

# TOWANDA TIMES

## January 2026

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### MAYOR MINUTE

**“A helping hand can be a ray of sunshine in a cloudy world.”**  
~ Unknown

The weather has been going back and forth regarding temperatures, snow, and ice as we have come to know and expect living in the community we call home.

The unforeseen, which also persists each year, is when and how much snow and ice will we endure for this year's season? As this changes monthly, weekly, and daily, be aware the village is allotted a limited supply of road salt each winter and we utilize our small team available to clear the streets. Most people understand today's reality and currently limited resources and budgets.

With the increased salt prices, we attempt to stretch the entire season by focusing on the ice forecasts and prioritizing intersections, emergency routes, and main areas to keep everyone safe. We work extra hours when necessary to keep roads open.

The snow, although inconvenient at times, when at a lower accumulation, may not be able to salt after every snowfall. In saving resources side streets may take a little longer to clear and some icy patches may need to be addressed as temperature rises for effectiveness.

Everyone can work together and make it through another successful season. Please drive a little slower and allow some extra time during the winter weather. If possible, help neighbors in clearing walking paths. Don't hesitate to report dangerous spots so they can be addressed sooner than later.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we will continue to work on keeping our roads as safe as we possibly can with our resources and your well-being in mind.

Your voice matters, feel free to reach out if you need something addressed,

Don Williams  
[mayor@villageoftowanda.org](mailto:mayor@villageoftowanda.org)  
309/275-0435

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## **4-H**

The Towanda 4-H club will meet Jan 4, 2026 at 2:00pm at the Towanda Community Building. We will be having another program about Japan and 4-H awards from the 2024-2025 4-H year will be given out. Talks will be given by Ella Bane, Quinn Weber and Eliana Klekamp and Lucas Casselman will be doing a demonstration about his project. Members are encouraged to attend the County Passport to the World and International Night on Jan 13, 2026. Our club will present a display about Japan.

For more information contact Jeanie Wager at 309 728-2852 or Carrie Green at 309 846-7888.

## **4TH OF JULY**

Our next meeting is Monday, January 26, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Community Building. Questions can be directed to: towandajuly4th@gmail.com and Virginia Lowery at vlowery1@hotmail.com or 309-825-6341.

## **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.

## **HCE**

(Towanda Home and Community Education)

## **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

~ JANUARY DINING ~

**BREAKFAST: Saturday, 1/3/26 @ 8-10:30 a.m.**

sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,  
pancakes, hash browns, drink \$14

**DINNER: Friday, 1/16/26 @ 5-7:00 p.m.**

pork chop, bun, french fries, baked beans, dessert & drink \$13  
kids: hot dog, fries, dessert & drink \$5

All meals subject to change without notice.

~Carry out available~

*Thank you for your continued support!*

207 Hely Street, Towanda

## TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY

Too cold to be outside? “Snow” problem—come check out the Towanda District Library! January is packed with cozy programs for all ages, including Snowmen Storytime, Creativity Storytime, and My Home Storytime for our youngest readers. Adults can unwind with an Adult Craft Night and Adult Book Club, and homeschool families are invited to explore Cuba together. There’s something warm waiting for everyone at the library this winter!



## 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

We would like to thank all those who have kept the Caring Cupboard stocked during this past year. It is definitely being used and has helped several families this year. You may have noticed that canned goods have been temporarily removed because of the extreme cold. As the temperatures warm up you will see them back in the cupboard. There are still other items in the cupboard that are not temperature sensitive. Also, please consider joining our club. We meet the second Thursday of each month @ 6:30 at the Towanda Fire Department. Contact Bob Hancock at (309) 282-1801 or email oldcars@frontiernet.net

The Towanda Lions wishes everyone a great holiday and happy New Year.

### **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 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.

JANUARY 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2026</i>	2	3 -Legion Breakfast 8-10:30am
4 -4-H @ 2:00pm CB	5 -Towanda Board Meet 7:00pm CB	6 -Garbage	7 -Recycle -TFD Officer Meeting 6:30pm	8 -Lion's Club @ Fire Dept 6:30pm	9	10
11	12 -Towanda HCE 6:30pm CB	13 -Garbage	14 -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	15 -Water Bills Due -Legion Meet 7:00pm	16 -Legion Pork Chop Dinner 5-7:00pm	17
18	19 -Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 -Garbage	21 -Recycle -TFD EMS Train 6:30pm	22	23	24
25	26 -TFD Work Night 6:30pm -4th July Meet 6:30pm @ CB	27 -Garbage	28 -TFD Regular Meeting @ 6:30pm	29	30	31

All information for the FEBRUARY 2026 Newsletter is due JANUARY 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**

# 70th Annual Towanda Scout/Legion Meat Sale

(formally known as Towanda Scouts)



**ORDER NOW! Deadline: February 8, 2026**

**Pick up: Saturday, February 21, 2026 ~ 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**@ Towanda Community Building, 103 S. Jefferson**

The Towanda American Legion is once again taking over the Scout meat sales tradition. We are still hoping to have breakfast again, searching volunteers for 2027.

Options to order:

- Online Store at this link: [Online Store](#) or scan the QR Code below.
- Mail order form AND payment:  
Sharon Engel  
412 E. Washington St.  
Towanda, IL 61776
- Email form to: [towandalegion@gmail.com](mailto:towandalegion@gmail.com)
- Call or text: Sharon Engel 309/531-8898

Online Store QR Code:



Towanda IL Troop 956

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

**First Class  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 4**

**PO Box Customer  
Towanda, IL 61776**

