

Shabbona Express

February, 2024

Library News

Come support your library with a chili cook-off on February 17th.

\$5 per person

Interested in entering the contest with your own chili? Contact Melanie Berg at 815-824-2079, shabbonalibrary@gmail.com, or stop by the library by February 10th.



Love Your Library
CHILI
Cook-off
Saturday
February 17th
6:00-8:30
Flewelin Memorial Library Fundraiser
Bring the family and cast your votes for the best chili in town!
Only \$5 per person
Flewelin Memorial Library
108 W Commanche Ave, Shabbona, IL

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Shabbona Village Stealing This Man's Property

by Josh Snyder

The Village of Shabbona, along with most of the surrounding villages, has seen a decline in local business; supermarkets, stores, restaurants, barbershops and more used to call Shabbona home. I took a walk down Comanche Ave (US-30) starting at Screamer's and ending at the Self Storage facility and counted the number of active businesses and vacant storefronts. In total, Shabbona is home to around 15 active businesses and around 13 vacancies, that's nearly half of all storefronts sitting empty.

COVID lock-downs and retiring business owners are all factors leading to the closing of businesses but why aren't new businesses stepping in?

The Village President along with some members of the Village Board have been actively targeting business owners and dissuading prospective businesses, driving both new and existing businesses out. According to many sources, there have been at least three new businesses who tried to open up shop in town until they were confronted by the village government.

With some of the backstory out of the way, let's now introduce the story of the man who's property is under threat of being stolen by the Village, Barry Greenwell.

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Shabbona Express

Shabbona Village Is Stealing This Man's Property

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Barry owns the property located at 106½ W Comanche Ave which has been home to a small engine repair shop for XXX years. They repair almost anything powered by a small engine, including lawn mowers, snow blowers, generators, etc. Barry has also expressed interest in expanding the services to include sharpening of blades and knives. But his property has been targeted by the Village President and members of the Village Board who are trying to bully him and several other property owners into selling or demolishing their buildings.

The village has been discriminating against Barry by passing ordinances that seem to be selectively aimed at him. Barry has been doing everything in his power to comply with the new ordinances and has done extensive work to fix up the building. Now the Village is trying to use the "Vacant Buildings" ordinance that was passed in March 2023 to impose heavy fines and registration requirements for his occupied and legal buildings. The Village has ordained that his buildings are vacant despite the fact that his business is still open.

The Village is trying to impose fines and ultimately liens to force a sale of his property because certain members of the village government want to include portions of his land to make way for a very small park. There have also been talks about using it to expand a proposed parking lot scheduled to be built in early to mid 2024. Regardless of why they want the land, the Village is overreaching their authority and infringing on the rights of several residents and I believe it is our duty as citizens to stand up against this tyranny.

Please let your voice be heard by calling all members of the Village Board and the Village President to let them know they will not be allowed to steal people's property and about any concerns you may have about them pushing prospective businesses out of town.

Village President:
Don Goncher
630-514-0249
mayorgoncher@gmail.com

Village Trustee:
Geoff Cooker
trusteegeoffcooker@gmail.com

Village Trustee:
Marc Cinnamon
815-824-2247
trusteecinnamon@gmail.com

Village Trustee:
Denny Sands
815-970-3107
trusteedennysands@gmail.com

Village Trustee:
David Simpson
815-739-1984
trusteedavidsimpson@gmail.com

Village Trustee:
Joy Fay
815-757-2223
trusteejoyfay@gmail.com

Village Trustee:
Allison Kidd Probst
630-330-6866
trusteeallisonkiddprobst@gmail.com

Shabbona Express

This FREE event sponsored by*:



COMMUNITY FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Enjoy a fun night with snacks, drinks, and games! Feel free to bring some to share! All ages are welcome!

**COME & JOIN US
FOR GAME NIGHT!**

Up Realty Offices
104 W Comanche Ave.
Shabbona, IL 60550

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 6-9PM

*There are no sales pitches at this event.

