



August, 2025

## Events

**August 9** – Farmer's Market @ 9 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy Park

**August 9** – Community Game Night @ 6 PM – 9 PM @ Up Realty (104 W Comanche Ave)

**August 9** – Story Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**August 9** – Cards with Kim & Jamie @ 6 PM @ Flewellin Library

**August 10** – St. James Knights of Columbus Sweet Corn & Pork Chop BBQ Drive Thru 3 PM – 5 PM @ 221 W Kirke Gate, Lee

**August 11** – Yarn Twisters @ 11 AM @ Flewellin Library

**August 11** – BST Queen of Hearts @ 7 PM @ R&R Pub

**August 13** – Euchre @ 11 AM – 2 PM @ Flewellin Library

**August 16** – Farmer's Market @ 9 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy Park

**August 16** – Back to School Bash @ 10 AM – 1 PM @ Purdy Park

**August 18** – Yarn Twisters @ 11 AM @ Flewellin Library

**August 18** – BST Queen of Hearts @ 7 PM @ R&R Pub

(Continued on the next page)



## *St. James Knights of Columbus Sweet Corn & Pork Chop BBQ Drive Through*

*This Sunday!!!*



**Sunday, August 10, 2025  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

\$15.00 - 2 Chops, Sweet Corn, Baked Beans,  
Apple Sauce, and Bun

Tickets available in advance from a Knight  
OR that day OR call  
815-970-1294.



St. James Parish Hall  
221 W. Kirke Gate, Lee



## The Indian Chief Shabbona

(This is part 1 of a history of Chief Shabbona, taken out of the Shabbona Centennial Book printed in 1972 to celebrate the Village of Shabbona's 100th anniversary)

The date and birthplace of Chief Shabbona are uncertain – some records show he was born in Canada – others say near the Maumee River in Ohio, about the year 1775.

A tall, burly man, he had a wide, pleasant face, a quiet manner, and is best remembered as “the white man’s friend”. Other published accounts describe him as being “strong as a buffalo, as swift of foot as a deer and as gentle as a woman.” The fact that he was close to 6’ tall, broad shouldered, with a large head and heavy neck, illustrates his name’s meaning: “head and shoulders like a bear”.

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# Shabbona Express

## Events

(Continued)

**August 20** – Elder Care Services & Tech Help @ 12 PM – 2 PM @ Flewellin Library

**August 21** – Village of Shabbona Regular Board Meeting @ 6 PM @ 206 S Blackhawk St

**August 23** – Farmer's Market @ 9 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy Park

**August 23** – Story Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**August 25** – Yarn Twisters @ 11 AM @ Flewellin Library

**August 27** – Euchre @ 11 AM – 2 PM @ Flewellin Library



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# Shabbona Express

## The Indian Chief Shabbona

(Continued from page 1)

Shabbona, Illinois, a village of about 750 people, located on U.S. Highway 30, midway between Chicago, Ill. and Clinton, Ia. was named in honor of this noble Indian Chief Shabbona, a member of the Ottawa tribe of Indians. (Named after the Township also.) Various spellings of the chief's name has been recorded such as: Chamblee, Shaubene, Shabone, Shaubenay, and Shabbona, the latter, the ascertained form. The old chief preferred to have his name pronounced as though there were only two syllables to it, and the Shab ney spelling, with the accent on the first syllable.

The story of Chief Shabbona's life is quite interesting – leaving the reader with a great deal of admiration for him. Shabbona's first visit to Illinois was made in the fall of 1800, being among a part of Ottawa hunters (from Lake Erie region), on an annual extended hunting trip. The hunt was made around lower end of Lake Michigan; here they were quite “at home” – among their friends, the Pottawatomies. Afterwards the Indians returned to their homes in the Ohio country; Shabbona, however remained for the winter at the home of Spotka, the chief of the Pottawatomies at Chicago. Shabbona eventually married the Chief's daughter, Pokanoka, a union which some accounts say lasted 59 years. They first lived near Ottawa on the Illinois river, later moving to Shabbona Grove, DeKalb County, their band then numbering some 139. To this union it is said were born two sons (twins) and five daughters. (Shabbona, already a chief of the Ottawa tribe, later became Pottawatomie chief, upon the death of Spotka).

