


TOWANDA TIMES

APRIL 2025

MAYOR MINUTE

Everybody needs a safe place, and it should be their home. ~ Debbie Rowe

It's that time of year again, we will be going out and working on scheduled projects and most of you will be doing the same. As you accomplish everything you desire, acknowledge others in the community doing the same.

 Did you know that Illinois ranked third in the nation for the most tornadoes in 2024? With tornado season in full swing, preparedness is key to keeping you and your family safe.

✓ Know the Signs:


- Dark, greenish skies
- Large hail
- Loud, roaring noise (like a freight train)
- Sudden drop in temperature and wind direction changes

✓ Have a Safety Plan

- Identify a safe shelter: A basement or interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows.
- Prepare an emergency kit with essentials like water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, first-aid supplies, and important documents.
- Stay informed: Monitor weather alerts via NOAA weather radio, TV, or smartphone apps.

Take Immediate Action

- If a Tornado Warning is issued, seek shelter immediately.
- Avoid vehicles and mobile homes – if caught outside, lie flat in a low-lying area covering your head.
- After the storm, stay away from downed power lines! Check on neighbors and report any hazards including downed trees and blocked roads.

With the "warmest" February on record, Illinois has already seen a high number of tornadoes this year, making it more important than ever to stay alert and prepared! 

For more tornado safety tips, visit National Weather Service (NWS) www.weather.gov

Speaking of outdoor events, this month is the Red-Carpet Corridor, being held May 3rd – 4th. Each community has a giveaway representing their community. This year's giveaway will be coasters. Please get yourself a flyer (grab one for a friend) from the Community Building, Library, Post Office, Legion, BP, or Kicks to get information for the complete event.

As always and if you have questions or concerns within the community... Feel free to contact me personally or attend a Board Meeting for any questions you would like addressed.

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

4-H

The Towanda 4H club will meet on Tuesday, April 1st at 5:30 pm at the Towanda American Legion building. There will be talks and demonstrations. Pizza will be served for dinner.

4H members need to be enrolled in fair projects by April 15th to be eligible to show at the county fair.

For more information contact Carrie Vogel [309-825-6248](tel:309-825-6248) or Jeanie Wager [309-728-2852](tel:309-728-2852)

FUNERAL COMMITTEE

The Funeral Committee hosts after-funeral gatherings for our Village residents. Please let us know if we can be of help. Also, we are looking for volunteers for our “call list” for food donations. Contact Tammy Pate call/text (309) 826-8776 or Janet Collins (309) 706-3390. Help us keep this tradition going for our residents!

HCE

(Towanda Home and Community Education)

Towanda Home & Community Education group will meet on **Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at the Towanda Community Building. The program, “The Color Purple (color between red and blue),” will be presented by Linda Conder. The minor lesson is the People & Demographics of South Africa. The **HCE** Community Service project for the Humane Society for April is 80 gallon or larger garbage bags that you may bring to the meeting. For more information about the April meeting, contact Cindy, 309-824-4797.

HCE is hoping you’ll shop at Fannie May Candy Shop at the Shoppes of College Hills, on **Friday, April 4, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.** when **HCE** members will be manning an information table and giving you details about how your purchase will benefit **HCE** at no cost to the customer. We encourage you to purchase for Easter and all your special events to benefit our organization.

The April **HCE** Cultural Enrichment day will be a day trip on **Thursday, April 10** to Fairbury for shopping and eating out at Lost in Time Restaurant at **11a.m.** Contact Candace Thedens, 309-824-2346 for more information or to RSVP. Shopping and carpooling is on your own.

The **HCE** Community Service group will meet on **Tuesday, April 15, 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** at the Farm Bureau auditorium, 2242 Westgate Dr, Bloomington. The April project will be making adult clothing protectors (bibs). Sewers and non-sewers are welcome. We need many people to complete the numerous worthwhile projects we work on. For more information, contact Betty, 309-531-2183.

Contact Cindy, 309-824-4797 with any questions or more information about **HCE** and our many educational and community service activities.

NIXLE

Do you want quick notification of boil orders or other important Village alerts? Sign up for Nixle and receive texts and/or emails. Call the Clerk’s office at (309) 728-2811.

