

# Showboat

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indicate that the ownership company Showboat of Lyons LLC is based in West Bend, near Milwaukee.

Lyons town officials said the owners and managers of the popular movie theater attraction have provided no explanation why the business closed.

"I have no clue," town Chairman William Mangold said.

The shutdown also surprised members of the Silver Screen Movie Club, an organization that holds private movie showings once a month at the Showboat for an estimated 400 club members, mostly senior citizens.

Larry Joseph, organizer of the private club, said the group's monthly event

was scheduled Sept. 7 to enjoy the bank-robbery comedy "Going In Style." Two days earlier, however, a Showboat manager contacted Joseph and told him the theater was closing immediately.

The manager cited financial difficulties and gave no indication that the business would reopen, Joseph said.

Movie club organizers scrambled and were able to relocate the club's monthly gathering to the Geneva Theater in downtown Lake Geneva — an arrangement that Joseph plans to continue in future months.

Joseph said members of the movie club were a little surprised by the sudden change, but the transition went well.

"They were very understanding," he said. "They knew it wasn't our fault."

The Geneva Theater, 244 Broad St., which has four movie screens, reopened earlier this year after sitting idle for about 10 years.

The Showboat theater's Facebook page shows that movie goers Sept. 5 were going to be treated to \$5 discount tickets.

Shortly after that was announced, however, came the message that the theater was closing.

Gentelli said he likes Showboat because the complex offers a wide variety of movies and because the facilities are in reasonably good condition.

He said it was peculiar Sept. 8 to see the property darkened and no movies listed on the marquee.

"It was just odd," he said. "I was very surprised. Showboat's been around a long time."