

# Shabbona Express

June, 2024

## Village Government News

By Joshua Snyder

The Village Board had a Public Affairs Committee meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was primarily for additional planning for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Festival. For more information about the festival, entering into the parade, registering as a vendor in the craft fair, or entering the bag tournament (cornhole): visit <https://www.shabbona-il.com/residents/page/4th-july-parade-festival>

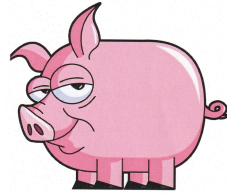
The regular board meeting took place on May 20<sup>th</sup>. During the Public Comment section, two local property/business owners spoke about issues they were encountering with the Village President and Village in general.

The Village Board voted and approved donations in the amounts of \$250 to the Lee-Rollo-Shabbona Community Chest, \$800 to the Shabbona Fireworks, and \$100 to the Waterman Summer Recreation.

The first reading of a new ordinance that would establish an Administrative Adjudication system took place. This is not yet passed and may be subject to revisions but we obtained a copy of the current version given to the trustees during the meeting and have an analysis of it starting on page 3.

The Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations were passed. The total budget for 2025 is **\$3,518,514**. We have a more in-depth review of it starting on page 7.

There was another closed executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees and the purchase or lease of real property."



Shabbona Community Church  
Fund Raiser

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2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: ½ Processed Hog

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Tickets \$5@  
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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 4<sup>th</sup>

Drawing to be held Saturday, July 20, at

Waterman Summerfest

Do not need to be present to win

Hog will be processed approximately August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Events

**June 1** – Summer Reading Kick Off @ 10 AM – 1 PM  
@ Purdy Park

**June 1** – Farmer's Market @ 8 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy  
Park

**June 3** – Book Club @ 11 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 4** – Book Club @ 6 PM @ Flewellin Library

**June 5** – ICHS FFA Animal Grooming @ 10 AM @  
Water Tower Park

**June 6** – Village of Shabbona Public Affairs  
Committee @ 6 PM @ Village Hall (206 S  
Blackhawk)

**June 7** – Children's Garden Time @ 10 AM @  
Flewellin Library

# Shabbona Express

## Events

**June 7 & 8** – Shabbona / Lee Garage Sales

**June 8** – Story Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 8** – Farmer's Market @ 8 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy Park

**June 8** – Shabbona Pathway 501c3 Meeting @ 8 AM @ Village Hall (206 S Blackhawk)

**June 8** – Community Game Night @ 6 PM – 9 PM @ Up Realty (104 W Comanche)

**June 10-14** – Annual Spring Clean Up Week – Village of Shabbona will collect items from your curb for disposal. Items should be at the curb by Thursday night to be picked up on Friday morning

**June 12** – Representative Bradley Fritts Coffee & Conversation @ 8 AM – 10 AM @ Shabbona Cafe

**June 12** – Animal BINGO @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 14** – Children's Garden Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 14** – Dungeons & Dragons @ 5 PM – 7 PM @ Flewellin Library

**June 15** – Story Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 15** – Farmer's Market @ 8 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy Park

**June 15** – Electronics Recycling @ 8 AM – 11 AM @ Village Public Works (206 S Blackhawk)

**June 15** – Card's with Kim @ 6 PM @ Flewellin Library

**June 17** – Book Club @ 11 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 18** – Book Club @ 6 PM @ Flewellin Library

**June 19** – Crosstown Exotics Reptile Show @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 21** – Children's Garden Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 22** – Story Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 22** – Farmer's Market @ 8 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy Park

**June 24** – Village Board Meeting @ 7 PM @ Village Hall (206 S Blackhawk)

**June 26** – Tie Dye Event @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 28** – Children's Garden Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 28** – Dungeons & Dragons @ 5 PM – 7 PM @ Flewellin Library

**June 28** – Game Night & Light Meal @ 5:30 PM @ Shabbona Community Church

**June 29** – Story Time @ 10 AM @ Flewellin Library

**June 29** – Farmer's Market @ 8 AM – 12 PM @ Purdy Park



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**5 PM - 7 PM**

# Shabbona Express

## Village to Vote on New Enforcement Power

By Kallan Welsh

At the monthly May Village Board meeting the village trustees were given the “Administrative Adjudications of Non-Vehicular Code Violations” ordinance “first reading”. The Village President is very keen on implementing this ordinance and asked the board to review it and vote on it during the next board meeting that takes place on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Village Hall (206 S Blackhawk).