Shabbona became a great admirer of Tecumseh, (chief of the Shawnee Indians,) joining him in the War of 1812, being with him when he fell at the battle of the Thames. Tecumseh and General Harrison met in council in 1810, Tecumseh later persuading Shabbona to accompany him on visits to Indians of northern Illinois and Wisconsin, requesting they join in driving back the whites who were settling on their hunting grounds. They visited the Winnebago and Menominee Indians to the North, with both tribes fighting against the Americans during the war of 1812. (Shabbona is remembered, however, not for his part in this war but for what he did after the war). Tecumseh and Shabbona went on south along Mississippi, visiting the Sauks and Foxes where they met Black Hawk and Wapello. The two chiefs parted at Rock Island – Tecumseh going farther south and Shabbona returning to his home in DeKalb County.

Tecumseh and Shabbona met General Harrison at Vincennes in a second council in the summer of 1811, this meeting resulting in Tecumseh's withdrawal; and he and Shabbona, plus two Shawnee chiefs journeyed south and visited the Creeks, Cherokees, Choctaws and Seminoles. While absent his followers were defeated on the 7th of November, 1811, in the battle of Tippecanoe by General Harrison.

Upon Shabbona's return to the grove he learned of the declaration of war with England. Plans were to attack Fort Dearborn before they received the news. Runners informed Shabbona of the impending attack, telling him the Pottawatomies all were to join in the war. As many of Shabbona's white friends, were there, he was not agreeable; nevertheless, seeing the other Indians going, he mounted his pony and went also, only to discover when he arrived, that Snachwine had already carried out the attack. Shabbona was greatly shocked to see the results – men, women, children, and soldiers alike, had been brutally massacred, scalped, and mutilated. Captain Wells was among the victims, his remains buried by Black Partridge, while others were left until the rebuilding of Fort Dearborn in 1816, four years later. (Sun-bleached bones, gathered up and buried by Captain Bradley.)

Prisoners were placed in Kinzie's house where Black Partridge and Shabbona tried to protect them with their braves from the Shawnee Indians. (Who arrived later from the Wabash, still “thirsty for blood”).

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# Shabbona Express

## The Indian Chief Shabbona

(Continued from the previous page)

Saguanash arrived “in the nick of time” – and their lives were spared. Some of the prisoners were taken to St. Joseph and Canada; others to the various tribes of Pottawattomies, and eventually sent to Detroit and ransomed.

After the Forth Dearborn massacre, Shabbona returned to his grove, determined to take no further part in the war; however, in the fall of 1812 emissaries from the Tecumseh bore presents and the wampum belt, requesting Shabbona and his braves to join him. Shabbona, led to believe the Pottawattomies and others of the Illinois tribes were to join the English in war against the Americans, (giving up his winter hunt) – with his warriors left for the seat of war. Enroute to the Wabash where the Shawnees were encamped, he joined Black Hawk and the Indians under his command. The Hawk and Shabbona had been friends for many years, meeting on many occasions in council. The Indians suffered many losses by the Americans at Fort Meigs and Fort Stephenson. Black Hawk, discouraged, returned with his warriors to their home on the Mississippi. Shabbona, with Tecumseh, pushed onward through Indiana and Ohio into Canada, and it was then, in September, 1813, Tecumseh was slain. With Shabbona next in command, he ordered his braves to retreat, realizing their battle was futile. Shabbona had almost given up hope of escaping this conflict alive, and it is said he prayed to the Great Spirit that if his life was spared he would never take up arms against the whites again. And he kept his vow throughout his lifetime. It was at this time the Indians, in derision titled him, “Friend of the White Man”.

