

# TOWANDA TIMES

MAY 2025

---

## MAYOR MINUTE

**People working together in a strong community with a shared goal and a common purpose can make the impossible possible. ~ Tom Vilsack**

It's that time of year again, as the weather starts to change, we ask the community to help us help you. Solicitation individuals throughout the village have begun to filter into the community.

**There is a permit process required to solicit within the village. This permit is to be carried during the process.**

If you are approached, please ask to see the permit to ensure people are doing the right thing, let them know this rule exists and contact someone to help us be aware and able to help follow up.

This month will also be filled with a variety of weekend events such as Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor, and Route 66 Car Show. Towanda is excited to enjoy other communities coming to our village to participate. Let others know so they too can enjoy our passion. **Sharing is Caring.**

The Village Board has been busy with the end of the fiscal year items that must be addressed.

I would like to remind residents of a few of the items that will affect the village.

We empathize with you as these also affect us as residents of the community. It appears ALL communities are experiencing the same challenges.

The garbage contract has been extended to ensure we have a way to remove residence garbage. The rates will go up, however we have found a way to extend the contract and minimize the increases to 3.5% as opposed to a new contract, which would add 5%.

This is year 2 of the 3-year increase regarding water from our supplier. The rates will increase for the base rate and additional water use.

If you need more explanation on any matter, please reach out as I want to ensure you receive the correct information.

As always, if there are any questions regarding the village events, any general village questions, comments or concerns within the community...

Feel free to contact me personally or attend a Board Meeting for anything you would like to be addressed.

Don Williams

mayor@villageoftowanda.org

309/275-0435

## **4-H**

The Towanda 4-H club will meet on Tuesday, May 6th at 5:30 pm at the Towanda Community building. Members will receive their fair books and there will be talks and demonstrations.

Also, at this meeting, we will be doing a community service project where we will be making dog beds for the McLean County rescue. We'll also participate in the 4-H Trash Bash by picking up trash at the Towanda Park and on Rt 66 along the walking trail.

For more information contact Carrie Vogel 309-825-6248 or Jeanie Wager 309-728-2852.

## **FUNERAL COMMITTEE**

The Funeral Committee hosts after-funeral gatherings for our Village residents. Please let us know if we can be of help. Also, we are looking for volunteers for our "call list" for food donations. Contact Tammy Pate call/text (309) 826-8776 or Janet Collins (309) 706-3390. Help us keep this tradition going for our residents!

## **HCE**

(Towanda Home and Community Education)

The Towanda Home and Community Education unit will meet Monday, May 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The program, "The Color Purple (The Color Between Red and Blue)", will be given by Linda Conder. Members & guests may bring bleach or paper towels for the Humane Society of Central Illinois, as the Community Service project for May. Our minor lesson will be about South Africa - Cities. Our members are now planning their June Outing. More details will be available next month. **Guests are always welcome.** For more information, call Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797.

The County HCE Community Service Day group will meet on Tuesday, May 20, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Farm Bureau auditorium, 2242 Westgate Dr, Bloomington. Our project this month is to sew walker bags. Guests are welcome. Many sewers and non sewers are needed to fulfill the needs of walker bags. Non-sewers can cut and iron fabric. For more information, contact Betty, 309-531-2183.

Visit our McLean County Association for Home and Community website at [mcleanhce.org](http://mcleanhce.org) for more listings of trips, tours and other activities in the county. Learn of the many opportunities to continue lifelong learning. Check out and like our facebook page:

**McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education.**

## **NIXLE**

Do you want quick notification of boil orders or other important Village alerts? Sign up for Nixle and receive texts and/or emails. Call the Clerk's office at (309) 728-2811.

## **OLD RUGGED BARN**

Next market is SPRING FLING ITS A MOM THING.

MAY 10 and possibly pre-sale May 9 early evening.

— Marianne Minnis is back! She offers Painting Parties and manages the markets.

— March Open House to share upgrades progress.

— Pet Adoptions and some Easter fun for kids in April.

— Reserve your graduation parties and end of school year events now!

— Grain Bin transformation soon!!

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Update! ~ Fireworks, Parades, Flea Markets, and MORE!

