

# TOWANDA TIMES

## SEPTEMBER 2026

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### MAYOR MINUTE

**“Community is the spirit, the guiding light, whereby people come together to fulfill a purpose, to help others fulfill their purpose, and to take care of one another.” ~Sobonfu Some’**

There have been some inquiries about what to do with the excess brush in yards. You are more than welcome to reach out to me and/or you can reach out to leave a message by calling 309-275-2811 and dial 3 for the maintenance department.

**The village will pick up branches and brush if placed in the front public area, which doesn’t include being placed in the road area.** Feel free to contact us and let us know if there is brush and we will schedule accordingly.

**The village will accept brush at the maintenance shed that residence wish to drop off in a designated area.**

**The village will not go into back or side private yards to pick up debris. The village is here to help and the last thing we want is to ruin the septic system or any other personal items in our attempt to help.**

**The village will not pick up a tree you have removed on your property; removal should be included with your contractor when you negotiate having a tree removed.**

We appreciate residents and the communications – helping us and helping us help you, within the community. Please understand there are processes we must follow and with some circumstances it is time-consuming and although it seems like time stands still, know the process isn’t forgotten. Don’t hesitate to reach out with a reminder to continue the conversation and receive any updates available.

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 have addressed.

Don Williams  
mayor@villageoftowanda.org  
309/275-0435

## **4-H**

The Towanda 4-H club will begin their new 4-H year with a family weiner roast September 20, 2026 at 5:00pm at the Boyd Wesley Park. The club will furnish hotdogs, buns and drinks. Each family is asked to bring their own table service and a dish to share. For more information contact Carrie Green at 309 846-7888 or Jeanie Wager at 309 830-8706.

## **4TH OF JULY**

*Join us for planning our 2027 event!*

Our next meeting is Monday, September 28. The 4th of July meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month at the Community Building @ 6:30 pm. Questions can be directed to: towandajuly4th@gmail.com

## **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 **H**ome and Community Education)

The Towanda **H**ome and Community Education (**HCE**) group will hold their first meeting of the new HCE year on Monday, September 14, 2026, 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The program, on “**Route 66**” will be given by Linda Conder. We are beginning our 109<sup>th</sup> year of education, with a focus on celebrating our 250<sup>th</sup> year as a nation and our 100<sup>th</sup> year of the existence of Route 66 in Towanda Township, county and beyond. Our country of study lesson this month is "Caribbean Islands/Dominican Republic - Food and Holidays." The 2026-2027 community outreach has a new service project: Ministry & More, a local food pantry, located at 1107 West Empire Street in Bloomington. The items we're asking for in September are shampoo, conditioner and body wash/bar soap or other non-perishable items of the donor's choice. These products can be brought to this monthly meeting.

The McLean County HCE September and upcoming programs are open to the public. Call the number to RSVP and for more info about these programs.

- **County HCE Bake Sale Booth:** Downs Village Market, Wednesday, Sept 9, 4-6 p.m. at Dooley Park in Downs. Delicious baked goods prepared by our talented bakers. 309-824-4797
- **Read & Share** - Monday, September 21, 2-3:30 p.m. We will be discussing the book, *The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules* by Catarina Ingelman-Sundberg: meeting at the McLean County Extension Office 1615 Commerce Parkway, Bloomington; LaVonne- 309-825-6558
- **Local Leader Lesson Program:** Sept. 22, meeting at the McLean County Farm Bureau, local leader lesson "The Underground Railroad - Personal Stories" presented by Bill Kemp, Librarian/Archivist at the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington. The public is invited to this free presentation, 309-532-2125
- **International Day - Program of Study** will feature "Puerto Rico," on October 1, 2026 from 11 am - 1:00 pm at the McLean County Farm Bureau Auditorium. Virginia Gobeli will present the program, "Welcome to Puerto Rico." A light lunch of food from Puerto Rico will be served. The public is especially invited to attend this free event. More info: Virginia, 401-451-7387.

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](http://www.mcleanhce.org) or the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 September 17, 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](mailto:towandalegion@gmail.com)

### **~ SEPTEMBER 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

## **TOWANDA BP**

It is that time of year again!

