

# TOWANDA TIMES

## October 2025

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### MAYOR MINUTE

**“Our community is tightly woven together by the desire to achieve, inspire, and spread positivity. Together we make up an amazing group of people, and we would not be here without each other.” ~ Kat Boston**

The Blue Star Marker dedication to the Village of Towanda was truly an honoring event for the village. Check out the dedication plaque located on Route 66 at the corner of Jefferson.

There are a variety of upcoming events the village will be a part of overall coordination, these events not only will create a welcoming for many travelers from various locations near and far, but this will also bring a togetherness between our village and surrounding communities.

There are great conversations taking place within committees and organizations regarding upcoming events we hold within the village and community support improvements moving forward and events that we are diligently attempting to keep going.

The village looks forward to positive impacts and upcoming awareness, we will share with everyone as these visions become reality.

Within the village we are scheduling some outdoor work throughout the community. There will be some tree trimming taking place this month. There will be some road, alley and sidewalk work in selective areas in the next couple of months.

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

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## **4-H**

The Towanda 4-H club will meet Oct 5, 2025 at 2:00 at the Towanda Community Building. We will be electing officers and selecting our project area of study for this year. 4-H is open to boys and girls ages 8 to 18 and Cloverbuds for boys and girls ages 5 to 7. For more information contact Jeanie Wager at 309 728-2852 or Carrie Vogel at 309 825-2468.

## **4TH OF JULY**

Next year will be a huge celebration. Our nation will be 250 years old July 4 (1776) and Route 66 (from Chicago to Santa Monica, CA) will be 100 years old November 11 (1926).

The group planning the Towanda 4th of July Celebration meets monthly at 6:30pm every 4th Monday at the Community Building. Questions can be directed to: [towandajuly4th@gmail.com](mailto:towandajuly4th@gmail.com), Virginia Lowery at [vlowery1@hotmail.com](mailto:vlowery1@hotmail.com) or 309-825-6341. If you can't attend meetings, ask how you can help, there are A LOT of things to do!

## **FUNERAL COMMITTEE**

The Funeral Committee hosts receptions for our Village residents. Please let us know if we can be of help. Thank you to all those on the call list that continue to support this tradition. 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 for more information.

## **DUNCAN MANOR**

**Duncan Manor presents:** *Haunted History Tours*

Mystery awaits; can you tell what is real and what is imagined?

\*An eerie guided tour through all 4 floors of Duncan Manor that will blur the line between this life and the next. LIMITED TOURS: Groups of 10 guests every half hour. Not recommended for children. Tickets are PER PERSON.

\*Enjoy haunted trails through the prairie and barrel fires while you wait for your tour time. Brick & Ember Pizza(10/10) and Artesanos Pizza(10/11) will be serving up yummy eats, with live music by TyJon Charlie and a cash bar inside The Meadows event barn.

\*Food and Drinks are not included in ticket price.

\*If Haunted Houses aren't your thing, feel free to come up and enjoy the outdoor activities and music! Access to the grounds is \$10 a person at the gate.

\*Duncan Manor is a 501c3 Not for Profit Organization. All proceeds benefit the preservation and restoration of the Duncan Manor House and Gardens.

\*Tickets are available for purchase at :

[www.duncanmanorhouse.com](http://www.duncanmanorhouse.com)

## **HCE**

(Towanda Home and Community Education)

Towanda HCE invites YOU to their October meeting on Monday, October 13, 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be "Let's Talk Pumpkins" given by Cindy Kelley. Bring a fall pumpkin decoration to share with the group. The minor lesson is on the study of "South Africa, Their Foods and Traditions." The collection for the Humane Society of Central Illinois this month will be paper towels and bottles of bleach that can be brought to the meeting.

HCE (cont.)

