

Shabbona Express

May, 2024

Village Government News

By Joshua Snyder

The Village Board had an Infrastructure Committee and a Public Affairs Committee meeting on April 11th. During the Infrastructure Committee they discussed how the downtown streetscape and Apache St projects are underway and on schedule. Sidewalks are also being discussed to fix up bad sections and put in new sidewalks where they are missing.

The Public Affairs Committee was primarily about more planning for the 4th of July Parade and Festival. Anyone looking to volunteer to help with this or any future events should contact Trustee David Simpson. The Community Garden is also open for reservations and the Farmer's Market is looking for more vendors. More information about the Farmer's Market can be found at the back of this newsletter.

The regular board meeting took place on April 22nd. The Village Attorney said he has a draft ordinance to establish an Administrative Adjudication system but it was still being reviewed. The Village President would like to get that rolled out within a few months. The annual liquor licenses and gaming licenses were renewed.

Minutes from the regular village board meetings are posted on the Village's website and minutes from the committees are available upon request to the Village Clerk.

Additionally, if you prefer an audio/video recording we now have them published at youtube.com/@ShabbonaExpress

Golf cart/UTV permits expire May 31st and can be renewed at the Village Office. The permit allows you to drive them on village streets.

Fundraisers

May 2 - Give DeKalb County

Give DeKalb County is a fundraiser supporting non-profits in DeKalb County. Donate to your favorite non-profits through the givedekalbcounty.org website or mail a check and form. All donations will be boosted by a bonus pool where the pool gets divided proportionally based on how much was donated to the organization. Donations only count towards the bonus pool if done online on May 2nd or sent by mail with a postmark of April 18th through May 2nd. Printed forms are available at 104 W Comanche Ave if you'd like to participate and can't print one out.

May 3 @ 3pm - 7 pm - Shabbona Community Church Youth Group Fundraiser - Fay's BBQ

The Shabbona Community Church Youth Group partnered with Fay's BBQ at the corner of routes 23 & 30 in Waterman to run a fundraiser.

- 2 pork chops \$19 advance, \$20 at the door
- 2 pieces of chicken \$19 advance, \$20 at the door
- Combo (1 pork chop and 1 piece of chicken) \$19 advance, \$20 at the door
- Chicken Kabobs \$20 advance, \$21 at the door
- Pork Kabobs \$20 advance \$21, at the door
- Kabob Combo (1 each of pork and chicken) \$20 advance, \$21 at the door

This is drive-thru and all meals come with baked beans, cole slaw, applesauce, and a Hawaiian roll.

Tickets can be purchased in advance from any youth group member or by calling the church office at 815/824-2359 (you can leave a message with your phone number) or by stopping in the church office at 104 E. Navaho, Shabbona Mon., Wed., and Fri. mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

May 10 @ 4pm - 6pm & May 11th 8am - 11am Mother's Day Roses – Shabbona Lions Club

\$18 per dozen roses available at the Shabbona Lions Club Depot next to Water Tower Park.

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5 PM - 7 PM

Have an event to add?

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editor@shabbonaexpress.com



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104 W Comanche Ave, Shabbona

Events

May 4 – Story Time @ 10 am – Flewellin Library

May 6 – Daytime Book Club @ 11 am – Flewellin Library

May 7 – Evening Book Club @ 6 pm – Flewellin Library

May 11 – Story Time @ 10 am – Flewellin Library

May 11 – Community Game Night @ 6 pm – 9 pm –
Up Realty (104 W Comanche)

May 15 – Elder Care Services: 12 pm to 1 pm bring your phone or tablet to get basic help on how to use your device. 1 pm to 2 pm chat with staff about Medicare, Medicaid, or other benefit questions – Flewellin Library

May 17 – Dungeons & Dragons @ 5 pm to 7 pm –
Flewellin Library

May 18 – Story Time @ 10 am – Flewellin Library

May 18 – Cards with Kim & Jamie @ 6 pm – Flewellin Library

May 20 – Daytime Book Club @ 11 am – Flewellin Library

May 25 – Story Time @ 10 am – Flewellin Library

May 31 – Game Night & Light Meal @ 5:30 pm –
Shabbona Community Church



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This Project Is Shabbona's Biggest – Is It a Bad Deal?

By Kallan Welsh and Joshua Snyder

I haven't poured through every historical record, but I'm willing to reckon the Downtown Streetscape Project has the largest nominal price tag of any in the Village of Shabbona's history. As I write this, the construction on the South side of Comanche Ave has been well underway. Most of the new curb and sidewalk has been poured, the aprons into businesses and the South parking lot has been poured, and most of the new light poles have their bases in. But what is the project, and is it a good deal for Shabbona?

The Project

The Downtown Streetscape project aims to beautify and revitalize the downtown area by adding trees, landscaping, lighting, sidewalk bump-outs, and other features. The plan would also pave and change the configuration of the existing public parking lots.