The Parade Theme this year is, *“Let Freedom Ring.”*

Plans are underway for the 2025 July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. The Committee meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each Month, January-July at 6:30 pm at the Community Building. We welcome suggestions and new members!

Donations are needed to cover the main expenses of the day’s activities. The fireworks are the largest expense and enjoyed by everyone! The Parade has expenses to cover, as well as the port-a-pots, security, insurance, promotion and supplies....and the list goes on!

Fireworks will be held at dark on July 3. The school grounds are a great place to watch and there will be concessions set up a few hours before the fireworks begin.

**HCE** will host their annual Spaghetti Supper at the Community Building on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 – 6:30. Additional information is available from Cindy Kelley 309 824-4797.

**Kicks** will once again host the July 3<sup>rd</sup> band. No cover charge, just good music, good friends, good food and cold drinks!

**The Flea Market** will be set up in the Parks as usual, vendors welcome! Contact Tammy Pate with questions 309 826-8776 or towandajuly4th@gmail.com

All Parade questions can be directed to Virginia Lowery at the contact info below!

The **Parade** will step off at 10 am sharp from the School grounds. The **Parade Marshal** will be Gregg Egbers and the theme is *“Let Freedom Ring.”* Jeanie Wager and the Towanda 4-H Club will be this year’s **Spotlight**. We look forward to recognizing our current and past members and leaders. Contact Jeanie Wager to help!

Once again, we will honor our veterans on the **Veteran’s Tram**. We will have the **50 Flags** available and looking for Volunteers to Carry a Flag.

Please contact Virginia Lowery at the info below to sign up to save a seat on the Tram or carry one of the 50 Flags. You can also bring your own flag and walk with the group.

If you would like to make a donation to the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration, checks can be sent to:

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

**101 Miriam Way**

**Towanda, IL 61776**

**Virginia Lowery \* [vlowery1@hotmail.com](mailto:vlowery1@hotmail.com) \* 309 825-6341**

Cash donations can be deposited at the Community Building, with the clerk or dropped in the mail slot on the front of the building. **All donations are appreciated!**

**“Let Freedom Ring~”**

## **TOWANDA AMERICAN LEGION**

Thank you to those that support us, greatly appreciated!  
email: towandalegion@gmail.com and find us on facebook

**NEW MEMBERS:** *We are looking for members!* Are you a Veteran, son of a Veteran, or would like to be in the Auxiliary? Join us for our monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Towanda Legion.

**RENTALS:** The legion is a great place to rent for your events!  
Text Sharon Engel 309/531-8898 or Email us: towandalegion@gmail.com

**NEXT EVENT: RED CARPET CORRIDOR:** Join us Saturday & Sunday (May 3-4) for Red Carpet Corridor weekend for our events at the Legion! We will be joining the Towanda Garage Sales and having a sale of our own! Items include clothing for the whole family (various sizes), household goods, furniture, electronics, and various odds 'n ends. ALL proceeds will go to the Legion for maintenance and updates to our building. Also, we will be serving some of our delicious food!

### **TOWANDA AMERICAN LEGION**

#### **~ SPRING/SUMMER 2025 MENU ~**

**BREAKFAST: Saturday, 5/10/25 @ 8-11 a.m.**

sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,  
pancakes, hash browns, drink \$9

***PROCEEDS WILL GO TO SUSAN G. KOMEN  
BREAST CANCER***

**DINNER: Friday, 5/23/25 @ 5-7:00 p.m.**

pork chop, french fries, pasta salad, roll, dessert  
& drink \$10

kids: hot dog, french fries, dessert & drink \$5

**BREAKFAST: Saturday, 6/7/25 @ 8-11 a.m.**

sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,  
pancakes, hash browns, and drink \$9

***PROCEEDS WILL GO TO PARKINSON'S***

**DINNER: Friday, 6/13/25 @ 5-7:00 p.m.**

steak, salad, baked potato, green beans, roll,  
dessert, and drink \$18 or 2/\$30

kids: hot dog, chips, dessert & drink \$5

**BREAKFAST: Saturday, 7/12/25 @ 8-11 a.m.**

sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,  
pancakes, hash browns, drink \$9

