



BELLE PLAINE

NEWS & EVENTS

Summer 2020

Big day planned on July 4

By Steve Joosten

Thank you for all the generous donations towards this year's fireworks display, sponsored by Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Inc.

We are continuing fund raising efforts and need everyone in the community's support to help keep this tradition alive.

On Saturday, July 4, we will start the day out with the Kiddie Parade sponsored by the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association at 9:30 a.m.

This year's Kiddie Parade plans were adjusted when it appeared that coronavirus-avoidance issues would continue through the summer.

Rather than a mass start, we would like to see everyone walk around the lakes or as far as you'd like, from your home or cottage with your decorated wagons or bikes.

Plans for the Kiddie Parade were still being finalized as this newsletter went to press in mid June. Updates will be available on Facebook or through emails.

We also plan to hold the boat parade starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring your decorated boat to the northwest corner of Pine Lake to

register and line up.

This year's theme is "Unsung Heroes." Prizes given for first, second and third place will include cash and merchandise prizes from CLPA and Arty's. We ask that participants and spectators refrain from throwing water balloons.

The fireworks show will start at dusk. The fireworks will be shot from a barge that will be located on Pine Lake by **Mike Nelson** and his crew, working with Spielbauer Fireworks. Sit back and enjoy the show.

Please consider advertising or donating today. This show is up to you, we need your support. Donations can be mailed to:

Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Inc.
P.O. Box 275
Embarrass, WI 54933

We have a GoFundMe page at "Cloverleaf Lake Fireworks 2020" and our Facebook page name is "Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Inc." Please share with your friends, family and neighbors.

Any questions can be emailed to **Glenn or Peggy McMahon** at pmcmahon23@gmail.com or call (920) 246-2678.



Fireworks donors, page 7

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Absentee ballots available for Aug. 11 election

With the Covid-19 virus still lurking, more voters are likely to fill out absentee ballots rather than vote in person in the Aug. 11 partisan primary election.

The in-person voting from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. will include safety precautions at the Belle Plaine Community Center including shields, face masks, spacing and cleaning.

Absentee ballots are also available, handled by Town Clerk **Kris Vomastic**. She suggests starting at the official Wisconsin election website

www.myvote.wi.gov.

That site has information about how to register to vote and how to obtain an absentee (early) ballot. Voters enter name and date of birth, then verify the address and click on "request absentee ballot."

Vomastic will send the ballot out. Voters must submit a copy of an ID or driver's license when sending it in, as well as having a co-signer. Or the form may be picked up during the clerk's office hours (see page 2). She will have in-office absentee voting from July 25 to Aug. 7.

Town government using Covid-19 recommendations

By Alvin Bartz

As we approach the 4th of July weekend, there still remains a lot of uncertainties connected with the Covid-19 virus regulations. As of this writing, I am not sure of what the status is of the Shawano County Fair. We've heard some of the entertainment was cancelled, but no decision as yet on the fair itself.

At the town level, we are trying to use some of the recommendations provided by the county health department for spacing and sanitation.

We have completed the fire station work and two trucks are now in place to meet the insurance requirements for our town.

We will be at mowing roads and hope to be completed by the Fourth with the first cutting.

We are planning on resurfacing about two miles of black-top. We will do a portion of Cloverleaf Lake Road from Town-

Belle Plaine chairman's message

line west and the remaining section of Friendship from Capital Drive to west of Friendship Cemetery.

I have had several contacts about ATV-UTV use of the roads. The common concern is that a few that don't obey the rules for speed and racing will cause rule changing for everyone.

We will be having guideline rules for residential fencing as we get more and more calls from people putting up privacy fencing. Most involve the county zoning because of water setback. If you are planning a fence other than to contain cattle, call or get a copy of the county guidelines for water and road right of way setbacks and height restrictions.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

Community Center reopens, please take precautions

After a two-month lockdown, Belle Plaine residents and businesses are open again in the new normal.

Most businesses reopened after the Supreme Court overruled Gov. **Tony Evers'** stay at home plan in late May. Many are continuing Covid-19 safety measures including use of masks and social distancing.