Local Events

February 10: 6pm-9pm

Game Night @
104 W Comanche Ave,
Shabbona

February 10: 6pm-9pm

Card Making @ Flewellin
Memorial Library -
108 W Comanche Ave,
Shabbona

February 26: 5:30-9 pm

Games & Dinner @
Shabbona Community
Church – 104 E Navaho Ave,
Shabbona

Games @ Shabbona
Community Church are
monthly on the last Friday



**Get up to \$2,000 cash back when you purchase
your next home or investment with Up Realty!**

If the co-op commission on the property purchased is less than \$4,000,
the rebate will be 50% of the total commission paid to Up Realty.

Rebate must be disclosed to your lender and it is ultimately up to
their discretion whether they will allow it and how it may be applied.

Offer expires Dec 31, 2024

Up Realty LLC
Joshua Snyder
Designated Managing Broker

331-222-7697
josh@uprealty.io
104 W Comanche Ave
Shabbona, IL 60550

Want to add an event to the
March edition?

E-mail us at
events@shabbonaexpress.com
or contact us at 331-222-7697

Shabbona Express

Winter Maintenance Tips

by Up Realty

- Garden hoses should be removed from any water spigots, drained, and put away. This is one of the most common causes of damage.
- If a pipe freezes, it's best to turn off your water supply to the entire house and try to thaw it before turning the water back on. This way if the pipe did burst, you can quickly shut it off again to minimize damage.
- Check if your spigot has a water shutoff valve inside the home. Turning it off and keeping the faucet open to let the water out is another great way to prevent ice damage.
- On particularly cold days opening cabinets in bathrooms and kitchens where sinks are can help make sure your home's heat can reach your pipes.
- Check your furnace filter and replace every 3 months or if it looks dirty. This not only helps your furnace last longer it helps keep your indoor air cleaner. Consider getting a tune-up or inspection by a HVAC company.
- Test your sump pump. Pour water into your pit until it turns on. Also consult with your owner's manual on any maintenance it may require. Melting snow is a prime time for water to intrude on basements.
- Clear out your gutters. Leaves and debris can cause water runoff to get trapped and freeze causing ice dams and water leaking into your home.
- Try changing your ceiling fan's direction to clockwise to bring warmer air in your ceiling down and run it at it's slowest speed.

Museum Fundraiser



Purchase tickets from:

- Museum: call and leave a message or stop by during hours
- Board Members
- Email your request

\$50 each

1 winner

Drawing will take place on
March 26, 2024

Shabbona-Lee-Rollo Historical Museum

119 W. Comanche Ave.

Shabbona, IL

815-824-2579

Email: slrmuseum@gmail.com

Your Ad Here!

Interesting in featuring your business? Contact us at:

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or 331-222-7697

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The Real Reason Everything is Getting Worse - And No One is Talking About It

by Kallan Welsh

No matter who you ask, young or old, white or black, rich or poor, a theme reveals itself among the attitudes of the American public - a foreboding feeling that things are getting worse. There may be some bumps in the road, some ups and downs, but the general trend is clear: Overall, things are getting worse. How is it possible that, despite incredible technological and economic progress, just about everyone seems to feel this way?

There are many factors to point to: homelessness, fentanyl, depression, suicidality, the cost of living crisis. It sure seems like mental health, on average, has taken a nosedive. For the past 10-15 years, young people have bucked their parents' recurring optimism about the future; from America's founding, young people thought they would end up better off than their parents. Young people today think they will be worse off than their parents.

When kids in the 1960s were asked to draw a picture of what they thought the future would look like, their drawings were filled with space-age technology, flying cars, teleportation, and all sorts of other hyper-optimistic futurism. When kids today are given the same task, they tend to draw pictures of what appears to be a Gotham-esque dystopia, a dark, dingy, future where the poor are packed like sardines into cramped living quarters, where social interaction has gone by the wayside in favor of the metaverse, and where everyone and everything is under constant surveillance by governmental and corporate overlords.

