Spring 2013

# Town updating zoning rules

The Town's Planning and Zoning Committee is putting the final touches on a revision of the Belle Plaine zoning code, which was originally adopted in 1984. The town is one of a handful in Shawano County that has its own zoning, rather than falling under the county's plan.

Shawano County Planner **Steve Kunst** is providing technical assistance in rewriting the plan to conform with the town's updated Comprehensive Plan. That sets out areas of the town to be used for agriculture, residential or commercial use in the coming years. It aims to group areas of common land usage. Existing buildings would not be affected.

The Planning Committee will be reviewing the final draft in coming weeks, with a public hearing and consideration by the Town Board to follow this summer.

Here are some of the categories that will be used:

Class 1 Agriculture and Resource Preservation. This is land used for agriculture and has limits of how many houses can built on each property. This category will allow farmers to apply for state tax benefits for keeping the land in agriculture (see below). Much of the town is in the agricultural zone.

**Agricultural Transition**. This area provides for agriculture, single-family residential development and undeveloped natural resource and open space areas.

**Sewered residential.** This would apply to Cloverleaf Lakes, Long Lake and the area near the Wolf River that are residential.

Unsewered residential. This would be a residential area

such as Rolling Hills that have septic or holding tank systems.

**General commercial.** Areas of commercial development, such as the area near the Highway 22-29 interchange would be the focus of future business development.

the county's plan.

Neighborhood commercial. This would provide for limited, Shawano County Planner Steve Kunst is providing technical low-impact neighborhood businesses such as child care centers, stance in rewriting the plan to conform with the town's updatclubs, greenhouses and bed and breakfast inns.

**Public institutional.** This category would include public buildings, medical facilities, cemeteries and outdoor recreation areas.

Each of these categories have lists of allowed land uses, conditional uses that would have to be approved by the Zoning Committee and prohibited uses. Included in each are minimum lot sizes, minimum and maximum lot width, maximum building height, and setbacks from roads or waterways.

It also outlines procedures for zoning permits and an appeals process.

County Planner Steve Kunst also has drawn up a draft Farmland Preservation Area map for the town. The finalized map, along with the town's zoning rules, will allow property owners located within the agricultural areas to collect state income tax credits.

The aim of the program, which Wisconsin started in 1980, is to keep large tracts of land in agriculture production, rather than being targeted for residential development. The county is working toward state certification in 2013.

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# Mark your calendar for spring, summer

Here are some local highlights of the spring and summer of 2013:

May 25: Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association annual meeting, 10 a.m., Round Lake Park picnic shelter (note change of place).

July 6: Kiddie Parade, 10 a.m., town boat landing on Grass Lake.

July 6: Art Fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,

Round Lake Park picnic shelter. **July 6:** Pontoon Parade around

Pine and Grass Lakes, starting 6:30

p.m. **July 6:** Fireworks on Pine Lake

July 6: Fireworks on Pine Lake, dusk, presented by Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association. **Sept. 7:** Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon, 9 a.m., Rustic Resort.



# To plow or not to plow, that is the question

#### By Alvin Bartz

As winter refuses to yield to spring, there are times when I have to decide should we plow snow or not. About eight out of 10 times, the snow is melting by the time we get done and we could have saved the cost of plowing.

Usually I try to monitor weather at 10 p.m. and decide if we should start to plow snow at 3 a.m. I call the Shawano County Highway Department and schedule the plowing. In spring, I monitor the weather and decide to plow about 5 a.m. On March 7, we started at 7 a.m. and it turned out to be a good decision as it didn't warm up and the road conditions got worse. The next day, I talked to the county at 6 a.m. and decided I would call at 10 if I wanted to them to plow. It turned to slush at 10 a.m. and was gone by noon, so we didn't have to plow snow.

I've already had calls about burning. If you are going to have especially if there are bear cubs around. a controlled burn, call the county sheriff's department at (715) 526-3111 and let them know. That avoids having someone call the fire department to report a fire and you getting a fire call bill.

Again, I would like to urge you to use the house to house

## Belle Plaine chairman's message

garbage and recycling pickup if you are on a road where we have curbside pickup. The cost of handling recyclables at the dropoff site is going up again.