The Town Board canceled its April meeting but met in May

and June using social distancing. So did the Cloverleaf Lakes Sanitary Commission.

Reservations will be taken for events at either the Community Center or the picnic shelter at Round Lake Park. See Town Clerk **Kris Vomastic** for details. The Town Board encourages use by small groups with safety precautions. The town staff will thoroughly clean the facilities between uses.

Belle Plaine town notebook

* Town Clerk Kristine Vomastic has extended office hours. She will work Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. as well as Saturdays from 8:30 to 11 a.m. She will drop the Monday night hours. She will be available by phone at (715) 524-2690 or email at Belleplaineclerk@gmail.com.

* The Shawano Area Fire Department is seeking volunteer

firefighters for its Shawano, Belle Plaine and Wescott stations. Stop at Shawano City Hall, call (715) 526-9888 for information or see Lt. **Mark Retzlaff** for an application.

*The town's compost site on Range Line Road is open for the summer. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. The Collection and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road are Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

* Be a good neighbor. Dog walkers are reminded to clean up their pets' waste deposits on other people's properties. Also, dogs swimming in the water should be discouraged.

Belle Plaine officials

Alvin Bartz, chairman

Harold Polzin, supervisor

Dennis Thornton, supervisor

Kristine Vomastic, clerk

Kay Kristof, treasurer

Newsletter editor: Dennis Thornton



Belle Plaine Community Center

N3002 St. Hwy. 22

Clintonville, WI 54929

(715) 524-2690

Town clerk's hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and 8:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday or by appointment

Treasurer's hours: every Wednesday 8:30 to 10 a.m. and second Mondays from 4:30 to 7 p.m..

Regular Town Board meetings:

Second Monday of each month, 7 p.m.

Committees: Planning, Zoning, Gibson Island Stewardship

Population estimate: 1,855

“Nuisance” weed-pulling planned for Cloverleaf Lakes

By Christopher Sampson

Members of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association board of directors considered possibilities for 2020 invasive-milfoil control during their monthly teleconference meeting on June 8.

Discussion centered on Grass Lake, which in recent years has seen the greatest spread of fast-growing Eurasian Water Milfoil and its troublesome twin, Hybrid Water Milfoil.

In May the CLPA had asked lake users to keep an eye on early-season growth and report back. The Association received a half-dozen emails, most asserting that EWM had returned in a big way. CLPA board members with docks on Grass Lake confirmed those observations. In some places, they said, the milfoil had already extended to the surface, formed mats and was impeding watercraft passage as well as preventing fishing and swimming.

(In comparison, Pine and Round lakes entered summer 2020 with very little infestation, continuing to fare well after lakewide chemical treatments in 2018 and 2016, respectively.)

As of the mid-June publication deadline for this newsletter, the CLPA board was formulating a course of action that is likely to involve at least some targeted hand harvest of EWM and HWM by professional scuba divers, a common approach to milfoil control on small to midsize Wisconsin waters. Costs can range from \$1,500 to \$2,500 per day.

The board has been advised by staff from Onterra, the environmental research and consulting firm for the CLPA, that a day or so of “mop-up” hand harvest on Pine and Round this summer would be a solid investment. The goal is to keep scattered milfoil from reestablishing a significant presence and to extend the number of years before lakewide chemical treatment is the only alternative.

On more heavily affected Grass Lake, the next application of the expensive anti-milfoil herbicide Fluridone is at least a year away. Onterra will issue a recommendation after this season and, if infestation levels surpass a specific threshold, the CLPA would

CLPA co-president’s message

ask the DNR to issue a permit for lakewide treatment.

The CLPA could also seek DNR approval and funding for a new application technique involving the use of lengthy runs of weighted curtains to cordon off selected areas for chemical treatment. The Association awaits experiment results from other Wisconsin lakes and will explore whether the method could be employed for large, dense milfoil colonies on Grass Lake. One target could be the acreage just offshore of the County Y boat landing.

