano Community Hospice and now with ThedaCare At Home. The programs integrated last year when Shawano Medical Center merged with ThedaCare.

Being a good listener is a giving act, but also rewarding, and Dorothy recalled how hearing one word meant so much.

"One patient had been physically, mentally and financially abused by her family and she never spoke. On my second visit, she uttered my name. That made my day. She never did it again," Dorothy said.

She grew up in Birnamwood on a farm, but with five brothers and one sister, she didn't need to do much farm work. She and her late husband, Karl, had five children. Now she has eight grandsons, one granddaughter and four great-grandsons.

She started with the hospice in September 1992 after reading a newspaper article about the program.

Just a few months later, her husband of 39 years died suddenly after a heart attack. More heartache struck seven years ago when her daughter died at age 42.

Through those times, her hospice work helped her heal and stay upbeat.

"It helps fill the void," she said. "It's the feeling of goodness when you've visited a patient. It's such a lift, rather than sit and feel sorry for yourself."

Many of Dorothy's patients are cancer patients and she's had her share of personal experience with cancer, too. She lost her father and two brothers to the disease. She also has a brother and sister who are cancer survivors.

Dorothy said when Krueger called to say she was being nominated for the Foundation's award, she told her, "You can't." When Wendy Crawford called to say she was chosen for the honor, White said, "You've got to be kidding. I felt there are so many out there who are deserving."



Dorothy White relaxes at her home on Cloverleaf Lakes.

Krueger said White is most deserving of the honor.

"She is always open to taking on new patients and doing whatever her patients' needs are, such as reading a book or visiting," Krueger said. "She has a giving heart and compassion and caring. Hospice is not an easy thing. She understands how much it means. She's a great team member for all the volunteers."

Krueger could not say how many patients White has served, but she knows her work is precious.

"It's been 20 years of giving her free time. That speaks volumes. How many people stick to giving unconditionally for 20 years," Krueger said. "It means so much — not only to the patients, but the families."

Quitting is not on Dorothy's radar.

"I hope to continue as long as my health holds," she said. "It's important for anyone if they have spare time."

Dorothy also volunteers with the Wisconsin Bookworm program, which provides reading experiences for young children. She reads to Head Start children at Dellwood School in Clintonville monthly during the school year. Each child also receives a copy of the book that is read.

Her efforts are rewarded warmly.

"After reading to the little ones, they give me great big hugs," she said.

The volunteer readers raise money to buy the books, so Dorothy plans to divide her \$1,000 monetary award from the Foundation between Bookworms and Friends of the Hospice.

Dorothy also volunteers at Faith Lutheran Church in Clintonville, helping with the community dinner, and she attends annual hospice training, workshops and events.

"She continually takes advantage of educational seminars not only for herself, but to better serve her patients and families," Krueger said.

Former Belle Plaine church may be on the move

A church that once served residents of Belle Plaine may be moved to Heritage Park, if the Shawano County Historical Society's plans become reality.

The former Tabor church, which was built about 1900 on the west side of the Belle Plaine settlement, was moved to Shawano in 1938 after the Tabor congregation joined the United Brethren in Clintonville. The Seventh-day Adventists have used the church, 940 S. River St., but they plan to relocate and sell the church. They shared the church from 1949 to 1956 with the newly organized Zion Lutheran Church of Shawano.

The Historical Society is starting a campaign to raise \$115,000 to purchase, move, renovate, landscape and furnish the church on the park grounds. Phase one of the project will be to raise \$40,000 by July 1 to have the funds to move the church to the park. Phase two would provide funds for a new roof, steeple, church bell and interior work.

"Wouldn't it be special to bring a former Belle Plaine church to the Shawano County historical park?" asked **Marcalene Rosnow** of Belle Plaine, who co-chairs the committee along with **Karen Grover**.

The non-denominational church would be used for weddings, anniversaries, meetings and other community events. It seats about 60 people.

"What makes this little country church on River Street desirable for Heritage Park?" says a society brochure. "It dates back to our early European settlement, it was built in our county, it's an appropriate size, it's located only about a mile from Heritage Park and it's for sale."

