TOWANDA TIMES
DECEMBER 2026

MAYOR MINUTE

“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.” — Phil Jackson

As hard as it is to believe it’s almost the end of this year already… it is also already time to prepare for next year’s business, events, and activity planning.

I am going to attempt to get with some of the committees and see how we can work together on next year’s successes. If any of you, as you are all a part of this community, would like to join or help any of the upcoming items please reach out and let me know.

On another note, I would also like to reach out to our village businesses. We will be starting a list to recognize and let residents know what we have within our business areas locally.

There are some businesses that have been here for quite a while and some businesses that are newer to the community also. Speaking of new businesses… **WELCOME –**

Now Open! Galactic Empire CrossFit 204 W. Jackson Street,
Behind the Towanda Fire & Rescue building.

They offer CrossFit classes, Ignite classes (HIIT workout style), and open gym with a focus on weightlifting, powerlifting, strongman, and body building.

Everyone and anyone at any fitness level is welcome! Check out the business hours on their website (galaticempirecrossfit.com).

Special offer of three free classes to potential new members! Welcome to the Dark Side!

12/5/2026 at 4:00pm Come enjoy FriendsGivingMas at Galactic Empire CrossFit

Meat will be provided from Annie’s Eats. BYOB – Bring a side is encouraged but not required

Games– Mario cart, Board and Card Games Movie- Harry Potter Sorcerer’s Stone on a 100” Projector Screen.

Come for the food, stay for games and movie!

As always, if there are any questions regarding the village events, any general village questions, comments or concerns within the community… contact me or attend a Board Meeting

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

4-H

Towanda 4-H Club will have their Christmas party on Sunday, December 6 at the Towanda Community Center. We will be decorating the Towanda community tree and the community center for the holidays. Members will learn about decorating cookies and make Christmas cards for nursing homes. Quinn Weber will be our pledge leader. 4-H is open to youth ages 8-18 and Cloverbuds is open to youth ages 5-7 (by September 1). We hope to see the Towanda 4-H Members and anyone interested on December 6 for our holiday fun! Reporter, Maddie Green

4TH OF JULY

Join us for planning our 2027 event!
Our next meeting is Monday, January 25 at the Community Building @ 6:30 pm. Questions can be directed to: towandajuly4th@gmail.com

DUNCAN MANOR

Duncan Manor Christmas Faire

Our beloved Holiday Open House has been reimagined as a festive two-day Christmas Faire inspired by traditional European markets. Explore the beautifully decorated rooms of our historic 1866 Manor, filled with local artists, artisans, and handcrafted gifts. Then wander over to The Meadows for more holiday shopping, seasonal treats, and festive finds. Enjoy live music, seasonal drinks, and the nostalgic charm of Christmas on the prairie!

Saturday, December 12 | 2–6 PM
Sunday, December 13 | 12–4 PM
$10 per person
~We hope you'll join us for a new holiday tradition at Duncan Manor!~

Holiday Small Group Tours at Duncan Manor

Join us for a special guided tour of our historic 1866 Italianate mansion, decorated for the holiday season.
We'll take you through the house, sharing its history, stories, and the restoration journey that continues today. Each 45-minute tour is limited to just 12 guests, allowing for a more personal experience. Before or after your tour, stop by The Meadows to enjoy festive drinks and browse a few select local vendors!

Saturday, December 19th | 2–6 PM
Sunday, December 20th | 12–4 PM
$25 per person
*Tours depart every 30 minutes | 12 guests per group.
*Space is limited, and advance reservations are encouraged.
~Come enjoy a little history, holiday charm, and Christmas magic at Duncan Manor!~

Duncan Manor is a 501c3 Not for Profit Organization. All proceeds benefit the restoration and preservation of the house and its grounds.

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

(**T**owanda **H**ome and **C**ommunity **E**ducation)

Towanda **HCE** invites YOU to their Holiday Christmas Party on Monday, December 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The evening will start with a Potluck meal which will include chicken, drinks, and table service. Please bring a dish to pass. Following the meal we will play Christmas Bingo with prizes and have a $10 gift exchange if you'd like to participate. Members who can stay will be filling small Santa bags with items for nursing home residents. Please RSVP to Potluck Supper Committee Chair: Clara Lehan, 309-826-8044.

The county HCE Community Service Outreach Project for December will be collection of items of deodorant, vitamins, OTC pain medicine for men, women and children. These items can also be brought to our December meeting. The McLean County HCE Holiday Party is on Saturday, December 12, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Ironwood Golf Course Clubhouse. This party will feature holiday "Make it Take It" items, and entertainment by Bill Kemp from McLean County Museum presenting “Christmas Past in McLean County." Tickets are $20 and available from Karen Thompson (309-830-6232). RSVP by December 4.

