

# TOWANDA TIMES

## July 2025

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### MAYOR MINUTE

**Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.**  
~Mattie Stepanek

McLean County has revamped the old Show Bus and created a program for McLean County surrounding areas that is just friendly.

### CONNECT GO

This program is for any family. This service is demand responsive, where you can schedule the day before or 3 days in advance, dependent on your needs. You can travel yourself for an appointment, see a friend in another community, or group up and go to that event you've been wanting to attend.

I have attached their flyer for you to have handy and reference.  
Have fun , get things done and spend time with those that make you happy.

Reminder:

"The Village will be hosting with the McLean County Health Department's Mobile Health Clinic a scheduled stop in the community at the Towanda Community Building **Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> – 10:AM to 2:00 PM.**

They will be offering FREE A1C checks, Blood Pressure Screenings, and BMI Assessments. Time permitting, they will also offer Car Seat Safety Checks.

With the next couple months and the extensive heat. It's a great feeling to be out and get the things done you have been wanting to do, just please be safe and check on one another.

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<sup>th</sup> JULY**

**The 4th is just a few days away!**  
**It's NOT too late to join the fun in the Parade.**

**"Let Freedom Ring"** is the 2025 Parade Theme!

On-Site Registration will be from 9-9:45 am at the Grade School on the 4th!

There is a registration form and waiver for all participants to complete.

There is no charge to participate in the Parade, but donations are appreciated!

If you have any questions, PLEASE contact Virginia Lowery at 309 825-6341 or [vlowery1@hotmail.com](mailto:vlowery1@hotmail.com), or any of the July 4<sup>th</sup> Committee members.

### **The FUN begins on July 3rd~**

Don't forget the **HCE Spaghetti Dinner** on Thursday evening from 4:30 - 6:30 pm at the Community Building. Questions can be directed to Cindy Kelly at 309 824-4797 or [ckek71@frontier.com](mailto:ckek71@frontier.com).

Get your **KICKS on Route 66** - Dance under the stars with **Sweetwater** on the bandstand at Kicks! Kitchen and bar are OPEN and no cover charge!

Fireworks will begin as soon as it's DARK enough! The Fireworks are FREE but donations are strongly encouraged! Please consider helping with the expense of the fireworks! Donations can be made with VEMO and also the CASH APP. There are flyers with the QR Codes at the Post Office, Kicks and BP. **Checks can also be mailed to "Towanda Township - Fireworks Fund," P.O. Box 61, Towanda, IL 61776.**

There will be concessions at the Grade School prior to the Fireworks on the 3rd, as well as all day on the 4<sup>th</sup> in the North Park and Community Building.

The **Flea Market** opens early on the 4th, there are booths available if you would like to rent a booth space. Tammy Pate is handling the Flea Market this year. Questions can be directed to 309 826-8776 or [towandajuly4th@gmail.com](mailto:towandajuly4th@gmail.com).

The **Parade** steps off from the Grade School at 10 am on the 4th~ Bring a bag, there's always lots of candy!

**Gregg Egbers is the 2025 Parade Marshall, Jeanie Wager with the Towanda 4th Club will be featured Spotlight this year!** Jeanie has served as a 4-H leader for over 50 years! Come Share the Fun and participate in their float. Contact Jeanie Wager 309 728-2852!

Grand Marshal's Float entries **must be pre-registered!** Judging is at 9:30 am in front of the Grade School.

**UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU!** We will be honoring our local veterans again this year. Please contact Virginia Lowery to reserve a seat on the tram, or volunteer to carry one of the **50 FLags!** 309 825-6341.

**Come Share the Fun and Let Freedom Ring in Towanda!**

## **4-H**

### **DUNCAN MANOR**

Celebrate your holiday by joining us for a self-guided tour through the mansion on July 4th. Immerse yourself in Duncan Manor's past and present! Each tour will give you a glimpse into the life and history of the mansion. Enjoy music, wine, and local vendors as you explore the grounds and our new (under construction) event center, The Meadows.

