



# BELLE PLAINE

## NEWS & EVENTS

**Spring 2022**

### Chairman's Message *By Alvin Bartz*

This is our first attempt at completing a newsletter. You will find articles written about different areas of town services. This year our 2020 census figure was under 1800, Belle Plaine has one of the highest averages of older people in Shawano County. The number of residents we have affects how much money we receive for Shared Revenue. The road I live on, 50 years ago had 56 people living on it (parents and children), today there are 24.

We will soon be looking at road projects to be done this summer. We use a Pacer rating system that helps us determine what roads we will do. We have to take into consideration traffic volume, roads that are direct routes to Shawano and semi-truck volume. Farm machinery requires the road to be wider and heavier. To grind, do culvert work, black top and finish the shoulder costs our town about \$150,000 per mile. This year we did a different process called chip sealing on Rosebrook and Capital roads. The process does not require putting down new blacktop, this costs us about \$25,000 per mile and extends the life of the road about ten years. Roads must be in somewhat good shape yet to do this process.

Many of our area farmers have received mailings from solar companies trying to encourage farmers with larger amounts of acres to put their land into a solar energy farm. They have been from Minnesota, Maryland, Michigan and others. We are working with our Comprehensive Plan to put restrictions pertaining to solar farms to keep and protect our agriculture land. Once putting in solar farms the land is tied up for up to 60 years. I have received concerns from people that live around Maple Lane, they expressed that it would be very sad to ruin the beauty around there for ones that ride horse, cross country ski, walk or hunt. Also, there was concerns from the people who live close by there because they don't want to look out their windows at a solar panel farm. If you also have concerns call your County board Rep and let them know.

Marie has done a good job at the compost site. Burning only took a couple of hours since large diameter pieces had been kept out of the pile. If you take wood to the compost site, you could leave the 3-4-inch pieces outside of the pile, other residents most likely would pick them up and take them home to burn in their outside wood burner.

Our last fill for diesel fuel costs \$3.19, in 2012 we had paid \$3.45.

Have a happy and safe summer!



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>Town Messages</b>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>Kudo's Corner, Dump News</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2022 Fireworks</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sportman's Club</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Lake News</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Bizi Belles</b>	<b>8</b>



# Messages from the Town of Belle Plaine

## Clerk's Message *By Kristine Vomastic*

It won't be long until spring is here! It has been a busy first few months of 2022. The first of the year comes with many reports and surveys that need to be completed by deadlines, there is increasingly more of these added to our list each year. Next, we will be moving into Open Book and then Board of Review, Associated Appraisal our town Assessor will set the dates for both of these events. These usually take place in April and May. Any questions you may have on your taxes can be addressed at open book, where you can see comparisons of your property to others located in the town. Most concerns are typically taken care of at open book with our assessor. If you still are not satisfied after that you can make an appointment for the Board of Review where you would present your case to the board and it would be voted on to either change your taxes or not.

Elections will soon be starting for the year. Spring election will be held on April 5. You will see some familiar and also some new faces this year working at the elections. Being Clerk I am responsible for getting the election all set up and ready to go, sending out and tracking absentees, running the prelat (where we check our machine), Public test (where the citizens of the town can come and watch us recheck the machine) and making sure election day is ready to go. We have a new voting machine this year which will require additional training by the election team. Colleen Weishoff, Bonnie Utke and Luke Heling are our Chief Inspectors, they have a huge responsibility to supervise and run the two shifts on election day making sure we have no mistakes and that we are following all the rules and regulations required by the Wisconsin Election Commission. Election Inspectors include: Amanda Hannes, Beth Wearing, Bob Hannes, Deb Passehl, Dee Weisnicht, Dennis Krubsack, Jessica Throlson, Joy Krubsack, Larry Romuald, Linda Olson, Sally Norder, Tom Laude, William Gilbert and William Krewal. Thanks to all of you for your help and dedication.

Marcalene Rosenow our other Chief Inspector has decided this year to retire from working the elections. What a great wealth of knowledge she has from all her many years of service. She certainly got us through many changes in the past and kept us from being on TV for not having things done correctly! Whew! Thank you so much Marcy we all will truly miss you!!

That's all for now, please check the town web site for upcoming events.

*Kristine Vomastic Clerk*



## Topics from the Treasurer

I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Colleen Weishoff and I have lived in the town of Belle Plaine for the past 33 years. My husband Scott & I have two adult children, Alanna (John) Miesbauer and Justin (Ashley) Weishoff. We are blessed with four amazing grandchildren, Aidan, Colin, Blake & Hailey.

