



BELLE PLAINE NEWS & EVENTS

Fall 2016

Stockbridge-Munsee invest in town

A \$1.3 million shopping center project is under way in Belle Plaine at the intersection of Highways 22 and 29.

The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians broke ground on the project on Sept. 2 with town and area officials joining in. The location is just south of the 22 Shell Station at Highway 22 and CC.

Plans call for bringing in fill to level the site then constructing a 12,000 square foot building that will house up to five small businesses. Leasing efforts are underway for retail and quick-service restaurant brands to locate in the building.

"This retail center will bring new jobs and increased shopping activity to the Belle Plaine and Shawano areas," Belle Plaine Chairman **Alvin Bartz** said. "We expect this will spur other developments in the area and we applaud the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Tribe for their continued investment in the local communities surrounding their tribal lands."

Bayland Buildings, based in Green Bay, will serve as the general contractor. It estimates adding 15 to 20 construction jobs for the project.

Preparation work is being done at the site now and the foundation is expected to be poured soon, with exterior construction completed by the end of 2016.

"We're thrilled to develop our first off-reservation property near Highway 29, which is a critical economic artery for our North Star Mohican Casino Resort and countless other local businesses," said Shannon Holsey, president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council.

Holsey said the Stockbridge-Munsee Band, with about 1,470



Members of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band are joined by dignitaries including Town Supervisor Harold Polzin, second from right, at the groundbreaking for a new town retail center.

members in Wisconsin, is the largest employer in Shawano County. Its North Star casino features 1,200 slot machines and 22 table games as well as restaurants and a hotel.

Each year the tribe contributes more than \$100,000 in funding to two local school districts and about \$200,000 to neighboring communities. This year, the town received a \$12,000 grant to pave a trail along Highway Y on Cloverleaf Lakes.

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13th Cloverfest run/walk scheduled for Oct. 2

By Linda Hosking

The Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club is excited to once again hold the annual Cloverfest 3.5-mile run/walk around Cloverleaf Lakes on Sunday, Oct. 2. This is the 13th annual event, and we have a great event planned. Proceeds will benefit the BPSC and the Shawano County Humane Society.

Pre-registration begins at 9 a.m. and the race begins at 10 a.m. sharp. After the completion of the walk/run, our generous volunteers have a great

meal planned for all participants and guests (small fee for guests). Several area businesses have provided prizes for our raffle and fund raising activities after the run. The fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (\$25 and \$15 day of run).

If you are interested in participating, please contact **Linda** or **Barry Hosking** at (715) 823-8319 or fill out and send in the form on the www.cloverleafakes.com site. If you sign up by Sept. 20, you will be provided an event t-shirt.

County Fair stand has a successful year

By Alvin Bartz

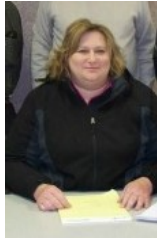
We closed out the summer season with the annual Shawano County Fair. We had a successful year at our stand, grossing \$24,500.

My wife and I still do the major share of organizing and doing the bookwork. **Nancy** put in 63 hours during the fair, mostly making chili. The towns have taken in the FFA Alumni and, this year, the Pella Fire Department provided help and will share in the profits.

Our treasurer, **Heather Krueger**, announced at our September Town Board meeting that she would like to resign due to increased obligations on the family farm. She will continue through the tax collection to help train a new person in an ever increasingly complex job.

Heather has done an outstanding job working with the town and Shawano County to provide accurate financial records. Heather will be available to assist, if needed, with computer and programming questions.

We have completed most of our projects for the summer. I would like to thank **Dick and Sally Hesse** for keeping our public areas in top-notch condition. They include the Round Lake Park



Krueger

Belle Plaine chairman's message

shelter, Sandy Beach, Gibson Island, the Highway 22 wayside, public fishing pier on Round Lake and the pedestrian path from Shawano over the bridge to the Wolf River, plus the town's 66 miles of roads.

Next on our agenda: planning for snow. Keep it safe.

TOWN TREASURER POSITION OPEN

For Belle Plaine, Shawano County. Applicant should have accounting experience and computer knowledge of Word, Excel and QuickBooks. This is a part-time position with a monthly meeting and weekly office hours. Duties include collecting taxes, paying town bills, reconciling the checkbook and preparing budgets. Resident of town of Belle Plaine preferred. Deadline for application is Monday, Oct. 10, at noon. Send application to Clerk Kris Vomastic, Belle Plaine Community Center, N3002 State Highway 22, Clintonville, WI 54929.