Feel free to pre-purchase your ticket to add your name to the guest list, or just walk up and pay at the door. Tours will go continuously from 12-4pm on July 4th. Reserve your tour via our website: [www.duncanmanorhouse.com](http://www.duncanmanorhouse.com)

### **FUNERAL COMMITTEE**

The Funeral Committee hosts after-funeral gatherings for our Village residents. Please let us know if we can be of help. Thank you to all those on the call list that continue to support this tradition. 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.

## **HCE**

(Towanda Home and Community Education)

Towanda HCE invites you to attend the July 3 spectacular Spaghetti Supper, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. We will have Avanti spaghetti, bread and salad, and also homemade drinks and desserts. Tickets are at the door: Adults/ \$10; Child/\$5 (2-7 yrs) and under 2 years are free. Remember to stay and watch the fireworks later that evening when dark. There is good viewing from the Towanda Elementary School playground. Don't miss out.

On Tuesday, June 10, eleven members and 1 guest of the Towanda HCE group went to Peoria Heights for their June Outing. It was a great day.

First on the agenda was a two hour tour of Trefzgers Bakery guided by owner, Jeff Huebner. We followed the tour with lunch at The Hearth Restaurant, Peoria Heights where we also enjoyed sampling a selection of Thumbprint Cookies from Trefzgers. Then we traveled to Peoria for a tour of Leaves 'n Beans, where several bought some freshly ground teas and coffees.

Pictured below at Trefzgers are L-R: Jeff Huebner, Linda Conder, Clara Lehan, Jennifer Miller, Jeanie Wager, Bev Hornickel, Joyce Schneider, Cindy Kelley, Pat Pulokas, Colleen Harris, Ruth Stewart, Kathleen Emery, Sandy Whalen.

Picture 2, Jeanie Wager and Cindy Kelley show our dessert of the thumbprint cookies at The Hearth Restaurant



## **OLD RUGGED BARN**

Our community is so blessed to have such fabulous festivities to celebrate 4th of July! Fireworks on July 3 continue to amaze. Old Rugged Barn donated to the fireworks fund and will continue to chip in a portion of proceeds from our 2025 events.

Events we are working on for summer and fall. Dates to be determined.

— ADOPTABLE PETS AND FRIENDS.

Some adoptable, some to entertain and cuddle.

Let's find homes for lots of Sweeties!!

— WEDDING EXPO. Booths with anything one Might want/need for A wedding. New or experienced! If interested in a booth, contact Old Rugged Barn 309-830-5358.

— FARMER MARKETS. with the above or on their own.

— ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKET.

Dec 6 from 10-3. Booth?? Last year we had 53. Sign up now!!!

## **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

### **~ SPRING/SUMMER 2025 MENU ~**

**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.**

**207 Hely Street, Towanda**

## **TOWANDA HISTORICAL WALKWAY**

Troop #56 is proud to add three new bricks to the Walkway in honor of William (2021), Emerson (2023) and Oliver (2025) Weber for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Their father, Dan Weber will be installing the Eagle Bricks soon. In addition to these three bricks, the **Paul & Pat Pulokas Family** brick will be installed as well as a brick **"In Memory of Our Scouting Friend, Bill Keefe."**

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](mailto:vlowery1@hotmail.com). The bricks are \$50 each with up to three lines of print, 16 spaces per line. Feel free to call or email me with any questions.

Next year will be 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 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](mailto: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**

The Towanda Lions Club members and spouses celebrated the club's 50th anniversary with a dinner held on May 31st at the Towanda Community Building. Lions District 1BK Governor Tom Drez also attended and congratulated the club members for reaching this milestone. Steve Shipley was recognized for being a charter member and for his continuous membership for the entire 50 years. Steve distributed hand-outs he had created from the Pantagraph archives containing articles about the Towanda Lions Club. Jerry Bersche was also recognized as being a charter member and current member.

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.

Caring Cupboard is in need of donations. This is the time of the year where some families need just a little extra help with food and necessities.

