

Shabbona Express

April, 2024

The Reason Everything is Getting Worse – And No One is Talking About it

(This article is a continuation of the article with part 1 published in the February edition and part 2 in the March edition of the same title) By Kallan Welsh

Let me deal with one last objection before I rest my case. If you don't listen to the corporate news networks, you may be uninformed on this issue; if you do, you're probably misinformed. They'd have you believe that climate change is an existential threat to humanity; if we don't "do something" (usually, stop burning so-called fossil fuels) by X date, the planet will become unlivable, and humanity will cease to exist. This sort of catastrophism sells, but it isn't backed up by any science or data. I challenge you, dear reader, to find me a single climate scientist who believes that climate change will literally render Earth uninhabitable within 100 years.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, publishes an annual report on the issue and estimates the impact of climate change on the global economy. Without diving deep into the numbers, suffice it to say that the worst case scenario is that in the next decades, the economy grows less than it otherwise would have due to possible climate damage, mostly due to rising sea levels. One might argue that we could build levees, a technology that is perhaps millennia old, to combat that effect, but the point is: the consensus is that even in the worst case scenario where climate change is allowed to run rampant, in 100 years, we will still be better off than we are now. That's a far cry from the extinction event that the media would like you to believe, and is the reason I won't even bother to argue the merits of the climate change argument. Even if you believe climate change is a problem, and that it's caused by humans exclusively, it does not follow that people should have fewer children to combat it. In fact, I would argue the increase in human ingenuity is necessary to avoid a fate where the economy grows slightly less than it otherwise would have.

Ultimately, the primary cause of rampant depression these days is a lack of community. Community is built during your youth. Through your naughts and 10s and 20s, if you aren't building community with people around you, you will not have a community at all in your 40s. And, right now, young people are not building community, in large part because there simply aren't a lot of other young people around to build community with, and there aren't "community centers" (when I was a kid, that was the suburban mall) for the youth to build community in.

For better or worse, I've gotten around. Of all the places I've lived in my life, Shabbona has the best sense of community. The median age of Shabbona is 50, and the population is falling. Shabbona as we know it will cease to exist in just a few decades, as the only people here will be transplants who moved in for cheap housing. The way to arrest that decline and secure a future for that community is through the youth. Have more kids, treat them well, and encourage them to socialize and be around other people. It's what we, as humans, are built for. Let's get back to it.

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All of April – Drop-in crafts @ Flewellin Library

April 6 – Story Time @ 10AM – Flewellin Library

April 8 – Morning Book Club 1st meeting @ 11AM – Flewellin Library

April 8 thru 13 – National Library Week: Community rock snake, snacks, and a contest to “Guess how many books are in the library”. The winner will receive a small prize – Flewellin Library

April 9 – Evening Book Club 1st meeting @ 6PM – Flewellin Library

April 13 – Story Time @ 10AM – Flewellin Library

April 13 – Community Game Night @ 6PM – Up Realty (104 W Comanche)

April 17 – Elder Care Services and Tech Help @ 12PM to 2PM – Flewellin Library

April 20 – Story Time @ 10AM – Flewellin Library

April 20 –Cards with Kim & Jamie @ 6PM – Flewellin Library

April 22 thru 26 – In honor of Arbor Day and since Shabbona is Tree City USA, the library is doing a scavenger hunt throughout the village. The hunt will start on the 22nd and a winner will be chosen on the 26th to receive a free tree.

April 26 – Game Night & Light Meal @ 5:30PM – Shabbona Community Church

April 27 – Story Time @ 10AM – Flewellin Library

Downtown Streetscape Project - This project is scheduled to begin in April and be completed by the end of June 2024. Comanche Ave between Illini St and Shabbona Rd will have some limited parking and sidewalk access at times but disruption will be limited as much as possible. The south side of the street will be worked on first.

Apache Street Project - This project is also scheduled to begin in April. The village engineer gave an updated start date of April 8th.

Have an event to add?

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Village Government News

By Joshua Snyder

The Village Board had a busy month in March with a total of 4 meetings. There was a Finance Committee Meeting on the 12th, a Public Affairs Committee on the 13th, a Special Meeting on the 19th, and their regular meeting on the 25th.

The **Finance Committee** discussed appropriations for the 2025 fiscal year and suggested reallocating funds from Debt Reduction and Capital Improvement into the Water fund to help cover a deficit there.

The **Public Affairs Committee** discussed the 4th of July event and asked for volunteers. Anyone looking to volunteer should contact Trustee David Simpson and there will be additional committee meetings which are also great ways to get more information and volunteer. The Shabbona Farmer's Market was finalized and will take place at Purdy Park on Saturdays, June through September, from 8am to noon. The community garden is open for reservation and they marked the plots more clearly. And lastly the committee discussed administrative adjudication. They decided to move forward with looking into implementing an adjudication system.

The **special meeting** was not attended by me but according to the agenda it was to have an executive session to discuss "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees" and "The sale or lease of real property".

The **regular board meeting** also included an executive session with the same topics as the special meeting on March 19th.

