

TOWANDA TIMES

JUNE 2026

MAYOR MINUTE

“Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together.” — Paul Ryan

As events continue throughout the village this month, please ask yourself, “What can I do within the community that I’m a part of to help and make a difference?”

Reach out to any of the committees, organizations, or individuals you know are helping the community bring back some of the traditions and creating new experiences.

Events within the village, in surrounding areas, as well as coming through the village will continue through the summer months, with all the celebrations happening. Attached are some flyers to help emphasize some of these events, also other items continue to pop up and become another opportunity to celebrate. Keep an eye out as things unfold and we will continue to place notifications around when we can.

Did you know we have a volunteered website page which is a great resource to check out for community information and upcoming calendar of events. <https://villageoftowanda.org/>

Whether you want to participate or just attend any events in the village, get out, enjoy the weather, have fun, and create conversations with connect to others in your community! You Deserve It!

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

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, June 22, 2026 @ 6:30 pm at the Community Building.

Questions can be directed to: towardajuly4th@gmail.com

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VENDORS! Please email towardajuly4th@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

(see the insert for more information)

*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 are on sale NOW, until sold out! The drawing will take place on July 4th at 1pm live on the Towanda 4th of July Celebration Facebook page. You can 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 towardajuly4th@gmail.com*

THANK YOU! We would like to thank everyone that donated to our 4th of July Fundraiser. The weather was awesome, the chops and baked goods were tasty, and we had a great turnout! Thank you to all that donated supplies, baked goods, helped setup/tear down, and everything in between. A special thank you to BP and Bonnie for hosting the event along with the Towanda American Legion for donating the pork chops, and Chris Westfall for the bun donations.


DUNCAN MANOR

 Summer Social at Duncan Manor

Join us for Summer Socials at Duncan Manor — a weekly outdoor gathering designed to bring our community together through local makers, live music, food, and shared experiences on the grounds of our historic estate.

 Tuesdays | May 26 – September 8

 4:00–7:00 PM

 Free to attend

Each week, the Manor comes to life with a rotating selection of local vendors, a featured food truck, bar service, open mic performances, and yoga on the lawn at 6pm.

Step inside the historic home with guided small group tours offered every half hour from 4:00–6:30 PM (\$20 per person). House tours will be every other Tuesday beginning June 2nd.

Whether you come to shop, move, listen, explore, or just hang, Summer Social is an open invitation to spend your Tuesday evenings at the Manor.

If you are interested in being a vendor or would like to sign up for open mic, please visit our website: <https://www.duncanmanorhouse.com/pages/summer-social-2026>

FUNERAL COMMITTEE

As part of the Towanda community, when a loved one passes away that resides in Towanda, you can contact the Funeral Committee to help with the funeral reception. This is a time-honored tradition made possible only through the kindness and support of our wonderful residents.

The Funeral Committee kindly asks the family for a donation to help support the next family who experiences a loss. The committee takes care of setting up, cleaning up, and serving the meal to the grieving family. They provide the main dish, paper supplies, drinks, and tableware. To complete the meal, they reach out to members of the community to contribute side dishes and desserts.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? We keep a list of volunteers and their phone numbers. When the need arises, you will receive a phone call asking if you can provide a dish/dessert, it's that simple.

Please consider signing up to help this great cause and to keep the tradition going. If you are interested in helping or need these services for your loved one, call/text Tammy Pate (309) 826-8776 or Janet Collins (309) 706-3390 for more information.

Our Towanda residents are more than neighbors, they are a caring community, always willing to come together and lift one another up in times of need.

HCE

(Towanda Home and Community Education)

The Towanda HCE group will be getting together on Monday, June 15 for lunch at Panera Bread, 208 Greenbrier Dr, Normal. Following lunch some of the members and friends will be volunteering at Midwest Food Bank from 1-3. You are welcome to join us if you can. Please RSVP by June 8 to volunteer at Midwest Food Bank: Sandy Whalen, jswhalen2@hotmail.com or 309-532-4344. We wanted to do some community service for this years' June Outing.

Towanda HCE will again be sponsoring a Spaghetti Supper on Friday, July 3, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Spaghetti, bread, and salad by Avanti's with homemade desserts and drinks. All tickets purchased at the door: Adults-\$11, 2-7yr child-\$6 and under 2 yrs eat free. Carry out is available. Come shop the North and South Park flea market going on and come get your supper in Towanda at the Community Building, across from North Park.

McLean County Association for Home and Community Education has the following activities in June: Community Outreach items for the Humane Society of Central IL will be cans of cat food (any brand) and poop bags: 309-242-3801. On Monday, June 15, 2-3:30 p.m. will be Read & Share the book: The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick, at UI Extension Office, information: 309-825-6558. On Tues. June 16, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. – is Community Service Day at UI Extension Office, making walker bags. All community crafters are invited to bring their own projects or help with current projects. Bring your lunch, come and go as fits your schedule; info: 309-531-2183. Wednesday, June 24, 4 - 6 p.m. will be a HCE bake sale booth at Downs Village Farmers' Market at Dooley Park. Come to purchase delicious baked goods created by our wonderful bakers and enjoy the ambiance of another small-town farmers' market; 309-829-2537.

