



BELLE PLAINE NEWS & EVENTS

Spring 2015

Fireworks July 4 may be the last

The colorful fireworks over Pine Lake may explode for the last time on July 4, organizers say.

A lack of volunteer help and increased government regulations over fireworks is driving the Cloverleaf Lake Fireworks Association to abandon the decades-old show.

"We're all getting tired," **Mike Nelson** told the Town Board

in April. His crew has set up and fired off the fireworks for years. Fireworks have been set off on the lake since 2001. The amount of "red tape" has increased and the equipment needed is aging.

"The Fireworks Association would like to extend our warmest Thanks to everyone who has donated in one way or another towards the Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks," the group said in a statement. "It was decided in our last meeting held April 14 that this will most likely be our last year of shooting off fireworks on the lake."

Regulation of fireworks has been tightened by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) in the wake of 9/11 and terrorism fears. Fireworks must be securely stored and can only be held by a non-profit group for 24 hours before the show.

The association members asked the Town Board to consider buying the fireworks from Spielbauer Fireworks of Green Bay this year, which would eliminate some of the paperwork involved. Municipalities are not subject to as many rules.

The group also faces additional training requirements to set off its own fireworks. Hiring Spielbauer to do the fireworks show would be more expensive and that company does not fire off rockets from a watercraft, as Nelson does.

Funds are sufficient to purchase this summer's fireworks. But the effort of raising donations is also taking its toll on volunteers, Nelson said.

"We have decided as a group that we won't be able to follow all these rules and still get the fireworks set up in time for the show," the statement said.



In the town's version of the Valentine's Day massacre, someone shot holes in a stop sign on the Pioneer and Evergreen corner. A bullet hit a transformer across the road, knocking out power for 1,600 residences in Belle Plaine and Embarrass on Feb. 14. Farmers lost spoiled milk and homeowners were cold for hours. No suspect was found. See Page 2 for more.

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'Fish sticks,' shore runoff project funded

The Town of Belle Plaine has secured a Healthy Lakes grant from the Department of Wisconsin to help pay for Cloverleaf Lakes fish habitat improvement and shoreland runoff prevention.

The grant will pay for 75 percent of the project, up to \$20,000 over two years. (See stories on pages 4 and 5 for details.)

The Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club has started placing "fish sticks" trees in the water around Gib-

son Island and plans more next winter. The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association will coordinate funding for wildflower gardens and rain gardens.

A separate grant application will be filed by Shawano County for a recreational boating grant to replace the aging culvert between Round and Grass Lakes on Highway Y. Because of DNR limitations, it will likely occur in 2016. A trail and fishing pier are also planned in the area.

Vandalism, theft of road signs are costly to town

By Alvin Bartz

I would like to say we had great cooperation in getting some tree limbing done in the lakes area. We ended that project on April 15 because of the oak wilt ordinance.

We will soon be viewing all of our roads to plan summer projects.

We have had a rash of vandalism, including theft of road signs, theft of a garbage container and the vandalism at the power substation in February that caused a power outage costing several hundred thousand dollars. Work continues at the substation, which was hit by a bullet. I am still hearing from people who had frozen pipes or other losses in our town and surrounding areas.

The other area we are having a problem with is shooting holes in stop signs and other road signs. Currently we have four stop signs and several other road signs to replace at a cost of around \$100 per sign. We are also having road name signs stolen. Here is a list of sign thefts in the past year:

Spruce and Friendship Roads — third set of signs and brackets.

Belle Plaine chairman's message

Range Line and Friendship Roads — fourth set of signs and brackets.

St. John's Church and Hunting Roads — second set of signs and brackets.

Cloverleaf Lake and Hunting Roads — third set of signs and brackets.

Lake and Hunting Roads — second set of signs and brackets.

If anyone has information or has seen anyone suspicious in those areas, please contact the Shawano County Sheriff's Department or the town.

The road signs cost at least \$200 per sign to replace. The town is considering offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction for people responsible in the sign thefts and vandalism.

As you can see from the list, the town has spent several thousand dollars in the last year alone.

Belle Plaine town notebook

For residents who are concerned about their property assessments, the Open Book meeting for Belle Plaine will be Sunday, April 26, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Community Center on Highway 22. The town assessor will be present to discuss assessment issues. For those wishing to appeal their assessments, the Board of Review will meet Saturday, May 16, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

* Winter hours for the Collection and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road are Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Recycling Center also will be open on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. starting on Memorial Day weekend.

People with large items such as furniture, TVs or building

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

* Reservations are being taken for the Community Center and for the Round Lake Park picnic shelter. The facilities can be rented for \$30 for residents or \$40 for non-residents. See the town clerk for details.

