

Shabbona Express

July, 2024

Village Government News

By Joshua Snyder

The Village Board had Public Affairs Committee meetings on June 6th and 27th. The meeting on the 27th was not attended by the Shabbona Express. According to the agendas both meetings were primarily for additional planning for the 4th of July Parade and Festival.

The regular board meeting took place on June 24th. The Village Engineer, Curtis from Chastain & Associates, gave an update on the Shabbona Road water line replacement project. The south side was finishing up and they will be moving to the north side soon.

The Administrative Adjudication ordinance was approved by the Village Board, with a few modifications. We have not yet seen the passed ordinance but verbally the changes included:

1. The Village President will nominate the adjudicator and the Village Board will approve or deny the appointment.
2. The Village Board will have the power to remove the adjudicator.

The Village Board also passed an ordinance to adopt Municode as a host for the Village Code. This system is easier to maintain and read compared to PDF files. As of the writing of this article the Code has not been published yet but should be available soon.

Spending up to \$2,500 for the Village Engineer to do a grant application for Purdy Park was approved. This is to cover the paperwork and engineering required to apply for the grant. There was also talks about holding a public hearing for Purdy Park to inform the public about the plans but it has not yet been scheduled.

Events

- July 4** – Fourth of July Festival @ Purdy Park & Fireworks @ Shabbona Lake State Park
- July 6** – Farmer's Market @ 8 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy Park
- July 12** – Children's Garden Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library
- July 12** – Dungeons & Dragons @ 5 PM - 7 PM @ 104 W Comanche Ave (Up Realty)
- July 13** – JubiLEE, celebrate 150 years of Lee @ 7 AM – 9 PM @ Lee, IL
- July 13** – Farmer's Market @ 8 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy Park
- July 13** – Community Game Night @ 6 PM – 9 PM @ 104 W Comanche Ave (Up Realty)
- July 14** – JubiLEE, celebrate 150 years of Lee @ 11 AM – 6 PM @ Lee, IL
- July 19** – Children's Garden Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library
- July 20** – Farmer's Market @ 8 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy Park
- July 20** – Cards with Kim @ 6PM @ Flewellin Library
- July 20** – Waterman Lions Summerfest @ 7 AM – Midnight @ 420 S Birch St, Waterman
- July 22** – Village of Shabbona Village Board Meeting @ 7 PM @ Village Hall (206 S Blackhawk)
- July 26** – Children's Garden Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library
- July 26** – Dungeons & Dragons @ 5 PM - 7 PM @ 104 W Comanche Ave (Up Realty)
- July 26** – Game Night & Light Meal @ 5:30 PM @ Shabbona Community Church
- July 27** – Farmer's Market @ 8 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy Park

Shabbona Express

Making Sense of Parking Stickers

By Kallan Welsh

Municipalities sometimes need to impose parking restrictions. But why? In the same way you'd expect a free grocery store to run out of stock of everything, when parking is free, abuse is invited. If there is no downside to doing so, people with multiple vehicles may begin using public streets and lots as free long-term vehicle storage, which reduces parking availability for everybody else.

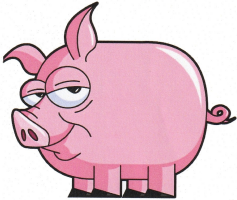
Does Shabbona plan to impose parking restrictions, and if so, how? No public discussion over a new parking ordinance has yet been had, but Village President Don Goncher is pushing for it; sign posts have already been installed at the two municipal lots on the 100 block of Comanche Avenue. It would appear the plan is to require permits for overnight parking. There have been rumors of a parking permit for streets and the municipal lots. As of now, the Village President has only talked about a permit for the municipal lots.