McLean County HCE has many free events in October to share with all HCE members and the general public. International Day is Oct 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for a program on South Africa. Kathleen Emery will talk about her trip to South Africa that involved many safaris and experiences about the sights, sounds and foods of South Africa: 309-825-4674. A Cultural Enrichment event will be held Oct 16 for a tour of the Old School House at Weldon Springs State Park, beginning at 9:45 a.m. followed by lunch at LaTeaDa Tea Room in Clinton. For more info/RSVP by Oct 1, 309-532-2125. Community Service Day is Oct 21, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Farm Bureau, working on strip blankets or Christmas stockings, all invited, just come; more info: Betty, 309-531-2183. October 28, 12:30-1:30 p.m. will be a program on "Herbal Teas" presented by Fusion Brew held at Farm Bureau Auditorium. Questions? Contact the number listed for the individual event.

In recognition of October is HCE Month in McLean County, Towanda HCE will have a display at the Towanda Library and Hudson Library to showcase their HCE activities in 2025-2026. See information and join us for interesting programs and good fellowship. For more information contact Cindy, 309-824-4797.

### **TOWANDA AMERICAN LEGION**

Thank you to those that support us, we greatly appreciate it!

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

#### **~ FALL/WINTER 2025 MENU ~**

**BREAKFAST: Saturday, 10/4/25 @ 8-10:30 a.m.**

sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,  
pancakes, hash browns, drink \$12

**DINNER: Friday, 10/17/25 @ 5-7:00 p.m.**

steak &/or shrimp, baked potato, green beans, roll,  
dessert & drink

steak & shrimp \$20, steak only \$15, shrimp only \$12

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

**\*\*\* HALLOWEEN! Friday, October 31 @ 5-8 p.m. \*\*\***

Come trick-or-treat at the Legion!

Pizza, treats, & fun! No charge, donations appreciated!

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

***Thank you for your continued support!***

**207 Hely Street, Towanda ~ email: towandalegion@gmail.com ~ find us on facebook**

## TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY

### **October at Towanda District Library**

This October is packed with fun for all ages! Join us for a month of themed **Storytimes**—from dinosaurs and circuses to pumpkins, fall, and Halloween! Adults can get creative at our **Mini Ghost Portraits Craft Night**, while kids can dive into imagination with **LEGO Club**. Our **Book Club** will gather for lively discussion, and homeschool families can connect at a special **Homeschool Event**. Don't miss the highlight of the month—our **Halloween Party** on October 31st from 5–7 PM! Plus, sign up for a spooky science adventure with Professor Steve in *The Science of Frankenstein* on October 23rd at 4:00 PM.

Come celebrate the season with us—we can't wait to see you at the library!

 <b>OCTOBER 2025</b> 						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 DINOSAUR STORYTIME 10:30 AM	2	3 DINOSAUR STORYTIME 10:30 AM	4
5	6	7 ADULT CRAFT 5:30 PM MINI GHOST PORTRAITS	8 CIRCUS STORYTIME 10:30 AM	9	10 CIRCUS STORYTIME 10:30 AM	11
12	13 <b>CLOSED</b>	14 LEGO CLUB 2:30 PM	15 FALL STORYTIME 10:30 AM	16	17 FALL STORYTIME 10:30 AM	18
19	20	21 BOOK CLUB 5:30 PM	22 PUMPKIN STORYTIME 10:30 AM	23 THE SCIENCE OF FRANKENSTEIN WITH PROF. STEVE 4:00 PM (SIGN UP ONLY)	24 PUMPKIN STORYTIME 10:30 AM	25
26	27 HOMESCHOOL EVENT 2:00 PM	28	29 HALLOWEEN STORYTIME 10:30 AM	30	31 HALLOWEEN PARTY! 5-7 PM	

## 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 HISTORICAL WALKWAY

If anyone is interested in purchasing a Memorial or Historical brick for their family or friends, please contact Virginia Lowery @ 309 825-6341 or vlowery1@hotmail.com. The bricks are \$50 each with up to three lines of print, 16 spaces per line. Feel free to call or email me with any questions. Next year will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Route 66~ It's a good time to leave your "footprint" along old 66! Order your brick today!!! it's "**Towanda is a great little place to call HOME!**"

## 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

## **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.

## **VILLAGE OF TOWANDA SAFETY/ORDINANCE**

The Village of Towanda Golf Cart & Utility Vehicle Ordinance ***requires*** registration. Reminder, **you MUST be 16 and over with a valid driver's license** to operate a golf cart and utility vehicle.