Chairperson Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation came to give an update to the village. They are working towards putting a farm and two houses they own on tomahawk trail into a federal trust which would create the first Indian reservation in Illinois. He also mentioned that the State of Illinois had approached them to discuss turning the Shabbona Lake State Park over to them. It is still in the preliminary state but if they took over, Mr. Rupnick said that the average citizen would notice no difference between how it is now and if they took it over. He said it would still be open to the public, the dam would remain, and people can still fish and hunt.

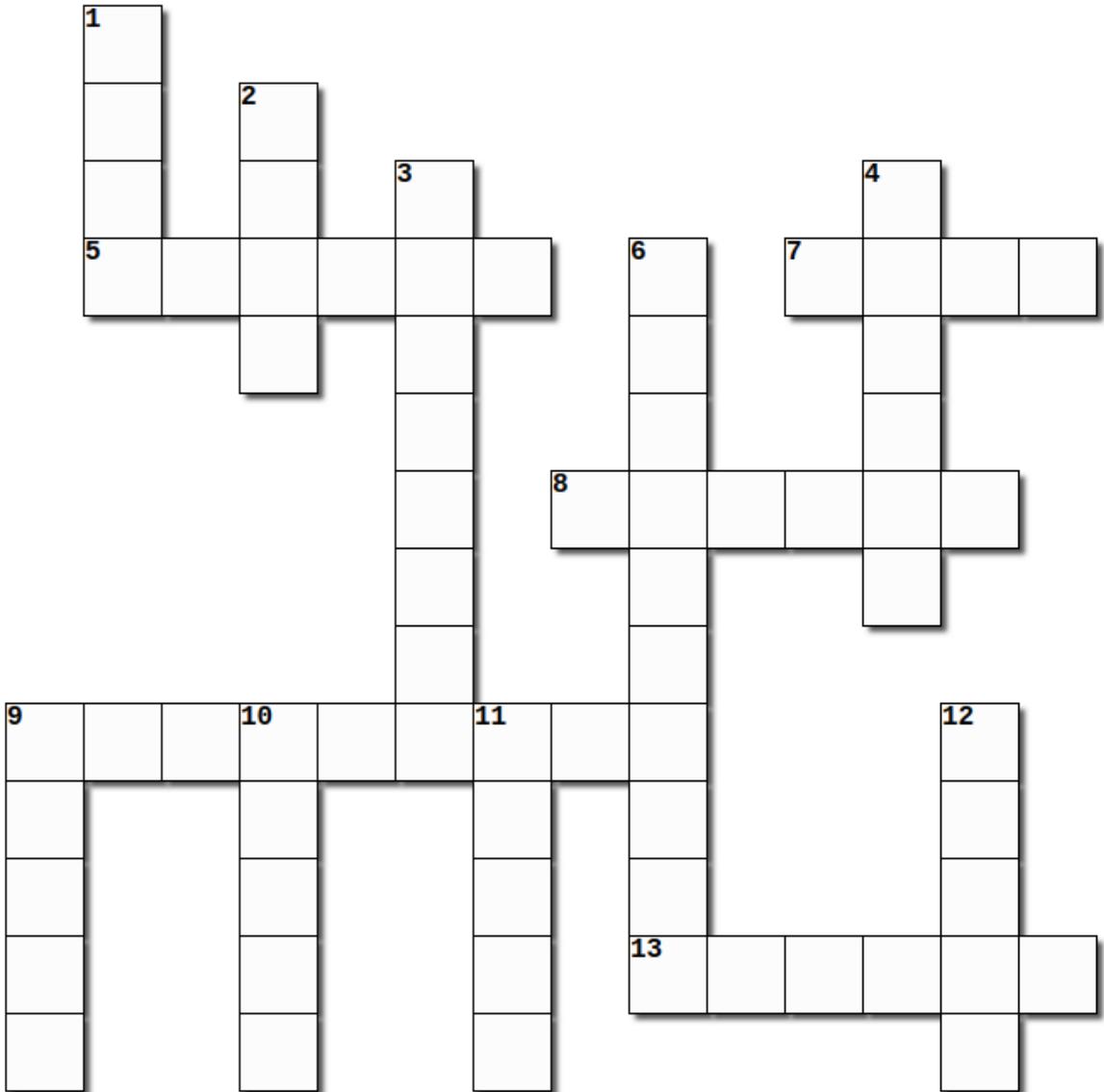
The ordinance that allows the keeping of chickens appears to be here to stay. The plan is to rely on the administrative adjudication process if any issues pop up.

The village is starting the process of implementing an Administrative Adjudication process and seem very keen on getting one set up. They are hoping to get it running in a few months and expressed plans to use it to enforce all ordinances including the most recently talked about which are the chickens, street parking when there is snow removal in process, and also the vacant buildings ordinance.

Lastly they began talking about implementing an overnight permit system for the new parking lots being built next to R&R and between 104 W Comanche and 106 W Comanche. They mentioned that the number of parking spaces for both lots are going to be reduced from what they currently are as unofficial gravel lots and will be looking into how to price and set up the program.