I have worked in Accounting and Finance positions most of my working career. In 2020 I retired from my full-time position as Payroll Director for Genex Cooperative. After a brief retirement "honeymoon" I soon found myself looking for a new challenge. I was hired by the Shawano School District and have been a substitute aide and paraprofessional for them since October 2020. I truly enjoy working with the children as well as the teachers and support staff.

In September 2021 I saw an ad for the treasurer position for the Town of Belle Plaine. I felt I would be a good candidate for the position and it would be interesting learning more about local government. On September 27, I started as the new treasurer. Beginning this position right before tax season was a bit scary to say the least. Thankfully I had the most amazing help from former treasurer Heather Krueger who is currently serving as Special Deputy Treasurer. I cannot possibly thank Heather enough for all her help and support. She is a great mentor for this position, and I continue to learn from her each time we meet.

The town board has been amazing to work with and everyone I had the privilege to meet since I started has been extremely supportive. I thank you for your patience as I continue to learn and grow in this new job.

A recap of the 2021 tax season is as follows:


Total payments collected: \$3,079,492.24

Payments from the tax money disbursed to date:

Paid to Shawano County:	\$870,331.81
Paid to Clintonville School District:	\$793,907.80
Paid to Shawano School District:	\$949,674.84
Paid to Fox Valley Technical College:	\$66,743.44
Paid to Northeast Wisconsin Technical College:	\$73,316.23
Retained by the Town of Belle Plaine:	\$302,977.39

Refunds issued for overpayments and late lottery credits have also been issued. Any remaining real estate tax payments must now be made to: Shawano County Treasurer, 311 N Main St., Shawano, WI 54166


I will continue to issue dog licenses as needed. The deadline is 4/1/2022.



## COMPOST SITE

**OPENING APRIL 2, 2022**  
**(WEATHER PERMITTING)**

TAKE HWY 22 TO  
 RIVER BANK ROAD  
 TO RANGE LINE ROAD  
**OPEN 8:30 AM TO 2 PM**



### Message *by Cory Retzlaff*

As we start 2022, I look back at my first year of being a town Supervisor. I can't help but feel proud of keeping our town moving forward. There are many things to learn and I will continue to do so. I have enjoyed meeting and working with the wonderful people in our town whether it is at a board meeting, out in the public or at my job at R and S in Marion. As a Supervisor I am always interested in your input and ideas.

I would also like to touch base on a couple of areas that surely could use some volunteers. The Belle Plaine EMS group of first responders, they are always looking for more assistance and new members to join this great organization. Kevin King is the Director and would love to talk to you if you think you are interested. Another one of our Belle Plaine groups looking for volunteers is the SAFD (Shawano Area Fire Department). Mark Retzlaff is the Lieutenant and can help you get started. If you think either one of these areas interest you, just call the Community Center at 715 524 2690 to get contact information.

Have a safe spring and Summer!

- **April 21<sup>st</sup>** Open Book from 2-4 pm
- **April 11<sup>th</sup>** Monthly Board Meeting
- **April 19<sup>th</sup>** Town Annual Meeting
- **May 9<sup>th</sup>** Monthly Board Meeting
- **May 12<sup>th</sup>** Board of Review

Please call Jake Baumbach from Associated Appraisal with any questions or concerns over property values on your home at 920-749-1995 ext. 8815. You do not have to wait until open book to call him, if you contact him prior to BOR changes or problems can be settled before you have to go to BOR.

## Belle Plaine Officials

Alvin Bartz, Chairman

Wade Wisnefske Supervisor #1

Cory Retzlaff, Supervisor #2

Kristine Vomastic, Clerk

Colleen Weishoff, Treasurer

### Clerk's Hours

Tuesday, Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM

Saturday 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month

5 PM to 7 PM

Or by appointment.

### Regular Town Board Meetings:

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, 7 PM

### Committees:

Planning, Zoning,

Gibson Island Stewardship

### Population Estimate: 1785



Belle Plaine  
Community  
Center

N3002 St.  
Hwy 22

Clintonville,  
WI 54929

715 524 2690



# Kudos Korner

## Gracie Otis

loves photography.

She is a sophomore at Shawano High School.

Gracie will be working this summer as one of our boat launch monitors. Great job Gracie!

If you have someone from our town you would like to recognize, email me a picture and a short bio and we will get it in our newsletter.



## Dump Day *by Supervisor Wade Wisniefske*

As a kid growing up in a township of Bear Creek, Saturday morning meant a trip to the town dump, socializing, treasure hunting and last but not least getting rid of the weeks garbage which would be burned that afternoon.