It costs us \$150 to haul a container with 500 to 1,500 pounds of recyclables to the Shawano landfill, and then another \$57 per ton to transfer to another truck to haul it to Appleton. With the house to house pickup, there is no additional cost as it is included in the monthly charge. Harter's Fox Valley Disposal hauls recyclables to Appleton and sells them. There is no revenue to the town in either case.

Bear and wolf sightings are fairly common throughout the town (see page 8 for a photo). A little caution needs to be taken,

Farmers are anxious to get going if we ever get to springtime weather. Watch for left turns by tractors with farm machinery, as the drivers cannot always see behind them.

Have a safe summer.

#### Belle Plaine town notebook

- \* Reservations are being taken for the town's picnic shelter overlooking Round Lake. The facility can be rented for \$30 for residents or \$40 for non-residents. The Community Center is also available for rental. See the town clerk for details.
- \* Regular hours for the Collection and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road are Wednesdays from noon to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jim and Corey Retzlaff are the Recycling Center caretakers.
- \* The Belle Plaine Card Club meets weekly on Thursdays at the Community Center from 9:30 a.m. until noon. All are wel-

come to join in the fun.

\* Town Clerk Kristine Vomastic reminds residents that she has office hours Mondays from 5 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Community Center. Treasurer **Heather Krueger** has office hours from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Mondays.

Check for lake/town news at www.CloverleafLakes.com and www.BellePlaineWI.com. The CLPA is also on Facebook.

#### **Belle Plaine officials**

Alvin Bartz, chairman Harold Polzin, supervisor Dennis Thornton, supervisor

Kristine Vomastic, clerk

Heather Krueger, treasurer

Dennis Hoffmann, constable

Newsletter editor: Dennis Thornton



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

(715) 524-2690

#### Town clerk's hours:

5 to 7 p.m. Monday; 8:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday or by appointment

#### Regular Town Board meetings:

Second Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

#### **Committees:**

Planning, Zoning, Gibson Island Stewardship

**Population estimate:** 1,855

# Annual meeting, busy summer ahead for CLPA

#### By Dennis Thornton

We have a few new wrinkles in store for Cloverleaf Lakes area residents as we anxiously await the LATE arrival of spring-time.

First, the annual meeting of the Protective Association has been moved to the **Round Lake Park picnic shelter** (atop the hill across from Mickster's). There's plenty of parking behind the shelter on Round Lake Drive. The annual meeting usually has been held at the Rustic Resort, but there is a conflict with a wedding this year.

The event begins at 10 a.m. on **Saturday, May 25**. Come early for a breakfast of coffee, sweet rolls and fruit provided by Kerry from Cloverleaf Shakes.

We'll have updates on our aquatic invasives treatment (see page 7 for more), shoreland restoration, welcoming committee and summer activities. Terms are expiring for board members **Carl Bruggink, Joe Mass** and **Dick Thurow**. Nominations will be open for the election.

\* The fourth annual Art by the Lake Fair will be one of several highlights of the Independence Day celebration **Saturday**, **July 6.** The Kiddie Parade will begin at the boat landing at 10 a.m., the Pontoon Parade will start to circle the lakes at 6:30 p.m. and the fireworks will start kabooming at dusk.

The Art Fair is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the picnic

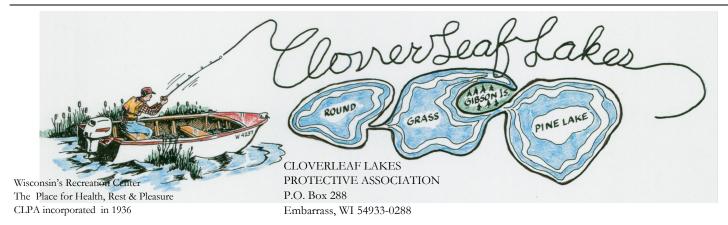
## CLPA president's message

shelter at Round Lake Park. About 25 artists and crafts makers are expected to exhibit their wares, including a live chainsaw art demonstration by local artist **Dave Bartels**.