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

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

Belle Plaine officials

Alvin Bartz, chairman

Harold Polzin, supervisor

Dennis Thornton, supervisor

Kristine Vomastic, clerk

Heather Krueger, treasurer

Vivien 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

Questions? Come to the CLPA annual meeting May 23

By Dennis Thornton

All members and prospective members are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association on Saturday, May 23, starting at 10 a.m. at the Round Lake



CLPA board members Joe Mass, Dave Rosenfeldt and Dick Thurow look at a stack of seven beaver pelts that Bill Rosnow trapped in his marsh over the winter. Some residents blame Cloverleaf Lake water levels on beaver dams in the marsh.

CLPA president's message

Park picnic shelter. Coffee and donuts provided by Cloverleaf Shakes will open the meeting, followed by reports on the many CLPA projects including aquatic invasive species, July 4 festivities, environmental awareness, boater safety and fund raising.

In the spotlight will be a detailed explanation on how the Healthy Lakes grant will help members grow wildflower gardens at minimal cost to prevent stormwater runoff into the lakes. Native plant expert **Lisa Reas** will be helping the association plan and plant these projects. Her guest column on page 5 explains the benefits of these plantings.

Nominations will be open for two board positions. Bring your questions and comments for the board members. Membership dues are just \$25 per household.

* **Bill Rosnow**, owner of the Matteson Creek marsh south of Pine Lake, updated the CLPA board in April about his purchase of the Auld Rohrer Dam from Pine Manor.

Rosnow has met all DNR requirements to operate the dam at the same longtime level to regulate the water level in the marsh. The dam has been open for four years, with little effect on Cloverleaf Lakes water levels.

Rosnow said he trapped seven beavers, including two big adults, wiping out the entire colony. Some people have blamed the beaver dams for water levels on Cloverleaf Lakes.



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

www.CloverleafLakes.com

Board of Directors

Dennis Thornton, President

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Joe Mass, vice president

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Carol Wegner, Secretary

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Dave Rosenfeldt

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Dick Thurow

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Francie West

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"Preserving our lakes for future generations"



Members of the Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club are joined by Department of Natural Resources specialists in January to inspect one of the "fish sticks" installations on Grass Lake. From left are Dick

Zoeller, Dan Stueck and Craig Ford of the Sportsman's Club, Al Niebur and Brenda Nordin of the DNR. The club plans to install more timber on the ice next winter.

'Fish sticks' habitat installed around Gibson Island

Cloverleaf Lakes fish now have seven new places to spawn and hide from predators. The Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club brought full-sized trees onto the ice in January, tied them together with wire and will anchor the trees after the ice melts this spring.

The "fish sticks" project was started with a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. And there is more to come. The Town of Belle Plaine has been approved for a DNR grant to construct more fish sticks projects around the shores of Gibson

Island and in Round Lake, as well as doing shoreland projects that will reduce stormwater runoff into the lakes. As many as 30 fish sticks will be provided in coming years.

The CLPA is helping to support the project financially, while the town applied for the grant.

A team of Sportsman's Club workers cut 21 Chinese elm trees, with 8-inch to 14-inch bases, donated by **Jay and Laurey Ford**. The trees were hauled to the site on the ice aboard two flatbed wagons pulled by a pickup truck, then were shoved into place. The workers donated 172 hours of labor.

Participating in the project were **Craig Ford, Tom Stueck, Dan Stueck, Dick Zoeller** and the DNR's **Al Niebur**, as well as **Connor Ford** and his college roommates.

"The fish will reproduce in there, they'll grow up in there, and the smaller fish can hide from the bigger fish," Craig Ford said. "It'll give them a spot where they can just grow up as fish. It's going to be pretty interesting down there."

Ford said ice fishermen he talked to were enthusiastic about the project and are looking forward to better angling on the lakes during the summer months.

Al Niebur and **Brenda Nordin**, local DNR officials, inspected the sites in January.

Boaters will need to watch out for the submerged trees. State boating rules say boats traveling faster than slow, no-wake need to stay more than 100 feet from shore. The submerged trees will be no farther than 80 feet from the shore.

"Studies have shown that trees in the water are sought-after by many fish," Niebur said.



A pickup truck and two flatbed wagons were used to haul full-sized trees to Grass Lake to be used in the "fish sticks" project.

Wildflower plantings beautify, help our lakes

By Lisa Reas

It may still be cold and windy outside, but spring has finally come. After another long winter we wonder what havoc the ice and waves have played on our shorelines. Did the ice push the rocks up? Did the pounding waves cut the shoreline back further? Will the lawn be heaved up or deadened by ice and high water?

