



BELLE PLAINE

NEWS & EVENTS

Fall 2019

ATVs and UTVs on town roads?

All Terrain Vehicles are popular recreation vehicles and Utility Terrain Vehicles are widely used for farm and residential uses, including hauling cargo.

Should those ATVs and UTVs be allowed to travel on Belle Plaine town roads?

That issue came up at the August Town Board meeting when about a dozen ATV advocates urged the board to adopt an ordinance allowing the vehicles to use town roads.

The group said several nearby towns and villages, including the Town of Matteson and Village of Embarrass just south of Belle Plaine, have approved similar ordinances. Others in attendance said ATVs could pose a safety hazard on some heavily traveled roads and that 12-year-olds could operate ATVs.

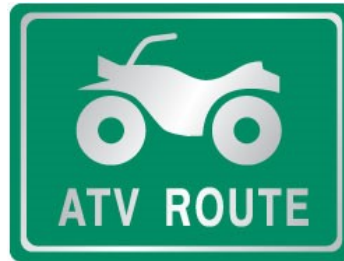
The Town Board is studying the matter and is asking town residents their opinions (see page 8) before taking any action..

Here are some tidbits gathered from the Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources as well as news sources:

* Wisconsin laws were changed in 2017 and 2018 allowing a town, village or city to authorize the operation of ATVs/UTVs on roads and limit speed limits of 35 mph or less. Signs must be placed to indicate that roads have been designated ATV routes (DOT).

* Nearby Shawano County towns that allow ATVs/UTVs include Richmond, Navarino, Grant, Green Valley, Birnamwood and Gresham.

* "An ATV Route is a public roadway that is designated as being open to legal ATV/UTV use by local units of government.



The Belle Plaine Town Board is seeking the advice of town residents on whether to authorize ATVs and UTVs on town roads. Turn to page 8 to participate.

Routes must be designated through passage of a local ordinance and posted with ATV Route (24"x 18") green signs with the white silhouette of an ATV." (DNR)

* "All ATV operators at least age 12 and born on or after January 1, 1988, must possess a valid ATV safety certificate issued by this state or any other state or province. All ATV safety certified operators age 12-15 must also be accompanied by an adult while operating on a designated ATV Route except for operation for agricultural purposes with adult supervision." (DNR)

* "All ATV/UTV operators and passenger under the age of 18 are required to wear a minimum DOT standard ATV or motorcycle helmet. Bicycle helmets do not meet this requirement." (DNR)

* The Town of Richmond's ordinance says all operators must be 16 or older and have a driver's license. It allows ATVs and UTVs on all signed town highways. Drivers must go single-file with a maximum speed of 35 mph, operating only during daylight hours. Other towns have different restrictions.

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Cloverfest Run/Walk planned for Sept. 29

The Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club will host the 16th annual Cloverfest Run/Walk on Sunday, Sept. 29.

The 3.5-mile event will begin at 10 a.m. at the former Rustic Resort location, W8466 Rustic Drive.

Registration fee is \$20 for an adult and \$10 for a youth under 18 in advance, with the fee increasing to \$25 and \$15 on the day of the event. Checks may be sent to Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club, N2689 Rustic Drive, Clintonville, WI 54929.

Runners and walkers will be eligible for prizes in categories age 40 and older; 16 to 39 and 15 and younger.

Food and refreshments will be available after the race. Sponsors have donated many prizes for a raffle.

The entry fee will include a T-shirt if signed up by Sept. 15. More information is available at (715) 823-8319.

Proceeds will benefit the club as well as the Shawano County Humane Society.

Firemen's stand sells a 'fair' amount of burgers

By Alvin Bartz

The firemen's stand at the Shawano County Fair continues to be a gathering place for the rural area. We had another good year at the fair. We served about 4,000 burgers, 34 roasters of chili, and 500 to 600 grilled cheese sandwiches.

Our stand is jointly owned by Belle Plaine, Richmond and Waukechon but the management has been pretty much done by the Belle Plaine chairman. My wife **Nancy** is among the first in the parking lot around 8 a.m. to start work and I am among the last to leave at night after I take inventory to order supplies at 7 a.m. the next day.