Until 1849 the grove in DeKalb County was Shabbona’s home, although he left here from time to time; it still was “home” for him and his family, and the resting place for those of his family who had died.

Not until after the Indians were moved west of the Mississippi, after the Black Hawk war, did the white settlers come to Illinois in very large numbers. When Chicago was laid out as a town in 1830 there were twelve families besides the garrison, and in three years the population had increased to 550. Shabbona was always ready to protect the settlers in and around Chicago following the war of 1812.

Fort Dearborn was vacated in the fall of 1823 and was not occupied by troops again until the fall of 1828. During this time the citizens of Chicago were unprotected except by the friendly Indians.

(Part two of this article taken out of the Shabbona Centennial Book will be continued in the next edition)

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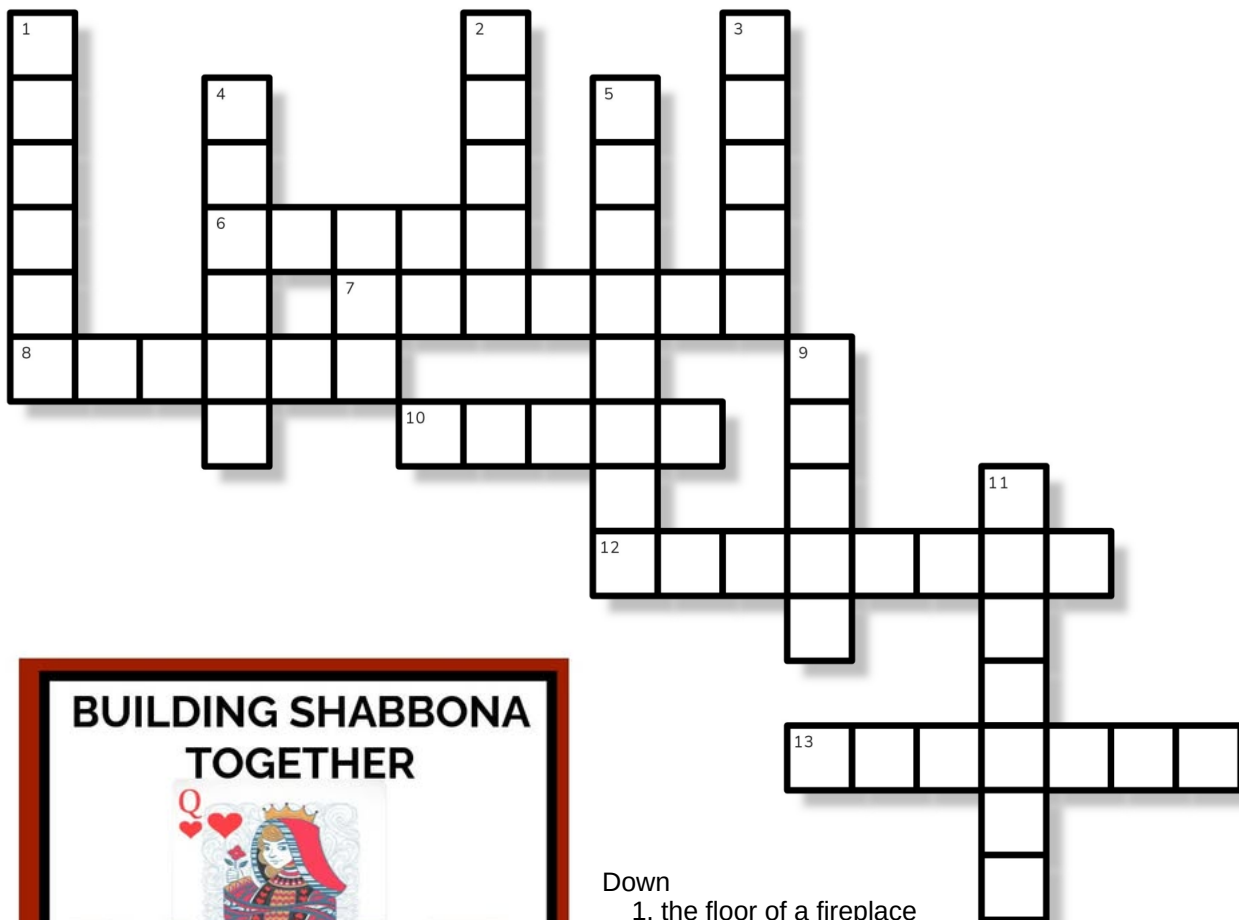
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# Shabbona Express