Belle Plaine town notebook

Have you ever asked yourself if you could make a difference in your community? The Shawano Area Fire Department is seeking personnel for their Shawano, Belle Plaine and Wescott stations. Stop at Auto Prep, 220 North Main Street, right next to the Shawano fire station, and see Lt. **Mark Retzlaff** for an application.

* Winter hours for the Collection and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road are Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting on Oct. 1. It will not be open Wednesdays until May.

People with large items such as furniture, TVs or building

materials are encouraged to take the items to the Shawano City Landfill. There is a small fee. Hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays. The Belle Plaine Recycling Center does not accept those items.

* Reservations are being taken for the Community Center and the Round Lake Park picnic shelter. The facilities can be rented for \$50. See the town clerk for details.

* The Belle Plaine Card Club meets weekly on Thursdays at the Community Center from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

* Town clerk **Kristine Vomastic** holds regular office hours from 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays and 8:30 to 11 a.m. Saturdays. Treasurer **Heather Krueger** is available at the Community Center Mondays from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Belle Plaine officials

Alvin Bartz, chairman

Harold Polzin, supervisor

Dennis Thornton, supervisor

Kristine Vomastic, clerk

Heather Krueger, treasurer

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

Heavy turnout likely for fall elections on Nov. 8

Belle Plaine Clerk **Kris Vomastic** is preparing for a big turnout for the Nov. 8 election, perhaps matching the 80 percent of town registered voters who cast ballots in 2012.

She is rearranging the tables and voting booths in the Community Center to have a better flow for voters. "We want to avoid a big backup by the doors," she said, for people standing in line. She plans on adding a greeter to direct voters and residents who would like to register to vote to the proper tables.

Vomastic would also like to recruit a few more election workers. A big election takes two shifts of seven workers at a time, plus a couple of deputies to register new voters.

"The days of election workers just doing one job are gone," she said. Workers are trained in registering voters, operating machines, identifying voters (who must have a photo ID) and checking names in poll books. Anyone interested in helping with elections can contact Vomastic during her office hours.

Early voting or voting by absentee ballots as well as registering to vote will be handled by Vomastic on Monday nights from



Election Day, Tuesday, **Nov. 8**

7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Belle Plaine Community Center

Contests: President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Rep. 8th District, State Senate, State Representative, Shawano County offices

5 to 7 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Additional times for early voting or registration will be Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursdays from 2 to 6 p.m. starting on Oct. 15. **Pat Mahnke** will assist voters.

Proof of residence and an ID are needed to register for the first time. Cutoff for registration or absentee voting is Friday, Nov. 4.

Additional information is at www.Wisvote.com.

Lake, town groups sponsor fun events year-around

By **Dennis Thornton**

Who doesn't like to have fun? Our lakes community and town offer lots of low-cost entertainment throughout the year, with the Cloverfest Run/Walk coming up next on Oct. 2 (see page 1 story for details). The Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club sponsors the event as well as providing food and drink at other events and holding hunting and fishing events.

Early 2017 will bring the major event for the Clover Bares Snowmobile Club, its Fishing Derby on Feb. 4.

We no longer have a fireworks show, but the Fourth of July weekend is special with the Kiddie Parade and Pontoon Parade drawing hundreds, sponsored by the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association.

The annual golf outing honoring the late **Jim Aumann** drew 57 golfers to swing away and raise money for lake projects.

The Belle Plaine 4-H Club has many activities, climaxing in the Shawano County Fair. Then the Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon wraps up the summer on Labor Day weekend, raising funds for the Clintonville Area Swim Team.

All of these activities make our area special and each group adds flavor to our lives.

* The lake association will send out a fund-raising letter to area residents in November, inviting them to join as 2017 members and asking to help the association with tax-deductible contributions.

While we have about \$94,000 in our treasury, thanks to frugal spending and help from the DNR and town, we will be paying about \$30,000 this year as our share of the milfoil chemical applications. Lake and Pond Solutions recently completed the third application of fluridone and results have been great.

