



January, 2025

Events

- January 4** – Story Time @
10 AM @ Flewellin Library
- January 6** – Crochet / Knit Club @
11 AM @ Flewellin Library
- January 8** – Toddler Time @ 10 AM
@ Flewellin Library
- January 8** – Euchre @ 11:15 AM –
1:30 PM @ Flewellin Library
- January 11** – Story Time @
10 AM @ Flewellin Library
- January 11** – Cards with Kim & Jamie
@ 6 PM @ Flewellin Library
- January 11** – Community Game Night
@ 6 PM – 9 PM @ Up Realty
(104 W Comanche Ave)
- January 13** – Crochet / Knit Club @
11 AM @ Flewellin Library
- January 13** – Referendum Town Hall
with Brad Fritts @ 6 PM @
Flewellin Library
- January 15** – Toddler Time @ 10 AM
@ Flewellin Library
- January 15** – Elder Care Services &
Tech Help @ 12 PM – 2 PM
@ Flewellin Library
- January 18** – Story Time @
10 AM @ Flewellin Library
- January 20** – Crochet / Knit Club @
11 AM @ Flewellin Library

(Continued on next page)

2025 – What's in Store for Shabbona?

By Joshua Snyder

As we step into the new year, it's the perfect time to reflect on our community's progress and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. I am filled with optimism for what's in store, and I'm confident that together, we can make 2025 a landmark year for growth and renewal. Let's take a moment to look back at 2024's achievements and consider how we can build on them.

In 2024, our community welcomed several new businesses, each contributing to the vibrancy and economic vitality of our town. The Historic Shabbona Hotel reopened and now also houses Welsh Systems Computer Services, Cuttin' Loose Barbershop, and Up Realty. All American Door also opened to service & install overhead doors. These businesses not only enhance our local economy but also create new opportunities for connection and collaboration.

(Continued on Page 4)

State Passes Bill To Give Shabbona Lake State Park to Prairie Band Potawatomi

By Joshua Snyder

On January 7, 2025, the Illinois House of Representatives voted in favor of SB867, which authorizes the transfer of the Shabbona Lake State Park to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for the sale price of \$1. The bill had already been passed in the Illinois Senate.

The sale does have some contingencies such as the need for a land management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Shabbona's Village Board was a proponent of the transfer. Potawatomi Chair Person Joseph Rupnik has been invited to speak at the board meetings on multiple occasions, and Village President Don Goncher filed a witness slip in support of the bill in the state legislature.

The transfer of the land to the Potawatomi potentially opens new doors of investment into Shabbona Lake Park and the surrounding areas, but also comes with challenges, including the necessity of agreements to ensure that the rights of both the citizens of the tribe and those of the citizens of the surrounding villages and townships remain respected.

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Events

(Continued)

January 22 – Toddler Time @ 10 AM
@ Flewellin Library

January 22 – Euchre @ 11:15 AM –
1:30 PM @ Flewellin Library

January 25 – Story Time @
10 AM @ Flewellin Library

January 27 – Crochet / Knit Club @
11 AM @ Flewellin Library

January 27 – Village Board Meeting
@ 7 PM @ Village Hall
(206 S Blackhawk St)

January 28 – Blacklight / Glow in the
Dark Mini Golf @ 3:30 PM –
6:30 PM @ Flewellin Library

January 29 – Blacklight / Glow in the
Dark Mini Golf @ 3:30 PM –
6:30 PM @ Flewellin Library

January 31 – Blacklight / Glow in the
Dark Mini Golf @ 3:30 PM –
6:30 PM @ Flewellin Library

January 31 – Game Night & Light
Meal @ 5:30 PM @
Shabbona Community
Church



Village Appears To Not Honor Its Contracts

By Joshua Snyder

The Shabbona Fire Protection District has had issues with water runoff ever since the Village built the well house adjacent to the fire barn in 2022. Shortly after constructing the well house, the fire barn encountered some flooding and it continues to have issues with dirt, debris, and ice being deposited on their driveway apron. The well house was built at a higher elevation than the fire barn and the earth between the well house and fire barn slopes at a fairly steep grade towards the fire barn.

