

The following article is posted on a usually reliable web page, Beans Bullets, Bandages and You. It deals with mostly city folk fleeing the urban jungle after an unspecified emergency. I copied it in it's entirety, unedited, and post it here simply because we live in a small, rural community, smack-dab on a path which some may consider a good place to evacuate to. Are we the small rural community talked about in the article? I'll leave that up to the reader.

<http://beansbulletsbandagesandyou.com/bullets/2019/03/03/bugging-out-wont-be-welcome-unless/>

Bugging Out? You Won't Be Welcome Unless.....

Posted on March 3, 2019 by Salty

Strangers won't be welcome in rural communities during a Stuff Hits The Fan bug-out. Small rural communities take care of their own, but "their own" definitely will not include random people traveling on a bug-out.

The Small Town Bugout Location (STBOL) – an excellent choice but one with a catch

I'm coining the phrase STBOL because I personally think it is the best option for anybody who needs to bug out and is serious about long-term survival for them and their families.

I've talked about the STBOL in multiple stories including this one on finding a town and this one on bugging out to where the food is.

The key takeaway that I want anybody who is considering setting up this idea as their preferred bugout location I want people to think about is "how do I make this work". There are lots of things that come into play on that score, including scouting out an areas, figuring out housing (whether it be camping, buying an inexpensive home, buying an empty lot, etc.).

A key component is getting at least minimally involved in the community even if you don't live there. Here's why.

"We know who belongs here, and who doesn't"

That's one of the things I was keeping in mind when I recently wrote my recent BLM Land articles is what a bad idea it would be to try to camp on BLM land leased to ranchers.

We take a look at community dynamics, and why small town people will turn their cold shoulders (and their gun barrels) towards strangers during a full-scale [*]SHTF WROL bugout. It's not that small town folks are not nice people... it's that people take care of their own, and small town folks KNOW their own.

There are many types of bugout plans out there, and a lot of them for people who live in the city involves heading out and finding a small community to stay in, often with family or close friends.

Staying with family or close friends isn't what I am talking about when I mean strangers... extended family belong.

Strangers are just "road people", folks who have no connections to anybody in the community. Those folks are going to be sent right on down the road... unless they have skills the community needs.

Why won't I be welcome? I'm a nice person!

I've lived in small communities from the time we got back from overseas (I'm a military brad) [sic] until today, barring two years where we lived in Ferguson, a St. Louis suburb. Yes, I lived in THAT Ferguson, the one with all the recent rioting. Where we lived was less than a mile from the heart of the riot areas... but that's another story.

I've lived in small midwestern towns and cities of varying sizes, from 45,000 to 5,000, to 2,300 to 1,400 in population. Here's what I know from experience.

You would certainly not be noticed in a town of 45,000 people, but on the other hand you wouldn't get a whole lot of advantage being in a small city that size if you are caught up in an extended situation... 45,000 is a big enough town to have some real social challenges.

Tribe

Generally (to a point), the smaller the town the better off you will be if the SHTF because small communities form tribes. If you are a member of the tribe, then people look out for you and you look out for the other members of your tribe.

Even though neither of us are natives here where we are now, Spice and I are integral tribe members of our community. We've pitched in on community projects over the years, we've served on committees and been members of community organizations for years.

People who are coming in from who-knows-where looking for help? Where were you when the Olsen kid got sick and the parents needed help for expenses and where were you when Jack's house burned down and he needed help. Where were you when we needed somebody to take tickets on Saturday at the Pumpkin Fest? You were the same place you can go now that you need help... somewhere else.

That's not me saying that, that's what people who hit the road looking for small-town help are going to be hearing.

Fixing The Problem

There are several strategies that can insure that you will be at least tolerated in a small town during a mass bug-out.

Perhaps the easiest way is if you are a property owner in a town. "I'm going to my house, I own 107 N. Cherry, have for years... the "Paul Owens" yellow house across the street from the Methodist church, a couple of doors north? I helped pay for that new church roof a couple of years ago." Welcome to town, you are in.

Or, if you don't own land, you need a friend or at least a good local contact who will vouch for you. "I'm Bill Martin's friend, I'll be staying with him and his family, we are here to help him expand his garden and with the livestock". You are in.

Of course, perhaps the best way to get in is to have skills that people desperately need but may not have in the community. Pretty much any job in the medical field will get you in. Dental assistant? Check. Nurse, doctor or vet? Instant access, you are in (and probably put immediately to work).

If you aren't a medical person, if you don't have any previous experience with the community, then you are probably not getting in unless you have skills that they need, things like gunsmithing, blacksmithing, sanitation engineering (knowing how to build latrines, water purification, etc), things like that.

Nobody needs an MBA unless he's also got some real-world survival skill. Nobody needs a lawyer if the SHTF.

You can buy land for next to nothing, right now

I'm not talking about investing a huge amount of money here, in many cases you can buy a perfectly livable house in a small town in a food-production area for less than the cost of a new SUV. Significantly less in many cases. I know of 10 different properties off the top of my head right now that could be had for \$50,000 or less... less than the cost of an SUV. I just randomly looked up a for-sale property in a North Missouri town, here's what I found:

There are houses like this all over the country if you just look for them. This house could easily be converted to wood heat, you could set up a rain catchment system, pre-build an outhouse, it's already designed for open air-flow with big, high windows... I could go on and on, but you get the point.

Bugging out without having somewhere to go is a really BAD idea

Most preppers are not planning to bug out as their first option... they are, in fact, planning on bugging in. That's my first option, I get that. But sometimes, for various reasons, you have to go... and the key to a successful bugout is having somewhere to go to.

A big part of making that bugout happen successfully is having it planned out in advance, having assets in place.

For me? I'm bugging in at a location many others would consider it prime to bug out to... but even then, I know that one of these days I may have to go.

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*SHTF = Shit Hits The Fan

*WROL= Without Rule Of Law