We again had good help from Belle Plaine, Pella fire and EMS, and FFA alumni.

Our building addition at the Town Hall complex is underway in hopes of finishing before the snow flies. By adding space to house another fire truck, insurance rates for homeowners should remain at the same rating.

We have had trees along the town roads fall almost every week. The wet weather has caused overhead tree growth into the roadway, which generates calls from bus companies and others when branches hit larger vehicles.

We had been hand-cutting roadside trees with a lift truck but could only get a mile or two done each winter. We will try using

Belle Plaine chairman's message

a brush-head on a machine this winter to lop off overhanging branches in a larger area.

We get almost no help from the utility companies where electrical lines are involved. Their policy seems to be "we'll put the wires back up if a tree takes them down." In the meantime, everyone is out of power.

If you plant trees near a roadway, stay back 35 feet from the center of the road or even further if there are power lines.

Like most fall seasons, building permits have picked up after a slow summer. Many are smaller projects such as garages.

The fall harvest season is coming up. Watch out for farm implements on town roads, especially those making left turns.

Belle Plaine firefighters are asking residents to clear brush and trees along driveways so that fire trucks can get near a residence if there is a fire. Large trucks need a space 16 feet wide and 16 feet tall, as well as a turnaround place, to maneuver properly. The fire department will be checking properties in the town and asking owners to comply. Also, please keep your fire numbers visible along the road.

Belle Plaine town notebook

Belle Plaine is seeking more poll workers for the four elections scheduled in 2020. Applicants should be town residents and have some knowledge of computers. Workers are assigned morning or afternoon shifts. They are paid for the work and for attending required training sessions. Contact Belle Plaine Clerk **Kris Vomastic** for details during office hours Saturday mornings or Monday evenings. Or call (715) 524-2690 and leave a message.

* The Shawano Area Fire Department is seeking volunteer firefighters for its Shawano, Belle Plaine and Wescott stations.

Stop at Auto Prep, 220 North Main St., next to the Shawano fire station, or see Lt. **Mark Retzlaff** for an application.

*The town's compost site on Range Line Road is open for the fall. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. It will close in mid-November.

*Hours for the Collection and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road are Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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.

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: 4 to 6 p.m. Monday; 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

Summer diving yields tons of milfoil in Cloverleafs

By Christopher Sampson

The Cloverleaf Lakes took a new angle of attack this summer against the chain's fast-growing invasive milfoil.

For the first time, the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association budgeted for an extensive schedule of scuba diver hand harvest. Crews from DASH LLC of Green Bay spent at least a dozen days on Grass and Pine lakes, targeting Eurasian Water Milfoil hot spots from their pontoon-boat diving platform. DASH stands for Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting.

In just their first three days on and under the water, in mid-July, the dive team hauled out more than a ton of EWM – 2,330 pounds, to be exact.

Daily progress varied. A thick EWM colony just offshore from the County Y boat launch yielded 800 pounds in a single morning of intensive pulling, and it would take several more visits to get that area under control. The milfoil hunting on more lightly affected Pine Lake, in contrast, meant hopscotching around to harvest a small stand here, a few scattered plants there.

With Pine Lake mostly cleared out, the crews returned in August and again in September to concentrate on Grass Lake including the Gibson Island back bay. (Pine and Grass, three years removed from their last lakewide applications of the milfoil-specific herbicide Fluridone, needed the attention. Round Lake, treated in 2018, did not.)

Hand pulling has been tried before on the Cloverleafs, but previous efforts were more limited. This year, Onterra, our environmental consulting firm, recommended the association go all in to test whether an ambitious diving campaign could knock back the EWM enough to delay the next round of chemical treatment.

We'll save money if it does. Hand harvest can cost up to \$1,000 per day, but it's estimated the next fluridone application across all three lakes could top \$100,000. That's why at our annual meeting in May, Association members endorsed the board's plan for a one-year plunge into heavy-duty diving. Costs are to be split among the CLPA, DNR grants and the town of Belle Plaine.