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
- required: front & rear lights, brake lights, turn signals, rearview mirror, slow moving vehicle emblem, and horn

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.

## **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.

## **DEDICATIONS**

### **Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedicated in Towanda**

A new Blue Star Memorial Highway sign was unveiled Saturday, Sept. 6, along the Route 66 corridor in Towanda to honor members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The sign, located at Route 66 and N 1900 E Road, was made possible through a partnership between local groups and the National Garden Clubs, the project's primary funders. It bears the inscription: "A tribute to the Armed Forces who have defended the United States of America."

The drape was pulled by Larry Collins, a Towanda Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, assisted by his daughter Nichole Collins and grandson Kasey Compton.

The half-hour dedication included remarks from Diane Greenawalt, president of Garden Clubs of Illinois (GCI) and board member of National Garden Clubs (NGC), and Ellen Culver, president of the Bloomington-Normal Garden Club. Funding for the marker came from the NGC's national program to establish veterans' markers along major U.S. highways.

Towanda representatives participating in the ceremony included Mayor Don Williams, Scott Flack, Village Trustee and Route 66 Board member; and Jim Schmidt of the Bloomington-Normal Garden Club.

The program, emceed by Jim Stahly of Normal, featured patriotic music from the Twin Cities Brass Quintet, which performed the national anthem, God Bless America, and Taps.

-- Jim Stahly (excerpt from The Normalite)

### **Land of Lincoln Honor Flight**

John Lueschen and John Messer, both of Towanda, Illinois were among the 95 veterans participating in the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight out of Springfield on Tuesday, September 9th. The purpose of these flights is to provide a homecoming for veterans who may not have received proper welcomes when they returned from service. This trip is designed to "honor them and thank them for their service!"

Brett Lueschen served as guardian for his father John Lueschen, while Brian Lueschen served as guardian for his father-in-law, John Messer. Brett also served as a medic for the flight.

While in Washington, they visited the World War II, Korean and Vietnam War Memorials as well as Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, the Lincoln Memorial, the National Air & Space Museum, the US Marine Corps Memorial and the US Air Force Memorial. It is a full day for these honored Vets and their guardians.

There was an amazing crowd consisting of the public, family, friends, and previous participating Veterans donning their Honor Flight shirts from previous flights all packed the airport corridors. Hugs, tears, cameras, signs, flags, banners, and pictures were all on display to welcome back friends and loved ones. These 95 Veterans represented all branches of the military.

--Virginia Lowery (excerpt from The Normalite)

OCTOBER 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 -Recycle -TFD Officer Meeting 6:30pm	2	3	4 -Legion Breakfast 8-10:30am
5	6 --Towanda Board Meet 7:00pm CB	7 -Garbage	8 -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	9 -Lion's Club @ Fire Dept 6:30pm	10 -Lion's Club Ham & Bean Dinner CB	11
12 -4-H @ 2:00pm CB	13 -Towanda HCE 6:30pm CB	14 -Garbage	15 -Recycle -TFD EMS Train 6:30 pm -Water Bills Due	16 -Legion Meet 7:00pm	17 -Legion Steak/Shrimp Dinner 5-7pm	18
19	20	21 -Garbage	22 -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	23	24	25
26	27 -TFD Work Night 6:30pm -4th July 6:30pm CB	28	29 -Recycle	30	31 HALLOWEEN Trick-or-Treat 5-8pm	

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

#### **Village Contact Information**

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: Evan Thomas zoning@villageoftowanda.org 309/275-0717
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  
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Towanda, IL 61776**

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Please be sure to read the newsletter in its entirety each month as information changes.  
We strive to keep our residents updated & informed!