The CLPA booth will feature a silent auction on a unique opportunity by Pine Lake artist **Dan Bleck**. If you're the winning bidder, he will paint your house — that is, create a watercolor painting of your house or cottage from the viewpoint of your choice. Dan has generously donated his artwork for fund-raising by the CLPA for several years, and those prints will also be for sale. Check the summer newsletter for more information on the Art Fair.

\* It's been a loooooong winter with an overabundance of late season storms. Compared to 2012, when the ice went out on the lakes on March 17, this sheet of ice has been holding firm. We have a ways to go for the record, though. **Howard Unrath** has records dating to 1940 on Pine Lake ice. The latest the ice was gone was May 1 in 1972, with most years falling in the April 8 to 15 range. In the past 15 years, the ice has gone out five times in March, with last year being the earliest.

The one thing we'll miss is watching the herd of deer scamper across frozen Grass Lake to Gibson Island at twilight.



#### www.CloverleafLakes.com

#### "Preserving our lakes for future generations"

#### **Board of Directors**

Dennis Thornton, President

(715) 823-9151

thorngb@frontiernet.net

Carl Bruggink, Vice President

(715) 823-2488

carlbruggink@frontiernet.net

Carol Wegner, Secretary

(715) 823-6270

cawegner@frontiernet.net

Francie West, Treasurer

(715) 823-4059

kfwest@frontiernet.net

Kris Doan

(715) 823-4739

krisd843@yahoo.com

Joe Mass

(715) 823-3758

jandsmass@frontiernet.net

Dick Thurow

(414) 430-9067

# Say cheese: Brandl family has for 40 years

#### By Joan Sousek

**Don and Diane Brandl** have had a cheese making business/ cheese retail store and home on Wisconsin Avenue in Belle Plaine for over 40 years and it's not likely they will close up shop any time soon. "As long as Don can crawl over there, he'll keep it going," said Diane.

The Brandls bought the Belle Plaine Cheese Factory from **Walter and Esther Deering** in 1972, moving to the area from Auburndale, where Diane's father had a cheese factory. Don had learned cheese making while working there for 13 years.

At one time, the Brandls had four full-time employees and three part-time milk truck drivers. Don made the cheese, Diane kept the books, and the couple's five daughters, **Donna, Doreen, Donell, Denise and Darcy**, helped, too. Darcy (Brett) Stempa still works regularly at the store.

At the height of the operation, they made 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of cheese six days a week, year round, and one top payroll in 1998 showed 2,061,569 pounds of milk was hauled to the factory in one month.

"The girls learned how to work, and they are all responsible," Diane said. "It would not have been possible without the family."

In 2000, after 28 years, Don retired from cheese making, but they continued to sell their inventory and then started buying from distributors, packaging and selling under the Belle Plaine Cheese label.

While Don doesn't miss getting up in the wee hours to make cheese, they are wistful about some parts of their former life.

"In a way we miss it. It's in our blood," Don said. "It's like farming. You have to really like it to stay at it that long. We like having our retail cheese store. It gives us something to do."

The business keeps Don and Diane close to home much of the time, but they enjoy visiting Florida every year. They also like to bike ride and Don especially likes to garden. Darcy and Denise live in Shawano, and their three sisters live in the Green Bay area, so Don and Diane's 13 grandchildren are not far away.

The weeks before Christmas are very busy, and that's when their daughters and grandchildren get more involved.

"We do a lot of gift boxes and ship cheese all over the country," Diane said. "We can always find something for the kids to do." They also make party trays.

"We're pretty busy in summer with tourists and people visiting the lakes," Don added.

The store has a lot of repeat customers. "They come from out of the state, even," Don said. "They like to visit the factory and stock up on cheese."

Originally, they sold about five types of cheese, but that changed.



Darcy Brandl Stempa, Diane and Don Brandl operate Belle Plaine Cheese.

"It kept increasing, and now we offer over 75 varieties," Diane said. "Once we hear of something we are interested in, we try it," Darcy said. "If we like it, we offer it to our customers, and they give us their feedback."

There's really no typical day, but they package almost every day, and sampling the products is a must.

