Town Topics from Teens

WE ALL CHERISH COMMUNITY. We hope to be part of a community worth remembering, mentioning, and talking about. We want the picture perfect suburban neighborhood, and we often dream to create one. Yet, we fail to acknowledge that we already have one. Whether South Barrington or Tower Lakes – or anywhere in between – we work to achieve that sense of community.

Within our hometowns is another community – the teenagers. We teenagers cherish our towns. What we value, which may not be the same as our parents, is eye-opening. Just as with adults, students look for a sense of belonging in their town, and they find that feeling in many different ways. Each town has its individual ways of bringing its citizens together. Here, high school students share their views of our villages.

PHOTO: TYLER MITCHELL

SAMANA WALJI WILL BE A JUNIOR AT BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL IN THE FALL. SHE LIVES IN SOUTH BARRINGTON AND ENJOYS HER FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AT HOME.

Lake Barrington

Lake Barrington's sense of community comes into play with their readily available outdoor resources. "The Fox River is our sense of refuge," Leanna Hasan said. Since it is so close by, we often go there with our neighbors to fish and swim." The river is what brings them together. They can enjoy themselves without driving to an alternate location outside of their town. Many of their community events are held at the river. The residents take advantage of their privilege to have Mother Nature's gift right outside their front door.

Hasan also mentioned that Lake Barrington is more than just town events. "A large portion of the girls' track team at Barrington High School lives in Lake Barrington," she said. We bond by running together and carpooling to meets."

North Barrington

The Biltmore Country Club is a common meeting place for those living in North Barrington. They have an accessible place to engage with the other town's people. Residents can play golf, tennis or swim with their neighbors. The club has many events that increase interactions among community members. Due to its location, they can have community events without leaving the boundaries of their town. This one building allows for an enhanced sense of community within North Barrington. There's a peaceful, natural setting to enjoy in North Barrington every day.

Barrington

Barrington is one large, intertwined family. It has everything: family-friendly neighborhoods, nearby schools, restaurants, and shopping centers. Many students can walk to school, and they have all of their needs taken care of in the town. Barrington's connection with its residents is so noticeable because of its resources. "Einstein's Bagels has become another home for me," Anne Jacobsen said. "The employees know my name, and they know what I order." The close-knit town is ideal because of the vast number of relationships the town's people have with each other.

Jacobsen added, "I can walk anywhere, anytime. I remember when I was child, and I would play outside with my friends all summer. And since a majority of the houses are close together, we would go to large block parties where we would all gather together to enjoy our own community."

South Barrington

South Barrington is a blessed town as they have both Mother Nature and the Arboretum on their side. It is a large, spacious town, yet it has a broad sense of community. The lakes are key. Many of the towns' families go boating together, and they use nature to strengthen their relationships. The lakes fulfill their connection not only with nature, but with each other. They often organize parties next to the lake to enjoy its scenic view, and they work together to keep it clean. Yet, the lakes are not the only landmark of significance.

"The Arboretum is walking distance from my house, and it is an easy place for all my friends to gather with all the advantages of a large mall,"

resident Monica Shah said. The Arboretum brings the citizens of South Barrington together as they have a notable reason to connect. It has linked the members of South Barrington as most of them encouraged its construction, and are still working to promote its advancement.

Barrington Hills

Barrington Hills is not your typical suburban neighborhood. The houses are distanced. There are a plethora of trees and deer. Many of the neighborhoods lack sidewalks, and several of the neighborhoods seem secluded. Yet, this does not limit the town's chances of uniting.

"Barrington Hills may seem like a detached town, but on the contrary, it is deeply unified," Myra Asghar said. "A community does not just happen – it takes time and effort from every one of us. And through our various activities we work to enhance our community," she said. She mentioned their semi-annual roadside trash pick up is one of these events. "We help the environment while strengthening the bond within the community, and in this aspect, we have come a long way."

Inverness

Inverness is located next to Prairie Middle School, and it is approximately ten minutes from the high school. Residents are very involved with the middle school, and with District 220 in general. "Our town is unified as we all work towards helping the school and the students," Carolyn Cao said. "Many of the parents volunteer at the school, and they are a great asset to the schools," she said. "And, what is most important, is as long as the schools continue to prosper, our town will stay unified as well."

Deer Park

Deer Park is famous for its mall. It is in a convenient location, and it's easy access for many students. Due to its variety of stores and eateries, the mall is a place for people of all ages to interact. The mall is well-known among all those who live in this area, and residents of Deer Park are likely found there. The mall creates interest within the town, and they become one through this unique outdoor mall. The movie theater attracts many people and they appreciate this advantage of their town. The historic Vehe Farm is a unique feature. The village hall is located there and the farm is an Illinois Centennial Farm. Of course, there are lots of deer to be seen around the wooded lots of Deer Park.

Tower Lakes

According to high school student Melissa Boyce, Tower Lakes is a small, warm town. "We are independent," she said. Tower Lakes has its own police and town events. "We do not have to rely on others for help and that makes us, the citizens of Tower Lakes, closer," she added. Their sense of community is achieved through their town events like the Independence Day parade and the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. These annual events bring their community closer and lead to a revitalized town.

Many of the students mentioned their town was similar to a large family. More importantly, they mentioned they wanted to live in a town similar to the one they live in now, one that unifies them. The community we have all hoped to achieve, is there, right in front of our eyes. If we, the notorious teenagers, can recognize that, then so can every one else.

Experience Great Summer Getaways on Chicagoland's Original 5,000 Acre Waterpark…Lake Geneva, WI!

Whether you're looking for a romantic couples getaway, fabulous girlfriends spa retreat in our all-new 35,000 sq. ft. Avani Spa, or family summer vacation, look no further than The Abbey Resort.

You'll enjoy great area activities including hiking, biking, boating, and jetskiing plus, a variety of resort activities including bonfires, movies, live entertainment, and more. Whatever you're looking for, it's all here or near ...
The Abbey Resort!

Extended Stays
The longer you stay, the more you save!
starting at $129* per night
- Deluxe Accommodations
- Resort Activities

*Plus tax & resort pass per night. Minimum length of stay requirements will apply. Subject to availability. Offer valid through 9/30/10 (excludes holiday periods).

Avani Sampler
starting at $169* per person, per night
- Deluxe accommodations
- Your Choice of Avani Facial, Massage or Mani/Pedi Duo
- Admission to Avani Spa

*Plus tax & resort pass per night. Based on double occupancy. Subject to availability. Offer valid through 9/30/10 (excludes holiday periods).

Call today to book your summer getaway!
1.800.313.5467
www.theabbeyresort.com/north

THE ABBEY RESORT
AVANI SPA