

TOWANDA TIMES

AUGUST 2026

MAYOR MINUTE

**The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. –
Coretta Scott King**

Reminder, the village has contracts to accomplish tasks that are necessary to keep the community clean. The garbage contract has reached its date to increase slightly. This contract takes care of our weekly pickup, a bulk call option for the residents that I have discussed in the past, and a bulk pick up we do from time to time. As much as we try, costs still seem to increase yearly due to circumstances beyond our control. There are some ideas for garbage, still in the discussion and progress stage.

We are always looking to figure out ways to help with cost if possible.

On a positive note...

The 4th of July Celebration this year was memorable, we are in hopes to continue traditions and expand on the already amazing holiday celebration Towanda has been known for throughout the years

The upgrades being performed along Route 66 have turned out great and will continue through the year with some additions and restoration of existing items. It has been exciting seeing community residents and many others from all over stop to take photo opportunities along the route.

Some ideas are in the concept phase to help give residents something to do within the village as a community, young and elder, together. Helping bring the community together and encouraging communication is important.

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 will meet Sunday, August 23, 2026 at 2:00 at The Towanda Community Building. This will be a workshop for members needing help with their end of the year records. Members may drop off their finished records during this time. For more information contact Carrie Green at 309/846-7888 or Jeanie Wager at 309/830-8706.

4TH OF JULY

Questions can be directed to: towandajuly4th@gmail.com

4th of July 2026 was a success! We had many positive comments on the 2-days, bringing back music to South Park on July 3rd, the raffle, new and returning vendors, the parade, and overall great feedback! Thank you to everyone who had a hand in this year's event. We are already gearing up for 2027! -Tammy Pate

We would like to thank those that donated to the 4th of July raffle and to those that purchased tickets to support the 4th of July celebration. The raffle was a great success. We also would like to thank everyone that came out to the street dance at the park on July 3rd. We hope you enjoyed your time visiting with family and friends and listening to the music. It was exciting to see this tradition back this year. THANK YOU! -Mary Wagoner

DUNCAN MANOR

Spend your Tuesday evenings at Duncan Manor's Summer Socials, held weekly from 4:00–7:00 PM through September. Visitors can enjoy local vendors, food trucks, drinks from the bar, open mic performances, and donation-based yoga on the lawn at 6:00 PM. It's a relaxed community gathering designed to bring people together to enjoy summer evenings in one of Towanda's most historic settings.

Historic house tours are offered on the last Tuesday of each month, with guided tours departing every half hour from 4:00–6:30 PM. Guests can explore three floors of the 160-year-old manor while learning about its rich history and ongoing preservation efforts.

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)

Towanda HCE will be starting up in the fall with their first meeting on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building with more details to come. Hope to see you this summer.

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 August 20, 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

~ AUGUST MENU ~

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

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

DINNER: Friday, 8/21/26 @ 5-7:00 p.m.

pork chop, bun, fries, green beans, dessert
& drink \$14

TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY

There's plenty happening this August at Towanda District Library! Join us throughout the month for crafts, book discussions, storytimes, and family fun. For more information and weekly storytime themes, please visit www.towandalibrary.org.

Upcoming events include:

Saturday, August 1 — Mess Fest from 12:00–2:00 PM

Tuesday, August 4 — Adult Craft at 5:30 PM

Tuesday, August 18 — Book Club at 5:30 PM

Thursday, August 27 — TWBCITW at 5:30 PM

Storytimes will continue on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30 AM. Be sure to check our website for each week's theme.

POSTCARD

From your library!

See what's happening in
August at the Towanda
District Library! For
more information please
visit our website
www.towandalibrary.org




EVENTS

Tue	Aug. 4 th -Adult Craft @5:30 pm Aug. 18 th -Book Club @5:30 pm Storytimes @ 10:30 am See website for weekly themes
Wed	
Thu	Aug. 27 th -TWBCITW @5:30 pm Storytimes @ 10:30 am See website for weekly themes
Fri	
Sat	Aug 1 st - Mess Fest 12-2 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. 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

The Towanda Lions Club, Towanda IL, is a group committed to using our time, energy, and compassion to improve lives in our town.

- National service is focused on eye and hearing health,
- Local service is focused on our community and our elementary school.

If you're looking for a way to get involved, give back, and have fun doing it - we are looking for new ideas, new members, forming new friendships. Contact Bob Hancock at 309-282-1801 or email oldcars@frontiernet.net.

Visual and Hearing Impaired

The Towanda Lions provided Snow Cones to the Visually Impaired on July 14th and Hearing Impaired on July 21st. at Camp Lions, Bloomington Lake.

Towanda Lions Club Small Change Project

For the second quarter of 2026, the Towanda Small Change Project collected \$187.60. Checks in the amount of \$46.90 were distributed to the Towanda Library, Towanda School, Towanda Fire Department, and Towanda American Legion. Total collected to date, \$12,181.84.