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](mailto:oldcars@frontiernet.net)

## TOWANDA PUBLIC LIBRARY

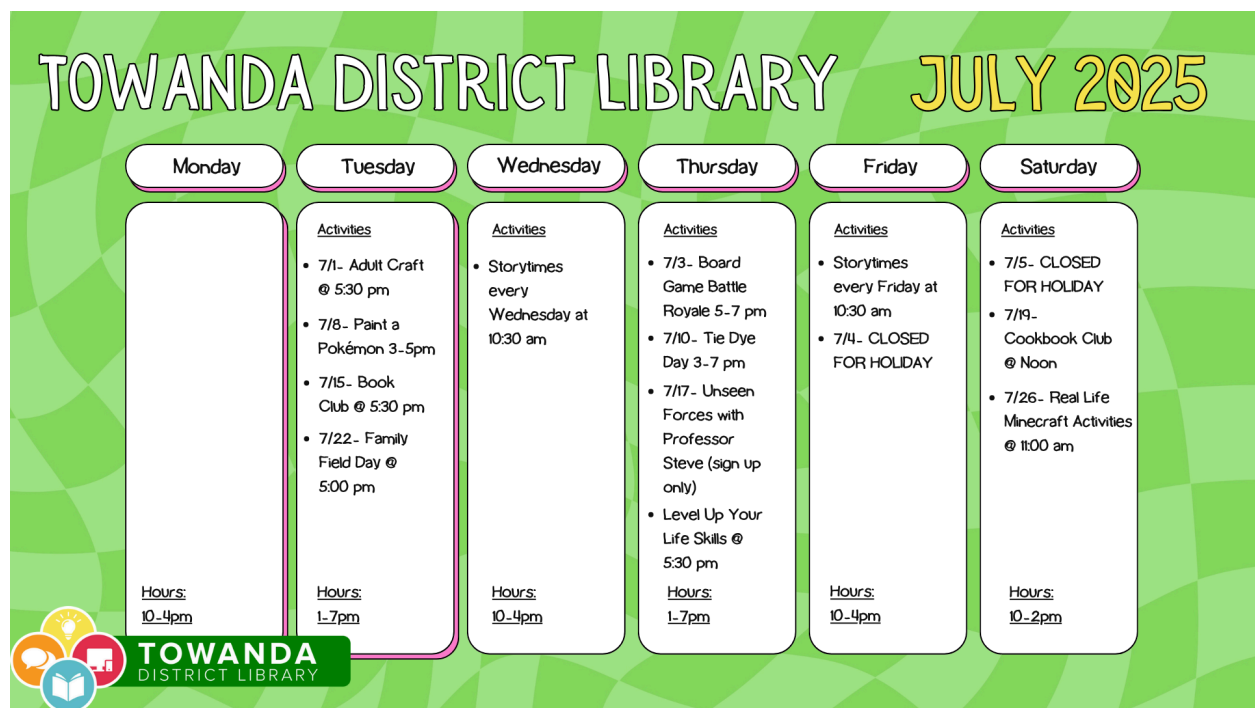
Summer is heating up here at the Towanda District Library!

Our July calendar is packed with activities for all ages! From **crafting and book clubs** to **Pokémon painting, Board Game Battles**, and **Real Life Minecraft Adventures**, there's something exciting happening nearly every day of the week. Join us for weekly **Storytimes on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30 am**, and don't miss special events like **Tie Dye Day (7/10)**, **Family Field Day (7/22)**, and **Unseen Forces with Professor Steve (7/17-registration required)**!

**Please note:** The library will be closed on **July 4th and 5th** in observance of the holiday.

View full hours and event times on the calendar or visit us at the library for more details.

Let's keep leveling up summer together!