Many decisions are made in spring regarding how we manage our shorelines throughout the year. As you face these decisions in the weeks ahead, please consider restoring native vegetation as a means to protect your shoreline. These plants can help stave off ice and flooding damage, provide habitat to songbirds and other critters, as well as filter the runoff coming off your lot into the lake.

Shoreline restoration is not a new concept; we've been talking about it for years. It is one of the best ways a landowner can show their commitment to the health of the lake.

These restoration plantings, or buffers as they are known, have many benefits. The deep-rooted plants hold soil in place on the shoreline. Keeping soil out of the lake helps lessen algae and nuisance aquatic plant growth.

Buffers also provide habitat for frogs, turtles, songbirds and other wildlife. These critters are rarely found living on shorelines mowed to the water's edge.

Native plants also filter stormwater that runs off our houses, driveways, and patios. This filtering makes a big difference considering the amount of fertilizers, herbicides, and pet waste we collectively have on our yards.

Beyond the benefits to the lake itself, natural and restored shorelines provide the scenic beauty we all cherish on our lake. When asked, "Why did you want to own lakefront property?" most shoreline owners answer that scenic beauty is the main reason. If that's truly the case, why are there so many lawns mowed right up to the water's edge?

We can still have our wonderful view of the lake with a few trees and some natural ground cover to frame the view. Consider an average lakefront home. Looking at that home from the lake, which is more valuable – the home with no trees or natural vegetation between it and the water, or the home that is framed by shade trees and natural groundcover extending inward from the lot lines?

Lakefront landowners interested in restoration plantings often hold back from actually doing them because they aren't

Guest column

familiar with the plants, they are unsure how it will look, are worried what the neighbors will say, or have fears of lots of maintenance. If you are one of these people, remember – you can start small and there is help available.

Adding a new tree or a cluster of low native shrubs near the shoreline is great place to start. Planting a small restoration groundcover planting of 8' x 20' (160 sq. ft.) can get you started as well. You will learn about the plants as well as maintenance



A variety of colorful wildflowers grow on a Grass Lake shoreline.

"Shoreline restoration is not a new concept; we've been talking about it for years. It is one of the best ways a landowner can show their commitment to the health of the lake."

while not investing too much time, money, or space. Once you realize how much the native vegetation can add to your shoreline, it is easy to add to the initial planting. This method of starting small is a great

way for anyone to get started. If you are interested in creating a shoreline restoration on your property, contact Dennis Thornton or Dave Rosenfeldt for more information. Funding is available through a DNR grant that has been awarded to Belle Plaine.

Lisa Reas is a 1998 graduate of UW-Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources with majors in watershed management and water chemistry. She has worked for Polk, Burnett, and Price Counties in their Land Conservation Departments as well as for the DNR as a lake specialist and shoreline restoration designer. She has 15 years of professional experience in shoreline restoration, erosion control, and project management. Lisa began her environmental consulting firm 13 years ago.



Poll workers assist Belle Plaine's voters

By Joan Sousek

Anyone looking at the Wisconsin election rules might easily be overwhelmed. The Wisconsin Government Accountability Board's election manuals fully detail how elections must be run with pages of procedures to assure elections are open, fair and accurate.

Municipal clerks oversee elections, and since 2007, Town of Belle Plaine Clerk **Kris Vomastic** has been in charge.

Vomastic said she felt a little lost at first.

"I started without a lot of preparation," Vomastic said. "But a lot of people helped, especially **Sandy Polzin**."

The clerk's duties include supervision of elections and voter registration in the municipality, equipping polling places, purchasing and maintaining election equipment, preparing ballots and notices, and conducting and tracking the training of other election officials.

Vomastic has 15 assistants. They are Chief Inspectors **Marcalene Rosenow** and **Pat Mahnke**, substitute Chief Inspectors **Bonnie Utke** and **Heather Wilke**, and Inspectors **Donna Loesl**, **Donna Dallman**, **Bonnie Olson**, **Craig Akey**, **Nancy Bennett**, **Ruth Prignitz**, **William Gilbert**, **Jim Stempa**, **Maxine Bealle**, **Linda Olson** and yours truly.

"I think we have a bunch of people who are dedicated," Vomastic said. I'm happy I have people I can depend on."

Inspectors' duties are setting up the polling place, preserving order, registering electors, recording electors, issuing ballots, monitoring voting equipment, counting votes and completing required forms.

