



February 2012

SPEED LIMIT CHANGE

In November of 2009, the Village Board passed an ordinance to **lower the Village speed limit to 25 mph** (Chapter 8, Article IV, Section 4). Implementation would happen as signs were replaced due to Federal MUTCD code changes. We are now ready to start replacing these signs. We will start on the West side of town in Mallard Point, at the suggestion of our Police Chief, and work our way back across town. The signs will be marked with red flags, for several weeks, to draw attention to this change.

Sewer update: Televising of Mallard Point Subdivision is all that remains prior to allowing homeowners to begin hooking on to the Sewer System. Due to the heavy equipment that is required to do the remaining televising, the ground must freeze before it can be completed.

Village Board Legislative Action

Motion approving Ordinance 2012-07 approving electronic participation or remote attendance policy for Public Meeting
Carried unanimously

Motion approving Resolution 2012-08 approving sewer inspection fee for the Village of Downs
Carried unanimously

Motion approving Resolution 2012-09 approving the termination of Water Plant Operation Contract with Misch Excavating
Carried in a 4-2 Vote

Motion approving Mayor's selection for the position of Public Works Superintendent
Carried in a 4-2 Vote

Mayoral Update

February 12, 2012

Dear Residents,

Your Village Board is pleased to announce that the completion of the ten year sewer system project is closer than ever to being ready for usage. We are currently waiting for the sewer pipes in Mallard Subdivision to be visually inspected for structural integrity and functionality. The sewer inspection contractors need the ground to be frozen so they do not damage lawns from their heavy equipment. Unfortunately, our mild winter has caused this unexpected delay. The contractors only need a week to complete the inspection and they were scheduled to be in town on 2/13/12. We are happy to see this day arrive and see this multi-year and multi-million dollar project come to fruition. We made it through construction the last few years, and we are confident we can make it through this final phase.

Once these pipes are inspected and passed by Farnsworth, the sewer connection letters will be sent to every homeowner and business owner in the Village. This letter contains the step by step procedures to follow in order to get your home connected to the sewer system. **PLEASE review this letter carefully.**

At our February Board meeting, the Board also approved the hiring of a candidate for the Public Works Superintendent position. This new hire's first order of business will be devoted to water plant operations and water system delivery. This candidate has an Illinois Class A water operator's license, which is the highest attainable accreditation for water systems. We look forward to this position bringing the Village the expertise and experience needed to improve our water quality, monitor our new sewer system, and be more cost-effective.

Please join me in welcoming our new Public Works Superintendent to town. I look forward to more progress to come as our Village makes a huge step forward in our infrastructure with this position.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ryan



Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks Committee

211 S. Seminary PO Box 18
Downs, IL 61736-0018
309-378-3221

<u>Mike James</u> Chairperson / Indian Hills	<u>Lori Aldridge</u> Clerk	<u>Open</u> Mallard Point	<u>Lori Aldridge</u> Village Westside	<u>Randall Stine</u> Village Eastside
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Street Report For February 2012

The groundhog says 6 more weeks of winter, but hopefully it is 6 more weeks of the winter we have experienced so far. As I write this a new storm is approaching another predicted for the middle of the week. Somehow I don't feel we will keep skirting old-man winter for the 6 more weeks, but I hope I am wrong.

The purchase of the new tractor is progressing slower than I had hoped, but I found out they are not yet making our horse power version of the tractor. We are requesting a demo model to assure it will meet our needs anyway so the delay is good. We hope to have the tractor by this fall unless we need to go a different direction.

The nice weather has allowed us to continue with sign replacement. Again, all weight limit signs have been posted and if you are a business that operates above these limits on our streets you must apply for a permit or risk being pulled over for exceeding posted limits. This permit application can be gotten from the Village website or Village Hall and returned to the Village Hall to my attention. The Village has a posted 9 ton (16k pounds) weight limit year round.

Also, we will be changing the speed limit signs over the next month on the west side of town, at the request/suggestion of our police chief. Every street West of Seminary Street will be under this new speed limit of 25 mph. This reduction is per ordinance Chapter 8 Article IV Section 4. Initial speed limit signs will have red flags on them to help draw attention to these changes.

Financial High-Level Plan for FY2011 Street Funds as of 01/31/2011:

Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks Fund			Motor Fuel Tax Fund		
Description	Actual	Budget	Description	Actual	Budget
FY2010 Ending Balance	\$8,207.17	\$8,207.17	FY2010 Ending Balance	\$17,210.99	\$17,210.99
RB Tax & GF Repayment	\$23,533.70	\$26,484.65	MFT Revenue	\$22,462.72	\$25,426.00
Total Revenue for Expenditure	\$31,740.87	\$34,691.82	Total Revenue	\$39,673.71	\$42,656.99
Road and Bridge Expenses	\$17,243.09	\$34,220.00	MFT Expenses	\$32,434.74	\$36,996.00
Net Income(Loss)	\$6,290.61	\$471.82	Net Income(Loss)	\$7,238.74	\$5,660.99
Percent of budget	50.39%		Percent of budget	87.67%	
SAS Account Balance	\$14,548.93		MFT Account Balance	\$7,240.42	

Please call me at (309) 830-7374 or email me at mike.james@mchsi.com to discuss your ANY of your concerns.

