



December 2011

Sewer -Administrative items are all that remain to be finalized for the Sewer project. A letter is being reviewed that will be sent to citizens outlining the procedure for obtaining a permit and connecting. A final version will be presented to the board for approval in January and then circulated.

Farmland Subdivision - A resolution was passed to mandate a plan of action that sets forth the Village's expectation and time line required for completion of the roadways and improvements deemed necessary for the Village to consider the Farmland Subdivision for proper dedication and acceptance. The roadways and improvements are to be completed no later than June 1, 2012.

Village Board Legislative Action

Motion approving Ordinance 2011-21 Tax Levy for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2013

Carried unanimously

Motion approving Ordinance 2011-20 mandating a plan of action for the completion of the Farmland Subdivision in the Village of Downs

Carried in a 4-2 vote

Motion approving a work change order for Phase A

Carried unanimously

Motion approving bid letting for the Village trash Collection

Carried unanimously

Motion approving the Easement Agreement with CIRBN as amended with correct legal description in accordance with what's on record at the McLean County Recorder office for the lots located at the Village Hall and the Village Water Treatment Plant

Carried unanimously

Motion approving the permit request with CIRBN contingent upon the County granting the necessary approval for CIRBN to install what's necessary in County Property

Carried unanimously

Motion approving a the hiring of temporary employees for the Street Department

Carried unanimously

Motion approving work on the Village Hall for handicap ramp and upgrades

Carried unanimously

Mayoral Update

December 4, 2011

Dear Citizens,

I am happy to announce that our entire sewer system piping is installed and has passed the necessary testing. The village board has administrative items to finalize at our January meeting to close out the sewer project. If everything goes as planned at our January meeting, we will be sending every homeowner a packet. This packet will contain:

1. A detailed cover letter outlining the necessary steps and telephone numbers to call
2. Details of sewer connection procedures
3. Answers to how each home can be connected to the sewer system
4. Sample sewer service diagrams
5. Construction requirements
6. Application paper work and utilities information

While this sewer system connection process is new to this village board and its residents, it is not new to our engineers who have guided us through this multi-year and multi-million dollar project. They have prepared us well for the final step of this process and it will be outlined in the packet. I strongly encourage everyone to take time to thoroughly review the sewer packet that comes to them in early February 2012.

In the spring the village board will be developing a plan for some much needed upgrades to the Village Hall and Dooley Park. The expected projects will be great opportunities for community projects and community involvement. We will be seeking qualified volunteers that are interested in getting involved in their community for much needed improvements. We will share these plans as they are developed.

As always, I and your village board are here for you. If you have any concerns or ideas, please don't hesitate to call myself or any trustee.

Have a safe travels and a Merry Christmas,

Mayor Ryan



SENIOR NEWS

Everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving meal—it was so delicious. We thank our committee (Dixie Curtis & Ray & Della Prince) for all they did plus the very beautiful decorations for the tables.

We provided large baskets of food plus a turkey for five families. The group met at CJ's on Thursday December 1st for breakfast.

The Christmas meal is at Jack's in LeRoy at 11:00 on Wednesday, December 14th. If you care to participate, bring a \$5-\$10 gift for the exchange. The organization is paying for the meal—come and join us. Five more baskets will be prepared for Christmas. Some items needed for them include pasta, beans, corn bread mix, peanut butter and jelly. Linda Bowman is collecting the food.

HAVE A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



VILLAGE OF DOWNS BILLING
 211 S. Seminary St. PO Box 18
 Downs, IL 61736
 309-378-3221
 Monday through Friday 8-12 noon
 Contacts: Ruth Hood and Janice Cuba
 Drop box for payments available 24 hours a day.



Reminder of the dates used by the billing department as required by Chapter 12 of the Village of Downs Ordinances

- 1st of the month: All accounts are charged for the prior month's service
- 15th-18th of the month: Meters are read
- 20th of the month: All accounts are due in full from the billing sent on the 1st
- 21st of the month: Late penalties are added and shut off notices are sent out.
- 26th-30th of the month: Shut offs will be done for non-payment

Shut-offs: Payments are to be paid at the Village Hall and not to the person turning the water off. Should your service be shut off, a turn on fee of \$30 is needed in addition to the outstanding balance. Service will not resume until the next business day that payment is posted.