How times have changed! Few townships are as fortunate to still have a town dump, as roadside refuse and recycling have become the norm. My article is to inform our town on the cost associated with having two forms of garbage handling. Let me be perfectly clear, garbage and recycling are not paid out of your tax dollars, it is paid out of the general budget and nowhere on your tax bill is there a special assessment charging you for garbage. We are one of the few townships that do not charge each household for garbage.

The total costs for garbage in 2021 showed we spent **\$195,342.90**. The town is currently paying \$140.00 per year, per household for curbside garbage and recycling even if you don't use it. In 2023, it will be going up to approximately \$146.00 per household. The cost of the drop off site is about \$425.00 per resident for the fifty or so where we don't go house to house. If you are using the Recycling Center instead of curbside pickup the town is actually paying twice for your garbage costs plus the tipping fee at the landfill is about \$70.00 per ton of garbage and recycling.

Every year our roads are getting worse and the costs to fix them is more, if we can save money on something as simple as garbage, we will have more money in our budget to put towards roads. Please consider using roadside pickup if able, and if you do use the dump, please breakdown cardboard, the town pays \$205.00 for every dumpster pull. If you use plastic bags for recycling, empty the bag out and do not put the bag in the recycling dumpster. Plastic bags in the recycling bin interfere with the recycling process.

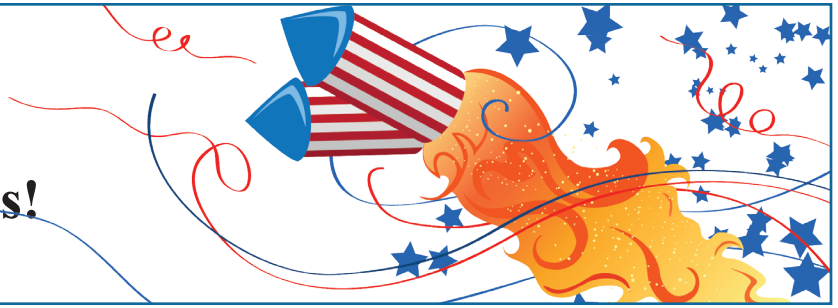
Starting **April 1, 2022**, the board has decided the dump hours will be from 9-12 am, most people come to the dump before noon, leaving the dump open until three costs the town additional wages.

**My goal in this article is not to close the dump, but to save money on garbage and recycling so that we have a better chance to keep our roads better and safer for you and your families.**

Questions or comments please contact me at 715-853-9550



## Our Planning for your 2022 Fireworks Continues!



### From the team at Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Inc.

Save the date of July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022! We hope that you stay tuned to our progress and share in our excitement for this great community event. As we build up for this 2022 season, we will be seeking your input and support. We have requested feedback on our Facebook page for boat parade theme ideas. Jump out there to “comment” with your ideas! Or reach out to one of our team members listed below. We will compile all your requests and vote on a theme later this spring.

We will be working to organize a summer apparel sale soon. We will share this information as soon as we have the preparation work completed. This continues to be a terrific way to show your pride in the Cloverleaf Lakes Community. Stay tuned!

We will be looking to crown a new King or Queen this year! We are looking for contestants to compete for collecting the most donations. We will again have a nice prize package for the winner. They will be crowned the King or Queen of the Cloverleaf Lakes and take the throne at the head of the boat parade and the kiddie parade that day! Anyone can enter this fun event. Please reach out to our member Billie Rice at [billiejorice@yahoo.com](mailto:billiejorice@yahoo.com) or 727-744-0968 for more information.

Our rocket located across from the boat landing on county road Y continues to show our progress for the 2022 season. We are humbled by the vast community support. Your contributions are truly setting this show up for success as a yearly tradition. Please consider donating or advertising today. We have many advertisement opportunities available. If you are a local business looking to support this event, please reach out to our advertising team. Feel free to contact Glenn McMahon at [glennmcmahon01@gmail.com](mailto:glennmcmahon01@gmail.com) or Don Steudel at [dstuedel.ds@gmail.com](mailto:dstuedel.ds@gmail.com)

We have a GoFundMe page at “Cloverleaf Lake Fire-

works 2022” and our Facebook page name is “Cloverleaf Lake Fireworks Inc.” Please share with your friends, family, and neighbors to keep up on our progress.

As our non-profit group grows and continues to get more organized, we are welcoming new membership opportunities. If you have a passion for the Cloverleaf Lakes and have an interest in joining our team, please email **Peggy McMahon** at [pcmcMahon23@gmail.com](mailto:pcmcMahon23@gmail.com) or **J.J. Wait** at [jjwait@frontiernet.net](mailto:jjwait@frontiernet.net) or feel free to call J.J. at 715-250-3005.