Towanda HCE has small displays at the Hudson and Towanda Libraries to highlight the many advantages of becoming an HCE member. For more information contact Cindy, 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

Start the new year with the Towanda American Legion!
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 help 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. We will not have a meeting in December. **Our next meeting is January 21, 2027.**

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

LEGION EVENTS:
~ DECEMBER ~
BREAKFAST with SANTA: **Saturday, 12/12 @ 8-10:30 a.m.**
pancakes, sausage & drink
Free, donations welcomed
DINNER: No dinner in December

~ JANUARY ~
BREAKFAST: **Saturday, 1/9 @ 8-10:30 a.m.**
sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs,
pancakes, hash browns, drink $12
DINNER: **Friday, 1/22 @ 5-7:00 p.m**.
Pork chops, french fries, baked beans, bun,
dessert, drink $14

TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY

December is full of festive fun at Towanda District Library! Join us for themed Storytimes featuring cookies, penguins, yetis, and winter fun, plus special Storytimes with Santa on December 4 and 8. Adults can get creative with our Book Tree craft on December 1, and our TBR Book Club and Writing Club will meet later in the month. Families can also enjoy Christmas Cookie Decorating on December 12. Please note that Storytime with Santa and Christmas Cookie Decorating require advance registration.

The library will be closed December 24–26 and December 31–January 1 for the holidays. We hope you'll join us for a cozy and festive December at the library!



TOWANDA FIRE DEPARTMENT (TFD)

The Towanda Community Fire Protection District is pleased to announce that we have launched a new website!

Our new website can be accessed at https://tcfpdil.org/

The website will serve as a central location for information about our Fire District, including department news, public notices, and other important updates for the community.

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

With the holiday season upon us 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 at 305 Pine Street in Normal located along Old Route 66 from March-December. Magnets, buttons, and postcards showing Dead Man's Curve are available at Rapid Rocky's BP gas station.

These items make wonderful ***holiday gifts*** for family and friends. 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 that have been planted over the past 26 years. This is the only known arboretum along the entire 2,448-mile length of Route 66. Contact Fred Walk atfwalk@frontiernet.net for additional information about the merchandise and to make a tax-free donation. Our Parkway is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity and can accept contributions from individuals taking required minimum distributions.



VILLAGE OF TOWANDA CLERK

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

Winter Road Safety

- Check the weather and road conditions before traveling.
- Don't Crowd the Plow
  - don't follow too closely
  - don't attempt to pass at the wrong time
  - protect yourself, other motorists and the plow driver
- If you get Stuck
  - call for assistance
  - stay with your vehicle
  - keep your dome light on
  - use hazard lights, flares, bright markers
  - make it easy to be seen

Winter Kit

*First aid kit *Cell phone *Flashlight *Ice scraper *Shovel *Flares *Gloves/hats *Drinking water *Non-perishable food *Blankets *Change of clothes *Kitty litter or material that can be used for traction if stuck *Portable jump starter or cable

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.

TOWANDA AMERICAN LEGION & TOWANDA BP

are taking donations needed for the McLean County Veterans

November 11 - December 30

Please bring donations to any Legion breakfasts, dinners, meetings as well as BP gas station.
The Legion will distribute donations.

CLOTHING & COMFORT
Slippers/Slides
Poncho/Rain Jacket
Lap Blankets
Hats & gloves

HYGIENE

toothbrushes	**deodorant**	**shave cream**
toothpaste	**body wash**	**body wipes**
3-blade razors	**shampoo**	**hand sanitizer**
bar soap		

HOUSEHOLD

toilet paper	**dish soap**	**paper towels**
detergent (pods)	**tissues**	**dryer sheets**
AA batteries		

CLEANING SUPPLIES

basic cleaning	**sponges**
anti-bacterial wipes	**room sprays**

FOOD
Electrolyte Packets (Ex. Liquid IV/Gatorade)

microwave popcorn	**trail mix**	**jerky**
gum	**mints**	**Ready-to-Eat foods**

HEALTH & SAFETY

Cough, Cold, Allergy	**Antihistamines**	**Ibuprofen**
Acetaminophen	**Flashlights**	**Phone charger/Portable**
Hand, feet, body warmers		

~ Thank you ~

207 Hely Street, Towanda
towandalegion@gmail.com

TOWANDA AMERICAN LEGION

207 Hely St.



PANCAKES with SANTA



Saturday, December 12, 2026

8-10 am

pancakes, sausage & drink

free event, donations appreciated



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

DECEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 -Garbage	**2** -TFD Officer Meeting 6:30pm	**3**	**4**	**5**
6 4-H @ 2:00pm CB	**7** -Village Board Meet @ 7:00 CB	**8** -Garbage	**9** -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	**10** -Lion's Club @ Fire Dept 6:30pm	**11**	**12** Legion Pancakes w/ Santa 8-10 am
13	**14** -HCE @ 6:30pm CB	**15** -Garbage -Water Bills Due	**16** -TFD EMS Train 6:30pm	**17** -Legion potluck 6:00pm	**18**	**19**
20	**21**	**22** -Garbage	**23** -Recycle -TFD Regular Meeting 6:30pm	**24** **Christmas Eve**	**25** ***MERRY CHRISTMAS!***	**26**
27	**28** -TFD Work Night 6:30pm	**29** -Garbage	**30**	**31** **New Year's Eve**	***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***	

All information for the JANUARY 2027 Newsletter is
due DECEMBER 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??

***What's going on for the holidays? *What do I do if my garbage can is damaged? *What does the Funeral Committee do? *Does the Fire Dept have a website? *What clubs/committees can I join? *How can I help my community?**

Read all about it in the Towanda Times *NEWS*LETTER!