In the meantime, the Cloverleafs board is continuing to monitor Grass Lake and will strongly consider hiring divers to clean up nuisance areas on an as-needed basis.

The dive teams are expensive and can only do so much. If the Association is required to spend tens of thousands of dollars on chemical eradication in the next year or so, anyway, there’s an argument that it might be best, financially, to ask lake users to “live with it,” at least for the rest of this year.

At the same time, CLPA members and donors have been so generous, and so many people love getting out and enjoying the lakes, that we’d like to make things a little better on Grass Lake this summer and fall, if we can do it at a price that makes sense.

Commonly used boating lanes would be the most logical target for CLPA-funded hand harvest on Grass. Hiring divers to create paths to deep water from individual docks is another matter. Onterra staff has advised the CLPA that other lake associations have devised cost-sharing programs in which frontage owners can opt in—for an additional, sliding-scale fee—to have temporary lanes created for their use.

The CLPA will notify Grass Lake property owners if a summer hand-harvesting project is imminent. Details and opt-in opportunities, if any, for those interested in additional milfoil removal in front of their properties will be communicated at that time.

War Bonnet gift shop opens in Highway 22 mini-mall

By Joan Sousek

The mini-mall across from the Highway 22 Shell Station has a new occupant. War Bonnet Native Gifts and Collectibles opened May 21 and offers Native American artwork, clothing, accessories and other goods.

The business is owned by Belle Plaine residents **Leo and Karen Dillenburg**. It previously was located in Keshena as part of the War Bonnet Bar and Grill that the Dillenburgs bought in 2009, renovated inside and out, then reopened in 2010. They added the gift shop in 2015.

The business was named 2017 Retail Business of the Year by the Shawano County Chamber of Commerce.

When the Dillenburgs sold the restaurant business, the gift shop inventory was an option, which the new owners did not take, so they re-located the shop to Suite 5 in the mall at N4531 State Highway 22.

The mall is owned by the Stockbridge Munsee Tribe and also is home to Happy Trails CBD.

The store has fur pelts, beadwork, baskets, jewelry, regalia, paintings, carvings made from antlers and Saskatchewan wild rice, a North American food prized worldwide.

The War Bonnet Native Gifts and Collectibles is open daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit them on Facebook or call (715) 701-9324 for more information.

Cloverleaf Lakes to get a shoreline survey

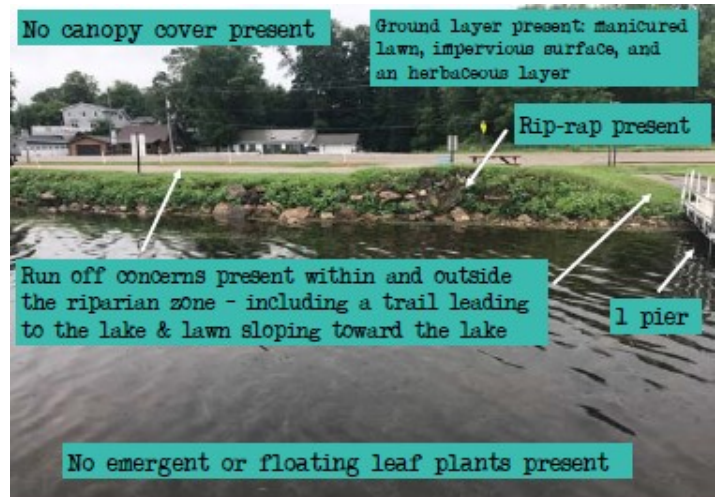
Starting June 24, **Emily Henrigillis**, Watershed Coordinator for Connecting Our Waters, will be completing the shoreline survey on the Cloverleaf Lakes. She will be assisted by volunteers from around the lakes.

Emily has currently projected three weeks to complete the survey. The survey could take less time than that but weather always plays a factor.

The survey will be used to determine the overall health of the lake's shoreline. The Wisconsin DNR survey method, Shoreland & Shallows Habitat Monitoring Field Protocol, will be used to assess the riparian zone of each tax parcel around the lake. The riparian zone is the first 35 feet inland from the ordinary high water mark. This survey is used to understand concerns within the lake's shoreline as well as determine solutions to improve the quality of the water draining into the lake.