Requiring permits for overnight parking is one way to curb possible abuse - if someone is storing multiple vehicles on public property long term because there is no cost to doing so, they may rethink that and find another place for those vehicles if a cost is imposed - even if the cost is relatively minimal. I don't believe this sort of abuse is happening in Shabbona currently, or at least not in the municipal lots (I live right next to them), but the recent reduction in parking availability (the lot beside me was reduced

from 14 spaces to 5 + 1 handicap space) means that this sort of abuse will be more impactful than before. Restricting parking overnight may also aid in snow removal, but allowing it by permit renders that point moot (nor do I think cutting the value of a parking space in half is a worthwhile tradeoff for easier snow removal; private lots will almost always find ways to work around) - the parking lots will have permitted cars in them overnight anyway. I would add that requiring permits for the parking lots incentivizes residents of downtown buildings who currently park in the parking lots to park in the street instead, in front of businesses which depend more greatly on readily available parking.

Many residents of Shabbona could tell you that where parking availability problems exist, they are during the day, not overnight, so imposing a cost to overnight parking is a very circuitous way of trying to alleviate the problem. A more effective solution to daytime parking availability shortages is imposing a cost to daytime parking - but this is far less politically feasible, as most parking use is during the day, and thus a greater percentage of the population would be outraged at the new fee.

(This article continues on the next page)



Shabbona Community Church
Fund Raiser

Hog Raffle

1st Prize: ½ Processed Hog

2nd Prize: ½ Processed Hog

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or 5 for \$20

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or 5 for \$20

Tickets available at :

Shabbona Community Church Office or from

Diaconate Members: Beth Hanson, Ed Leeney,

Gail Loes, Derek Oleson and Joyce Pickwell

ALSO tickets available at SFD pancake breakfast July 4th

Drawing to be held Saturday, July 20, at

Waterman Summerfest

Do not need to be present to win

Hog will be processed approximately August 1st.

Shabbona Express

Making Sense of Parking Stickers

(Continued from the previous page)

Another solution is to add more parking, which is, according to multiple village trustees, in the works. There are plans to add parking spots along the alleyway north of Comanche Avenue and possibly another parking lot on the west side of downtown.

If the village government chooses the circuitous route of overnight parking permits to alleviating potential parking shortages (I might interject here that this route would solve a problem that doesn't currently exist, and so would not have an immediate impact on parking availability, but it is a problem that certainly could exist in the future), I would only urge the Village to not artificially limit the availability of permits and allow residents to purchase multiple. After all, the availability of parking overnight is not the issue, only the potential for abuse of public parking for free vehicle storage, a problem which really makes itself obvious during the daytime when parking spots are most in demand. Charging a minor fee for use curbs the potential problem (although circuitously) and gives the Village a modicum of new revenue to help defray the costs of maintaining public parking. But artificially limiting the supply of permits simply deprives the Village of that revenue and deprives downtown residents of parking, while having no impact on daytime parking availability.

I'll admit I'm biased on this question. I operate the Shabbona Hotel and have many guests that need to park overnight. If my guests cannot do that, I simply cannot operate the business. If the Village wants to craft a policy which imposes some cost on me of maintaining the public parking which my guests are using, that's fine, though I'd argue overnight permits are a circuitous and inefficient way of resolving daytime parking availability. If they want to artificially restrict overnight parking just to increase the number of empty spots at night, I'd argue that's a very destructive policy which not only destroys my business for no benefit, but could also make it difficult to impossible for residents in downtown to have guests overnight, to have roommates, or to own more than one vehicle.

With the construction in town finishing up, parking availability has eased. While it may be a little more difficult to find a good spot than before, there is, by and large, plenty of available parking. My preference, of course, is that parking availability be restored and expanded, as a village of this size and density should not have to worry about an undersupply of parking. In the future, as Shabbona grows, parking controls may be needed, but I only hope they are instituted in a thoughtful and constructive way, rather than haphazardly and destructively as some towns have unfortunately done.