The dive crews tell me they averaged roughly 1,000 pounds per day, which adds up to about six tons of milfoil sent to the mulch pile. They didn't get it all, of course. It's unrealistic to think you can locate and pull every plant. EWM can hide in stands of native plants or hard-to-access areas. It can also blend in, until it spreads out and takes over, amid beneficial colonies of

CLPA co-president's message

slower-growing and less aggressive native milfoil, which we have on the Cloverleafs. (It takes a sharp eye to differentiate the Eurasian and hybrid strains from the native stuff.)

What's next? It might be a full year before we can fully gauge the return on this year's investment. Onterra samples our lakes each spring and fall to map aquatic plant variety and abundance, so we'll know more with each of those sweeps. Here's hoping the news is good, and shows we've found a useful, supplemental strategy to help keep invasive milfoil from clogging the Cloverleafs.

P.S. – We'll be seeking your input

It has been more than a decade since the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association last authored a comprehensive lake-management plan. The DNR considers these citizen-generated plans when awarding grants or committing time and resources to new projects. It wants to know if lake residents and other local stakeholders are adapting best practices and doing their fair share.

The CLPA intends to publish a new and updated lake plan in 2020. We'll address topics from recreational use of the lakes, water quality and fisheries management to invasive species, biodiversity, surface and groundwater inputs, and shoreline development.

We'll incorporate input from volunteers and board members past and present, our consultants with Onterra, environmental specialists from the DNR and

the Fox-Wolf alliance, and you.

Watch for a survey later this year, as we invite your observations and suggestions. We'll need volunteers to participate in discussing the issues, shaping the report and finalizing its recommendations. Email me in care of the CLPA, at CloverleafProtective@gmail.com, if you'd like to learn more.

—Christopher Sampson is co-president, with Jessica Meier, of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association



Members of the DASH crew anchor off the north shore of Grass Lake and dive for hybrid milfoil. The divers pulled up hundreds of pounds of the invasive weed this summer.

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

Slope an issue for Long Lake shoreland, survey shows

By Emily Henrigillis

In August and September 2018, a shoreline survey was completed for Long Lake. This same survey protocol was used on Shawano Lake this summer and will be used on the Cloverleaf Lakes in 2020.

The results from the shoreline survey were presented at the Long Lake Annual Meeting on June 29 and the report can be made available to anyone interested.

The goal of the survey was to see what was present within the riparian zone (or the 35 feet closest to the water) and to determine what improvements could be made to the shoreline. The results of the survey should be used as a guide for landowners and none of the suggestions are mandatory.

The largest concern around Long Lake is the presence of slope: sloping trails, sloping lawns, sloping roads. As water runs down the slope, it can pick up soil particles, grass clippings, fertilizers and road particles. With no plant buffer in place, this water, now full of nutrients, ends up in the lake. One suggestion is to add a native plant buffer to stop that unfiltered water from reaching the lake. A buffer of just a few feet can aid in slowing down and stopping that polluted water from entering the lake.

If a manicured lawn is a must, proper maintenance of that lawn is necessary. Soil health is important when managing a lawn; healthy grass means a healthy root system. As a reminder, do not allow your grass clippings or leaves to end up in the lake. This adds to the nutrient problems such as algae blooms the lake experiences.

During the presentation by the Waterways Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties (WAMSCO) at the Long Lake Annual meeting, the effects of water temperature entering the lake were discussed. As water runs off roofs, sidewalks, roads or paths, there is no chance for that water to cool before entering the lake. This can lead to problems for the fish and other aquatic life.



A shoreland property on Long Lake shows a mix of plants, grass and trees on a steep slope, along with a pier.

Rain gardens are one suggestion to combat this problem. Eave troughs and other diversions can be used to point impervious surface runoff into these rain gardens. This helps get that water back into the soil and helps stop hot, nutrient filled water from entering the lake.