This is an artistic rendering, not the final layout

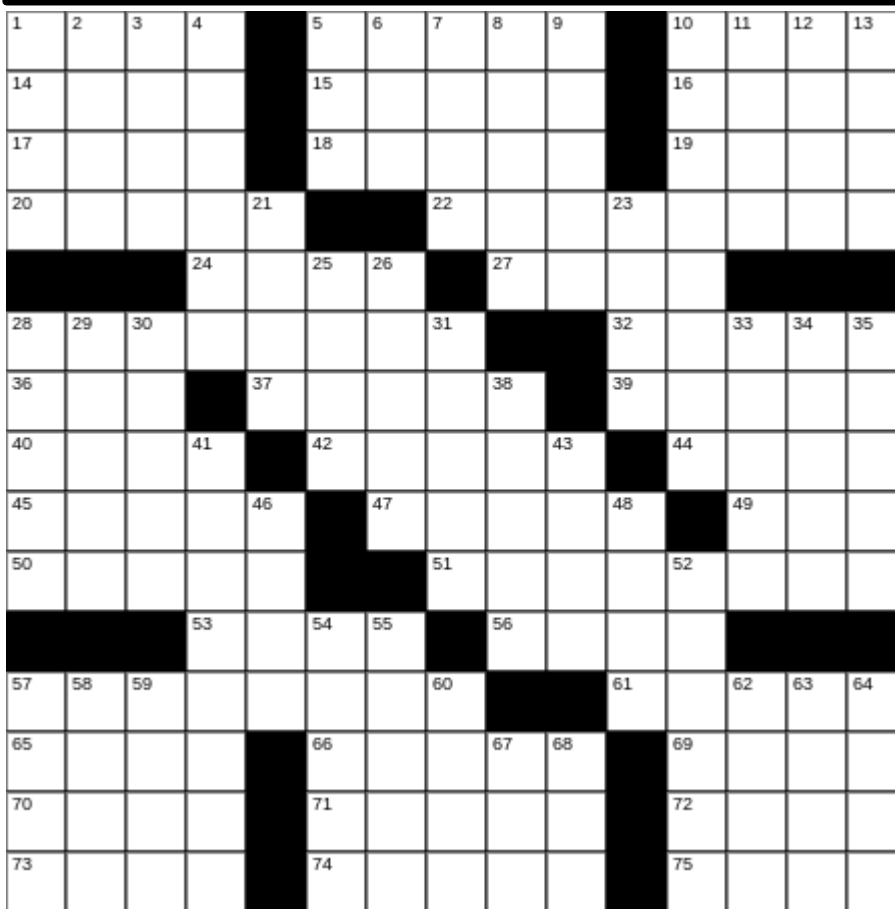
Documentation about the project has been made public somewhat sparsely, but the engineering documents can be viewed by anyone at the village office and the editor, Joshua Snyder, obtained a copy and posted it to Facebook last month. Currently, the South side's layout is very easy to see with the curbs already in place and the sidewalks and roads have been marked on the North side, giving residents an idea of what the future streetscape will look like once the project is completed (anticipated end of June 2024).

What Does It Cost?

The Village has appropriated \$2,047,991 in total for the project, which, for reference, is an approximate cost of \$5,565 per household. The Village posted a notice on their website and on the doors of the downtown buildings stating that the project was funded primarily by a \$2 million grant from ITEP. That was a misprint; the grant was for a total of \$1,337,450. In asking for clarification, the numbers provided were \$1,337,450 grant awarded (80% of project) and \$457,370 from the Village (20% of project). That means the Village is directly paying at least \$457,370 (a more reasonable \$1,243 per household). But if the project goes over budget and they spend the whole amount appropriated the Village will have spent up to \$710,541 (or \$1931 per household).

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Across

- 1- Grate
- 5- Fertile area in a desert
- 10- Boxer Oscar ___ Hoya
- 14- Russian range
- 15- Commerce
- 16- Racetrack fence
- 17- Created
- 18- Capital of Crete
- 19- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
- 20- Water vapor
- 22- Levy on deals?
- 24- Designer Christian
- 27- Not so much
- 28- Roman capital of Palestine
- 32- Ventilated
- 36- Legal science
- 37- Dispatches
- 39- Band together
- 40- Baseball's Hershiser
- 42- Shorthand whiz
- 44- Adhesive
- 45- Sensitive spots
- 47- Suspect's story
- 49- Byrnes of "77 Sunset Strip"
- 50- Come next
- 51- Serial parts
- 53- "Get Smart" baddies
- 56- French summers
- 57- Disturb; 61- Cinder
- 65- Tailor's line
- 66- Prongs
- 69- Earthen pot
- 70- Don't look at me!
- 71- Low-budget prefix
- 72- Catbird seat?
- 73- On the main
- 74- Sublease
- 75- Membership fees