Our team meets monthly in addition to our annual meeting in July. We are looking for motivated volunteers to contribute ideas and execute tasks that will elevate our mission of providing a free professional fireworks show for all the families and businesses that live, work, and vacation in this area. Please reach out to us if you would like to be part of this fun team or if you have any questions.

This community holiday event is proving to be a cherished tradition to celebrate, and we couldn't be more thrilled to share our passion and excitement as we prepare for this. Thank you to all the local families, neighbors, and businesses that continue to support and build upon this celebration.

**Donations can be mailed directly to:**  
**Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Inc.,**  
**P.O. Box 275, Embarrass, WI 54933**







## Belle Plaine Sportsmans Club News

**July, 2021;** BPSC supported the Embarrass Fun Daze in support of the Embarrass Volunteer Fire Department. Members staffed cook shacks and bar areas and won a prize for their Andy Griffith "Fishing Song" float.

**October, 2021:** BPSC hosted its' 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Cloverfest, Run/Walk event. They had a record number of 165 participant with a new reach of participants through use of an on-line registration site. Area businesses donated raffle items and food was served for all participants.

18 <sup>th</sup> Annual Cloverfest		
Overall Fastest	Male	Female
	*Ethan Onesti 19:19 16 Year Old	*April Hanson 21:42
45 years +	1 David Selle 26:37 2 Daniel Hohn 29:34	1 Stacy Hohn 26:57 2 Beth Petrazates 28:31
17-45 yrs	1 Joe Vangrinsen 19:28 2 Lucas Falkavage 23:28	*2 Jessica Petrazates 22:47 3 Lisa Rasch 27:32
Under 17	*2 Josia Kuehl 20:02 3 Andrew Falkavage 25:22	1 Evie Kuehl 20:24 2 Stella Jaquet 20:06

**Summer 2021:** BPSC conducted 3 ditch pickups on Hwy Y from Pine Manor to Hwy 22. Too much garbage collected. Please do not litter!

**February 19, 2022:** Annual Kid's Learn to Ice Fish Event on Cloverleaf Lakes

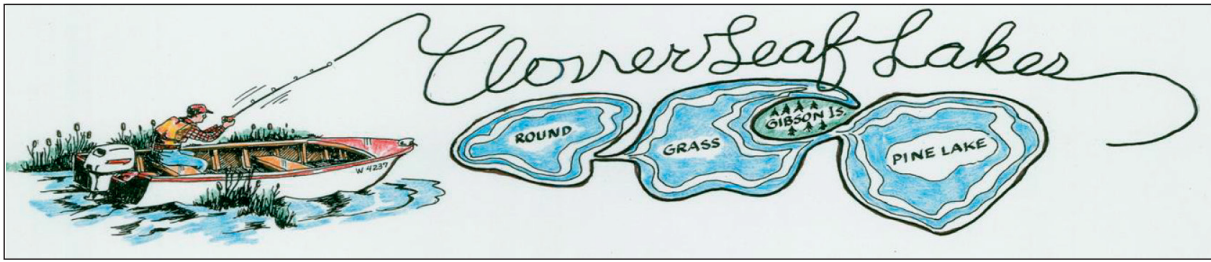
The event had 70 participants (even though it was postponed one day due to weather). Hay wagons were used to transport the kids out to ice fishing shacks on the lake, where the kid's learned the basics of ice fishing,

and some even caught fish! All registrants received a fishing pole and tackle box for participating, four received a new bike!



**Upcoming Event: Annual Family Trout Fish will be held on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. 10am – 2pm, FREE TO ALL!!** Stocked pond, refresh-ments will be served, bring your own poles and bait. Please follow parking signs.

Join the BPSC to promote and support our Community. Like us on Facebook to see event pictures and receive event notifications. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month, 6pm at Butch's Archery.



“Preserving our lakes for future generations”

## CLPA: News from the Cloverleaf Lakes

**Annual meeting set for May 28:** Make plans to attend the 2022 annual meeting of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association at 10 a.m. May 28, which is the Saturday morning of Memorial Day Weekend. The site, rain or shine, will be the shelter at the Round Lake park. It's a great opportunity to gather with neighbors to hear the latest on -lake matters and to share your own views on issues of common concern. It's also a chance to renew your CLPA membership, in person. Additionally, members may receive free copies of our new lakes-area directory, the first update since 2016.