**DINNER: Friday, 7/18/25 @ 5-7:00 p.m.**

burger OR (2) brats, french fries, baked beans, dessert,  
and drink \$9

additional patty or brat \$2 each

kids: hot dog, french fries, dessert & drink \$5

**BREAKFAST: Saturday, 8/2/25 @ 8-11 a.m.**

sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,  
pancakes, hash browns, drink \$9

**All meals subject to change without notice. Carry out available.**

## **TOWANDA AREA GARAGE SALES**

**SPRING GARAGE SALES** – will be held in conjunction with the Red Carpet Corridor event weekend. Please let me know your plans to have a sale to be held anytime between Thursday, May 1 and Sunday, May 4. Email [rgbriggs@frontiernet.net](mailto:rgbriggs@frontiernet.net) ~ Text (309) 824-1649 ~ USPS Gail Ann Briggs, 112 Hunt Street, Towanda.

**The following requested information is due not later than April 23 to be included on the flyer:**

**1)** sale location on a map ~ **2)** days and times of your sale ~ **3)** list of items (include as much as you like, in priority order, and as much as possible will be included on the flyer). Thank you!

The communities in the section of Route 66 between Joliet and Bloomington will be sharing publicity in the Red Carpet Corridor communications, and we expect this will bring lots of shoppers to Towanda sales.

## **TOWANDA ROUTE 66 PARKWAY**

Please consider purchasing a t-shirt or sweatshirt to support our Route 66 Parkway. Short and long sleeve t-shirts are available in an assortment of colors and can be viewed and purchased at Rayburn Place located at 305 Pine Street in Normal located along Old Route 66. All proceeds go towards the maintenance of our beautiful Parkway. Contact Fred Walk at [fwalk@frontiernet.net](mailto:fwalk@frontiernet.net) for additional information about the shirts and for donating to the Parkway.

### **Annual Red Carpet Corridor Festival**

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Illinois Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival will be held on **May 3 & 4, 2025**. This two-day festival is sponsored by the fifteen communities comprising the 100-mile stretch of Route 66 from Joliet to Bloomington.

Experience our 4.1-mile stretch of the Mother Road and stop by near the flagpoles at the 4-way stop on Old Route 66 to learn more about the history of our Towanda Parkway. Have fun engaging in a mapping and signpost activity by using your problem-solving skills. T-shirts and refreshments will be available for purchase with all proceeds going towards maintaining our Parkway.

Visit the Towanda American Legion, 2017 Hely Street for the giveaway. The Legion will have sales to support upgrades to their facility. The Village of Towanda, and surrounding communities, Indian Creek and Lamplighter, will have area wide garage sales.

## **TOWANDA FIRE DEPARTMENT (TFD)**

Come see us on the 1st (Officers Meeting), 2nd (Regular Meeting), 3rd (EMS Training), or 4th (Regular Meeting), Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Or join us on the last Monday of the month at 6:30 pm (Work Night/Business Meeting). Members of the Towanda Fire Department would like to thank the citizens of the Fire Protection District for their continued support.

## **TOWANDA LION'S CLUB**

Towanda Lion's Club sponsors the Caring Cupboard which is located at the rear of the Community Building just south of the parking lot. This is a self-serve cupboard open 24 hours a day providing non-perishable foods, personal care products, and paper products for anyone in need. NO GLASS ITEMS PLEASE. You can leave items or take what you need. However, please do not leave any items outside of the cupboard. Take a blessing when you need one, give a blessing when you can, but above all be blessed.

Please consider joining our club! We are looking for new ideas, younger members, and forming new friendships. Contact Bob Hancock at (309) 282-1801 or email [oldcars@frontiernet.net](mailto:oldcars@frontiernet.net)


## TOWANDA PUBLIC LIBRARY

During the month of May, the library does **not** have our weekly storytimes on Wednesdays and Fridays to allow for planning and preparation of our 2025 Summer Reading Program. Sign-ups for the Summer Reading Program will begin June 1st with our big opening party on June 6th. More information will be available in the June Newsletter. We will have our monthly Adult Craft Night on May 6th at 5:30 pm and Book Club on May 20th at 5:30 pm.