Top sellers include Cheddar (aged on site), Colby, Colby-Jack and flavored cheeses such as Mushroom and Leek, Vegetable, Tomato and Basil, Olive, Pepper Jack, Horseradish and Chive.

All the cheese is from Wisconsin.

"Wisconsin produces the best the cheese for several reasons," Don said. "The water, soil and weather all contribute to good crops, and if the cows are fed well, they produce the kind of milk that makes great cheese. Wisconsin farmers are experts at growing hay, corn and alfalfa."

In addition to cheese, the Brandls sell butter, sausage and some gift items, including Packer coasters made by **Rose Kroening**, and secondhand items Don gleans from auctions and the flea market.

Inside the store, visitors also can enjoy what Don kiddingly calls the "Belle Plaine Wildlife Museum" that features taxidermy. He started collecting about five years ago and now displays about 20 pieces including fish, deer, bobcat, bear and two badgers.

"I don't hunt, but I always liked wildlife," he said.

Store (museum) hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, Saturday 8:30 until 3:30. Belle Plaine Cheese also is available at Witt's Sausage & Meats, Belle Plaine, Fletch's Corner Store, Embarrass, and Adam's Meats, Pella.

# Town of Belle Plaine 2012 annual report

Revenue Lottery /Gaming credit Fire call reimbursement Pavilion rental Hall rental Recycling income Zoning meeting Fire & EMS donations Mobile home permits Building permits	\$3,423 3,624 30 240 1,820 75 198 200 1,610	Dog licenses Liquor licenses Operator's licenses Other licenses and permits ATC easement payment Boat launch fees Fire sign reimbursement Hotel room tax Interest Miscellaneous income Mobile home taxes	7,582 2,180 610 40 88,965 4,933 12,090 26,027 22,342 5,822 9,859	Miscellaneous revenue Property tax revenue Cable franchise income Computer aid Fire aid Recycling grant Shared revenue Transportation aid MFL Yield tax Other tax income Total revenue	15,076 2,646,234 2,998 723 5,773 6,409 185,529 131,398 1,788 3,195 \$3,190,798
Expenses Bank charges General government Round Lake Pavilion Public works Donations Managed Forest Crop Recycling Center electric Recycling center wages J Maule Tax program Tax refund Unemployment Board wages/town assn./ Farm Bureau Clerk wages/supplies Election worker wages Escrow refunds Insurance Legal/accounting fees Newspaper notices/	1,118 25,950 926 20,389 36 3,774 177 10,601 450 1,083 310 22,824 17,118 6,731 7,582 10,345 5,538	newsletters Postage Supplies/miscellaneous Telephone Town Hall electric Town Hall heat Town hall upkeep Treasurer/assessor Zoning committee Constable wages Dog license fees Payroll expenses Property tax paid out Ambulance Embarrass utility payments Fire numbers First responders Building inspection Shawano Rural Fire Dept. Highway maintenance Trash/recycling collection	3,342 1,633 4,631 1,792 2,943 1,936 6,230 11,616 160 4,624 1,122 7,403 2,258,480 14,002 157 288 2,710 1,470 37,811 164,642 90,748	Highway other Maintenance employees Rite Size Rolloff Shawano Landfill Street lights (SMU) Vehicle repairs Waste Management Boat launch monitor Fireworks donation Friendship Cemetery Gibson Island Lake and Pond Solutions Lake expenses Portable toilet rental Shawano Country Tourism Stieg property Uncategorized expense Total expenses Carryover Report compiled by Treasur Note: Numbers are rounde	

## Slow no-wake part of Cloverleaf Lakes rules

With the summer boating season approaching, here are some of the rules for Cloverleaf Lakes.

Slow no-wake after 6 p.m. daily on Grass and Pine Lakes. Slow no-wake at all times on Round Lake. Slow no-wake through the channel between Grass and Pine Lakes.

Water-skiing and tubing hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

State law requires boaters to observe slow no-wake within 100 feet of the shoreline or piers.

Stay away from areas marked by buoys such as Sandy Beach and the Grass Lake reed bed.

Wisconsin Natural Resources mag-

azine offers these tips for clean boating.