A plaque in the church vestibule will recognize donors of \$500 to \$25,000 or more, but the society is accepting tax-deductible donations of any amount. Checks can be made payable



The Seventh-day Adventist Church, which originally stood in Belle Plaine, would be moved to Shawano's Heritage Park if the Historical Society raises enough money.

to the Shawano County Historical Society Church Fund and sent to 524 N. Franklin St., Shawano 54166.

The Historical Society also is seeking a church bell. The old steeple has been removed, but plans include restoring the steeple and mounting a church bell.

The Historical Society plans to have its annual Rhubarb Fest on Saturday, June 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Heritage Park. The event will feature musicians, wood carvers, sculptors, weavers and re-enactors in costume. Food includes rhubarb brats.

Rain barrels capture runoff

Every inch of rain that falls on a 1,000 square foot roof contains about 600 gallons of water. Rain barrels that collect rainwater are useful for these reasons:

- Protect our rivers, lakes and streams from runoff pollution.
- Control moisture levels around house foundations.
- Provide oxygenated, un-chlorinated water, ideal for plants.
- Direct overflow to where you want it.
- Reduce water and wastewater bills.
- Conserve water in the summer months, when demand is the highest.



Jon Motquin, left, Shawano County director of aquatic invasive species, and Judy Simon remove watercress from a small stream that runs into Round Lake. They were part of a team that prevented the plants from getting established in Round Lake.



Eddie Heath of the Onterra consulting firm shows areas of invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil on a map of Cloverleaf Lakes. He was training volunteers who will be collecting water samples and helping map areas in need of chemical treatment on the lakes.

Ainsworth wins County Board race

In a race pitting two incumbents due to redistricting, **John Ainsworth** beat **Sandy Polzin**, 198-165, to win the District 16 (eastern portion of the town) seat on the Shawano County Board. Polzin was seeking a fifth term. Ainsworth is a former state legislator. **Bonnie Olson** ran unopposed in the 17th District (western portion).

Tyler Schmidt beat incumbent **John Granchay** by 662 votes for the Shawano School Board.

In Clintonville, incumbents **Pat Schley**, **Jim Dins** and **Clyde Tellock** held off a challenge by Lori Martin to win re-election to the School Board.

Incumbent **William Kussel Jr.** tallied 4,000 votes to beat **David Winter's** 3,783 votes to win a six-year term as Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court judge.

nIc Foundation plans rummage sale

The nIc Foundation will hold a rummage-antique sale fundraiser May 25, 26 and 27 at the Belle Plaine Community Center. Brats, burgers and baked goods also will be on sale.

Proceeds will support the nIc4families program that promotes violence prevention in rural communities through storytelling.

Donated items can be brought to the Community Center on May 23 and 24 between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., or call Lynn at 823-4829 to make arrangements for pick-up.

The nIc Foundation also plans a program on stopping crime and violence in rural communities April 26, starting at 4 p.m., at the Family of Christ Church, 600 S. Main St., Clintonville. A candle-lighting ceremony starts at 6:30 p.m.

Recycling Center hours set

Summer 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. There will be no collection on Mondays this summer. **Jim and Corey Retzlaff** are the Recycling Center caretakers.

Residents are encouraged to use the weekly house-to-house garbage pickup provided by Harter's every Thursday. Recyclables are picked up every other week. Upcoming dates for recyclables are April 26, May 10 and 24, June 7 and 21, and July 6 and 19.

The town's compost site on Range Line Road will be open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Craft sale to benefit fire department

Crafts, from candles to jewelry, will be on sale Saturday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Belle Plaine Community Center. Proceeds will go to the Belle Plaine Fire Department and Emergency Medical Technicians.

Bridgett Kohel, who is organizing the fund-raiser, said vendors will be selling a variety of crafts, including homemade scarves, ceramics for the yard, solar lights, bird houses, even warmers for chocolate. There will be a wood carver set up outside.

There is room for more vendors, who are charged \$15 per table. Contact Kohel at 823-6669.

"We are emphasizing spring stuff," she said. That's the opening day of fishing season and there may be more part-time residents in the area.

Kohel said she saw a need to help raise extra money for firefighters and EMTs. Her husband, who has had heart attacks, was helped by EMTs. "They are life-savers," she said.