OLD RUGGED BARN

Next market is SPRING FLING ITS A MOM THING.

MAY 10 and possibly pre-sale May 9 early evening.

— Marianne Minnis is back! She offers Painting Parties and manages the markets.

— March Open House to share upgrades progress.

— Pet Adoptions and some Easter fun for kids in April.

— Reserve your graduation parties and end of school year events now!

— Grain Bin transformation soon!!

TOWANDA 4TH OF JULY

We are looking for vendors for our annual 4th of July celebration on July 4, 2025.
email: towandajuly4th@gmail.com

TOWANDA AMERICAN LEGION

Thank you to those that support us, greatly appreciated!
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.

RENTALS: The legion is a great place to rent for your events!
Text Sharon Engel 309/531-8898 or Email us: towandalegion@gmail.com

NEXT EVENT: Saturday, 4/5/25 @ 8-11 a.m.
sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, pancakes, hash browns, and drink \$9

RED CARPET CORRIDOR: Join us Saturday & Sunday (May 3-4) for Red Carpet Corridor weekend for our events at the Legion! We will be joining the Towanda Garage Sales and having a sale of our own! Items include clothing for the whole family (various sizes), household goods, furniture, electronics, and various odds 'n ends. ALL proceeds will go to the Legion for maintenance and updates to our building. Also, we will be serving some of our delicious food and have baked goods.

TOWANDA AMERICAN LEGION

~ SPRING/SUMMER 2025 MENU ~

BREAKFAST: Saturday, 4/5/25 @ 8-11 a.m.
sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,
pancakes, hash browns, and drink \$9

DINNER: Friday, 4/11/25 @ 5-7:00 p.m.
fish, french fries, baked beans, dessert,
and drink \$12
kids: hot dog, french fries, dessert & drink \$5

BREAKFAST: Saturday, 5/10/25 @ 8-11 a.m.
sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,
pancakes, hash browns, drink \$9
**PROCEEDS WILL GO TO SUSAN G. KOMEN
BREAST CANCER**

DINNER: Friday, 5/23/25 @ 5-7:00 p.m.
pork chop, french fries, pasta salad, roll, dessert
& drink \$10
kids: hot dog, french fries, dessert & drink \$5

BREAKFAST: Saturday, 6/7/25 @ 8-11 a.m.
sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,
pancakes, hash browns, and drink \$9
PROCEEDS WILL GO TO PARKINSON'S

DINNER: Friday, 6/13/25 @ 5-7:00 p.m.
steak, salad, baked potato, green beans, roll,
dessert, and drink \$18 or 2/\$30
kids: hot dog, chips, dessert & drink \$5
BREAKFAST: Saturday, 7/12/25 @ 8-11 a.m.
sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,
pancakes, hash browns, drink \$9

DINNER: Friday, 7/18/25 @ 5-7:00 p.m.

burger OR (2) brats, french fries, baked beans, dessert,
and drink \$9

additional patty or brat \$2 each

kids: hot dog, french fries, dessert & drink \$5

BREAKFAST: Saturday, 8/2/25 @ 8-11 a.m.

sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,
pancakes, hash browns, drink \$9

DINNER: Friday, 8/22/25 @ 5-7:00 p.m.

pork chop, french fries, baked beans, roll, dessert
& drink \$10

kids: hot dog, french fries, dessert & drink \$5

All meals subject to change without notice. Carry out available.

TOWANDA AREA GARAGE SALES

SPRING GARAGE SALES – will be held in conjunction with the Red Carpet Corridor event weekend. Please let me know your plans to have a sale to be held anytime between Thursday, May 1 and Sunday, May 4. Email rgbriggs@frontiernet.net ~ Text (309) 824-1649 ~ USPS Gail Ann Briggs, 112 Hunt Street, Towanda.

The following requested information is due not later than April 23 to be included on the flyer:

1) sale location on a map ~ **2)** days and times of your sale ~ **3)** list of items (include as much as you like, in priority order, and as much as possible will be included on the flyer). Thank you!