We had more than 200 paid memberships in 2016, more than

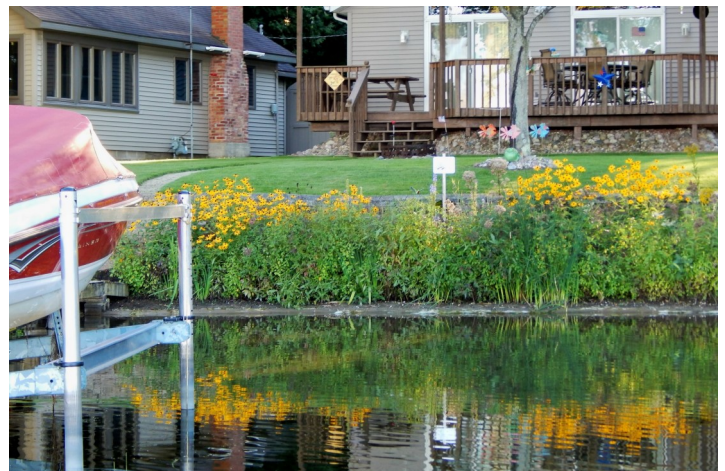
CLPA president's message

we have had in many years, and about \$15,000 in additional donations. THANKS so much. Please continue to support our efforts to keep our lakes clean and safe.

* Our nine shoreland restoration projects that were planted in 2015 have blossomed into beautiful flowers while preventing erosion of the property shorelines.

One of the projects at **Gerald and Darlene Breuer's** is pictured below. The plants will grow in future years. "The first year they sleep, the second year they creep and the third year they leap," says **Lisa Reas**, who did the plantings for our association.

We have enough money left in our Healthy Lakes grant to fund three or four more properties in 2017. Contact me at thorngb@frontiernet.net if you are interested. It's a great deal — the property owner pays just 10 percent of the cost., about \$100.



Former Belle Plaine church gets a new life

By Joan Sousek

Worshippers at a small church in Belle Plaine settlement in the late 1800s probably had many hopes and dreams, but having their church building live on as a gleaming, restored structure at Heritage Park in Shawano most likely never crossed their minds. But that is what has happened.

The church, built just west of the town's Belle Plaine Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue intersection, has joined a complex of historical structures at the park, which is also home to a school building that originally stood next to St. Martin Lutheran Church on Belle Plaine Avenue.

A July celebration at the park recognized scores of individuals, organizations and businesses that contributed to the church project including co-leader **Marcalene Rosenow** of Belle Plaine.

In an earlier interview, Rosenow said, "We are so grateful for the community support and for Shawano County's permission to put the church in the park. This has been a community effort. That's what made it a reality."

Now called The Old Tabor Church, the building once housed Salem Evangelical United Brethren. It was built circa 1891. About 1931 as membership declined, the congregation merged with a Clintonville church and left the building. In 1938, it was moved to 940 S. River St., Shawano, and used by the Seventh-day Adventists and by Zion Lutheran members temporarily.

Its journey to Heritage Park started in 2007 when the Shawano County Historical Society, which manages the park's buildings and displays, had a firm create a master park plan that recommended adding a church. At least two society members, Rosenow and **Karen Grover**, Town of Richmond, took the suggestion to heart.

They scoured the region for a suitable structure eventually finding the church only about a mile from the park. It was several years before the building was available and in 2012, the women proposed that the Society acquire it because of its reasonable price of \$10,000, its initial historical era, its size and its proximity. The Society agreed. It was moved in 2013 and now sits in almost the exact spot shown on the master plan.

"We had looked



The Old Tabor Church, which originally stood in Belle Plaine, is now open in Heritage Park. It dates to about 1891.

for two years, and I would have never imagined it would come from my back door," said Rosenow, a long time Belle Plaine resident whose late husband's family (Ken Rosenow's) attended the church when it was in Belle Plaine.

Rosenow and Grover led the effort to secure funding and in-kind donations to restore as much of the building as possible, remodel and upgrade its infrastructure and landscape the area around it. "We leaned on each other like two sides of a step ladder," Grover said.

Grover's memories of going to St. Jakobi Church in the Town of Richmond with her grandmother inspired her.

"That memory made me feel like we should save one of these little country churches for the next generation to experience," she said.

Many people helped including major supporter **Richard "Dick" Felts** of Felts Construction who connected them with his aunt **Edith Vandree** who purchased and then donated the church.

The Felts family involvement included putting on the steeple in memory of their parents, **Orlin and Clara Mae Felts**, and many hours of guidance and construction work.

The building now has electricity, heat and air conditioning and is available for weddings, reunions, concerts and other events. It seats 60 adults in pews and offers limited overflow seating. It also is part of the society's summer tours.

