

TOWANDA TIMES

OCTOBER 2026

MAYOR MINUTE

“Caring for our communities isn’t someone else’s responsibility. Small acts of service, when we work together, can create meaningful change.”

~Dr. Renard Harris

It’s the seasonal time the village is putting out dumpsters for your final year’s disposal of bulk items. We would like to see some good decision making and you can help us to help you during this cleanup process. We are here to help with some of the bulky items, we just need help with discussions and organization.

- Have a conversation, if necessary, instead of just tossing your items all over the area.
- We know they fill up fast, communicating with us before piling over and beyond would help.
- Remember what can and can not be put in the containers, any questions – just ask.
- This cleanup is for the residence of the village and not intended for business cleanup.

The village wants to continue this service we have incorporated, since we know it helps the residents, all we ask is you participate in keeping this a manageable process.

We would like to thank the Towanda Farmer’s Market for this year’s events. They have done a wonderful job in making it a memorable event.

We would also like to thank all of you who have been present and supportive. You are what makes this event successful, and we hope you have enjoyed something new to the community that could become a great addition to our events.

We would like to bring more events to the community and are open to some holiday and/or festive ideas.

WE APPRECIATE YOU.

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 will meet Sunday October 4, 2026 for our first meeting of the 2026-2027 4-H year. We will have an election of officers and will plan our program for the year. 4-H is open to boys and girls 8 to 18 years as of Sept 1, 2026 and Cloverbuds for 5 to 7 years of age as of Sept 1, 2026. For more information contact Jeanie Wager at 309 830-8706.

4TH OF JULY

Join us for planning our 2027 event!

Our next meeting is Monday, October 19 (notice date change). 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

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 Home and Community Education (HCE) group will meet on Monday, October 12, 2026, 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The program, **"The Underground Railroad in McLean County: Personal Stories,"** will be given by Cindy Kelley. Our minor lesson is "Illinois History with Recipes." Service project items for Ministry-N-More food pantry is full-sized single toothpaste/burshes for adults and children. These products can be brought to this monthly meeting. Our International Day program: Welcome to Puerto Rico is Thursday, Oct 1, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the McLean County Farm Bureau Auditorium, [2242 Westgate Dr. Bloomington](#). Questions-[309-824-4797](#).

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

- **Cultural Enrichment Tour of Peoria Riverfront Museum and Lunch at the Blue Duck BBQ Tavern**, Wednesday, October 21, details/RSVP by October 15, Paula, [309-824-0661](#).
- **HCE Attic Treasures Sale**: Friday, Oct 23, 9a-6p and Saturday, Oct 24, 8a-1p, McLean County Fairgrounds, Mini Expo Building, 1106 Interstate Center DR, Bloomington. Sale items: Fall, Christmas, household items, books, small furniture, linens, dishes, jewelry, knick knacks, baskets, wall décor, toys,

small appliances, crafts and so much more. We don't have clothing but we do have purses, hats, scarves. You may donate items to the sale and bring on Thursday, Oct 22, 9a-3p. Questions: [309-829-2537](tel:309-829-2537)

- **Local Leader Lesson Program:** Oct. 27, "History of the Flag," presented by Mark Young, LeRoy American Legion. The public is invited to this free presentation, [309-532-2125](tel:309-532-2125)

There are 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](tel: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 October 15, 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

~ OCTOBER MENU ~

BREAKFAST: Saturday, October 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, October 16 @ 5-7:00 p.m.

Customer Appreciation Dinner

cheeseburger OR hot dog, chips, cookie & water \$5

\$ Portion of the proceeds to Special Events for the Village of Towanda

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

October is packed with fun at **Towanda District Library**! Join us for weekly themed Storytimes, including pigeons, fall favorites, library love, and Halloween fun. Adults can get creative with **Pumpkin Painting** on October 6, homeschool families can learn about **composting** on October 19, and our special **Build a Buddy** program returns on October 27—registration required! We'll wrap up the month with a **Drop-In Halloween Party** on October 31 from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM. There's something for everyone this October, so mark your calendars and celebrate the season with us at the library!



OCTOBER AT THE LIBRARY!

Monday 10/12- Library Closed ◆ 10/19- Homeschool Event- Composting! 2:00 pm	Tuesday 10/06- Adult Craft- Painting Pumpkins! 5:30 pm ◆ 10/27- Build a Buddy- SIGN UP ONLY 5:30 pm	Wednesday Storytimes @ 10:30 am! ◆ 10/07-Don't Let the Pigeon! 10/14- Fall! 10/21- We Love the Library! 10/28- Halloween!
Friday Storytimes @ 10:30 am! ◆ 10/02- Berenstain Bears! 10/09-Don't Let the Pigeon! 10/16- Fall! 10/23- We Love the Library! 10/30- Halloween!	Saturday 10/31- Drop in Halloween Party! 10am-2pm	

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LIBRARY PROGRAMS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
WWW.TOWANDALIBRARY.ORG**

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.

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 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

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.***

Dog Waste: Please pick up dog waste! There are receptacles that the Village of Towanda has provided. This includes along Route 66 pathway. Thank you!

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.

OCTOBER 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 -St. Jude Fundraiser @ BP 8am-4pm
4 -4-H @ 2:00pm CB	5 -Village Board Meet @ 7:00 CB	6 -Garbage	7 -TFD Officer Meeting 6:30pm -Dumpsters	8 -Lion's Club @ Fire Dept 6:30pm -Dumpsters	9 -Dumpsters	10 -Legion Breakfast 8-10:30am -Dumpsters
11 -Dumpsters	12 -HCE @ 6:30 pm CB -Dumpsters	13 -Garbage -Dumpsters	14 -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm -Dumpsters	15 -Water Bills Due -Legion Meet 7:00pm	16 -Legion Customer Appreciation Dinner 5-7pm hot dog or burger	17
18	19 -4th July Meet @ 6:30pm CB (date change for October)	20 -Garbage	21 -TFD EMS Train 6:30pm	22	23	24
25	26 -TFD Work Night 6:30pm	27 -Garbage	28 -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN -Trick-or-Treat 5-8pm -Legion 5-8pm Halloween

**All information for the NOVEMBER 2026 Newsletter is due OCTOBER 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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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!