Cost share funding of these projects is available. Shawano County, Healthy Lakes, and your lake association could help keep costs low when implementing these projects. By making small changes to our land practices, we can help improve our water quality.

For more information, please contact Emily at (920) 851-6472 or email Emily@fwwa.org. Emily Henrigillis is the Shawano-Menominee watershed coordinator for WAMSCO.

Gibson Island help wanted

Volunteers spread mulch at the site where native plants will replace invasives on the Gibson Island property. Workers included students Jasmine, Jesse and Josh Wilson and Cody Carri-co, along with Emily Henrigillis, Molly Joosten, Dick Hesse and Joy Krubsack. Two Community Foundation grants are funding the removal of invasive species and the planting of native plants in the boardwalk area. These native plants will be shipped on Sept. 16. Help is needed to plant them. If you can help, contact Joy Krubsack at (715) 823-6480. All hands will be welcome.



Two new businesses open in Belle Plaine

Shawano's Café couple has experience

By Joan Sousek

A couple with families that both run restaurants in Wisconsin opened Shawano's Café at W7389 River Bend Road, Town of Belle Plaine, on Aug. 15.

Restaurant managers **Dee and Terry Zeqiri** grew up in the restaurant business. Her father owns Tomahawk Family Restaurant in Tomahawk and bought the building. His father owns Abby Café in Abbotsford. The couple had managed other restaurants and Terry also is a cook.

The building first was home to Amico's, then Max's Family Restaurant (owned by a distant relative). Most recently, it was Grandma Sofia's Family Restaurant.

The restaurant is open every day from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. with an extensive menu featuring many options for breakfast (served all day), lunch, and some dinner entrees including liver, steak, stir fries and more.

Several specials are offered each day (with fish on Friday, of course). They also have special items for seniors and kids. Many items are homemade including soups, made fresh daily. Takeout is available.

Business, as of late August, had been brisk, and breakfast is

popular throughout the day, Dee notes, especially the breakfast combos. The Philly cheese steaks and stir fries also have been well-received.

"It's been going pretty well. It hasn't slowed down yet, and we hope it continues," Dee says. "We didn't advertise too much. We just put out open signs and did a small post on Facebook, which was shared a lot."

The interior was updated with fresh paint and a new flooring in the main dining room that features large, arched windows and seating at booths and tables. Outside, the large parking lot has been paved.

"We brightened it up a little bit. We wanted something a little more welcoming," Dee says. "Hopefully, we accomplished it."

They do not serve alcohol and the former bar area was opened up to accommodate more diners with tables and counter service. That space might eventually be converted to a coffee shop, and the adjacent outdoor patio might be available for dining in the future, too.

In all, they can seat 60 to 70 people, with an area that can be closed off for groups of about 35 to 40. To reserve that space, advance notice of at least a week is needed. No daily reservations are taken; seating is first come/first served.

Happy Trails opens in mini mall

By Joan Sousek

The Town of Belle Plaine mini mall, N4531 Highway 22, just south of the 22 Shell Station/Arby's has its first occupant. Happy Trails CBD is a full-service cannabidiol (CBD) store, one of four owned by Wisconsin natives **Jason and Kayla Tokarczyk**. The other three shops are in Kaukauna, Green Bay and Appleton, and they plan to open stores in Darboy and Chicago.

CBD is a non-psychoactive cannabinoid compound derived from hemp with "enormous therapeutic potential," the company website states, and it does not produce a "high."

The Shawano store offers CBD oils, edibles (gummies, tea and coffee), topicals and supplements for pets.

The store opened Aug. 12 in Suite 2. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday; closed Sunday. A grand opening is being planned.

Happy Trails has about 20 employees in the four stores, including several team members who work in Shawano on a rotating basis, says **Jami Schultz**, Shawano store manager.

"We emphasize education," Schultz says. "We know it will help people."

Schultz, who previously worked in customer service, says she uses CBD products herself and has a passion for helping people. She says the stores are kid-friendly and pet-friendly.