In your service,
Mike James - Village of Downs Trustee - Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks



VILLAGE OF DOWNS BILLING
 211 S. Seminary St. PO Box 18
 Downs, IL 61736
 309-378-3221

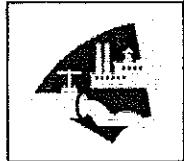
Monday through Friday 8-12 noon
Contacts: Ruth Hood and Janice Cuba
Drop box for payments available 24 hours a day.



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**

Payments: Should you need to make payment arrangements; those will now need to be made in writing at the Village Hall. Hours are 8-12 noon Monday through Friday.



SEWER ITEMS

Sewer Connection: Letters should be going out later this month.



THE VILLAGE HALL WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, February 20th for President's Day

!! Reminder to signup !!

If you would like to be contacted with information regarding the Village of Downs, please complete the form below and return it to the Village Hall. You can also signup on our website at www.villageofdowns.org under the phone notification link or email your information to downsvillagehall@hotmail.com.

In order to keep the residents of the Village better informed, the Village Hall will now be able to utilize a phone notification system. This system will be used mainly to notify residents of boil orders and when they are lifted but can also be used for road closures etc... This information will still be posted on the Village website, the Tri-Valley School website, the Village Hall and signs at the entrances to the Village. Not all residents have internet access or check the websites daily, therefore, this system will allow us to pro-actively notify residents that **WANT** to be contacted by phone and/or email.

Please list all phone numbers and/or email addresses you would like us to contact you at.

Name	Address	Phone Number for Notifications	Email address for notifications

2012 Downs Dooley Park Events – January – July

Village of Downs Parks Committee Mission– To maintain community parks and hold recreational activities which enriches the quality of life for residents and visitors alike, and preserves it for future generations.

For questions or to join the board: Contact Mary Goveia, Park Trustee
cell (309)212-0594

1. January
2. February – no events planned
3. March 11th – Fun'd Raiser Painting with Merlot and Masterpiece at the park
4. April 7th - Easter breakfast 7-10 AM with Egg Hunt starting at 10 AM
5. April 14th – 8 AM Kickapoo Park Walk through meet at the 2000 East (Huff Road) entrance, bring garbage bags for trash and boots for spring conditions
6. April 21st - Work day in the park (coordinate with Earth Day, possibly with the elementary school)
7. May 5th Kickapoo Park Nature Trail work 7 AM start
8. June 2nd – Garage Sales and 4th of July Fundraising Breakfast 7-10 AM
9. June 30th – Freedom Race
10. July – 4th of July (Wed)



SENIOR NEWS

The group did not meet for breakfast in January.

The Seniors all enjoyed the delicious soup at the January meeting. Birthdays that were honored: Barbara Folks, Mary Bell, Jim Schaefer and Mary Romine; anniversaries were Francis & Ardell Walle. Due to his health, the Walle's have not been able to attend our meetings.

Paul Myszka came to the meeting and addressed the group concerning ways for Village residents to be informed of water emergencies, etc. If you would like to be notified via phone or email, please contact Paul at 684-0806.

The group met at Jack's for breakfast on Thursday, February 2nd. It was decided that the February 15th meeting would be at Jack's (everyone on their own). Ray and Della Prince are on the committee. Della will bring her decorations for the tables. Come join in the fellowship.

FUN'D RAISER

TO SUPPORT THE DOWNS PARK DISTRICT

Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

When: March 11, 2-4 p.m.

Where: Downs Park Pavilion

The park district will be sponsoring a painting class fund raiser.... An artist from the studios of Merlot and a Masterpiece in Bloomington will guide you through creating a masterpiece all your own!!!

Absolutely no experience necessary, fun relaxed atmosphere! Refreshments provided to keep the creative juices flowing.

Cost per individual is \$45, which include canvas, paints, brushes and instruction... you take your painting home and a portion of the proceeds will go to fund projects by the park district in Downs. Everyone wins!

A minimum of 15 students is needed to hold the class. Registration will close on March 4th. You may sign up and pay on the Merlot and a Master Piece website,
www.merlotandamasterpiece.com.

For more information, contact mr_broton@hotmail.com or text Marla Brotherton @ 309-261-3968.

Casali & Son's Disposal Service, Inc.
2490 Brown Rd.
Carlock, Illinois
61725

Dear Villages,

Beginning January 1, 2012, P.A. 97-0287 bans the landfill disposal of many electronic items. Items from both residential and business/commercial sources are included in this ban and are as follows:

Televisions
Monitors
Printers
Computers (including tablet computers)
Electronic Keyboards
Facsimile Machines
Videocassette Recorders
Portable Digital Music Players
Digital Video Disc Players
Video Game Consoles
Small Scale Servers
Scanners
Electric Mice
Digital Converter Boxes
Cable Receivers
Satellite Receivers
Digital Video Disc Recorders

If you have any questions, Please call Kelly at 309-242-9001

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Morton

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OWNED BY MISCH FAMILY 378-4202

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119 Shaffer Drive

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Downs, IL 61736-0084

962-3137

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

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