In order to address this, the Village of Shabbona and the Fire District entered into an Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement in February 2024. The contract states: *"The Village shall, as soon as reasonably practical given weather conditions, undertake, at its expense, the construction of a swale and french drain between the well house and fire station and the french drain will be connected to the Village storm sewer system by directional boring."*

The Village Engineer (Chastain) presented the Village Board with plans at an estimated cost of \$50,000-60,000 at the October 2024 Board Meeting. The Trustees voted against sending the plans out to bid. Reasons cited included: downspouts and gutters were added to the well house in late 2022 and planned future improvements to the alley along the railroad will likely solve the issues. A new, less expensive, proposal was presented at the December 2024 Board Meeting but the trustees didn't motion to talk about it.

The Village should have considered these reasons before signing the contract obligating them to do the work. These reasons were known at the time the contract was signed and every trustee voted to sign the agreement according to the minutes. The Village should also have set a maximum cost in the agreement. There is also no mention of a cap on expense for the project so they obligated themselves to do the project regardless of the cost. The only leeway in the agreement appears to be an option for the Village to tie in the Fire District's floor drain and downspouts if "reasonably practical".

Anyone interested in reading the full Intergovernmental Agreement can do so at www.shabbonaexpress.com/fireiga

E-mail
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Village Government News

By Joshua Snyder

During the December Village Board Meeting, the Village Engineer brought an updated proposal for the drainage improvements between the Village's well house and the fire station. The Board decided to not motion to discuss it.

The Village Board approved giving the Shabbona Lee Rollo Museum \$20,000 for tuckpointing the building. The museum tuckpointed parts of the building earlier in 2024 and this will pay for tuckpointing the rest of the building. During discussion, the primary reason stated for approving the funds was that the Village owns the building. The primary reason stated for not approving the funds were that the lease agreement with the museum gives them free rent in exchange for the museum being responsible for all of the maintenance.

The contract to appoint an adjudicator is still in the works. The Village Attorney mentioned they will likely have a contract during the January 2025 meeting. The adjudicator gives the Village a less formal and less costly way of enforcing ordinance violations vs relying on the county courts. Citizens brought to adjudication will be able to plead their case if they believe the violation issued is incorrect. Additionally, citizens will still have the opportunity to appeal an adjudicator's decision to the county courts if they believe the adjudicator's ruling was incorrect.

Sale of Jacobson Funeral Home

Dear friends,

We would like to announce to area residents the sale of our funeral home in Shabbona.

The funeral home has been sold effective December 27, 2024 to Phil Nelson, owner of Nelson Funeral Homes and Crematories in Waterman, Hinckley, Yorkville, Plano and Sandwich. Phil is a native of Hinckley and is a well known funeral director with many years of experience serving area families.

We trust that you will continue to support Phil and his newly acquired funeral home as you have supported our family in the past.

With deepest gratitude and appreciation,
Dave and Sue Jacobson



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Designated Managing Broker
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2025 – What's in Store for Shabbona?

(Continued from Page 1)

On the infrastructure front, 2024 was a year of significant progress. Major projects like the downtown streetscape enhancements, the Shabbona Road water main replacement, and the Apache Street resurfacing with curbs and stormwater management were completed.

But can 2025 top these accomplishments? I say: absolutely!

We all know some downtown buildings could use some TLC, and empty storefronts need to be filled. But consider this: the extensive investments made in the Shabbona Hotel and its associated businesses demonstrate a strong commitment to revitalization. Across the street, the building at 103 W Comanche Ave saw the start of its restoration, with plans to open a thrift and consignment store. These initiatives set the stage for even more transformative projects in 2025.

In the coming year, repairs to both 103 W Comanche and the hotel will continue, further enhancing our downtown. Even more exciting, the owners of the old Terry's Pizza and Hardware Hank buildings are eager to repair and open businesses there. Although they've faced challenges with the current Village Government, I'm confident that a new wave of leadership—either through fresh faces on the Village Board or a shift in mindset from existing trustees—will foster a collaborative spirit to bring these projects to fruition.