Down

- 1- Jamaican exports
- 2- Smell ___
- 3- Marquis de ___
- 4- Begg
- 5- Non-Rx
- 6- Altar in the sky
- 7- Without
- 8- Flawless
- 9- Bobby of the Black Panthers
- 10- Salad sauce
- 11- Sunup direction
- 12- One of the Simpsons
- 13- "Roots" author Haley
- 21- Farrow and Hamm
- 23- Isaac's eldest
- 25- Raw materials
- 26- ___-car
- 28- Shut
- 29- Home run king Hank
- 30- Pitchers
- 31- Designer Simpson
- 33- Irritated
- 34- Practice piece
- 35- Acts
- 38- Long-billed sandpiper
- 41- Cancer of the bone marrow
- 43- Final notice
- 46- Usher's offering
- 48- Got it!
- 52- Donny or Marie
- 54- Furry swimmer
- 55- Pizzeria order
- 57- Annapolis inst.
- 58- Revivalists
- 59- Overfill
- 60- Hydroxyl compound
- 62- Cordon ___
- 63- Or ___!
- 64- Phooey!
- 67- Vane dir.
- 68- Drunkard

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Downtown Access Tips

With the Downtown Streetscape Project underway, Comanche Ave at times has limited access and a reduced number of parking spaces. When visiting, it may be easier to park on a side street and walk to your destination. Illini St, Nokomis St and S Mohawk St have parking nearby and can be accessed through Comanche or Cherokee Ave.

There is also an alleyway between the buildings on the North side of Comanche and the railroad accessible from N Illini St and the intersection of Nokomis St & Comanche Ave. If you are going to check your mail that may be the most convenient way to get to the post office or do your quick errand. Make sure you don't block the alley for others as some of the businesses use it as well. There are some potholes in the alley but, during the last village board meeting, Trustee Joy Fay suggested filling in the potholes so hopefully the alley will soon be even better for temporary access, especially when construction starts on the North side.



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This Project Is Shabbona's Biggest – Is It a Bad Deal?

(Continued from page 3)

Is It Worth It?

This question remains up for debate. Plenty of other municipalities have seen success through investing in downtown beautification, some yielding many multiples of the initial investment in induced economic activity. A positive return on investment is never a given, however. As far as I can tell, no cost/benefit analysis was run prior to the project. If you assume a dollar spent is a dollar earned, having someone else pay for up to 80% of your infrastructure improvements is a good deal, but plenty of money has been spent over the course of history proverbially digging holes and filling them back up again as well. Only time will tell the success of this particular project. While it's important to recognize the potential long-term benefits of the project, it's also important to recognize that Shabbona taxpayers will be on the hook for at least some of it.

Are There Any Problems?

One potential problem with the plan is the elimination of downtown parking. I have been told that remediation steps are being discussed, such as an overnight parking permit system and planned additional parking spaces in the alleyway along the railroad tracks. The additional parking will not be in place prior to the removal of many existing parking spots, however, and upon calculating just how many parking spots we are to lose, I was disappointed.

How many parking spaces are we losing? While the exact number of existing spaces is hard to calculate considering they are not clearly marked, the estimated current number is 59 between the North and South gravel lots and the street parking. The proposed plan has that number going down to 40 standard spaces and two handicap spaces. Approximately a third of the total downtown parking is being eliminated, largely in the parking lots, but also some street parking is being removed for planting beds.

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Illinois' First Indian Reservation

By Joshua Snyder

The first Indian Reservation in Illinois was officially established for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. They had purchased two homes and a farm totaling about 130 acres of land for approximately \$10 million and have been working on getting the title for those into a federal trust so they can use that land autonomously. The land is located in the Indian Oaks subdivision located near the Shabbona Lake State Park, near the intersection of Preserve Rd and Indian Rd.

Well over a century ago, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation had a treaty with the federal government granting them about 1,280 acres of land around their current 130 acre reserve. The federal government then sold that land off without their consent. Part of the original 1,280 acres is now owned by private homeowners in the Indian Oaks subdivision. As of now, they remain the title holders of their homes, but they may be subject to a "right of first refusal" from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation if they try to sell.

There is also a proposal in the Illinois House that would turn over the Shabbona Lake State Park to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. They have promised to keep the park open to the public and said that the average citizen wouldn't notice anything different if they were given the park.

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Get Ready For A New Business In Town

By Joshua Snyder

Shabbona's downtown has a few buildings in need of maintenance and there are several vacant storefronts. While I'm somewhat new to town, I've really grown to love Shabbona and as an entrepreneur, I see lots of potential. That is why I'm excited to announce that I recently purchased 103 W Comanche Ave.

While the building needs a lot of work to get it ready, it will be the future home of a yet-to-be-named combination thrift & consignment shop. We are not ready to accept donations, but if you have any old items you may want to donate we will be ready in the coming months. At least 25% of the sale price of donated items will be donated to the Flewellin Memorial Library, the exact percentage is not yet set.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor and selling items on consignment we will be posting more information in the future for that as well.

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