Stop aquatic hitchhikers by not transferring water, fish, fish eggs or other organisms between water bodies.

At the boat launch, inspect your boat and trailer, removing any plants, sediment and animals.

Empty your bait bucket into the trash, not the water.

Clean your boat before launching it for the season. Don't wash your boat on a paved surface that drains into a lake or storm sewer.

After leaving the lake, wash your boat with hot water or pressure sprayer. Or allow your boat to dry for five days before moving to another lake.

# LEGAL NOTICE APRIL 2013 CLOVERLEAF LAKES AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT DNR CHAPTER NR107 NOTICE

A Permit from the DNR has been issued to treat 68 acres of the Cloverleaf Lakes for Eurasian Water Milfoil. This treatment will be done chemically with Weedar (Liquid 2-4 D) and Sculpin G. The approximate treatment dates will take place in late April to early May 2013.

You may request a public informational meeting on the proposed application. The request must be made in writing within 5 days of this notice stating a specific agenda of topics to be covered. Send request to Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, P.O. Box 288, Embarrass, WI 54933-0288 and to the Wisconsin DNR.

## Town Board re-elected

Belle Plaine town officials running unopposed were reelected April 2. Serving new two-year terms will be Chairman Alvin Bartz 233 votes, Supervisors Harold Polzin 251 and Dennis Thornton 243, and Constable Dennis Hoffmann 254. Clerk Kristine Vomastic and Treasurer Heather Krueger have been changed to appointive and were not on the ballot. Bob Holzbach, Cloverleaf Lakes Sanitary District, had 192.

There will be two new members on the Shawano School Board. Incumbent **Diane Hoffman**, with 1,290 votes, and challengers **Derek Johnson** with 1,301 and **Bruce Milavitz** with 1,135 won the three seats on the ballot. Incumbent **Michael Eidahl** had 933, **John Granchay** tallied 858 and **Donna Hora-Schwobe** had 527.

In the Clintonville School District, incumbent **Dirk Weber** with 795 votes and challenger **Judith Magee**, who is the current mayor of Clintonville, with 916 votes, won the two seats. Incumbent **Tim Schultz** ran third with 608.

## Boardwalk to island closed

The boardwalk to Gibson Island, located off Cloverleaf Lake Road, will be closed until the end of May during the nesting season for the bald eagles that have a nest nearby. The island will be available by water during that time.

No motor vehicles are allowed on the island at any time.



Look for the **David Krubsack family's** wonderful natural shoreline on your boat rides around Pine Lake later this year. Natural shorelines prevent runoff and erosion and provide habitat for wildlife. More and more Cloverleaf Lakes property owners are restoring their shorelines or nurturing natural growth. For more information on creating your own natural shoreline, contact Shoreline Restoration team leader **Kery Kafka** at (414) 559-4618. Her committee has selected several properties to be featured in this and upcoming newsletters.



A call has gone out to area artists and craft makers to enter the fourth annual Cloverleaf Lakes Art by the Lake fair. An entry form is on the CLPA web site, www.cloverleaflakes.com.

## nIc Foundation plans May sale

A rummage and antiques sale over Memorial Day weekend will benefit the nIc Foundation, which supports bullying prevention programs for children in rural communities.

The sale, which also will feature food and music, will take place at the Belle Plaine Community Center on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 24-26, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Donated items may be brought to the Community Center that Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Or call Lynn Marcks, 823-4829, for pickup arrangements.

The foundation is also sponsoring a free family awareness event, 'Stopping crime and violence in our rural communities," on April 25, starting at 4 p.m. at the Family of Christ Church, 600 S. Main St., Clintonville. The information fair will include 30 booths and the keynote speaker, at 6:30 p.m., will be Julie Loeffelholz from Outagamie County Homeland Security.

The foundation honors the memory of murder victim Nicolas Resch.

## Native plants go on sale

Native plants for shorelines, prairies and woodlands will be available at the Wild Ones Native Plant Sale in Shawano.

Pre-orders are being taken through April 27 for a variety of Wisconsin wildflowers, grasses and ferns in four-inch pots. Order forms are available at the Shawano Public Library or by calling (715) 745-2115.