TOWANDA ROUTE 66 PARKWAY

Please consider purchasing our Deadman's Curve and Route 66 centennial t-shirts to support our Route 66 Parkway. The shirts are available in assorted colors and sizes and 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. Rapid Rocky's BP gas station has magnets, buttons, and postcards showing Dead Man's Curve and scenes of the parkway available for your purchase. All proceeds go towards the maintenance of our beautiful parkway. The 4.1-mile Towanda Parkway is an accredited Level I Arboretum with nearly 400 trees planted over the past 25 years. This is the only known arboretum along the entire length of the 2,448 miles of Route 66. Contact Fred Walk at fwalk@frontiernet.net for additional information about the merchandise and to make a tax-free donation. Our Parkway is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity. Come on out to experience our piece of the Mother Road.

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.

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.



**Thanks to Everyone who participated, supported, and
enjoyed the Towanda July 4th Celebration.
“Celebrating the BIG Two Five OH!!!”**

It truly takes a Village to plan and implement the July 4th events. The participants, the financial support and the volunteers behind the scenes make it all happen!

Congratulations to Mike & Linda Potts for serving as our Parade Marshals. Grandkids make all the difference!

The Spotlight was on Ed Pyne, retired owner & editor of the Normalite. We are fortunate to have the Normalite serve our community with news and upcoming events. Thanks Ed, Welcome Billy!

Was that really Fred Walk in the snazzy orange vet? Congratulations and Thank You to Fred for sharing your dream and hard work on our piece of the Mother Road. Fred served as Grand Marshal of Towanda's 40's era for the Route 66's 100-year celebration.

It's always a pleasure to have our founder, Dorothy Jones, participate in the parade. Dorothy and her friend Alice Temple had a vision back in '69. Look how we have grown! This year, Dorothy engaged Westminster Village to drive their van carrying eight residents, including a 102-year-old resident! Dressed in their best red, white and blue, munching on red, white and blue popcorn, and waving their American flags, they enjoyed celebrating the “BIG Two Five OH,” with all the onlookers along the parade route~ God Bless America!

Once again, we recognize and honor our Veterans. We appreciate those of you who rode on the tram or carried a flag in the parade. I encourage you to consider carrying a flag next year. There are 50 flags available, and we would love to have you carry one! Thanks to each of you for your service! And thanks to Bryan Hodgson for serving as Guardian for the two trams.

There were five floats entered in the competition. First place went to the Mardis Family, 2nd place was the Pasture Church, 3rd to Chick Fil A, 4th to Biddle Construction and 5th to Maddie's Hope.

Overall, there were approximately 100 entries again this year. Thank you to everyone who participates in the parade each year. I'm sure we would all be amazed to know how many pounds of candy are tossed to the crowd each year!

One of my favorite memories from this year will be stopping by the Roy Redding Family Reunion at the Redding Estate on Fremont Street. Norman Rockwell could have painted a masterpiece. The stately home, the large family, chairs circled, children playing nearby, lots of red, white and blue, flags and tables heaping of fried chicken, potato salad, and every favorite family dish imaginable at any family reunion.

Thank you to Rev. Dr. Don Black for participating on the Veteran's tram too! Family time is the BEST time! I hope everyone will smile when they remember the fun they had in Towanda “in the good old days!” Hope to see everyone back again next year!

-Virginia Lowery

TOWANDA AMERICAN LEGION
~ FALL 2026 MENU ~

BREAKFAST: Saturday, 9/12 @ 8-10:30 a.m.

sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,
pancakes, hash browns, drink \$12
\$ Portion of proceeds to Brain Cancer Research

DINNER: Friday, 9/18 @ 5-7:00 p.m.

steak, baked potato, salad, dessert & drink \$17

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

sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,
pancakes, hash browns, drink \$12
\$ Portion of proceeds to Crohn's Disease Research

DINNER: Friday, 10/16 @ 5-7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION DINNER

games, conversation, movie, & fun
hot dog, chips, cookie, and water \$5

HALLOWEEN: Saturday, 10/31 @ 5-7:00 p.m.

Pizza, drink, tricks & treats!

BREAKFAST: Saturday, 11/14 @ 8-10:30 a.m.

sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,
pancakes, hash browns, drink \$12
\$ Portion of proceeds to Suicide Prevention/Awareness

DINNER: Friday, 11/20 @ 5-7:00 p.m.

chili, chili mac, hot dog, dessert & drink \$12

BREAKFAST with SANTA: Saturday, 12/12 @ 8-10:30 a.m.

pancakes, sausage & drink
Free, donations welcomed

DINNER: No dinner in December

All meals 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

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

**All information for the SEPTEMBER 2026 Newsletter is due AUGUST 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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Did you hear the news?
Read all about it in the Towanda Times NEWSLETTER!