While completing the survey, items such as canopy cover, ground cover composition, run-off concerns, and presence of rip-rap, seawalls, and aquatic plants are noted. Run-off concerns are: trails to the lake, lawn or soil sloping towards the lake, impervious surfaces, or shoreline erosion. Information on presence of docks, boat lifts, water trampolines and other recreational items will also be collected. Each shoreline is different and one solution will not work for every property. A better understanding of what is present within the riparian zone will lead to a better understanding of lake concerns around the Cloverleaf Lakes.

Once the survey is complete, a report will be drafted over the fall of 2020. This report will be shared with the CLPA, the DNR, as well as any interested land owners. The results of the survey can be used to guide landowners with an interest in improving



their shoreline. We offer information on small, manageable projects to improve the water running off your property and into the lake as well as the resources to help complete these projects.

Voluntary shoreline restoration efforts can be made at any time and do not have to coincide with the completion of the survey and report. Shawano County offers cost share funding to assist with adding a rain garden or native plants to your shoreline. Ten Cloverleaf Lakes shorelands have been updated through the WDNR Healthy Lakes grant program.

To learn more about the survey, please contact Emily Henrigillis: emily@fwwa.org or (920) 851-6472. She holds office hours at the Belle Plaine Town Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-2 unless she's out in the field.

Who? Hooty gets a new home

A lost and wet baby Barred Owl got a longer life and a new home in mid May thanks to a Belle Plaine family.

A neighbor, **Bridgett Kohel**, shared the story and photos of the rescue effort.

Luke and Kristen Retzlaff were playing ball with their children **Morgan**, 10, and **Carson**, 8, outside their home on Amber Lane when they noticed the young owl watching them from nearby. The mother owl came to guard the owl that had fallen from the nest.



The baby owl was still there the next day and the Retzlaffs called the Department of Natural Resources, which referred them to **Debbie Fryrick**, a volunteer wildlife rescue specialist.

"Debbie picked up Hooty (the children's nickname) and put him in the car because it was raining," Kohel

said, then took a blow dryer and dried off the soaked bird.

"That almost doubled its size," Kohel said.

Kohel and the Retzlaffs fashioned a nest in a bucket with rags and twigs while Fryrick gave the bird something to eat.

"Debbie put Hooty in a container and lifted it up with a rope to the bucket she secured for its home.

The mother owl found the baby's new nest and came to feed and care for it.

The baby Barred Owl stayed for a week before going out on its own.

Kohel said Barred Owls are gentle creatures "unless you are a mouse."



Debbie Fryrick places Hooty in its new home.

Drain Campaign, Landing Blitz benefit boaters

With the weather warming up, housebound anglers are getting restless. Fret not, summer will come and the fish will be waiting. Unfortunately, Covid-19 is causing some changes to Clean Boats, Clean Waters. Wisconsin's annual summer campaign reminds anglers and boaters to drain all lake and river water, clean equipment, and check watercraft for aquatic invasive species.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources had suspended Clean Boats, Clean Waters activities until June 1. The DNR suggests adhering to the practices and limitations found in the Badger Bounce Back Plan. The DNR is using the phases of the Badger Bounce Back Plan to create recommendations on how to best carry out CBCW activities.

Drain Campaign, normally held in early June, is being merged with Landing Blitz, which is normally held the week of Independence Day. This year, the campaigns will be combined and run from June 28 to July 5, the same week as the Great Lakes Regional Landing Blitz that includes boat launches in every state and Canadian province in the Great Lakes Basin.