The biggest issues Schultz sees customers trying to address with CBD products are anxiety, pain and poor sleep. She encourages people to stop in and ask questions to learn more.



Happy Trails CBD Manager Jami Schultz and co-worker Sawyer Veseth stand in front of a large painting in the new store.

CBD products sold at Happy Trails are third-party lab tested, but people are encouraged to talk to their doctors about supplements including CBD products.

"If you are on meds or for any reason, talk to your doctor about it," Schultz says.

The Happy Trails website also cautions, "This product is not for use by or sale to persons under the age of 18. This product should be used only as directed on the label."

The 12,000-square-foot shopping center, which has four additional suites, is the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians' first off-reservation development project. It was completed in 2017.

Well tests find mostly good drinking water in town

Widespread testing of private wells in Belle Plaine found 90 percent did not have problems with bacteria or excessive nitrates.

A free well water testing program funded by the Town Board and the Lumberjack Resources Council brought in 192 samples from all parts of the town. Results were mailed to participants and a public meeting on July 15 drew about 80 residents to learn of the results from **Kevin Masarik**, groundwater education specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Masarik's full presentation can be found on the town's webpage: www.belleplainewi.com.

A majority of participants had not tested their well water in at least 10 years.

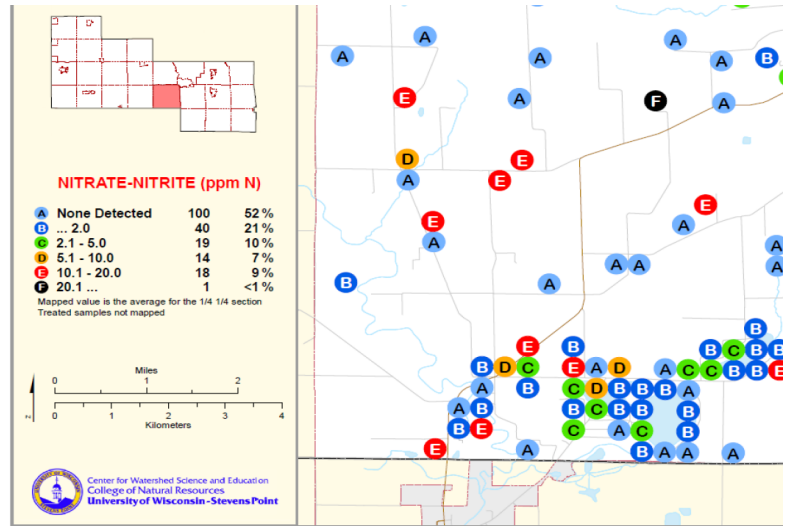
Here are some highlights of the tests:

Coliform bacteria: Of the 192 samples, 16 (8 percent) had bacteria present. Those residents were notified and most retested their water to see if it was a sampling error. Bacteria do not usually cause disease but their presence indicates a potential pathway for fecal wastes to enter the well.

Nitrates: Of the samples, 100 showed no nitrates and 73 more had levels less than 10 mg/L, with 18 samples (9 percent) above 10 mg/L. Nitrate is a chemical found in agricultural and lawn fertilizer as well as animal wastes. Pregnant women and young children are advised not to consume high-nitrate water.

pH: Of the tests, 99 percent were between 7.0 and 9.0, indicating a low acid level and no problems with copper or lead.

Chloride: Levels of less than 10 mg/L are desirable and 51 percent were at that level, with 36 percent at 11-50, 7 percent at 51-100 and 6 percent higher. Higher concentrations can indicate contamination from septic systems, road salt or fertilizer and can



A map of Belle Plaine shows results of well water tests for nitrates. The red and orange marks show higher levels.

raise sodium levels in water.

Hardness: This measures the amount of calcium and magnesium in the water with values of 0 to 150 mg/L considered soft, 150 to 200 medium and more than 200 hard. Of the samples, 26 percent were 0 to 100, 31 percent were 100 to 200, 25 percent 200 to 300 and 18 percent more than 300.

Depth of well: Most wells were less than 100 feet deep with 17 percent more than 100 feet.