The graphic is a calendar for the Towanda District Library for July 2025. It features a green background with a geometric pattern. At the top, the text "TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY" is in white, and "JULY 2025" is in yellow. Below this, there are six columns representing the days of the week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Each column has a header with the day name and a box for activities. The activities are listed for each day, including storytimes, tie dye day, family field day, and various clubs. Hours of operation are listed at the bottom of each column. A logo for the Towanda District Library is in the bottom left corner.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>7/1- Adult Craft @ 5:30 pm</li><li>7/8- Paint a Pokémon 3-5pm</li><li>7/15- Book Club @ 5:30 pm</li><li>7/22- Family Field Day @ 5:00 pm</li></ul>	<b>Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Storytimes every Wednesday at 10:30 am</li></ul>	<b>Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>7/3- Board Game Battle Royale 5-7 pm</li><li>7/10- Tie Dye Day 3-7 pm</li><li>7/17- Unseen Forces with Professor Steve (sign up only)</li><li>Level Up Your Life Skills @ 5:30 pm</li></ul>	<b>Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Storytimes every Friday at 10:30 am</li><li>7/4- CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY</li></ul>	<b>Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>7/5- CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY</li><li>7/19- Cookbook Club @ Noon</li><li>7/26- Real Life Minecraft Activities @ 11:00 am</li></ul>
<b>Hours:</b> 10-4pm	<b>Hours:</b> 1-7pm	<b>Hours:</b> 10-4pm	<b>Hours:</b> 1-7pm	<b>Hours:</b> 10-4pm	<b>Hours:</b> 10-2pm

## TOWANDA TOWNSHIP

### **Towanda 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY Fireworks Fundraiser**

Donations are needed and welcome, all sizes and shapes!

Checks should be made out to the **Towanda Township Fireworks Fund**.

All donations are deductible; both the Village and the Township are not-for-profits.

- Township Supervisor, Mark Kraft, is in charge of ordering the fireworks.
- The Township has a special account for the Fireworks.
- The Township pays 1/3, The Village pays a third, and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration Committee pays a third.
- As costs continue to RISE, financial help is desperately needed!!!!

### Ways to donate:

Mail

- Personal checks
- Checks directly from your RMD - the Fireworks Fund qualifies as a QCD (Qualified Contribution Deduction)

To

- **Towanda Township Fireworks Fund**
- **P.O. Box 61**
- **Towanda, IL 61776**

Or...drop off your contribution in the donation jar at the BP station.

**THANK YOU for your generous support!!**  
**Watch the fireworks display on Thursday, July 3**

**VILLAGE OF TOWANDA CLERK**

**VILLAGE OF TOWANDA SAFETY**

The Village of Towanda Golf Cart & Utility Vehicle Ordinance *requires* registration.

Please email: [safety@villageoftowanda.org](mailto:safety@villageoftowanda.org) with questions or to set-up an appointment.

You will need:

- golf cart/utility vehicle (needed for inspection)
- driver's license
- current insurance info

Fees:

\$25 one-time application fee (not needed if you paid last year)

\$50 yearly permit fee per vehicle

**VILLAGE OF TOWANDA WATER CONFIDENCE REPORT**

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

**VILLAGE OF TOWANDA WATER/GARBAGE**

You will have to create a new login and password to pay online for the new system. 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 at: [clerk@villageoftowanda.org](mailto: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.

JULY 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> -Garbage -4-H 5:30pm CB	<b>2</b> -TFD Officer Meeting 6:30pm	<b>3</b> <b>FIREWORKS</b>	<b>4</b> <b>JULY 4th</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> -Towanda Board Meet 7:00pm CB	<b>8</b> -Garbage	<b>9</b> -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> -Legion Breakfast 8-11am
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> -Towanda HCE 6:30pm CB	<b>15</b> -Garbage -Water Bills Due	<b>16</b> -TFD EMS Train 6:30 pm	<b>17</b> -Legion Meet 7:00pm	<b>18</b> -Legion Dinner burgers/brats 5-7pm	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> -TFD Work Night 6:30pm -4th July 6:30pm CB	<b>22</b> -Garbage	<b>23</b> -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> -Garbage	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

**All information for the AUGUST 2025 Newsletter is due JULY 20, please send to:**  
**[news@villageoftowanda.org](mailto: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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**~ “Let Freedom Ring” ~  
Towanda 4th of July Celebration  
July 3 & 4, 2025**