In the interest of transparency and public knowledge and understanding of what local authorities are doing, the Shabbona Express issued and was granted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the document, which is published on our website in full at [shabbonaexpress.com/adjudication-first](http://shabbonaexpress.com/adjudication-first).

From the proposed ordinance (*in red*):

*The purpose of this chapter is to provide a fair and efficient method of enforcing the Village's regulations through administrative adjudication of charges of non-vehicular violations of this code.*

Currently, enforcement of ordinance violations is difficult and expensive, as any enforcement ends up in a slog through the court system. The Adjudication Ordinance, as I will be referring to it from now on, is intended to make that process much cheaper and quicker for the parties involved by appointing an adjudicator who will have the power to conduct a legal hearing on a code violation, and issue a judgment in as little as 15 days after the code violation notice is served.

I won't waste words here writing about the fact that I believe it's, in principle, a good idea; it provides an avenue for both the Village and the alleged code violator to adjudicate the case in a much more efficient way than going through the court system. Should the adjudicator judge in perceived error, defendants still do have the ability to appeal to a higher court. I do, however, wish to examine some sections of the ordinance in detail.

*The Village President is hereby authorized to appoint all hearing officers of this Village, all other persons to hold the positions hereinafter set forth below, and such other personnel as needed.*

All officers and persons related to this Ordinance are appointed solely by the Village President. There are some minimum standards set forth by the State (the Hearing Officer must be a licensed attorney for a minimum of 3 years and must complete a training course unless that person has served as a judge), but the Ordinance does not grant the Village Board or the People any direct oversight over who the Village President appoints. The Hearing Officer is granted quite a bit of authority under the law. His/her findings are binding and he/she can issue subpoenas which compel, by force, testimony or production of documents.

*...the hearing officer shall have the authority to impose fines and penalties up to Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00). When applicable, each day a code provision is found to have been violated by the defendant shall constitute a separate offense, and each separate offense subjects the respondent to the penalty provided by the governing penalty provision.*

The fines the Hearing Officer can impose are limited by law to quite a high number, \$50,000.

Additionally:

*Fines and penalties shall be imposed in accordance with this Code, or where no fine or penalty is expressed in this Code, the hearing officer may impose a fine or penalty according to his or her judgment.*

(This article continues on page 4)

# Shabbona Express

## Village to Vote on New Enforcement Power

(Continued from the previous page)

While most code violation fines are capped at \$750.00 (concerningly, the cap is \$50,000 per violation, solely at the judgment of the Hearing Officer, where fines are not otherwise specified), you may be charged with a new violation for every day the offense occurs. It is quite possible to have a disallowed weed growing on your property for a month or two and to be judged to owe \$45,000.

*Authorization: All full-time and auxiliary police officers and other specifically appointed individuals, including, but not limited to, specifically appointed code enforcement officers and building inspectors, shall have the authority to issue violation notices.*

I find this authorization particularly concerning. The way the Ordinance is written, any police officer may issue a violation notice, including police officers which do not live in or anywhere near Shabbona. The Hearing Officer would then be required to consider the violation notice completely valid. Building inspectors, including those contracted by the Village, are also empowered to issue violation notices.

*Any person who pleads guilty or liable or is found guilty or liable shall be responsible for paying the costs of adjudication of fifty dollars (\$50.00) in addition to a fine. If a fine is imposed for a continuing violation, and each day constitutes a separate offense, the costs of adjudication shall also be assessed for each day of the continuing offense.*

*In addition to or in lieu of a fine and costs, the hearing officer may also require a person who pleads guilty or is found guilty or liable for an offense to perform community service of not more than two hundred fifty (250) hours per offense.*

The Ordinance defines the "costs of adjudication" as \$50 per offense, so if you are found guilty of an offense over a long time period, you will be charged \$50 per day, and, by the Ordinance, this is not optional. The Hearing Officer may also use his/her sole judgment in imposing Community Service of up to 250 hours per offense, which also allows for absurd situations where 10 days of community service is required per day of violation. This community service may be in addition to any fines imposed and adjudication costs imposed.

*Upon being recorded in the manner required by Article 12 of the Code of Civil Procedure, as amended, or by the Uniform Commercial Code, as amended, a lien shall be imposed on the real estate or personal estate, or both, of the person in the amount of any debt due and owing the Village under this section. The lien may be enforced in the same manner as a judgment lien would be enforced in a court of competent jurisdiction.*

The Ordinance also empowers the Village to issue liens on private properties.