The communities in the section of Route 66 between Joliet and Bloomington will be sharing publicity in the Red Carpet Corridor communications, and we expect this will bring lots of shoppers to Towanda sales.

TOWANDA ROUTE 66 PARKWAY

Please consider purchasing a t-shirt or sweatshirt to support our Route 66 Parkway. Short and long sleeve t-shirts are available in an assortment of colors and can be viewed and purchased at Rayburn Place located at 305 Pine Street in Normal located along Old Route 66. All proceeds go towards the maintenance of our beautiful Parkway. Contact Fred Walk at fwalk@frontiernet.net for additional information about the shirts and for donating to the Parkway.

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 LION'S CLUB

Towanda Lion's Club sponsors the Caring Cupboard which is located at the rear of the Community Building just south of the parking lot. This is a self-serve cupboard open 24 hours a day providing non-perishable foods, personal care products, and paper products for anyone in need. NO GLASS ITEMS PLEASE. You can leave items or take what you need. However, please do not leave any items outside of the cupboard. Take a blessing when you need one, give a blessing when you can, but above all be blessed.

Please consider joining our club! We are looking for new ideas, younger members, and forming new friendships. Contact Bob Hancock at (309) 282-1801 or email oldcars@frontiernet.net

TOWANDA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Spring is in full bloom at Towanda District Library, and we have a month packed with exciting events for all ages! Bring

the kids to our weekly **Storytime** sessions every Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 AM, featuring fun themes like *Rain Makes Flowers*, *Earth Day*, and *Hello Moon!* Adults can enjoy creative and educational evenings, including **Make Your Own Bath Salts** (April 1st at 5:30 PM) and **Unraveling the Mysteries of Facebook Marketplace** (April 22nd at 5:30 PM). Book lovers, don't miss our **Book Club Meeting** on April 15th! Looking for family fun? Join us for an **Easter Egg Hunt** on April 12th at 11:00 AM and a **Rock Painting Party** on April 26th at 11:00 AM! Stop by, get involved, and make the most of this spring season!

APRIL 2025 Towanda District Library APRIL 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 14th at 2:00 pm Mysteries of India Homeschool Event OPEN 10-4	April 1st at 5:30 pm Make your own bath salts Adult Craft Night April 8th at 2:30 pm Lego Club April 15th at 5:30 pm Book Club Meeting April 22nd at 5:30 pm Unravelling the Mysteries of Facebook Marketplace OPEN 1-7	April 2nd at 10:30 am Birds Storytime April 9th at 10:30 am Rain Makes Flowers Storytime April 16th at 10:30 am Jump up! Storytime April 23rd at 10:30 am Earth Day Storytime April 30th at 10:30 am Hello Moon! Storytime OPEN 10-4	OPEN 1-7	April 4th at 10:30 am Birds Storytime April 11th at 10:30 am Rain Makes Flowers Storytime April 18th at 10:30 am Jump up! Storytime April 25th at 10:30 am Earth Day Storytime May 2nd at 10:30 am Hello Moon! Storytime OPEN 10-4	April 12th at 11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt! April 26th at 11:00 am Rock Painting Party! OPEN 10-2



VILLAGE OF TOWANDA WATER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The annual water report is posted on the Village Bulletin Board.

VILLAGE OF TOWANDA WATER/GARBAGE

We have a new billing system this month. You will be unable to pay your bills online this month for the due date of April 15, 2025. Please pay by check, cash, or money order. The new payment system address will be on the billing statement. For the new payment system, you will have to create a new login and password. If there are any questions, you can call the clerk's office at 309-728-2811 option 1.

If you would like your water/garbage bill via email, please send the Clerk your email address clerk@villageoftowanda.org. You can also pay online, there is a \$1.75 processing fee or 2%.

Just a friendly reminder, water rates will go up with the May Read Date and June 15th Due Date.

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.

APRIL 2025

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

**All information for the MAY 2025 Newsletter is due APRIL 20, please send to:
news@villageoftowanda.org**

Village Contact Information

Acting 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: Don Williams zoning@villageoftowanda.org 309/275-0435
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

DUMPSTERS WILL BE HERE APRIL 9 - 16