Pickup and sale date will be Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Shawano Heritage Park. Additional plants will be available on that day for \$4.25 each while supplies last.

# 'Weed' control successful, Pine Lake is next

Following what consultants called "extremely successful" chemical treatment to control Eurasian Water Milfoil in 2012 on Round Lake and Grass Lake, that treatment will be performed in Pine Lake this spring.

The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association hired Onterra LLC to conduct an analysis and recommend treatment in 2012. The consultants recommended a "whole-lake" treatment of Grass and Round Lakes that would spread a liquid form of 2,4-D herbicide on the two lakes before the native plants emerged. Lake and Pond Solutions applied the chemicals, as well as spot-treating areas of EWM in Pine Lake, in early spring.

CLPA volunteers took temperature and water samples at several sites in each lake weekly.

"Overall, the 2012 hybrid EWM treatments on Cloverleaf Lakes were met with great success," said Eddie Heath, an Onterra aquatic ecologist. The EWM in Grass and Round Lakes were reduced to the point that only spot treatment of 1.1 acres is recommended in 2013.

"The 2012 peak-biomass survey revealed that hybrid EWM within Pine Lake had expanded significantly since 2011," Heath

said. So a similar whole-lake treatment of liquid herbicide will be applied this spring.

The Department of Natural Resources has endorsed the plan, which is being partially funded by a five-year DNR grant to the Town of Belle Plaine. A permit is in the works.

The town will pay for the EWM treatment and will be 50 percent reimbursed by the DNR.

Similar success was reported on Long Lake in 2012, after treatment by Lake and Pond Solutions.

The town has budgeted \$7,500 for Cloverleaf Lakes and \$7,500 for Long Lake annually for several years. Long Lake has no public access, so is not eligible for some of the DNR's grants.

See the legal notice on page 5 for more information on the chemical treatment.

Volunteers are crucial to success in treating milfoil and other invasives. The Cloverleaf Lakes team is led by Russ Kafka and Denny Nodolf. Also helping out with temperature readings and water samples last year were Francie West, Dan Bleck, Steve Joosten, Judy Simon, Kathy Nodolf, Dennis Krubsack, Dave Rosenfeldt, Joe Mass and Dick Thurow.

Please make your check for \$25 payable to Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, fill out and clip this form, and send it to CLPA, P.O. Box 288, Embarrass, WI 54933-0288. Or, print out the membership form at <a href="https://www.CloverleafLakes.com">www.CloverleafLakes.com</a> and send it in. The membership is for the calendar year 2013.		
Name:		
Lake Address:		
Telephone:	an adduses showed for	
E-Mail:	contact Clerk Kris Vo- mastic, who keeps the mailing list updated, at	
Home Address (if different):	belleplaineclerk@ gmail.com.	
<del></del>	<u>5.00</u>	
I would like to make an additional donation of \$  TOTAL ENCLOSED \$		

2013 CLPA Annual Membership: Please Join Now

**Thank you!** Note: Be sure to include your e-mail address so you can be added to the CLPA's e-mail list (managed by Ed Stuebe) to receive late-breaking information about the lakes.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



A black bear visited the Cloverleaf Lakes area in late March. DuWayne and Kathy Novak snapped this photo of the bear with their "stealth" camera as it checked out bird feeders in their backyard on Forest View Lane southwest of Round Lake. Tom Gretzinger spotted the bear mauling his bird feeders on Round Lake Drive and Fred Marquardt, another Forest View Lane resident, also spotted it. The Novaks also photographed the bear's footprints in the snow. The bear may have been a temporary visitor. Its current whereabouts are unknown.

#### Belle Plaine calendar

May 13: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center. May 13: Town Board,

7:30 p.m., Community Center.

May 25: CLPA annual meeting, 10 a.m., Round Lake Park picnic shelter.

**June 10:** CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

**June 10:** Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.

**July 6:** Kiddie Parade, 10 a.m., boat landing.

**July 6:** Art Fair, 10-4, Round Lake Park.

July 6: Pontoon Parade,

6:30 p.m., lakes. **July 8:** CLPA board, 9

a.m., Community Center.

**July 8:** Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.