# Shabbona Express

## Village to Vote on New Enforcement Power

(Continued from the previous page)

In summary, there are a few points of concern with the ordinance as written:

- 1) The Village President should not be given the authority to appoint the Hearing Officer and related persons without greater direct oversight from the Village Board and/or the People.
- 2) Fines and Penalties should be more strictly written to prevent absurd fines and penalties from being levied. Depending on the judgment of a single Hearing Officer is unwise, and maximums should be more strictly imposed.
- 3) It should be more difficult than it is for the Village to claim an alleged code violation has proceeded over the course of a long period of time, if the Village claims a new code violation for each offending day.
- 4) Individuals empowered to write valid code violation notices should be limited.
- 5) Most importantly, the Village should be disincentivized in some way from writing frivolous or borderline code violation notices, preferably by imposing reasonable adjudication costs on the Village due the defendant in those cases where the defendant is found not guilty. This is only sensible given those costs are imposed on defendants which are found guilty of code violations.

To expand on the last point above: the ordinance empowers the Village to collect compensation for costs related to Adjudication and costs related to collections, there is no countervailing requirement for the Village to cover costs imposed on residents of the Village where the resident is found not guilty of an alleged code violation. The number of people who are empowered to issue code violations is frighteningly high, and there are no direct penalties for frivolous notices. The ordinance as written could lead to a situation in which a very high number of code violation notices are issued, and a high proportion of the alleged code violators are found not guilty.



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In those cases the Village pays the costs of adjudication and does not receive any revenues from fines. But there is little incentive for a code violation notice not to be written, as the Village still has more to gain than lose by issuing more and more code violation notices. Meanwhile, even if the citizen is found not guilty, they still had to deal with stress and potential legal fees which will not be reimbursed.

# Shabbona Express

## Shabbona – Lee Garage Sale

June 7 & 8

The map of the registered garage sales is printed on the back page and corresponds to the numbered locations below.

### Shabbona

- 1) 210 N Illini St: kitchen items, Christmas decorations, hand tools, women's clothing, bedding
- 2) 310 N Illini St: twin captains bed with new mattress, snowblower, pressure washer, desks, clothing, and other misc furniture
- 3) 205 E Pueblo Ave: huge sale – plastic storage bins, shelving, lots of DIY items, sports items, craft items, sewing machines, Trek men's bike, cheap antibacterial and surface wipes, closed on Saturday at 2, open Sunday 10:30 to 3.
- 4) 101 E Cherokee Ave: baby items like clothes and toys, girls clothes age 8 to 10 ish, lawn mower, home décor, curtains
- 5) 108 S Illini St: kids toys, household, kitchen table, electric heaters, planters, picture frames
- 6) 303 S Shabbona Rd: Friday and Saturday 8-3, many items free on Saturday. Hand and power tools, table saw, band saw, disc table sander, shaper table, furniture, small kitchen table, dressers, side tables, tv, household items, meat grinder, slicer, small kitchen appliances, men's 2xl and 3xl clothing
- 7) 409 W Cherokee Ave: Fishing, home décor, tools, camping equipment, vintage steam toys
- 8) 105 N Shabbona Rd: home décor, women's clothing and accessories, shoes, string trimmer, flower pots
- 9) 404 W Navaho Ave: furniture, crib, small dresser, kid books – elementary ages, houseware goods, teacher stuff, adult men's and women's clothing, tools, drill press, craft supplies
- 10) 402 W Navaho Ave: fish tanks, baby clothes 0-3, 3-6 and 12-24 months, patio furniture, baby/kids items, women's dresses L/XL, tools, girls clothes, rims
- 11) 313 W Navaho Ave: lots of fabric and misc
- 12) 210 W Navaho Ave: exercise machines, surround sound system, random hand tools, table saws, odd and end kitchen items, adult clothes, 2 kayaks, 2 person tent and sleeping bags, a few adult bikes
- 13) 12415 University Rd: gardening tools, working tools, welding gauges, women's clothes (S and M), knickknacks, dog and cat items, Longaberger baskets, antiques, misc. Maybe open Sunday 9-3

### Lee

- (1) 103 Peterson Gate: tools, roto tiller, men's and women's clothing, lots of misc
- (2) 200 S Viking Vie: Multifamily – snowblower, automotive equipment, electric garage heater, garage door opener and mount, 4 wheelers, turbo heater, fishing supplies, home accessories, chainsaws, lemonade stand
- (3) 111 W Hardanger: lots of cute yard décor, old wagons, trikes, sleds, home décor, women's fashion
- (4) Corner of N Ost Gate and Hardanger Gate: typical garage sale items – not open Friday