Another bright spot is Purdy Park, which received an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant for \$224,040. Building Shabbona Together (BST) is fundraising to help meet the grant's 50/50 match requirement. These funds will enable the construction of a multi-function sports court, a shaded area, and a band shell, creating a dynamic community space for all to enjoy.

Our future is undeniably bright, and the momentum we've built over the past year is just the beginning. With new leadership, and the continued support of our incredible community, 2025 promises to be a year of unprecedented progress and opportunity.

Do you share my optimism? Let's work together to make our shared vision for a thriving community a reality!

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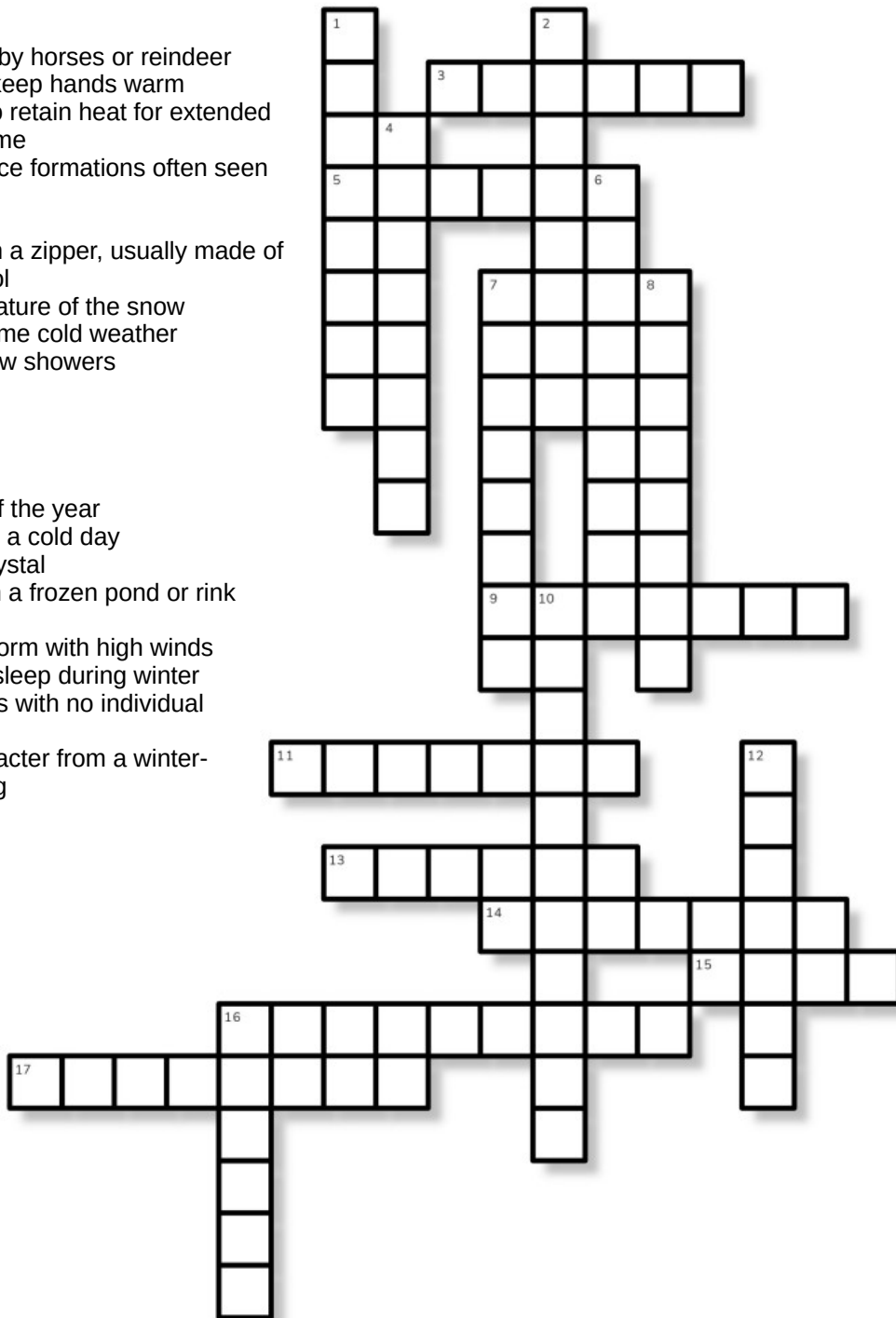
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Across