For more information about Towanda Home and Community Education, contact Cindy at 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 MEMBER INFORMATION, we are looking for new members!

Are you a Veteran, son of a Veteran, or would like to be in the Auxiliary? Being a Legion member does not dictate your volunteerism, YOU DO! We have members who donate their time when they are available. The commitment is totally up to you! If we do not expand our memberships, we will not be able to continue our breakfasts, dinners, and assistance that we provide our community and Veterans. Please keep the Towanda American Legion going!
Contact towandalegion@gmail.com for more information and questions.

Legion monthly meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Towanda Legion. **Our next meeting is June 18, 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

~JUNE MENU~

no breakfast in June

Friday, June 19 @ 5-7pm

pork chop, bun, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, 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

Plant a Seed, Read! is blooming at Towanda District Library this June! Join us all month long for summer reading fun, featured events, reading logs, prizes, and activities for all ages. Stop in to sign up, pick up your reading log, and check our social media for event sign-up details. From bees and bats to tie dye, seed detectives, and Mess Fest, there's something fun growing at the library this summer!



PLANT A SEED, READ!

Featured June Events

- June 4, 5:00 PM Evolution & Preservation of Towanda's Rt. 68 Gateway
- June 9, 3:00 PM Wiggle and Learn with EAC! (Worms)
- June 11, 5:00 PM Tie Dye Day!
- June 12, 11:00 AM Honey Bees w/ Central Illinois Bee Association
- June 13, 10:00 AM Books for Breakfast*
- June 18, 5:30 PM Herbs & Mixology
- June 25, 4:00 PM Incredible Bats!*
- June 27, Noon Mess Fest!
- June 30, 2:00 PM Seed Detectives!*

*SIGN UP EVENT ONLY- PLEASE CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SIGN UP INFORMATION

Join us for summer reading fun all month long! Stop in to sign up, pick up your reading log, and attend events to earn extra prize entries. Summer Reading is open to all ages!



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

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 Lions Caring Cupboard

Thanks to all who help keep the cupboard stocked. It's definitely being used.

Scholarship Awards

The Towanda Lions Club is pleased and proud to award Memorial Scholarships to Catelin Wesley and Evan Miller. These \$750 scholarships are awarded to high school seniors in the Towanda vicinity who will be pursuing education and training in skilled trades.

Catelin Wesley plans to attend the Electrical Hall in pursuit of Interior Wireman certification. Evan Miller will attend Heartland Community College to help him determine the specific technical field that he wishes to pursue. Becoming a wind turbine technician is something he is currently considering.

Both of these young people have excelled scholastically and have exhibited exceptional work ethics in their schools and workplaces. And, both have been generously giving their time and efforts towards the betterment of their community.

The annual Towanda Lions Club scholarships are in memory of past club members and are intended to contribute to the success of the youth in the Towanda area.

Jerry Bersche and Steve Shipley
Scholarship Committee Co-Chairmen
Towanda Lions Club
Phone: 309-838-1695



Catelin Wesley and Lion Jim Bersche



Evan Miller and Lion Steve Shipley

TOWANDA ROUTE 66 PARKWAY

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 and button 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. The Village of Towanda Ordinance states 8" tall. As a reminder, please keep grass out of the street for everyone's safety.

VILLAGE OF TOWANDA WATER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The Annual Drinking Water Report is posted on the Village Bulletin Board inside the Community Building.

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.

JUNE 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
.	1 -Towanda Board Meet 7:00pm CB	2 -Garbage	3 -TFD Officer Meeting 6:30pm	4 -Rt 66 Presentation @ Library 5:00pm	5	6 -Centennial Rt66 1940's @ Legion 3-6pm
7 -4H 2pm @CB	8 -Towanda HCE 6:30pm CB	9 -Garbage	10 -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	11 -Lion's Club @ Fire Dept 6:30pm	12	13
14 Flag Day	15 -Water Bills Due	16 -Garbage	17 -TFD EMS Train 6:30pm	18 -Legion Meet 7:00pm	19 Legion Pork Chop Dinner 5-7pm	20
21 Father's Day	22 -4th July Meet 6:30pm @CB	23 -Garbage	24 -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting @ 6:30pm	25	26	27
28	29 -TFD Work Night 6:30pm	30 -Garbage				

All information for the AUGUST 2026 Newsletter is due JULY 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 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
P.O. Box 213
Towanda, IL 61776

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HAPPY
*Father's
Day*



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