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Celebration at

JULY 13, 2024

7:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

JULY 14, 2024

11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

RAIN OR SHINE

CROSSROADS OF COMMERCE



1874-2024: Celebrating 150 Years

Saturday

Side Street Parking & Shuttles Available Through Town

- **Food and Refreshments**
 - Lee Lions Breakfast (7:00 - 10:30 AM)
 - Lee Lions Lunch (Noon - 1:00 AM)
Burgers and Dogs
 - Paw Paw Lions Pork Chop Dinner (4:30 - 6:30 PM)
Early Bird Discount and Pre-Event Ticket Purchases Available!
- Honor Guard/Flag Ceremony/Morning Prayer (Starting at 10:30 AM)
- Parade (11:00 - 11:30 AM)
- Local Churches and NICE Center Open House (1:00 - 3:30 PM)
- Kidfest (Noon until Dark)
 - Petting Zoo
 - Bags
 - Face Painting (3:00 - 7:00 PM)
 - Touch-a-Truck
 - Police K-9
 - Slip and Slide on the Hill
 - More to Come!
- Beer/Wine Garden (Noon - 9:00 PM)
Outside Alcohol Prohibited
- Live Local Music/Bands (1:00 - 9:00 PM)
- Archive Room
- 50/50 Raffle (8:45 PM draw)

Sunday

- Time Capsule (11:00 AM)
- Lee Lions Cook-Out (Starting at Noon)
 - Brats/Hot Dogs (Until Supplies Last)
- 150th Birthday Cake
- Wiffle Ball with a Twist - Crosstown Classic
- Tug of War/Kids Games
- Archive Room
- Movie in the Fire Barn (4:00 PM)



- Bags

Picnic Tables & Some Indoor Seating Available
Lawn Chairs Recommended

Questions? Contact pburt21@yahoo.com.

Shabbona Express

On the Lake & Potential Potawatomi Takeover

(This is a submission and does not necessarily represent the views of the Shabbona Express nor its writers)
By Becky Oest

Hello,

My name is Becky Oest. I am a resident, homeowner and taxpayer in Shabbona, Illinois. I am also the main force in the fight against bill SB867 Amendment #1. I run a Facebook page called Shabbona friends against the Potawatomi takeover. I also have a petition circulating regarding the same bill. My Facebook group is increasing every day with over 500 members currently. The petition has also shown huge support with almost 1000 signatures as of this letter.

SB867 Amendment #1 would give Shabbona Lake State Park to the Potawatomi Tribe for \$1. My main goal is to see this bill go away. Obviously the majority of us do not want to lose the state park. If the park were to be given away, the bill itself would need to be much more concise, with a plan and guidelines. As the bill sits right now, the cart was definitely put before the horse.

There are no guidelines to the Potawatomi taking over the park. Simply saying it will "remain open" is not enough. Besides that, how long will the park remain open- a day, a week, a month, a year? Will fishing regulations stay the same or will spearfishing be brought in? Will the campsites remain open or will natives move in and live there? Who's laws would we follow, would the DNR follow, seeing as they would be contracted there? I would think a contract that hasn't even been written yet would have the DNR feeling unsure. I know I feel unsure about what is to come.

Please research what is happening in Lac du Flambeau. A bill with no guidelines and no plan could very easily turn into a similar issue. We cannot simply take Joseph Rupnick (chief of the tribe) at his word, no matter how great of a person he is. He might say he won't build. He might say the park will remain the same. He might say he will honor contracts currently in the park. What if, God forbid, something happened to him? A person's word just isn't acceptable these days.

Many say the Potawatomi will bring in revenue for the town. Do you know that we currently have several people trying to create revenue? These people are being shot down by the town's very own mayor. The mayor, along with another board member, are friends with the Potawatomi. Tell me it's a coincidence that they support the tribe but not their own taxpayers trying to create revenue? What is wrong with the picture here?!

I think it's also important to point out that anything built in the park will not create revenue for Shabbona because it will be tax free. The businesses outside of the park will struggle because everyone will go where it's cheaper. Plus we will be paying taxes to the DNR to patrol land that is not taxable.

The people of Shabbona have got to come together and start speaking up. Say no to this bill to lose our park. Say no to the mayor and his latest schemes. Say yes to the business owners who are trying and continuously being shut down!

Shabbona Express Welcomes Submissions Like This One!