**Report card gives Grass Lake treatment an 'A':** Biologists from the CLPA's environmental consulting firm, Onterra LLC, say last summer's test of the relatively new herbicide ProcettaCor was a solid success. The treatment killed virtually all of the invasive Hybrid Water Milfoil in the two targeted spots: a large colony adjacent to the bulrush island near Grass Lake's south shore, and the weedy northeast shoreline near the eagles' nest and isthmus area. Additionally, chemical drift from those spots greatly reduced milfoil abundance across the entirety of Grass Lake. (It is estimated HWM accounted for about 30 percent of plant growth lakewide, pre-treatment, and only 1 percent post-treatment.) Beneficial native plants including wild celery and muskgrass seemed to survive the treatment well, although further monitoring will occur. The large-scale treatment-the first on Grass Lake since 2016 -was relatively expensive, at about \$15,000. The cost was covered by CLPA reserves, a small DNR grant and a \$5,000, one-time contribution from the Cloverleaf Lakes Sanitary District. The Town of Belle Plaine has been a financial partner in Cloverleaf water-quality projects, as well.

**Boat monitors wanted:** The more, the merrier! CLPA board member Andy Hines is coordinator of the boat-monitor program at the County Y landing. Depending on the year and the level of interest, the CLPA hires one or several individuals to share the part-time summer job. It involves meeting and greeting boaters and gently reminding them of the need to drain tanks, clean weeds

and otherwise be vigilant so as not to transport invasive hitchhikers either into or out of the Cloverleaf Lakes. It's a perfect position for a college student or older high schooler, especially one with an interest in conservation or environmental sciences. Contact Andy at ahines92@comcast.net

**Tons of hand-picked milfoil:** The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association is increasing its ongoing investment in the hand harvest of invasive milfoil as a way to keep ahead of new infestations and extend the time between expensive chemical treatments. Pete Karlson, an area resident who owns and operates Karlson's SCUBA & Recovery, has converted a pontoon boat to serve as a dedicated Cloverleaf Lakes DASH and hand-harvest platform. His efforts yielded more than 20,000 pounds of HWM (10 tons!) taken primarily from Pine and Round lakes in 2021. The method is most effective on scattered plants and small colonies. With the HWM now greatly reduced on Grass Lake with last summer's herbicide, it is possible you will see Karlson's dive team trying to keep ahead of recolonization on all three lakes in 2022.

**CLPA's Sampson named to statewide lakes group:** Christopher Sampson, who serves as president of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, was recently selected to join the 10-member board of directors of Wisconsin Lakes. Board members come from lake districts and associations across the state and offer advocacy and feedback to both DNR and elected officials on public policy issues. Wisconsin Lakes is also an information clearinghouse for local lakes seeking to share their experiences and apply best practices in maintaining healthy waters and maximizing public enjoyment of the resource. Sampson will serve a three-year term.

**-- Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association board members are Christopher Sampson, president; Kevin Goodman, vice president; Jessica Meier, treasurer; Gary Schumacher, secretary; Jeff Caspersqn, Andy Hines and Peggy McMahon. Direct correspondence to [cloverleafflakesprotective@gmail.com](mailto:cloverleafflakesprotective@gmail.com)**



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

## Bizi Belles Present Pledge of Allegiance Flag

Pledge of Allegiance wooden flag was presented to town Chairman Alvin Bartz by Bizi-Belles HCE Club. The flag will be displayed at the Community Center. Bizi-Belles was organized on January 31, 1977 with 10 charter members living in Belle Plaine Township. Membership changed over the years. Now 45 Years later, there are 8 members and their expanded boundary includes Pelle Township.

During the 45 years as a club, Bizi-Belles continued to carry on the tradition of giving to improve community and family living. Giving of their time and donations to the following: Books Worms project for children in the Head Start Program, handmade pillows and quilts for the Early Childhood Program, BIBS safety program, made blanket carriers for Shawano Hospital's newborns. Donations to Wee Care Food Pack program, Toys for Tots, Dollars for Scholars, and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. They volunteered at the Barn Quilt Ride, assisted with monetary donations to members and Families in the community to help them with their medical or disaster expenses. Other donations were to Cloverleaf Lakes Boat Landing Improvement project, Shawano County Sheriff's Department for the Jaws of Life and S.O.S. K-9, Shawano Area Matthews 25, Safe Haven, SAFPARC, Veterans Home at King, Fisher House Wisconsin for veterans, Kathy House Milwaukee, CP telethon and to local healthcare center.



**Sitting, Left to Right: Ruth Pahlow, Verdel Krueger and Mae Retzlaff. Standing, Left to Right: Sandra Smith, Kris Vomastic, Mary Zahn, Miriam Durkey, Barbara Riesenber, Cory Retzlaff, Judy Ann Pahlow and Alvin Bartz.**