Research on the church is ongoing. Any photos or documents about the building, especially when it was in Belle Plaine (before 1938) would be appreciated. For more information, call the Society at (715) 526-3323 during office hours, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Karen Grover, left, and Marcalene Rosenow led the efforts to relocate a former Belle Plaine church to Heritage Park in Shawano.

Volunteers offer tender, loving care to Gibson Island

Ever since the acquisition of Gibson Island, the centerpiece of Cloverleaf Lakes, 10 years ago, it has taken a village of volunteers to enhance and maintain the natural area.

Private donations, a state/federal grant and Town Board participation financed the \$1,025,000 purchase from **Lynn Lenius** that was completed in 2006.

Since then, the island has been maintained by the town and by many volunteers. Additions have included a boardwalk across a stretch of wetlands, a memorial marker and information kiosks, walking trails and a pier for boat access.

Most recently, a crew headed by **Kris Doan** spent a couple of days in early September on weed patrol. The target: Black Locust, a fast-spreading invasive shrub that can grow into a tree, featuring nasty thorns. Locust has not yet spread to the island, but lots of small and large plants were found on and near the isthmus.

Wielding chain saws, clippers and heavy gloves, the crew removed three truckloads of Locust. Helping out were **Dennis and Joy Krubsack, Kery Kafka, Judy Simon, Molly Joosten and Dennis Thornton**. Town employee **Dick Hesse** provided the town truck and a chain saw as well as his labor.

"Three cheers to all of you for working so hard to remove this invasive plant," Doan said. "You worked for hours, raking, cutting, chopping and dragging these awful trees that were filled with huge thorns."

Doan has organized a group that over the years has regularly checked for and destroyed invasives such as garlic mustard and mullein. Some of the other helpers have included **Kathy Akey, Craig Johannesen, Peggy Nerby, Ben and Leah Smejkal, Marv Letven and Dick Thurow**.

Here are some other major contributors to the island:

- * **Mike Nelson** and his crew spent many hours assembling the boardwalk that leads from the landward lot over wetlands to the isthmus, using a base of mobile home frames.

- * **Dick Thurow** has been the "curator" of the island, maintaining trails and keeping an eye on the property year-round. He also lined the trails with downed branches and worked to reduce erosion along the shoreline. He added a supply of walking sticks for hikers and has been a frequent tour guide.

- * The Town Board added a pier for boat access as well as two information kiosks that tell the area's history as well as highlights of the Gibson Island Project that acquired the island. **Joy Krubsack** and **Fran West** worked on the kiosks' information displays.

- * **Joy Krubsack** heads a stewardship committee for the town that includes **Molly Joosten, Dennis Thornton, Stan Kleiss, Dick Thurow and Fran West**. The committee advises the Town Board on ways to keep the



Among the volunteers removing invasive Black Locust trees and shrubs from the Gibson Island isthmus area this September are Kery Kafka, Kris Doan and Dennis Krubsack.

island natural and available to the public.

- * **Denny Nodolf** has been involved in several island projects over the years. He developed a geographic grid of posts on the island that was used to mark locations of rare and endangered plants. He also made quite a few benches from downed red pine trees on which hikers can rest.

- * A group including Nodolf, Thurow, the Krubsacks and Kafkas planted dozens of trees along the east shore path on the island that were purchased by the town from the DNR.

- * **Stan Kleiss** and **Leeann Little** chose and arranged for placement of a commemorative boulder, complete with a plaque of major contributors' names. **Joy Krubsack** and **Leeann Little** arranged for the wooden plaque of donors' names that hangs in the Community Center.

- * **Dick Hesse** has helped numerous times with island projects.

- * **Molly Joosten** will be power-washing the boardwalk this fall and **Dick Hesse** will be applying a sealant.

- * The island is open to the public during daylight hours year-round. The boardwalk is closed during bald eagle nesting season from Feb. 1 to May 15, but access is available by ice or water. Parking is available at a lot on Cloverleaf Lake Road.



A group checks the information board on the island.

Another summer of smiles on the lakes



July 2 was a big day for parades on Cloverleaf Lakes. Above, the **Tomczyk** family entered the winner in the Pontoon Parade. Second place went to the **Mass** family entry and third was the **Wepner** family. At right, **Barry Hosking** dressed as Uncle Sam posed with grandson **Peyton**. Barry and **Linda Hosking** distributed ice cream treats, donated by Fletch's Corner Store, to about 200 youngsters after the Kiddie Parade. **Steve and Molly Joosten** organized the parades, with help from **Austin Prien** and **Leah Karlson**.



Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon contestants start their swim leg at left while others head for shore. About 125 athletes entered the event.



Lori Martin lines up a putt during the Jim Aumann Memorial Golf Outing while Sandy and Joe Mass and Dick Thurow watch.

Wolf River Lutheran High School plans postponed

Administrators at Wolf River Lutheran High School say they lack the funds needed to build a new school in Belle Plaine next to the Boarders Inn and Suites hotel, according to the *Shawano Leader*.

A story in an earlier newsletter indicated the school would be constructed in time for the 2016-17 school year. Ceremonies held last November were intended to trigger fund-raising, officials said, but donations are far short of the goal.

"We thought the money would come in better," said school

board member **Karen Baker**. "It just didn't materialize."

Wolf River Lutheran currently holds its classes in Cecil. Supporters purchased land in 1999 along River Bend Road in Belle Plaine. Estimated cost of the new school is \$2 million.

Dennis Genke, school board president, said pledges total about \$1.2 million, with \$700,000 collected as of July.

Bayland Buildings Inc. has signed on as prospective builder. Plans call for a 25,000 square foot school with six classrooms, a gymnasium, commons, office space and mezzanine.



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

P.O. Box 288
Embarrass, WI 54933-0288

"Preserving our lakes for future generations"

If you haven't paid your 2016 dues, 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. The membership is for the calendar year 2016. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation.

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Address (if different): _____

Dues \$ 25.00
I would like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Board of Directors

Pam Bruecker, treasurer (715) 823-3917 brueckerp@gmail.com	Dennis Thornton, president (715) 823-9151 thorngb@frontiernet.net
Dave Rosenfeldt (715) 823-6604	Joe Mass, vice president (715) 823-3758 jandsmass@gmail.com
Dick Thurow (414) 430-9067	Carol Wegner, secretary (715) 823-6270 Dolphins27@charter.net
Francie West (715) 823-4059 frwestpilot@charter.net	

CLPA fall 2016 donors

Following are CLPA donors and dues-paying members since the spring issue as of Sept. 10. THANK YOU! (Residents who have paid dues or made contributions earlier this year were listed in previous newsletters.)

\$150

Dan Parr/Linda Altman

\$100

Nelson Services

\$50

Jim and Karen Habeck

Mary Ann Pflum

Northland Marine

Roger and Cheryl Timmer

\$25

Gordon Zachow

Members:

Gerald and Darlene Breuer

Gary and Carol Coyne

Shirley Fischer

Jim and Karen Habeck

Lynn Gerrits

Lorraine Huber

Kevin and Lisa Krause

David and Karen Krubsack

Kenneth Loken

Mike and Stacey Nelson

Jim and Sally Norder

Jeff Orr

Dan Parr/Linda Altman

Mary Ann Pflum

Mike Schlender

Roger and Cheryl Timmer

Kathy and Roy Weiner

Donald Wendelborn

Don and Jeanne Yeager

Gordon Zachow

Bike the Barn Quilts Sept. 24

The fourth annual Bike the Barn Quilts will pedal through Belle Plaine, among other routes, on Sept. 24.

The Belle Plaine route starts in Shawano and goes down CC and Town Line Road to Cloverleaf Lake Road. It then proceeds south on Highway Y to Embarrass, then up Highway 22 to Belle Plaine Avenue and back to Shawano. It goes past several farms that have painted "quilts" on their barns.

Shawano Pathways is organizing the event, which this year will also include a 5K and 10K walk/run as well as a display of 12 mini-quilts which will be available for purchase.

The \$25 registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, water stations, support vehicles and music. Registration details are on the website www.shawanopathways.org or at Memorial Athletic Park on the morning of the event.

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

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



A crew from the Shawano County Highway Department installs a giant culvert on Highway Y just north of the town boat landing in July. The culvert, connecting Grass and Round Lakes, replaced a half-century old culvert and allows somewhat larger boats through. A paved trail along the side of the road is part of the project, easing pedestrian traffic. Belle Plaine and Shawano County shared the cost of the culvert, along with a state grant, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Band help fund the trail.

Belle Plaine calendar

Oct. 2: Cloverfest Run/Walk, 10 a.m., starting at Rustic Resort
Oct. 10: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center
Oct. 17: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center
Nov. 8: Election Day, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Community Center
Nov. 14: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center
Nov. 14: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center
Dec. 12: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center
Dec. 12: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center
Fourth Tuesdays: Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club, 6 p.m., Butch's Archery