# Shabbona Express

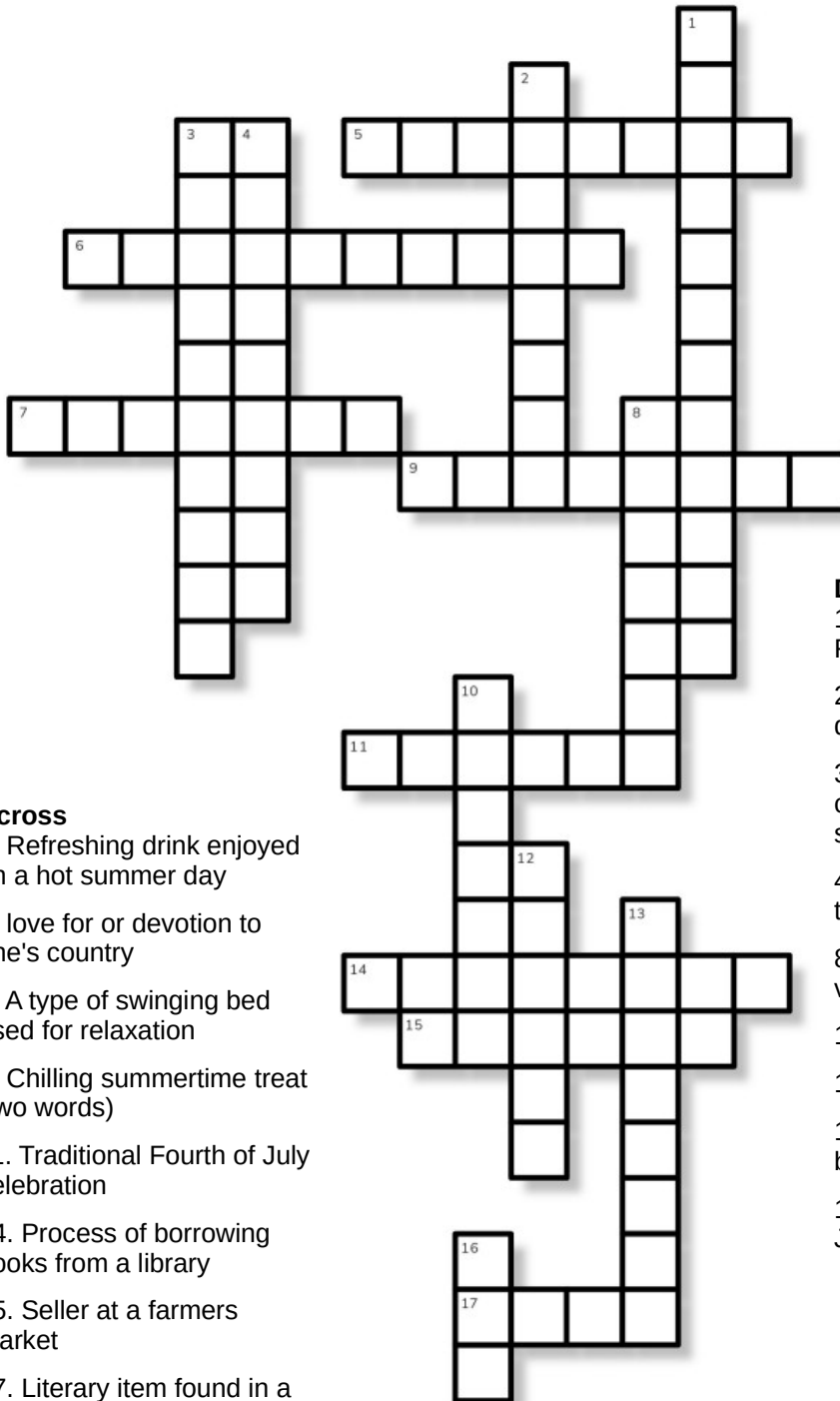


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# Shabbona Express



## Across

- 5. Refreshing drink enjoyed on a hot summer day
- 6. love for or devotion to one's country
- 7. A type of swinging bed used for relaxation
- 9. Chilling summertime treat (two words)
- 11. Traditional Fourth of July celebration
- 14. Process of borrowing books from a library
- 15. Seller at a farmers market
- 17. Literary item found in a library

## Down

- 1. Reason for celebrating the Fourth of July
- 2. The longest or shortest day of the year
- 3. Juicy snack often consumed during the summer
- 4. Celebratory explosions on the Fourth of July
- 8. Fresh fruits and vegetables
- 10. Flying disc
- 12. Eating outdoors
- 13. Keeps your place in a book
- 16. Typical food for Fourth of July celebrations



# Shabbona Express



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## They're Spending a Lot of Your Money

By Kallan Welsh

The Village has approved Fiscal Year 2025 (The Fiscal Year runs from May-April.) appropriations, and they're a doozy. For reference, this document is currently available publicly at our website at [shabbonaexpress.com/fy25appropriations](http://shabbonaexpress.com/fy25appropriations).