Payments and NSF Checks: PAYMENTS NEED TO BE MADE USING THE VILLAGE PO BOX OR THE DROPBOX. VILLAGE EMPLOYEES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING YOUR PAYMENT TO THE VILLAGE HALL. Those using on-line payment services need to be sure the service is sending the check in advance of the due date of the 20th. THE VILLAGE DOES NOT RECEIVE DIRECT TRANSFERS. NSF checks cost the customer and the Village. The Village is charged a fee by the bank for each NSF check. The Village charges the customers with an NSF check fee of \$25, and then re-payment by the customer needs to be done in cash.

Water Emergencies such as no water or water leaking need to be reported to Jeff Misch at 275-3793. The water trustee is Mike Freimann and he can be reached at 378-1538.

Hydrant Flushing will be December 13, 14, 15 from 9:00-12:00 noon. Evening flushing has been discontinued due to high water usage in the evenings.

Water Meters and Transmitters are the property of the Village of Downs. Please contact Village Hall for any maintenance needs. Tampering with this equipment is against Village of Downs Ordinances.



Garbage contact is Casali & Sons and they can be reached at 309-242-9001, or contact Mike Sumner, Garbage Trustee, at 312-550-5467.

SEWER ITEMS



Loan Payments: For those wanting to apply additional payments to their BNWRD Fee Loan need to be sure and include a note with their payment so the payment can be applied correctly.

Sewer Connection: When property owners are allowed to connect to the sewer system, please keep in mind that gutters and sump pumps are not permitted to drain into the system.



THE VILLAGE HALL WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 AND MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2012 FOR THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS.

Sewer Update December 2011

The Village of Downs' engineering firm, Farnsworth Group, reported at December's Village Board meeting that construction of the multi-million dollar sewer system is complete. A few sections of pipe are being cleared of debris and portions of the existing pipe in the Mallard Point subdivision still need to be inspected by camera, but the system is essentially ready for use. The remaining work by contractors consists of restoration. Residents who believe additional restoration work is needed should contact the village hall.

Most of what remains before residents will be allowed to connect to the system is administrative work. This includes the following:

- Village Board will finalize the part of the sewer ordinance that will set the rates residents will pay for the sewer (expected to be passed at January 2012 meeting).
 - o As previously mentioned, the rate will include a portion that **all households in the village will be assessed** for the cost of construction and operation and maintenance of the system. A property-based tax assessed by the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD) may be added to water/sewer bills in January 2013*.
 - The initial estimate of this portion of the fee for an average household is around \$22 per month, broken down as follows:
 - \$17 for payment of the zero-percent interest loan (\$5.7 million financed)
 - \$5 for operation, maintenance and repair
 - o The remaining portion of the monthly fee will be based on use:
 - \$4.88 on average assessed by the village for use
 - \$11.33 on average assessed by BNWRD for use
 - o **TOTAL ESTIMATED AVERAGE MONTHLY FEE FOR SEWER = \$35.21**
(Actual fee may be higher or lower)

*- A home with an assessed value of \$150,000 would see an additional tax of \$7 per month in 2013 for the BNWRD fee.

- The village will send a letter to residents telling them they may begin connecting to the system
 - o We anticipate this letter being sent by February 2012.
 - o The letter will include an application for connection.
 - o Residents will have approximately 180 days to connect (or provide proof that they are exempt from connection by virtue of a valid septic permit and no current connection to the system).

Homeowners are responsible for hiring a contractor to make the connection for their home to the provided stub into the sewer system.

- This cost is the responsibility of the homeowner.
- Final connection cannot be made unless inspected by a village representative.

If you have questions on this update, please contact any member of the Village Board.

Casali & Son's Disposal Service, Inc.

309-242-9001

Casali & Son's is starting a new single stream recycling program. Which means it is not necessary to separate your recyclables for collection. Starting on Feb 10th 2012. Your recycling day is now bi-weekly. It will be the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month. Please make sure all containers containing recycling be clearly marked. Please do not over load cans or it won't be picked up.

RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING MATERIALS ACCEPTED

- Aluminum cans, trays & foil (trays & foil must be cleaned)
- Steel cans and tins
- PET-soda, water, & flavored beverage bottles (#1 clear and green plastic resin)
 - HDPE-Milk & juice jugs (#2 clear plastic resin)
 - HDPE-Detergent & fabric softener container (#2 colored plastic resin)
 - PVC-Narrow neck containers only (#3 plastic resin) such as health & beauty aid products, household cleaners.
 - LDPE-Grocery containers (#4 plastic resins) such as margarine tubs, frozen desert cups, six and twelve pack rings.
 - PP-Grocery containers (#5 plastic resins) such as yogurt cups, and narrow neck syrup and ketchup bottles.
 - #7 Plastic resin narrow neck containers only.
 - Plastic buckets, such as kitty litter containers (**5 gallon size maximum**)
 - Glass bottles and jars (clear, brown, green) **No window glass, dinnerware or ceramics.**

Guidelines:

- All items should be empty of contents and rinsed thoroughly.
- **Plastic (grocery) bags and garbage bags are not accepted. Recycling will not be picked up if these bags are used.**

Common Un-acceptable Items:

Text books	Light bulbs	Paint cans	Pots & pans	Candy wrappers
Oil containers	Scrap metal	Coat hangers	Trash bags	Toys
Drinking glasses	Facial tissue	Styrofoam	Window glass	Paper towels
Used paper plates	Plastic silverware	Foil	Plastic bags	Straws/lids

Residential Paper Fiber:

Newspaper, including inserts (remove plastic sleeves)
Cardboard (no waxed cardboard) must be broken down and fit in your container.
Kraft (brown paper) bags
Magazines, catalogs and telephone books
Office, computer, notebook & gift wrap paper (**no metal clips, spirals, binders**)
Chipboard (cereal, cake & food mix boxes, gift boxes, etc.)
Carrier stock (soda & beer can carrying cases)
Junk mail & envelopes (no plastic cards, stick on labels or unused stamps)
Paper back books (**no hard cover books**)

Recycling Schedule:

Feb 11th	March 10th	April 14th	May 12th	June 9th	July 14th
Feb 25th	March 24th	April 28th	May 26th	June 23rd	July 28th

VILLAGE OF DOWNS GINGERBREAD HOUSE

WHEN: DECEMBER 2nd THROUGH THE 23rd
DAYS: THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY
TIME: 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.
(Depending on the weather)

COME SEE SANTA, HAVE SOME GINGERBREAD
COOKIES AND HOT CHOCOLATE,
BROWSE THE CRAFT SHOP,
AND ENJOY THE LIGHTS IN THE PARK.



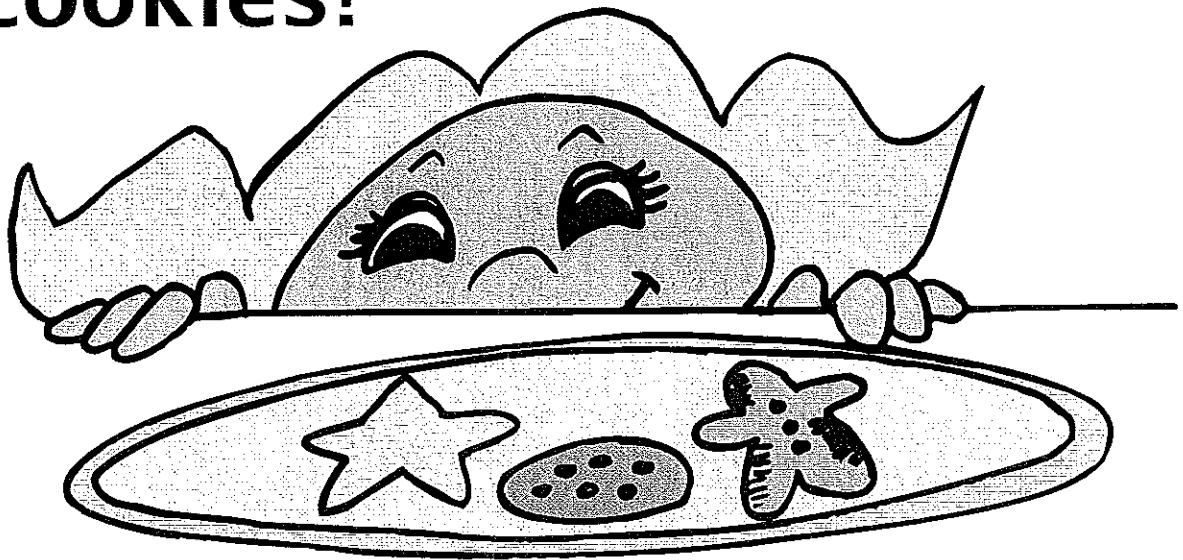
Occasionally, we will have musicians and/or carolers in to entertain us with their music. If you have a talent you would be willing to share, or any questions, please call Mary at 212-0594.