But why? Things used to be better, right? Or is the nostalgia for childhood which we all share deceiving us into believing that things must be worse today, since they must have been great when we were kids?

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The Real Reason Everything is Getting Worse - And No One is Talking About It

(Continued from another page)

I don't think it's just nostalgia. Take our quaint little town of Shabbona. It used to be better. There were more businesses in the past and more community engagement in the past. I've lived in a number of small towns throughout my life, and the story, with very few exceptions, is the same: When we were kids, we'd hang out with friends downtown after school. We'd see a movie at the theater, grab some ice cream at the ice cream parlor.... Our parents all knew one another, and we felt like we lived in a real community. Now, the proverbial movie theater has been demolished, and the ice cream parlor was boarded up 20 years ago.

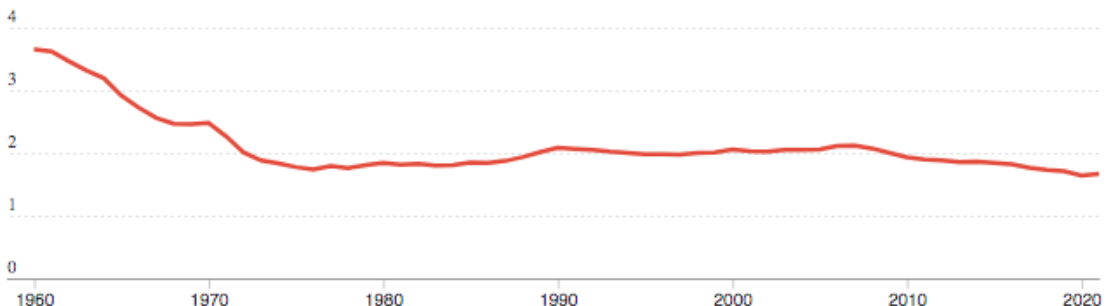
Weren't there more things to do when we were kids? What do the kids do these days? The answer to that question is a sad one: nothing. Kids these days, by and large, are growing up atomized, away from other people, and sans anything that could be called a community. This past Halloween season, I saw someone on social media lamenting, "Where are all the Trick-or-Treaters?!" I'm sure this person is not alone in feeling this way: Why, when I was a kid, this was a whole event! The whole neighborhood came out to Trick-or-Treat!

Where are the trick-or-treaters? Where are the movie goers and the ice cream shop customers? Where are the community?

There's an underappreciated and unique aspect to all of these things. Trick-or-treat is an event by and for young people. The primary customer base of a movie theater, and ice cream shop, and, by golly, just about every local business you can think of, is young people. This issue isn't exclusive to rural communities and small towns either; the suburbs have an equal problem. Where have all the malls gone? Perhaps a better question is: where has their customer base gone? Where are all the young people?

The answer to that question, dear reader, is that they don't exist.

Fertility rate in United States of America



(This article will be continued in the March edition.)

Shabbona Express
PO Box 172
Shabbona, IL 60550

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

*****ECRWSSEDDM****

Local

Postal Customer

Shabbona Express

Business Spotlight

This month's business spotlight is on Welsh Systems, a computer services company headquartered right on main street, at 104 W Comanche Ave. Welsh Systems specializes in computer and electronics repair, including PCs, Macs, desktops, laptops, tablets, and phones. Welsh Systems also builds custom computer networks for residences and businesses and offers both dropoff as well as onsite services. Welsh Systems also builds and sells custom and refurbished systems. To set an appointment, call Kallan at 630-492-1164.

Welsh Systems

Computer Services



Meet the Owner

My name is Kallan Welsh, and I started this business over 10 years ago, when I was still in high school. I found a passion in both computers and helping people. The business has moved with me my entire adult life. I'm a relative newcomer to Shabbona, but I've already had the chance to meet many residents, and I love it here. I'm excited to provide Shabbona and the surrounding area with great customer service.

**Want to see your business featured here?
Email spotlight@shabbonaexpress.com**

**Interested in publishing an article or comic?
Contact us at editor@shabbonaexpress.com**