

TOWANDA TIMES

MAY 2026

MAYOR MINUTE

"Community is a place where connections are made, relationships are built, and support is given" ~Sandra Day O'Connor

You will see progressive upgrades being performed along Route 66 as events unfold for the year.

This year's local events for the 100th Anniversary of Route 66 will kick off at the annual Red Carpet Corridor event, May 2nd and 3rd 2026.

There will be Route 66-themed activities around town, including the famous Kicks Bar & Grill and the Towanda Route 66 Parkway & Arboretum.

Stop by the booth at the main Towanda intersection by Rapid Rocky's for the giveaway.

Visit the vendor's booth to pick up some Route 66 Dead Man's Curve apparel.

Breakfast sandwiches and lunch options will be available on route.

Enjoy the Mid-State Cruisers Route 66 Cruise-in car show from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 2
Along with DJ by JD Music, Long Branch Again Food Service, and Gramma Nana's Ice Cream.

Other events that will begin and carry on until Labor Day include a Scavenger Hunt for Landmarks that are on the route, a Centennial Streets photo display on the Original Route 66 Roadway, and a Centennial Event in June.

We hope you look forward to coming out, enjoying the weather and the company within the community.

AS A REMINDER, this is year 3 of the 3-year increase regarding water from our supplier, which we understand the concerns as we live within the same requirements. The rates will increase for the base rate and additional water use. If you need more explanation on this 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 May 3, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Siddhu Thuppall will lead a club discussion about what we learned from the Miller Park Zoo tour we took in April. We will have a program about Ireland given by Mrs. Carrie Vogel. Club members will take turns giving talks or demonstrations about the various projects they are completing for the McLean County Fair. Talks this month will be given by Carley Nourie, Sahasra Namburi, Quinn Weber, Kaitlyn O'Kraski, Carter O'Kraski, and Camryn Knapp. Siddhartha Thuppall and Ishaan Shukla will give the demonstrations.

The McLean County Fair is June 29 - August 2, 2026.

For more information about our club or the projects we are doing please contact Jeanie Wager at 309-728-2852 or Carrie Green at 309-846-7888.

4TH OF JULY

Our next meeting is Monday, May 18, 2026 @ 6:30 pm at the Community Building. (Earlier date due to Memorial Day.) Questions can be directed to: towandajuly4th@gmail.com

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VENDORS! Please email towandajuly4th@gmail.com for more information. Vendors can sign-up for one OR two days.

~2026 Towanda 4th of July TWO DAY EVENT!~ July 3 & 4

July 3

Vendor & Flea Market: 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

HCE Spaghetti Dinner

DJ/Street Dance 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Fireworks at dusk

Food trucks at Fireworks

July 4th

Vendor & Flea Market: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00

Parade kick-off at 10:00 a.m.

This year we are excited to announce the return of a community favorite: The Towanda 4th of July Raffle.

There will be a limited number of tickets sold. Tickets will be \$10 each, and will be sold June 12th-July 4th or until we sell out.

The drawing will take place on July 4th at 1pm live on the Towanda 4th of July Celebration Facebook page.

You will be able to purchase tickets from 4th of July committee members: Heather Lueschen, Virginia Lowery, Mary Wagoner, Brad Wagoner. There will be a variety of prizes that will be listed when ticket sales begin.

If you have any questions or would like to donate to the raffle please contact us at towandajuly4th@gmail.com

FUNERAL COMMITTEE

The Funeral Committee hosts receptions for our Village residents. We can take care of place settings, drinks, centerpieces, tablecloths, main dish, desserts, side dishes, and other requests.

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 desserts and side dish donations. Contact Tammy Pate (309) 826-8776 or Janet Collins (309) 706-3390 for more information.

HCE

(Towanda Home and Community Education)

HCE programs are interesting, informative and usually involves laughter and fun. Check out these interesting programs offered each month. Look at the HCE Website, www.mcleanhce.org or the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education.

Join us for lifelong learning. 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. **Our next meeting is May 21, 2026.**

RENTALS: The legion is a great place to rent for your events!

Text Sharon Engel 309/531-8898 or Email us: towandalegion@gmail.com

~ MAY MENU ~

Saturday, May 2 & Sunday, May 3 visit us for breakfast and lunch for *Red Carpet Corridor* at the corner of Route 66 by BP!

\$ Portion of proceeds will go to Susan G. Komen/Breast Cancer

DINNER: Friday, 5/15/26 @ 5-7:00 p.m.

fish, fries, cole slaw, dessert & drink \$14

All meals subject to change without notice.

~Carry out available~

Thank you for your continued support!

207 Hely Street, Towanda

TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY

Things are growing at the library and we're getting ready for one of our favorite times of the year! As we prepare for our **Summer Reading Program**, our regular programming will be taking a short pause this month. But don't worry; there's still plenty happening!

Our **Adult Book Club** will meet on **May 19th at 5:30 PM**, and **The Worst Book Club in the World (TWBCITW)** will meet on **May 28th at 5:30 PM**-so be sure to mark your calendars and join us for great conversation and community.