Send in your own letter, article, or editorial to editor@shabbonaexpress.com
and it may be published in a future edition!

All viewpoints are welcome

Shabbona Express

CLARIFICATION:

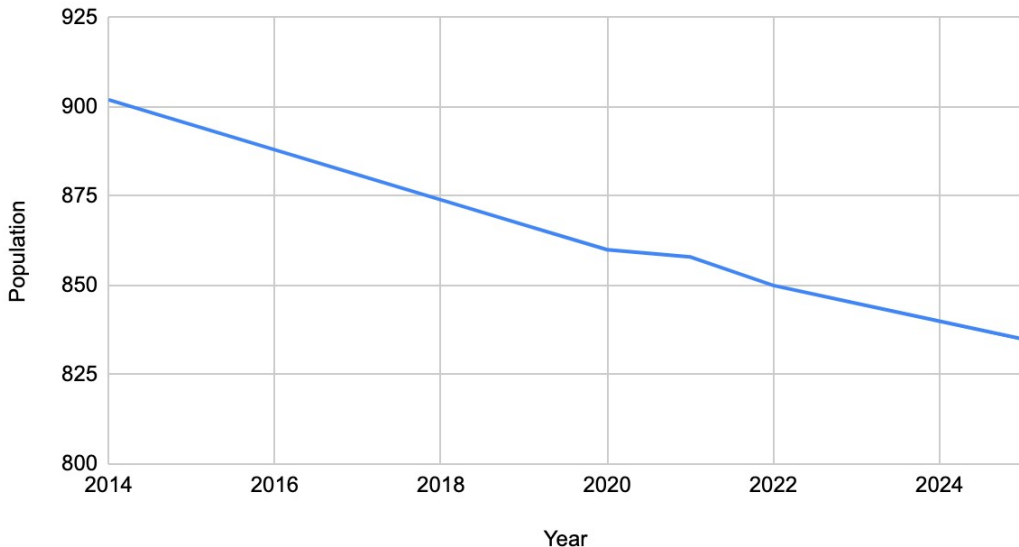
They're Spending a Lot of Your Money

By Kallan Welsh

After receiving some criticism regarding my article in the last edition, I wanted to add maximum context. Firstly, though the Village appropriates money for the Library, the Library has its own taxing district and does not actually receive any money out of village funds. The Library's budget is substantially less than the amount appropriated (\$90,000) for it. For tax year 2023, the Library received \$32395.50 in tax revenue, and expects to spend in the mid \$30,000 range unless additional grants and donations are received. The Library receives an approximate average of \$93.36 in tax revenue per Shabbona household from their own taxing district, not from the Village of Shabbona.

As for village appropriations and spending, I have attached charts on the next pages with the data for the past 10 years. Note that actual spending is always lower than the amount appropriated for a given fiscal year. Both appropriations and spending have trended up through years at a rate higher than the rate of inflation. Most of the spending increase is attributable to the maintenance and operation of the combined waterworks and sanitary sewer system. Also relevant, I believe, is the size of Shabbona's tax base, which is shrinking, as seen in the chart below. The Village of Shabbona does not issue a budget for upcoming fiscal years (under state law, currently, only Chicago is required to), so the only way to determine actual spending for the current fiscal year will be by looking in the rear view mirror next year.