Native plant sale set in Shawano

The Wolf River Chapter of Wild Ones is taking orders until April 27 for native plants. The group offers more than 70 different wildflowers as well as some native grasses. Trays of 12 plants for shoreland, woodland, prairie, butterfly gardens and rain gardens are available.

Order forms are available and can be returned to **Mary Kuester**, N6072 Crestline Drive, Shawano 54166, phone (715) 526-3401. Plants can be picked up at Heritage Park in Shawano on Saturday, May 19. A limited assortment of plants will be available for sale that day.

See how rain gardens are planted June 2 and 9

Volunteers from the Shoreland Restoration committee of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association will install rain gardens at the town's public fishing pier on Round Lake this summer.

Site preparation, scheduled for Saturday, June 2, will include scooping out dirt and leveling the site, as well as creating berms, on each side of the road that leads to the pier. Work will begin about 10 a.m.

Planting of native plants, mostly wildflowers along with some native grasses, is scheduled for the next Saturday, June 10. The small plants, provided by NES Ecological Services of Hobart, will be protected by a cover crop of oats for the first season, along with a biodegradable straw and coconut mat.

The CLPA is installing and paying for the rain gardens in an effort to keep rainwater, along with pollutants from Cloverleaf Lake Road, from washing into Round Lake during a heavy rain. The rain gardens will collect rainwater, which will settle in and water the plants. The road to the fishing pier is paved and must be kept open year-round to provide access to a water source for fire trucks.

Several rain gardens have been installed around Cloverleaf

Lakes as part of shoreland restoration projects.

There will be signs at the Round Lake site to describe the project and information on how to build rain gardens is available from the committee, headed by **Kery Kafka**. Matching funds are available from the CLPA for shoreland projects.

LEGAL NOTICE

APRIL 2012

CLOVERLEAF LAKES AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT DNR CHAPTER NR107 NOTICE

A Permit from the DNR has been issued to treat the Cloverleaf Lakes for Eurasian Water Milfoil (32 acres) and Curly Leaf Pondweed (5 acres). This treatment will be done chemically with Navigate (2-4 D), Aquathol and Cutrine Plus. The approximate treatment dates will take place at the end of April and early May 2012. You may request a public informational meeting on the proposed application. The request must be made in writing within 5 days of this notice stating a specific agenda of topics to be covered. Send request to Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, P.O. Box 288, Embarrass, WI

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

Town, lakes benefit from DNR grants

Three separate grants from the Department of Natural Resources have helped the town of Belle Plaine carry out the battle against invasive species and improve the boating experience on Cloverleaf Lakes.

The latest grant was approved in March and could pay the town nearly \$100,000 over the next five years for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) treatment. Cloverleaf Lakes has been chemically treating invasives, including Eurasian water milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed, for more than seven years. This grant will pay for 50 percent of that treatment over the next five years.

In addition, the grant covers half the cost of permits, AIS surveys, a boat monitor, law enforcement, shoreland restoration projects and this educational newsletter. The town's share comes from boat launch fees and hotel room taxes, as well as transmission line money and volunteer hours by the lake association.

Russ Kafka, head of the lake association's AIS committee, and **Francie West**, CLPA

treasurer, put together the DNR grant application. Onterra and Lake and Pond Solutions will do the AIS surveys and chemical treatment.

Earlier this year, the town received reimbursement from the remainder of a five-year AIS grant, totaling \$29,951.46, that had covered invasive treatment from 2005-2010.

The town also received a check for \$23,655 to cover the DNR's share of a project installing two ramps at the town's boat launch site on Highway Y and a parking area for vehicles and boat trailers. That project, approved by the Wisconsin Waterways Commission, was completed in 2011.

The town also received about \$52,000 in additional American Transmission Co. funds for the power lines along Highway 22 and the substation. Those funds, along with a grant when the lines were completed, must be used for environmental projects. The ATC funds paid for the town's new picnic shelter in the park overlooking Round Lake, as well as the town's share of the boat launch and parking lot project.

Belle Plaine calendar

May 8: Recall primary election, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

May 14: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

May 14: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.

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

June 5: Recall election, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

June 11: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

June 11: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.

July 7: Kiddie Parade, Art Fair, Pontoon Parade, fireworks (see page 1).

July 9: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

July 9: Town Board, 7:30 p.m. Community Center.