

County approves new North Lake weed-harvesting program

Designed to improve navigation, reduce offensive odor

By Darryl J. Enriquez
Special to The Freeman

TOWN OF MERTON — Waukesha County has approved a new weed-harvesting program for North Lake residents, with the condition that the site to compost the aquatic vegetation not disturb plans for the Bugline Recreation Trail.

The trail currently is a 14-mile path on the former Chica-

go, Milwaukee and Pacific Railroad right-of-way. It currently stretches from Appleton Avenue in Menomonee Falls to Main Street in the Town of Merton.

Plans call for it to eventually run just west of the North Lake community, past Highway 83.

The North Lake Management District has partnered with the Evergreens Condominiums to begin a weed-cut-

ting and disposal program for the lake, which is suffering navigational and odor problems due to accelerated weed growth this summer, said Jerry Heine, president of the lake association.

The harvesting machine also skims algae off the surface of the lake.

The Merton Town Board has approved the harvesting/skimming operation, according to county documents. The

district had contracted for weed cutting but recently purchased the harvesting machine, documents say.

Clearing access channels and bays of weed and algae and surface debris is the objective of the program, Heine said. The harvester also will collect aquatic weeds that residents have picked up from their shorelines and piled on their docks, Heine said.

The weeds and debris would be offloaded at a launch site

owned by the condo association that was once used by the defunct Kuchler's Resort. The offload will be sent to TJ's Woodlot, an industrial area on Hartland Court where wood chips are manufactured, documents say.

The weeds and debris will be made into fertilizer, Heine said. The harvesting operation is expected to continue through late September.

"It's not near any residential property but it is near where the Bugline will run,"

John Muehl, president of the Evergreens Condominiums Association, said.

Muehl and Heine said they believe the composting operation will not be a nuisance to those using the Bugline.

The county says all weed-related activities, including composting, must not become a nuisance with the appearance of dust, noise, smoke, lighting and odor. The county can inspect all portions of the operations at any time.