During the week, Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff and volunteers will give away hard-sided ice packs to anglers. Each ice pack is stamped with the reminder to drain lake and river water from fishing buckets and live wells. Any natural freshwater added to your catch or bait bucket might carry disease or microscopic invasive animals, such as the larvae of zebra mussels. Draining your catch, boat, and any other gear that takes on water is im-

Boaters urged not to spread invasives

Here are some tips on maintaining Clean Boats Clean Waters:

- Inspect boats, trailers and equipment for attached aquatic plants or animals.
- Remove all attached plants or animals
- Drain all water from boats, motors, livewells and other equipment
- Never move live fish away from a waterbody
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash
- Buy minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer
- Only use leftover minnows when either 1) fishing with them on the same body of water or 2) on other waters if no lake/river water or other fish have been added to the container.

portant for keeping our waters healthy.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff and volunteers will also give away Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! towels. Use the towels to wipe down your watercraft while you remove any easily seen plants from your boat and trailer before leaving a launch.

Each boat owner will receive one ice pack or towel while supplies last. Approximately 300 launches in Wisconsin are participating.

Three students share boat launch job

Three Clintonville High School students will assist visiting boaters with information about aquatic invasive species, compile data and inspect boats for clinging invasives this summer.

Brody Prill, 16, is entering his junior year and plans on pursuing an engineering degree in college.

Casey Ploederl, 16, is entering his junior year and will go for a wildlife degree.

Wolfgang Stueck, 17, is entering his senior year and plans on a four-year technical education degree. He served as a boat monitor in 2019.

The three will share the job as a Clean Boats Clean Waters intern, a part-time seasonal job for the town of Belle Plaine. **Kevin Goodman** oversees the program for the CLPA. They primarily work on weekends when boat traffic is the busiest.

CBCW interns increase aware-

ness of aquatic invasive species (AIS) by sharing information about AIS regulations, laws, and prevention steps with water users and other visitors at boat landings. The CBCW intern will also help individuals check watercraft and equipment for aquatic plants and animals before entering and when leaving Cloverleaf Lakes. During watercraft inspection, CBCW interns record valuable data about boater behaviors and understanding of preventative measures which is reported in Wisconsin's online database and helps inform future AIS prevention efforts.



Brody Prill



Casey Ploederl



Wolfgang Stueck

Thundering Hooves heard in Belle Plaine

By Joan Sousek

Thundering Hooves Stable & Equestrian Center (formerly Liberty Equestrian Center) at N3545 Wisconsin Ave. in Belle Plaine, has fully reopened after partially closing for weeks due to the pandemic.

During the temporary change, farm upkeep and caretaking of a dozen horses continued, according to owner Peggy Artz, who lives on site and operates the business with her husband, Sonny.

Technically, the business fell into the essential category because they care for animals, Peggy says, but no training, lessons or riding were allowed and adult owners could visit just to exercise their horses, with only one owner allowed in the barn at a time.

Now things are getting back to normal.

The couple took over the business after boarding horses there for about four years. They knew the stable was for sale, and since they were eyeing getting a fourth horse, they decided to buy it.



Sonny Artz goes face to face with Kalli, one of the horses at Thundering Hooves Stable in Belle Plaine.

They both have fulltime jobs elsewhere and care for their four horses and eight others, that are mainly from the Shawano/Clintonville area.

Previously, the family lived off Spruce Road on Branch Lane where they built a home in 1997. Before that, they lived in New London and Clintonville.

“We love the area,” Peggy says.

Their son Logan lives in Green Bay.

The stable is more of a hobby than a livelihood.

“The primary reason we do it is we love the animals,” says Peggy. “So we are not currently expanding.”

Both always have been interested in horses. Sonny grew up on a farm in the Black Creek area where his sister had horses. Peggy grew up in the Northwoods and her mother and grandfather had horses, but she had no working knowledge of their care. Busy working and raising their son, she didn’t buy her first horse until 2013.

Peggy strongly relates to the business’s tagline, “Where confidence is built and dreams come true.”

It was her dream to own a horse, but she had reservations. “As much as I love horses, I wasn’t a confident rider,” she says,

so she did a lot of research learning how to care for a horse, how being a prey (not a predator) animal affects a horse, and how it can be very protective of its owner.

A horse also can be a kind of soulmate. “I have a heart horse,” she says. “It helped me through a lot of difficult times and built my confidence.”