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Across

5. The day of the week that Easter is typically celebrated on.
7. March rolls in like a lion, out like a ____
8. I am beautiful, and bees love me!
9. There are many kinds of me, including Reese's and Hershey's.
13. The season that comes before summer.

Down

1. The Easter bunny hides me!
2. You do this to find the eggs.
3. One of the first flowers to bloom in spring.
4. You put the eggs that you find into me!
6. I am a type of candy that is colorful and delicious.
9. Some kinds of me are Peeps and Taffy.
10. I am a baby chicken.
11. ____ showers bring May flowers.
12. I deliver the eggs and hide them for you to find.

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Spring Maintenance Tips

By Joshua Snyder

- Check your furnace filter and replace if it looks dirty or if it's more than 3 months old. If you have central air conditioning the filter is still necessary to help keep your air clean and protect your HVAC system from dirt and debris.
- Now is a good time to take a look at the condenser outside and make sure there is no vegetation or debris around it and it is clear of dust and dirt. These can harm the air conditioning system and lead to increased power usage.
- Refrigerators work a lot like your air conditioner and their coils often get coated in layers of dust. Cleaning the dust off the coils and compressor can help it run more efficiently and increase its longevity.
- Winter is a prime time for water leaks to appear so checking all of your faucets and outdoor spigots for drips can help catch issues and reduce water bills.
- Check your gutters for leaf and other debris buildup and clean out as required. Rain can start to overflow the gutters if they get clogged and could lead to water leaking into walls and ceilings.
- Check the exterior of your house for any loose or missing paint and caulking. Warmer weather is required to fix these so early spring is a good time to see what needs fixing during the warmer months.



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Men and Women Are Different, and Thank God for It

By Kallan Welsh

There are likely many married men looking at the headline of the article and saying to themselves, "Of course men and women are different, that's obvious," but I would posit that for most people, especially young people who have grown up in a society which minimizes the differences between men and women, it isn't so obvious. As a millennial, I speak for Generation Z and Alpha as well when I say that most of us have really internalized, to a great degree without realizing it, the societal push toward the absolute equity between men and women. It's lucky I don't have a corporate job, because at the very least I'd probably be called into HR for what I'm about to write.

I'm going to be doing a lot of generalizing here, so please don't write me with anecdotes about this or that exception. I know there are exceptions, and not all stereotypes apply to all people. That being said, let's examine the famous line, "Honey, what do you want for dinner?"

Why is the line famous? It's because it starkly puts into view the differences between the brain structures of men vs. women. Women seem to struggle to answer the question, and men are often frustrated by it. From the male point of view, the thought goes something like this: I'm trying to please you, and you won't give me the answer to a simple question that will allow me to do that, argh. Forgive me, ladies, for the conjecture, but I believe the female thought goes something like this: What do I want for dinner? There's so many options, how could I possibly narrow it down? Is he asking me if I want to go out? What if he wants to stay in? Why hasn't he told me what he wants? Why would he put that burden on my shoulders, of figuring out what option might please us both? If I name a restaurant that's too expensive, will he be upset? I already said earlier that the tacos on the billboard looked tasty; does he really not want tacos? The thought goes on.

The friction here is that women are fundamentally agreeable, and the man asking the question simply does not realize how much stress he's putting on his wife by asking the question in the way he does. Baseline female behavior is to agree, encourage, and uplift, which are traits critical for child-rearing. Why are men and women attracted to one another? From both an evolutionary and creationist point of view, it's reproduction. So what's best for the kids? It would be terrible if Little Timmy went to



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his mother to show her his drawing and her response was, "That drawing stinks. I've seen better," even if Timmy's drawing legitimately wasn't very good. Thankfully, none of the women I know are capable of telling Little Timmy this. It would be equally terrible for Little Timmy to fail to improve, and at age 16, go to his father to show him his drawing, and for his father to reply, "Great job. It looks perfect; you'll be a famous artist someday." In that case Little Timmy is going to enter the adult world unprepared, overestimating his skillset, and he will fail and grow resentful of a world which doesn't appreciate his talents.

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Men and Women Are Different, and Thank God for It

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Instead, the father will likely tell him at some point, "You know, the perspective on the drawing could use a little work," and thank God for it. Little Timmy will derive his desire to improve from his father, and the encouragement and willingness to continue from his mother, and may just end up being a famous artist. In any case, with that kind of parental input, Timmy is destined to succeed at something in life.

This is a singular example of a difference which is not minor, but is stark and of critical importance. There are many more such examples. It's not that men and women start out identical and then learn to behave differently. If anything, the opposite is true: men and women, who have starkly different brain structures, skeletal structures, and muscular structures, start out knowing they're different and over time learn to behave in a society which demands equity between the sexes. I believe that, especially for my generation and younger, this results in friction which would not naturally exist; young men treat young attractive women like "one of the boys," fail to connect, and grow resentful. Young women also fail to appreciate the benefits of stereotypically male behavior, and grow resentful. Yes, you do need to treat the opposite sex differently than you treat your buddies of the same sex. Why? Because men and women are different, and thank God for it.

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