FY24 spending totaled \$891,736. FY25 appropriations total \$3,517,014, a 294% increase year over year. The big ticket items stick out like a sore thumb: \$695,000 to the Downtown Streetscape, \$518,370 to the Shabbona Road Water Main Project, and \$344,444 to the Apache Street Project. Another \$150,000 to Purdy Park, and another \$150,000 to the Shabbona Pathway.

We have discussed the Downtown Streetscape project in another article. The Shabbona Road Water Main Project is intended to replace lead lines and future-proof water service for the affected area at a cost of \$1494 per household in Shabbona.

The Apache Street Project is intended to improve stormwater management and road quality on Apache Street. My rough count of 15 affected households puts the total at around \$23,000 per affected household, or \$993 per Shabbona household as a whole.

Planned Purdy Park upgrades were discussed in a prior issue, but plans include additional trees, sidewalk, parking, a pavilion, and pickleball courts. Some upgrades are being made with the help of donations and/or grants to Building Shabbona Together. This appropriation comes at a cost of \$432 per household.

(This article continues on page 10)

# Shabbona Express

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## They're Spending a Lot of Your Money

(Continued from the previous page)

From their website: Shabbona Pathway is a community project, building trails and trail experiences for work, play, and life. The project broke ground in 2020, building a pathway connecting the elementary school in town to the high school. The eventual intention is to build a walking and biking trail to connect the campground to downtown, increasing traffic and improving downtown business. This project is managed by Shabbona Pathway which is seeking out and has received grants and donations to help fund the project. The \$150k appropriated by the Village for FY25 also represents a cost of \$432 per household.

Not all funds appropriated will necessarily be spent. If there are cost overruns the Village will have to appropriate additional funds, so the appropriation amount generally represents a figure greater than the expected amount of actual spending. Other big-ticket items include: \$63,000 for Police Protection, \$80,000 for Garbage Collection (approximately covered by quarterly utility bills), \$55,000 for Village Signs, \$69,000 for Property Purchases, \$50,000 for Snow Pusher, \$104,310 for Salaries, \$57,371 for Fringes, \$70,000 toward an IEPA loan, and \$91,000 for Shabbona Public Library.

I highly encourage everyone to take a look at the appropriations ordinance, which includes far more than what I can discuss here. It's important for taxpayers to know where their money is being spent.

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# Shabbona Express

## Village of Shabbona 4TH OF JULY 2024

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST: 7am-11am @ Shabbona Fire Department**

Start your 4th of July with breakfast served by the Shabbona Fire Department

**CRAFT/VENDOR FAIR: 8am-2pm @ Purdy Park**

Come shop local vendors and locally made crafts and the bake sale for Flewellin Memorial Library.

**KID FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES & GAMES: starting at 9am in Purdy Park**

**FREE popcorn and sno-cones will be available from 10am-2pm @ Purdy Park**

**PARADE: Kicks off @ Noon**

**BINGO: 10:30am-11am and 1pm-2:30pm @ Purdy Park**

Join in the BINGO fun. Winners will receive prizes.

**CORNHOLE BAGS TOURNAMENT: 1:30pm-3pm @ Purdy Park**

This will be a single elimination single bracket tournament. Prizes will be awarded to winners.

*Sign up for the Cornhole Tournament from 9am-1:30pm at Purdy Park*

**PORK CHOP DINNER: 4:30pm-sell out @ Lion's Depot**

Enjoy pork chops for dinner - it is an annual Shabbona tradition on the 4th of July!

**FIREWORKS: Start at dusk @ Shabbona Lake State Park**

A 4th of July celebration is not complete without fireworks! At dusk (approximately 9:15pm), the Shabbona Fireworks Committee presents a dynamic display at Shabbona Lake State Park.

**SHABBONA LAKE STATE PARK: Pokanoka's Dockside Cafe and Boondocks Supply Bait Shop and Boat Rental will be open!**

**SCREAMERS WILL BE OPEN AFTER FIREWORKS!**

Stop into Screammers for a snack, a meal, and some ice cream after watching the Fireworks.

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# Shabbona Express

## Shabbona - Lee Garage Sale

### June 7 & 8

Details Within