Downs United Methodist Church

Annual Cookie Walk

**Homemade
cookies!**

**Homemade
candy!**



**December 11, 2011
11:00 am until sold out!**



SPECIAL INVITATION TO

*A Downs
Christmas Eve*



NOW IN OUR 6TH YEAR!

The Downs United Methodist Church would like to invite everyone to join us from 7:00 to 8:00pm, Saturday, December 24th for our 6th annual Old Fashioned Christmas Eve. Dress casually (bring your children in their pajamas if you wish) and come for a delightful and meaningful time of Christmas praise and worship including: carols and candles, special music, poems, readings, skits, prayers, a Christmas message, Silent Night by candlelight, treats for the kids, and more.

Come to just relax and enjoy, or those who wish are invited to bring gifts to the Christ Child in the form of singing a special, playing an instrumental, offering a Christmas reading, poem or other.

Please call the Downs United Methodist Church office 378-2651 or Rev. Ron George at 378-2650 by Wednesday, December 21st if you have a special gift you will be willing to share for Christ so we can fully prepare for the evening.

Public Works Superintendent

The Village of Downs is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Public Works Superintendent. The position is a supervisory position. This position includes, overseeing the operation and maintenance of Village systems, including water, sewer and streets. Eligible applicants must have a valid Class B Water Plant Operator's Certificate and a valid Illinois Class B Driver's License. Eligible applicants must also possess the qualifications to apply for and obtain an Illinois Class A or Commercial Driver's License. At least 3 years of practical experience in the field of operations and maintenance is also required. The position is a salaried position. The salary is commensurate with the applicant's experience.

Send resume and application to: Downs Village Hall, ATTN: Ryan McLaughlin, 211 South Seminary Street, Downs, Illinois 61736-0018 or via email to DownsPWS@gmail.com. To download an application, visit our website at www.villageofdowns.org and click on the Documents link.



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by completing those quilts you have
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Cindy Gackstetter

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Owner

(309) 724-8318

309-825-8040

Scott McBrayer

Owner

(309) 724-8417

309-261-6076

Your Home Town Storage Facility

Downs Self Storage

119 Shaffer Drive

P.O. Box 84

Downs, IL 61736-0084

962-3137

Rental Unit Sizes Available:

6' x 10' with 4' x 7' door

10' x 12' with 9' x 7' door

10' x 18' with 9' x 7' door

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From \$42/month

VILLAGE OF DOWNS
211 S. SEMINARY ST.
PO BOX 18
DOWNS, IL 61736-0018

PRESORTED STD
US POSTAGE PAID
DOWNS IL
PERMIT NO. 2

RESIDENT
DOWNS IL 61736

DOWNS VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Mayor	Ryan McLaughlin	378-3079
Clerk	Tammie Keener	378-1494
Treasurer	Janice Cuba	378-4500
Trustee	Maureen Roach (Finance)	378-1477
Trustee	Mary Goveia (Parks/Youth Center)	212-0594
Trustee	Mike James (Streets)	830-7374
Trustee	Mike Sumner (Police/Garbage)	312-550-5467
Trustee	Michael Freimann (Water/Sewer)	378-1538
Trustee	Paul Myszka (Building)	684-0806
Contact person for Pavilion reservations		
	Mary Goveia	212-0594
Non Emergency		Met-Com 888-5030
Emergency	Call 911	