The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., so a full day for workers means 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. or later. Belle Plaine uses a split shift — changing inspectors midday.

In Belle Plaine and statewide, inspectors are compensated.

A list of potential inspectors is created every two years and they are appointed by the town board. The clerk is responsible for required biennial training.

Long-term Chief Inspector Rosenow said, "Being an election worker is one way to be involved with town government."

She could not remember when she started, but it was at the old town hall (near Belle Plaine Station) — complete with out-houses. The election workers were mainly men in those days and the atmosphere was casual.

"The guys could play cards and eat peanuts, (when they weren't busy)," Rosenow recalled.

Vomastic echoed that assessment. "In the past, it was more low-key. Workers sometimes could sit and knit all day."

Rosenow's late husband, Ken, was town treasurer for 50



El Wiltzius signs the poll book at the April 7 election. Behind her is her husband John. They are assisted by Chief Inspector Marcalene Rosenow and Inspector Donna Dallman.

Photo by Joan Sousek

years, and she started by assisting him. Similarly, she recalled, the clerk's wife filled in while he went home to milk.

Bennett, one of the newest inspectors, was happy to get the call to serve several years ago.

"When Marce called and asked if I'd be interested, I thought, 'I'm retired and it's not full-time. Why not?'"

Bennett's career was in banking and finance, she said, so she is used to the amount of detail and procedures needed

for the election process, but there's another reason she got involved. "I enjoy meeting people," she said.

Socializing is one reason Linda Olson signed up, too.

Olson said as she was nearing retirement (from the UW-Extension), she knew she wanted to do things in the community. Then at an election, she thought the workers looked like they were having fun, so she commented that she'd like to do it, and a while later, Vomastic called to offer her the job.

"Voting is very important and anything we can do to make it easier to vote, we should do," she said.

More than 30 years ago, Chief Inspector Pat Mahnke started election work in Clintonville.

"It's one way to be community active," Mahnke said. "I was asked to, and after I got into it, I thought, 'This is something that needs to be done right.' You need to be sure things go the way they are supposed to." About 10 years ago, she switched to Belle Plaine.

Town results (all unopposed).

Chairman Alvin Bartz 207, Supervisors Harold Polzin 218, Dennis Thornton 210, Constable Dennis Hoffmann 150, Sanitary Commission Kris Doan 88.



Mike Nelson's crew trims trees along Cloverleaf Lake Road. Trees in the Cloverleaf Lakes area were trimmed to allow better access by buses and trucks, to limit ice and snow buildup from shade and to remove dangerous or dead trees.

CLPA Protectors donors/members

The following have made donations to the CLPA Protectors and/or became dues-paying members for 2015 since the winter newsletter, as of April 10.

Mighty Oak (\$1,000)

Aumann Memorial Golf Outing

Birch (\$250)

Tim and Jane Zuck

Pine/Ash (\$150)

Dan Parr/Linda Altman

Pine (\$100)

Kevin and Linda Goodman

Steve and Molly Joosten

Speckhard family

Scott and Jodi Tilleson

Ash (\$50)

Kenneth and Stephanie

Dunlavy

Kevin and Debbie

Koontz

John and Linda Krueger

Tom and Leone Weller in memory of Willett Patrick Weller

Memberships (\$25)