🌻 We're especially excited to announce this year's Summer Reading theme: **"Plant a Seed, Read / Planta una Semilla, Lee."**

🎉 And don't miss our **Summer Reading Opening Party** on **May 29th from 5:00-7:00 PM!** Come celebrate the start of a fun-filled summer with us and get ready for a season full of reading, activities, and excitement for all ages.

We can't wait to kick off summer with you! 🌿🌟



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AT THE TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY!
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READY FOR OUR SUMMER READING PROGRAM!

Plant a Seed, Read
Planta una Semilla, Lee

OUR ADULT BOOK CLUB- MAY 19TH @ 5:30 AND
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WILL STILL MEET!

**JOIN US MAY 29TH FROM 5-7 PM FOR OUR
SUMMER READING OPENING PARTY!**



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. This year 2026, is the 100th anniversary of Route 66 ~ It's a good time to leave your "footprint" along old 66! Order your brick today!!! **"Towanda is a great little place to call HOME!"**

TOWANDA LION'S CLUB

Towanda Lions Club Small Change Project

March, 2026 marked the 10-year anniversary of the Towanda Lions Small Change project. Checks in the amount of **\$108.00** (total collected **\$432.00** which includes 4th quarter 2025 and 1st quarter 2026) were distributed to the Towanda Library, Towanda School, Towanda Fire Department, and Towanda American Legion. Total collected to date, **\$11,994.24**. That's almost **\$3000.00** per organization!

Towanda Lions Caring Cupboard

The Towanda Lions Caring Cupboard continues to do well. We could use packages of Soup, Instant Potatoes, Mac & Cheese, canned vegetables, dry cereal, toothpaste and paper products. Thanks to all who help keep the cupboard stocked. It's definitely being used.

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

TOWANDA SALES

Thursday, April 30 through Sunday, May 3 (various times)

The Village of Towanda and Lamplighter will be having sales. Look for signs and flyers! contact safety@villageoftowanda.org with questions

TOWANDA ROUTE 66 PARKWAY

Come see us at the Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor for our anniversary t-shirts, buttons & magnets!

Please consider purchasing our merchandise to support our Route 66 Parkway. They can be viewed and purchased at the McLean County Museum of History in downtown Bloomington throughout the year and at Ryburn Place located at 305 Pine Street in Normal located along Old Route 66 from March-December. We currently have our magnet display at BP. All proceeds go towards the maintenance of our beautiful Parkway. Contact Fred Walk at fwalk@frontiernet.net for additional information about the merchandise and for donating to the Parkway.



VILLAGE OF TOWANDA CLERK

VILLAGE OF TOWANDA SAFETY/ORDINANCE

Golf Carts AND Utility Vehicles: It is **MANDATORY** per the village ordinance to have your golf cart &/or utility vehicle registered with The Village of Towanda. Please email: safety@villageoftowanda.org to set up an appointment. **REMINDER: You MUST have a drivers license to operate a golf cart. In addition, carts must be equipped with lights and turn signals. Rules of the Road apply to golf carts as well.)**

Garbage & Recycle Cans: Please return your garbage/recycle cans promptly after garbage and recycle days. Many cans are blowing into the street and other yards.

Mowing: Please keep your grass and weeds at a respectable length. As a reminder, please keep grass out of the street for everyone's safety.

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.

MAY 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 -Towanda Sales	2 - RED CARPET CORRIDOR -Towanda Sales
3 - RED CARPET CORRIDOR -Towanda Sales -4-H 2:00 @CB	4 -Towanda Board Meet 7:00pm CB	5 -Garbage	6 -TFD Officer Meeting 6:30pm	7	8	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i>	11 -Towanda HCE 6:30pm CB	12 -Garbage	13 -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	14 -Lion's Club @ Fire Dept 6:30pm	15 -Legion Fish Fry Dinner 5-7pm -Water Bills Due	16
17	18 -4th July Meet 6:30pm CB	19 -Garbage	20 -TFD EMS Train 6:30pm -Newsletter info due	21 -Legion Meet 7:00pm	22	23 -4th July Fundraiser @BP
24	25 Memorial Day	26 -Garbage	27 -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting @ 6:30pm	28	29	30
31						

All information for the JUNE 2026 Newsletter is **due MAY 20**, please send to: 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 zonings@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



TOWANDA 4TH JULY EVENT FUNDRAISER

Saturday, May 23, 2026

BP Parking Lot

9am-4pm Bake Sale

11am-4pm Porkchops/Hot Dogs

**Hot Dogs, Porkchops, Chips, Soda
Homemade Baked Goods**

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

First Class
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 4

**PO Box Customer
Towanda, IL 61776**

RED CARPET CORRIDOR May 2-3, 20026
ROUTE 66 ~ 1926-2026



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Did you hear the news?
Read all about it in the Towanda Times NEWSLETTER!