## Down

1. the floor of a fireplace
2. nut from oak tree
3. open space in a forest
4. a loud-singing insect often heard in late summer
5. small animal with a bushy tail, loves to collect acorns
9. four-wheeled cart
11. preserving fruits or vegetables in jars

## Across

6. popular fall drink
7. cozy evening activity, possibly involving marshmallows
8. a sweatshirt with a hood
10. squash used for decoration, typically in Autumn
12. celebrates American workers (two words)
13. marks the start of autumn

**BUILDING SHABBONA  
TOGETHER**



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5 for \$20 (cash only)**

**DRAWINGS every  
Monday @ 7pm  
at R&R Pub**

**Tickets may be purchased at R&R Pub – open daily at Noon!**

# Village Government News

By Joshua Snyder

(This article reflects my views as an individual and does not necessarily represent the views of the entire Village Board)

The Village of Shabbona had its regular board meeting on July 17 and a join infrastructure & finance committee meeting on July 21. Here is a summary:

## – July 17: Regular Board Meeting:

- A community solar subscription provider gave a pitch offering to help lower electricity costs for the electric bills the Village pays for (wells, village office & public works building, etc). No action was taken as the board looks into the program and alternatives.
- A copier/printer lease was approved to replace the one the Village owned. It should be cheaper to operate.
- A fiber optic installer accidentally drilled through a homeowner's sewer line and Public Works dug up their asphalt apron to repair it. The Board approved paying a contractor to replace the apron and will be billing the fiber installer to cover the cost.
- Pat O'Donnell was contracted to act as the Village Building Inspector, replacing B&F.
- The Village is exploring creating a licensing requirement to its building regulations and authorized the Village Attorney to draft an ordinance.
- The Village had a discussion about what types of projects required building permits and what should be exempted. There already exists a range of exemptions both in the International Building Code and in the Village Ordinances. The Board will have further discussions if additional projects should be exempted.
- Angie Daurer was hired as the Village Treasurer and Gerry Hinkston was hired for Public Works.

## – July 21: Infrastructure & Finance Meeting:

- A different community solar subscription provider gave a pitch for their service. Again, no action was taken.
- The Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District gave an overview of the proposed joint project to potentially tie the Village of Waterman, the Village of Shabbona, and the Prairie Band Potawatomi into their sewer treatment plant in DeKalb.
- The rough numbers provided indicate that their service would cost roughly the same or slightly more than the current system Shabbona has, not accounting for any debt the Village would have to take on to fund the project.
- Accounting for the debt in addition to their service cost, sewer rates would likely go up fairly significantly. However, a hard number for how much it would cost the Village was not provided and has many unknown factors at this time, so how much the debt would cost is unknown.
- The Village will be considering the options it has. The existing system is completely functional and was refurbished about 10 years ago. It also has extra capacity so a new system is likely not imminently needed.
- The Village plans to hold a more informal “town hall” to discuss the pros and cons of the project and gather community feedback at a future date.

# Shabbona Express



## Volleyball at Purdy Park

A volleyball net was installed at Purdy Park and is free for anyone to use.



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# Shabbona Express



## Shabbona Farmers Market



Saturdays  
June-September  
9:00am - Noon

Shop and Enjoy

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Foods & Crafts

Purdy Park  
East Navaho Ave, Shabbona

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viewpoint? We welcome submissions!

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