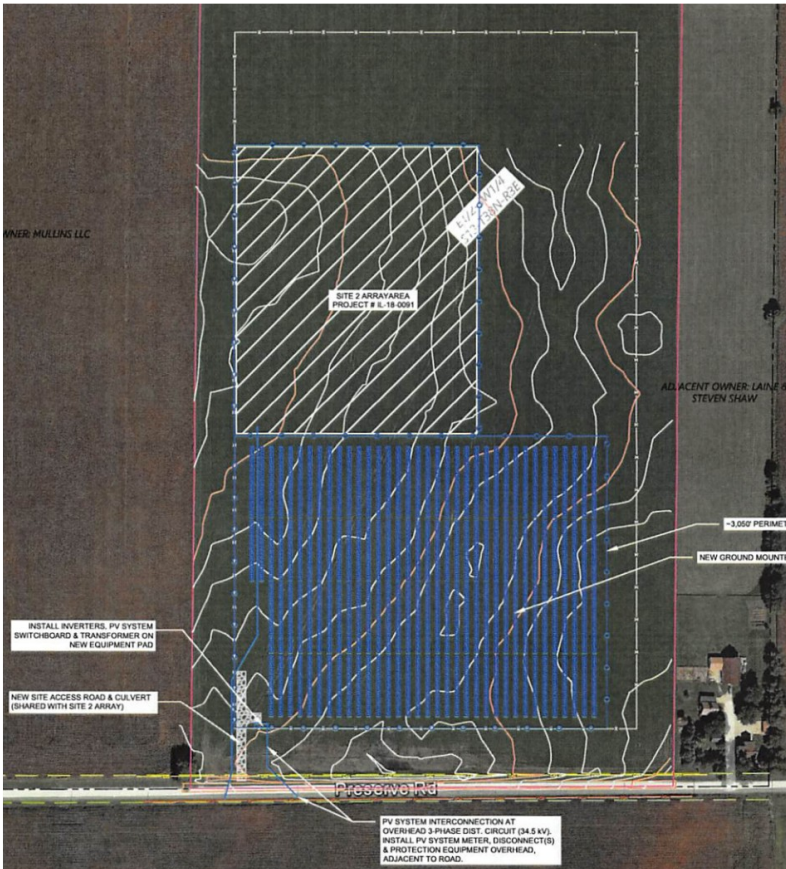
3. A sledge drawn by horses or reindeer
5. Winter wear to keep hands warm
9. A device used to retain heat for extended periods of time
11. Long, pointed ice formations often seen on rooftops
13. Winter sport
14. Outerwear with a zipper, usually made of down or wool
15. Legendary creature of the snow
16. Result of extreme cold weather
17. Light, brief snow showers

Down

1. Icy creatures
2. Twelfth month of the year
4. Strong winds on a cold day
6. Frozen water crystal
7. Used to glide on a frozen pond or rink (two words)
8. A strong snowstorm with high winds
10. Animals go to sleep during winter
12. Hand coverings with no individual fingers
16. A popular character from a winter-themed song



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New Solar Farm

By Joshua Snyder

A solar farm is under construction at the Fitzgerald farm located on the North side of Preserve Road and east of University Road. The farm is roughly halfway between University Road and the railroad.

According to county documents, two solar farms were approved on the farm at 2 megawatts each. One will occupy approximately 18.2 acres and the other approximately 15.8 acres of the 70 acre parcel.

Anyone interested in seeing the permit application can view it at <https://dekalbcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/packet-pzc-12062023.pdf> It starts on page 36.

The picture above is the current state of construction as of January 8, 2025. On the left is a portion of the drawing showing the location of the farms.

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