The business has no employees, but a nephew who boards a horse there helps out, and horse owners help each other. It’s not formal training, but they might watch a friend riding and offer suggestions, Peggy says. It’s the same for overall care related to types of feed, supplements and types of tack, too.

The farm has about 38 acres with 20 acres of pasture and 10 acres for hay. In addition to their ranch-style home, the property features an insulated barn with has 14 10x10-foot stalls, lockers for tack and cross ties where owners can groom and saddle their horses. Outside is an area for bathing or spraying down the horses.

The property has large indoor and outdoor arenas (at last 60x120-feet), a round pen, plenty of parking, a riding trail and shelters including two new ones which they built. Other upgrades include replacing a lot of fence posts and fencing including redoing the outdoor arena.

They plan to add new sand to both arenas, put a restroom in the barn and possibly install underground electrical lines down the lane so they can make water available there in winter.

Peggy notes their fees are comparable to other area stables and are in between full-service stables and stables that just rent stalls with owners providing all care.

A rough board is \$200 per month which includes use of the facilities and feeding with hay. Other supplements and grain could be extra.

Quality hay is important, Peggy notes, because horses have sensitive guts. They buy 2,500 to 3,000 small squares of hay a year, roughly 200-300 bales per horse annually. Last year, due to high hay prices, they added \$35 a month to boarding fees.

They can turnout (move a horse to pasture) during the day and put it in a stall at night, and feed in addition to grazing. Everything else, such as farrier and vet services, are the responsibility of the owner who must be present for the procedures under most circumstances.



Peggy Artz enjoys a moment with her horse Sunny. She and her husband own Thundering Hooves Stable.



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 2020 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 2020. 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

(920) 830-2788

Jessica Meier, co-president
and treasurer
JessicaMeier
@UWalumni.com

Gary Schumacher,
Secretary
Gary@Garyschumacher.
com

Christopher Sampson,
co-president
csampson@new.rr.com

Greg Martin
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(312) 543-5106

Kevin Goodman, vice
president
Cloverleafprotective
@gmail.com

Peggy McMahon
PMcMahon23@gmail.com

Fireworks Inc. donors (as of May 29)

Shoot for the Moon

Charlie's County Market

Roman Candle

Mosquito Squad

M80

Brent and Jessica Meier

Glenn and Peggy McMahon

Tim Zuck

Don and Connie Steudel

Kevin and Dawn Prien

Clintonville Elevator

Fox Community Credit Union

Kevin and Linda Goodman

Craig and Donna Ford

CLPA

Firecracker

Tim Schultz

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Associated Bank

Don Heiman Builders

Eberhardt and Stevenson

Funeral Home

Claude and JJ Waite

Torborg's Lumber in memory
of John Torborg

Dean and Paula Styczynski

Rhonda Olson Agency

(American Family)

Belle Plaine calendar

July 4: Kiddie Parade,
9:30 a.m. around lake

July 4: Boat parade around
Cloverleaf Lakes, 6:30
p.m.

July 4: Fireworks over
Cloverleaf Lakes, dusk

July 6: CLPA board, 9
a.m., Community Center

July 6: Town Board, 7
p.m., Community Center

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

Aug. 10: Town Board, 7
p.m., Community Center

Aug. 11: Primary election,
7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Commu-
nity Center

Sept. 5: CLPA annual
meeting, 10 a.m. Round
Lake Park shelter

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



Belle Plaine Fire Station Expanded: The Belle Plaine unit of the Rural Fire Department got dressed up in early June to celebrate the expansion of the fire station in the background and arrival of the second full-sized fire truck. The existing storage building was expanded and the trucks moved out of the Community Center building. The firefighters also received about \$20,000 of equipment in-

cluding protective gear from the Cloverleaf Lakes Sanitary District. From right to left are Chief Shawn Borlee, Lt. Mark Retzlaff, Cedric Pettis, Cory Retzlaff, Bryce Rodrigus, Jerry Krueger and Nick Benzinger. Back row: Terry Schwartz, Kasey Kristof and Tommy Stueck. The second truck will bring more gallons of water quickly to a fire and keep town homeowner insurance rates low.