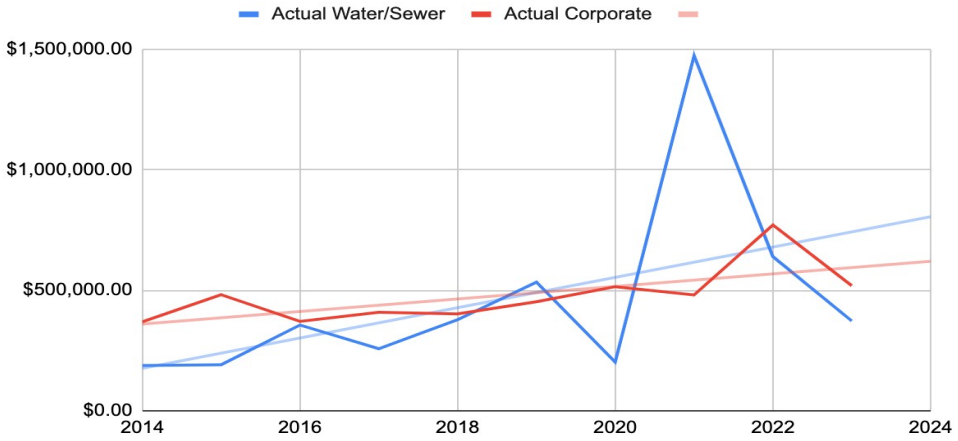
Population vs. Year



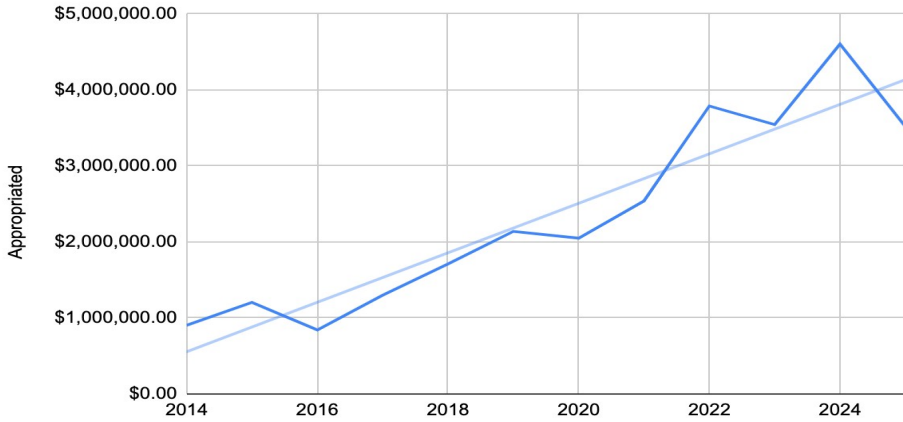
In a future edition I intend to do an even deeper dive into revenue sources and the financial condition of the village over time. Much of the increased spending is attributable to grants and other revenues not directly attributable to village taxpayers, but tax levies have risen over the years also.

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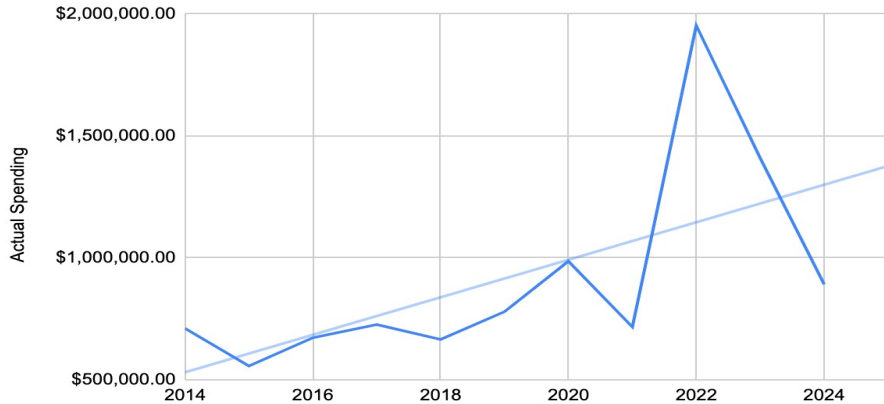
Actual Water/Sewer and Actual Corporate



Appropriated



Actual Spending



Shabbona Express

What Even is a Good Government Investment?

By Kallan Welsh

In the private sector, an "investment" is when you expend money on an asset, and you expect that asset to yield you a return on that money. If that investment yields a reasonable return, we call it a *good investment*. If it doesn't, it's a *bad investment*.

But what about when government invests money? Most of the time, politicians will call expenditures from the public Treasury "investment," because the word "spending" implies there will be no return. In other words, waste.