Don and Diane Brandl

Murna Nyvall-Buth

Angela Clark

Tom Conrad

Pat DeGuire

Sondra Dilley

Donna Dohr

Kenneth and Stephanie

Dunlavy

Julie A. Gifford and

Randall Steinhaus

James and Barbara Goeh-

ler

Kevin and Linda Goodman

Bruce and Sharon Greas-

by

Joan Griesbach

Vernon and LaVonne

Gross

Betty J. Heideman

Craig Johannesen

Steve and Molly Joosten

Russ and Kery Kafka

James and Beth Karlson

Kevin and Debbie

Koontz

Michael and Paula

Kopischke

Kevin and Lisa Krause

Dennis and Joy Krubsack

John and Linda Krueger

Donald and Julie

Lichtenberg

Laverne Molitor

John and Sandy Malloy

Lynn and Steve Marcks

DuWayne and Kathy

Novak

Cara Pahl

Daniel and June Pape

Gene and Marilyn Pla-

chinski

Bruce and Chris Patter-

son

Dan Parr/Linda Altman

Harold and Sandy Polzin

Wayne and Julie Ripp

Don and Sharon Rogalski

Tom and Bev Rosenfeldt

Arlene Schabo

Verlyle and Virgie Sievert

Speckhard family

James and Loretta Tesch

Scott and Jodi Tilleson

Rie and Dick Tomashek

Carol Wegner

Tom and Leone Weller

Lee and Mary Wetzel

Larry and Cindy Volz

Don and Jeanne Yeager

Jon Zimdars

Richard and Peggy Zo-

eller

nIc Foundation plans sale

The non-profit nIc Foundation invites everyone to its Rumage-Antique Sale-Brat Fry- Baked Goods fundraising event at the Belle Plaine Community Center on Memorial Day weekend. The fund raiser is on Friday through Sunday, May 22-24, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Items for sale include furniture; glassware and collectables; hand, electric and garden tools; enamelware; vintage jewelry and hats; lanterns, barrels, wheels, sprinkling cans, crocks and milk cans; dolls, toys, clothing, household, and more.

Brats, hot dogs, and hamburgers will be for sale on Saturday plus soda and water. Baked goods will be available for purchase. Music for dining and shopping will be provided by **Jolene Van Beek**.

The nIc Foundation is seeking donated items for the rumage and antique sale. Donated items may be brought directly to the Belle Plaine Town Hall on Thursday, May 21, between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. or call Lynn Marcks at (715) 823-4829 to make arrangements for pick-up of donated items.



Ken and Ann Becker have installed the third Little Free Library in the area at W8966 Cloverleaf Lake Road. Others are run by Russ and Kery Kafka on Rustic Road and Carol Wegner on Adams Beach Road.

Buzz and Mac's bar closes

Buzz and Mac's bar on Cloverleaf Lake Road has closed for business.

Owner **Jeff Meyer** filed for a hearing before the town's Zoning Committee for a variance on the property. He asked to build a 24- by 36-foot addition on the building and to split the parcel into two 75- by 120-foot buildable lots. He asked for a change in land use to develop up to five units.

The hearing, scheduled for April 16, occurred after this newsletter's deadline. The CLPA board unanimously voted to oppose multi-family housing on the lake.

Aumann golf outing is Aug. 15

It's not too early to mark Saturday, Aug. 15, on your calendar. That is the date of the third annual **Jim Aumann** Memorial Golf Outing at Clintonville Riverside Golf Course.

Contact **Bob Gross** (715) 823-6616 for more information.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Constable Dennis Hoffmann dies

Belle Plaine Constable **Dennis Hoffmann** passed away peacefully March 17 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 71.

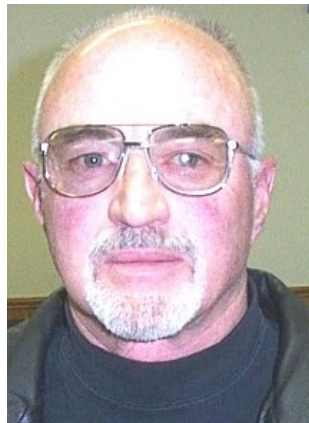
Hoffmann served as town constable for 24 years. His primary duties were taking care of stray animals and issuing dog licenses.

"Belle Plaine doesn't have a contract with the Humane Society because I do it," Hoffmann said in a 2012 interview with this newsletter. "I have two kennels in the barn where I keep strays for 14 days. If the owner doesn't come in, I adopt them out. I have not had any trouble finding homes for 22 years."

On May 21, 1980, at the St. Martin Lutheran Church in Belle Plaine, Dennis was united in marriage to **Vivien Lehman**. The couple made their home on Snuggle Valley Farm on Pine Ridge Road. Dennis was a retired dairy farmer. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed all sports. He was very involved in the St. Martin Church as a youth group leader and youth softball coach.

Dennis is survived by his beloved wife of 34 years, Vivien; four sons, Bennett (Jennifer), Brent (Anna), Brad (Jen) Hoffmann and Mark (Mary) Wittstock, two daughters, Christy (Steve) Wallace and Brandi (George) Lenzner; 13 grandchildren, Riley, Alex, Mariah, Brady, Adriana, Bill, Ryan, Kim, Olivia, Keley, Leah, Conley and Jennifer; three great-grandchildren, Trenton, Nicko and Idella.

Dennis Hoffmann was re-elected after his death. His widow, Vivien, received two write-in votes with no others cast and will serve as town constable for the next two years.



Hoffmann

Belle Plaine calendar

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

May 11: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center

May 23: CLPA annual meeting, 10 a.m., Round Lake Park

June 8: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center

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

July 4: Kiddie Parade, 10 a.m., boat landing

July 4: Art Fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Round Lake Park

July 4: Pontoon Parade, 6:30 p.m.

July 4: Fireworks at dusk

July 13: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center

July 13: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center