**MAY 2025**

Towanda District Library

MONDAY	TUESDAY
May 26 <sup>th</sup> LIBRARY CLOSED	May 6 <sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm Lego Club (Sign up only)
	May 6 <sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm Adult Craft Night
	May 20 <sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm Book Club
OPEN 10-4	OPEN 1-7



# LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY

**Summer Reading is coming your way!  
Level up your reading skills and fun this  
Summer at our Summer Reading Program!  
Sign up begins June 1<sup>st</sup>, stop by today for more  
information!**

## VILLAGE OF TOWANDA CLERK

The Village Office will be closed May 2, 2025.

## VILLAGE OF TOWANDA SAFETY

The Village of Towanda Golf Cart & Utility Vehicle Ordinance *requires* registration.

Please email: [safety@villageoftowanda.org](mailto:safety@villageoftowanda.org) to set-up your appointment.

You will need:

- golf cart/utility vehicle (needed for inspection)
- driver's license
- current insurance info

Fees:

\$25 one-time application fee (not needed if you paid last year)

\$50 yearly permit fee per vehicle

## VILLAGE OF TOWANDA WATER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The annual water report is posted on the Village Bulletin Board.

## VILLAGE OF TOWANDA WATER/GARBAGE

We started a new billing system last month. The new payment system address will be on the billing statement. For the new payment system, you will have to create a new login and password to pay online. If there are any questions, you can call the clerk's office at 309-728-2811 option 1.

If you would like your water/garbage bill via email, please send the Clerk your email address at: [clerk@villageoftowanda.org](mailto:clerk@villageoftowanda.org). You can also pay online, there is a \$1.75 processing fee or 2%.

Just a friendly reminder, water rates will go up with the May Read Date and June 15th Due Date.

## WEDNESDAY WEEDERS ~ Route 66 Parkway

This is a group of volunteers who maintain the gardens on Route 66 Parkway. WE ARE IN NEED OF MORE HELP! The time commitment is one hour or less per Wednesday morning during the growing season. No green thumbs required! Contact Carol Myers (309) 533-0412.

# MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Village Office closed	<b>3</b> <b>RED CARPET CORRIDOR</b> <b>8am-5pm</b> Area Sales
<b>4</b> <b>RED CARPET CORRIDOR</b> <b>9am-4pm</b> Area Sales	<b>5</b> Towanda Board Meet 7:00pm CB	<b>6</b> Garbage 4-H 5:30pm CB	<b>7</b> TFD Officer Meeting 6:30pm	<b>8</b> Lion's Club Meet TFD 7:00pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Legion Breakfast 8-11am (proceeds to Susan G Komen)
<b>11</b> Happy Mother's Day!	<b>12</b> Towanda HCE 6:30pm CB	<b>13</b> Garbage	<b>14</b> Recycle TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	<b>15</b> Water Bills Due Legion Meet 7:00pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Garbage	<b>21</b> TFD EMS Train 6:30 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Legion Pork Chop Dinner 5-7 pm	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> TFD Work Night 6:30pm 4th July 6:30pm CB	<b>27</b> Garbage	<b>28</b> Recycle TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**All information for the JUNE 2025 Newsletter is due MAY 20, please send to: [news@villageoftowanda.org](mailto:news@villageoftowanda.org)**

### Village Contact Information

Acting Mayor: Don Williams mayor@villageoftowanda.org 309/275-0435	Village Clerk: Lula Zimmerman clerk@villageoftowanda.org 309/728-2811	Village Treasurer: Bonnie Smith treasurer@villageoftowanda.org 309/728-2811
Community Building: Deb Kinsella calendar@villageoftowanda.org 309/275-9857	Water: Scott Flack water@villageoftowanda.org 309/750-0486	Zoning: Don Williams zoning@villageoftowanda.org 309/275-0435
Safety/Ordinance: Tammy Pate safety@villageoftowanda.org 309/826-8776	Parks: Janet Collins parks@villageoftowanda.org 309/706-3390	Streets: Gary Smith streets@villageoftowanda.org 309/275-7123

**The Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 12:00 pm**

**Village of Towanda  
P.O. Box 213  
Towanda, IL 61776**

**First Class  
US Postage Paid  
Towanda, IL  
Permit No. 4**

**PO Box Customer  
Towanda, IL 61776**

## **RED CARPET CORRIDOR**

**Saturday, May 3 @ 8am-5pm**

**Sunday, May 4 @ 9am-4pm**