Problems: Frequent problems cited by participants were odor (17 percent), taste (9 percent), color (5 percent) and health (3 percent), while 59 percent did not report problems with their drinking water.

County Board member Bonnie Olson dies

Bonnie L. Olson, 63, of Belle Plaine passed away peacefully on Aug. 21 after a courageous battle with cancer.

She represented the western portion of Belle Plaine and part of Richmond on the Shawano County Board for nine years and four months. A successor is expected to be named to serve until the April 2020 election.

Bonnie and her husband, **Darwin "Dick" Olson**, own Olson Rural Electric. She was on the Pella Mutual board of directors for many years. She earned her pilot's license and was a member of the Shawano Blue Skies.

She was a member of St. Martin Lutheran Church, where served as president of the Ladies Aid and sang in the church choir.

"Bonnie certainly was a caring board member who thought about Shawano County and her constituents," said Board Chairman **Jerry Erdmann** in the Shawano Leader. "She was always looking out for the county and what was in the best interests of the people of Shawano County."

Survivors include her husband Dick Olson; daughters Andrea (Nathan) Michonski and Abbeylyn Olson; sons Austin (Brianna) Olson and Adler "A.J." Olson; grandchildren Alexis, Bentley and Eleanor Michonski and Bailey Olson; sisters Sandra (Jim) Gast and Susan (Ron) Miller.

A memorial service was held on Aug. 31 at St. Martin Church.

Belle Plaine calendar

Sept. 29: Cloverfest Run/Walk, 10 a.m., Rustic Resort area

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

Oct. 14: Town Board, 7 p.m., Community Center

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

Nov. 11: Town Board, 7 p.m., Community Center

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

Dec. 9: Town Board, 7 p.m., Community Center



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

If you haven't paid your 2019 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 2019. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation.

"Preserving our lakes for future generations"

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
GLLMartin@
SBCGlobal.net
(312) 543-5106

Kevin Goodman, vice
president
Cloverleafprotective
@gmail.com

Peggy McMahon
PMcMahon23@gmail.com

CLPA members and donors

Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association dues-paying members and donors for 2019, who paid from June 15 to Sept. 1. (Other memberships and donations were listed in previous newsletter.)

Donations:

\$750

Jim Aumann Memorial Golf Outing

\$310

Memorial for Dick and Donna Kunz

\$250

First Business Bank
Parr's Lake House

Dues plus \$50

Allen and Kathryn Rozmaryn-ski

Herbert Puetzer

\$25 dues

Bill and Laurie Rate

Sally Norder

Lee Raddatz

Bruce Yaeger

Tom and Audrey Gretzinger

Steve and Lynn Marcks

Kenneth Loken

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

Sportsman's Club is busy

By Linda Hosking

The Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club is gearing up for its annual Cloverfest Run/Walk (see page 1 for details). About 120 participants are expected, along with many local residents watching or joining activities.

The club, formed in 2014, has had a long list of activities over the past few months, including:

* Healthy Lakes activities: "Fish sticks" to provide habitat for fish in Cloverleaf Lakes. Also invasive species control efforts.

* Youth Learn to Hunt: Pheasant hunting, trap shooting and bow hunting.

* Youth Learn to Fish: Fishing lessons both for ice fishing and at a stocked pond.

* Adopt-a-Highway: The club has performed ditch pickup along County Highway Y.

* Volunteering in the Community: Helping with the Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon, Jim Aumann Memorial Golf Outing and Embarrass Fun Daze.

More information is available at (715) 823-8319.

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

What do you think about ATVs on town roads? Fill out and send in

Name _____

Your comments:

Town address _____

City, zip code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Home address (if different)

Street _____

City, state, zip _____

I favor allowing ATVs and UTVs using Belle Plaine town roads.

I oppose allowing ATVs and UTVs using Belle Plaine town roads.

Mail this form to Town of Belle Plaine, N3002 State Highway 22, Clintonville, WI 54929
Or email to BellePlaineClerk@gmail.com