I'd argue that every single expenditure that government (at all levels) makes should need to qualify as a *good investment*. If it's not, it shouldn't be made. But how do you measure the quality of an investment on a government scale?

If the government invests in a new road or bridge which improves economic activity in a given area, that improvement will be recognized in the form of higher tax revenue. If the road or bridge was a good investment, then the net financial position of the governing entity AFTER the investment has been made should be better than the net financial position of the governing entity BEFORE, with no change in tax rates.

In other words, every good investment the government makes should result in a situation where they need to tax less after the investment is made than before the investment is made, in order to continue operations.

This is true no matter how the investment is financed. For example, lets say a governing entity that funds itself through property and sales tax decided to take out debt to finance a new bridge. In order for the expenditure to qualify as a *good investment* the cost of servicing the loan and ongoing maintenance on the bridge should be paid entirely plus some by the net increase in revenue to the governing entity through an increased value in the land being taxed and the increase in sales being taxed. If the end result instead is a deficit or breakeven, then by definition it is a *bad investment*.



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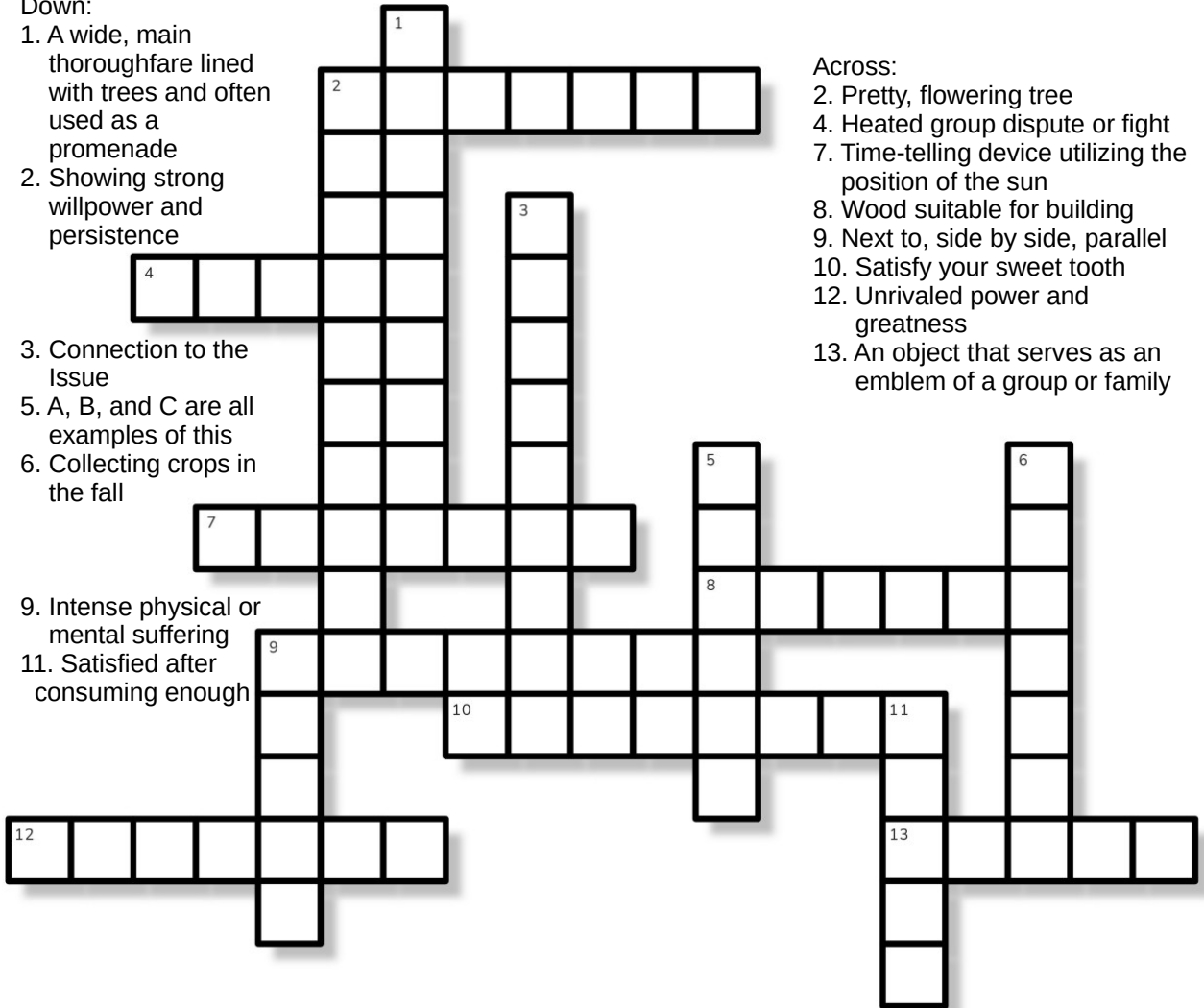
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Down:

1. A wide, main thoroughfare lined with trees and often used as a promenade
2. Showing strong willpower and persistence
3. Connection to the Issue
5. A, B, and C are all examples of this
6. Collecting crops in the fall

Across:

2. Pretty, flowering tree
4. Heated group dispute or fight
7. Time-telling device utilizing the position of the sun
8. Wood suitable for building
9. Next to, side by side, parallel
10. Satisfy your sweet tooth
12. Unrivaled power and greatness
13. An object that serves as an emblem of a group or family



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WATERMAN LIONS CLUB



24th Annual SummerFest

Antique Tractor & Truck Show

Saturday – July 20th, 2024

Waterman Lions Park 420 S. Birch Street Waterman, IL 60556

Schedule of Events*

7:00-9:00	Country FARM BREAKFAST by Shabbona Community Church
8:00-8:45	Tractor Pull Registration- Weak End Antique Pullers Tractor Pull
9:00 →	Weak End Antique Pullers Tractor Pull
10:00-4:00	Civil War Camp with history of the area
10:00-4:00	Kids' Activities- Kiddie Train Rides, Bounce House, Petting Zoo, Drive a Tractor
10:00-4:00	Craft Show / Flea Market Axe Throwing
10:30-3:00	Lion's Food Concessions Open
11:00-11:45	Kids' Entertainment- Mr. Steve - Pavilion (Sponsor- Clinton Township Library)
10:00-2:00	Cow Pie & Chicken Poo Bingo at the Petting Zoo
12:00	Tractor & Truck Parade of Power Guest Announcers Max Armstrong, Josh Hickey & Joel Prestegaard Tractor/Truck Show Trophy Awards
1:00	Live Music- <i>Jazz In Progress</i>
1:30	PEDAL PULL (sign up at 1:00) for Kids
3:00-11:30	Beer Garden by Pub West
3:00 – 4:00	Garden Tractor Skills Competition
3:00-5:00	Live Music- <i>The Beaux Band</i>
4:00-7:00	BBQ by Fays Finest Foods
5:00	Lion's Draw Down Raffle Purchase raffle tickets from any Waterman Lion or at Pub West Waterman
7:00-11:30	Live Music: <i>Deacon Frost</i>
9:15	FIREWORKS

Tractor & Truck Exhibitors Contact: Leonard 815-757-5065 or Shawn 815-275-4874

Northwestern Illinois Chapter of the American Truck Historical Society-Participant:

Terry Eipers 815-735-6221

Tractor Pull Contact: Randy Wilkening 815-739-5814

Crafts and Vendor Contact: Rich 815-264-3664

*Schedule Subject to Change

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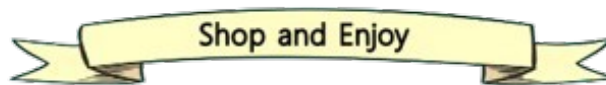
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Shabbona Farmers Market



Saturdays
June-September
8:00am - Noon



Locally produced
Foods & Crafts

Purdy Park
East Navaho Ave, Shabbona

Find Shabbona Farmers Market on Facebook
or email us at
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