We will be raising money from September 1st until October 31st for St. Jude Children's Research. Be sure to stop by before noon on Halloween to see how this year's costume turns out.

## **TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY**



## **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 100<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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](mailto: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 CLERK**

- Dumpsters are scheduled for October 7th-14th, and will be located at the Village Maintenance Shed on West Washington.
- If your trash and/or recycle bin lid is damaged, please contact the Village Clerk 309/728-2811 or [clerk@villageoftowanda.org](mailto:clerk@villageoftowanda.org)

## **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](mailto: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.

| SEPTEMBER 2026                                            |                                                                                             |                                                       |                                                     |                                              |                                         |                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| SUNDAY                                                    | MONDAY                                                                                      | TUESDAY                                               | WEDNESDAY                                           | THURSDAY                                     | FRIDAY                                  | SATURDAY                                 |
|                                                           |                                                                                             | <b>1</b><br>-Garbage                                  | <b>2</b><br>-Recycle<br>-TFD Officer Meeting 6:30pm | <b>3</b>                                     | <b>4</b>                                | <b>5</b>                                 |
| <b>6</b>                                                  | <b>7</b><br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br>-Farmer's Market 5-7pm                                      | <b>8</b><br>-Garbage<br>-Village Board Meet 7:00pm CB | <b>9</b><br>-TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm             | <b>10</b><br>-Lion's Club @ Fire Dept 6:30pm | <b>11</b>                               | <b>12</b><br>-Legion Breakfast 8-10:30am |
| <b>13</b>                                                 | <b>14</b><br>-HCE @ 6:30 pm CB<br>-Farmer's Market 5-7pm                                    | <b>15</b><br>-Garbage<br>-Water Bills Due             | <b>16</b><br>-Recycle<br>-TFD EMS Train 6:30pm      | <b>17</b><br>-Legion Meet 7:00pm             | <b>18</b><br>-Legion Steak Dinner 5-7pm | <b>19</b>                                |
| <b>20</b><br>-4-H Weiner Roast @ +Boyd Wesley Park 5:00pm | <b>21</b><br>-Farmer's Market 5-7pm                                                         | <b>22</b><br>-Garbage                                 | <b>23</b><br>-TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm            | <b>24</b>                                    | <b>25</b>                               | <b>26</b>                                |
| <b>27</b>                                                 | <b>28</b><br>-TFD Work Night 6:30pm<br>-4th July Meet @ 6:30pm CB<br>-Farmer's Market 5-7pm | <b>29</b><br>-Garbage                                 | <b>30</b><br>-Recycle                               |                                              |                                         |                                          |

**All information for the OCTOBER 2026 Newsletter is due SEPTEMBER 20,  
please send to: [news@villageoftowanda.org](mailto:news@villageoftowanda.org)**

#### **Village Contact Information**

|                                                                                   |                                                                             |                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mayor: Don Williams<br>mayor@villageoftowanda.org<br>309/275-0435                 | Village Clerk: Lula Zimmerman<br>clerk@villageoftowanda.org<br>309/728-2811 | Village Treasurer: Bonnie Smith<br>treasurer@villageoftowanda.org<br>309/728-2811 |
| Community Building: Deb Kinsella<br>calendar@villageoftowanda.org<br>309/275-9857 | Water: Scott Flack<br>water@villageoftowanda.org<br>309/750-0486            | Zoning: Evan Thomas<br>zoning@villageoftowanda.org<br>309/275-0717                |
| Safety/Ordinance: Tammy Pate<br>safety@villageoftowanda.org<br>309/826-8776       | Parks: Janet Collins<br>parks@villageoftowanda.org<br>309/706-3390          | Streets: Gary Smith<br>streets@villageoftowanda.org<br>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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Towanda, IL 61776**

**DO YOU KNOW??**

**\*When are dumpsters? \*What do I do if my garbage can is damaged? \*What activities are happening? \*What does the Funeral Committee do? \*What clubs/committees can I join?  
How can I help my community?**

Read all about it in the Towanda Times NEWSLETTER!

