

TOWANDA TIMES

JULY 2026

MAYOR MINUTE

“Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch for the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow.”~Leon Brown

TO EVERYONE WHO MAKES OUR COMMUNITY SO SPECIAL; YOUR TIME ENERGY, AND DEDICATION DO NOT GO UNNOTICED. THANK YOU

May and June were exciting months with all the activities and events going on and we are looking forward to seeing the Excellent work the committee is doing for the 4th of July in bringing back some tradition and keeping the long going festivities alive!

In helping keep the village looking amazing, I'm unsure if some know there is a way to have bulk items picked up. Some may have noticed the traditional garbage pickup is only the supplied cans which came with the contract. We do have one dumpster time in our contract, and the village pays for another within the year currently. However, any resident can call and/or email Republic to give them your name and address and they will schedule a pickup of the bulky items. Pleasenote, this will be billed to the residents above and beyond the village contract, yet the service is available per resident

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 Club will meet Tuesday July 21, 26 at 6:00 at the Towanda Community Building. We will have a Show and Tell of the 4-Hers projects they are taking to the county fair. Any questions about the fair will be answered, If you have any questions contact Jeanie Wager at 309 830-8706 or Carrie Green at 309 846-7888.

4TH OF JULY

Questions can be directed to: towandajuly4th@gmail.com

~2026 Towanda 4th of July TWO DAY EVENT!~ July 3 & 4
(see the inserts for more information)

DUNCAN MANOR

Duncan Manor Summer Socials

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.

Independence Day Celebration at Duncan Manor – July 4

Bring your out-of-town guests, family, and friends to Duncan Manor this Independence Day. We will be open on Friday, July 4, from 12:00–3:00 PM for a special holiday open house at the historic estate.

Guests are invited to enjoy self-guided tours of the 160-year-old manor, relax with a drink from the bar, and grab a sweet treat from The Cannoli Slinger food truck. Stroll the grounds, explore the history of this Route 66 landmark, and experience one of Towanda's most beloved historic properties.

Whether you're welcoming visitors for the holiday weekend or looking for something unique to do after the parade and festivities, Duncan Manor is the perfect place to spend part of your Fourth of July.

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 HCE is again hosting the July 3rd Spaghetti Supper, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. There is spaghetti, bread and salad by Avanti's and homemade desserts and drinks. Tickets are available at the door for \$11 for adults, \$6 for children ages 2-7, and free for children under age 2. Carry Out is available. If any questions, 309-824-4797. This is Towanda HCE's one money making event of the year. Come out to visit with your neighbors and friends and enjoy good food.

McLean County HCE is again organizing the Young at Heart Day at the McLean County 4-H Fair & Show, on Thursday, July 30, 8:30-11:30. This free event will also give those 60 & over free admission and parking at the fair grounds. Come with your dancing shoes as the entertainment will be Terry Lee Ridley and his high energy, honky tonkin, rock 'n roll music. There will also be free golf cart rides around the fairgrounds. Come see the educational booths of organizations serving seniors, refreshments and door prizes throughout the morning. This is just plain fun and FREE! Questions- 309-824-4797.

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 July 16, 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

~ JULY MENU ~

BREAKFAST: SUNDAY, 7/5/26 @ 8-10:30 a.m

(NOTE: day change)

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

DINNER: Friday, 7/17/26 @ 5-7:00 p.m.

cheeseburger (hamburger), fries, pasta salad,
dessert & drink \$14

OR

horseshoe dinner: texas toast, hamburger, and fries covered
in cheese sauce, dessert, and drink \$14

*side of cheese sauce \$1

TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY

July at Towanda District Library

Summer Reading continues through July with more fun for kids, families, and adults! This month's "Plant a Seed, Read!" events include special storytimes, crafts, and family programs as we make our way through the final weeks of Summer Reading.

Join us for weekly children's storytimes, including **4th of July Storytime, Growing Greens, Ice Cream, and All About Cows**. Families can also enjoy hands-on events like **Paint a Farm Animal, Native Bees with the Central Illinois Bee Association, Paint & Plant, Steel Appeal Drumming**, and more. Tie dye is now scheduled for the 21st at 5:00 (weather permitting).

Adults can join us for **Wooden Coasters Adult Craft** on July 7 and both of our book clubs on July 30.

Please remember that some events are **sign-up only**, so visit our website to reserve your spot. Summer Reading prize entries are due throughout the month, with final entries due by the end of July. We can't wait to see you at the library!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

JULY 3RD & 4TH

- BOOKSALE AT THE TOWANDA 4TH OF JULY FLEA MARKET

JULY 7TH [AT] 5:30 PM

-ADULT CRAFT- DECORATE WOODEN COASTERS

JULY 11TH [AT] 11:00 AM

-BUILD A BUDDY (SIGN UP ONLY)

JULY 15TH [AT] 11:00 AM

-HOO HAVEN WILDLIFE RESCUE PRESENTS "BIRD OF PREY!" (SIGN UP ONLY)

JULY 28TH [AT] 4:00 PM

-STEEL APPEAL DRUMMING! (SIGN UP ONLY)

**FOR OUR FULL LIST OF EVENTS PLEASE VISIT
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 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

All children between the ages 3-12 are invited to the upcoming Vacation Bible School at the First Baptist Church in Towanda.

Dates: July 19-23. Sunday-Thursday

Time: 3:30-5:30 pm

July 24 there will be a program at 6 pm for parents, grandparents, etc. of the children who attended.

ALL ARE WELCOME! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

To register call: Sally 309/333-9056 or Sandy 309/445-7160

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

Please consider joining our club. We meet the second Thursday of each month @ 6:30 at the Towanda Fire Department. Contact Bob Hancock at (309) 282-1801 or email oldcars@frontiernet.net

Towanda Lions Caring Cupboard

Thanks to all who help keep the cupboard stocked. It's definitely being used.

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.

JULY 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 -TFD Officer Meeting 6:30pm	2	3 -HCE Spaghetti Supper @ CB 4:30-6:30pm -Fireworks @ school (see insert for more events)	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY! Parade @ 10am (see insert for more events)
5 -Legion Breakfast 8-10:30am	6 -Towanda Board Meet 7:00pm CB	7 -Garbage	8 -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	9 -Lion's Club @ Fire Dept 6:30pm	10	11
12	13	14 -Garbage	15 -Water Bills Due -TFD EMS Train 6:30pm	16 -Legion Meet 7:00pm	17 Legion Cheeseburger or Horseshoe Dinner 5-7pm	18
19	20	21 -Garbage -4-H 6pm @ CB	22 -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting @ 6:30pm	23	24	25
26	27 -TFD Work Night 6:30pm -4th July Meet 6:30pm @CB	28 -Garbage	29	30		

All information for the AUGUST 2026 Newsletter is due JULY 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

**TOWANDA HCE
SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

**Friday, JULY 3rd
4:30 TO 6:30 P.M.**

TOWANDA COMMUNITY BUILDING

At Door Ticket Prices:

ADULTS/\$11.00

2-7 yr. CHILD/\$6.00

Under 2 yr - FREE

Spaghetti, bread & Salad by Avanti's
Homemade Desserts & Drinks
CARRY OUT AVAILABLE

Sponsored by:
**Towanda Home & Community Education
(Home Extension)**

Questions: **309-824-4797**



**Shop at the Towanda Flea Market
Towanda Fireworks when Dark**

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!