



Village of Downs
211 S. Seminary, PO Box 18
Downs, IL 61736-0018
Voice/Fax: 309-378-3221
Email: Info@VillageOfDowns.org
Website: www.VillageOfDowns.org

Mayor, Village Board and Clerk

President/Mayor	Building / President Pro Tem	Parks/Youth Center/Food Pantry	Streets	Public Safety/Services	Finance	Public Works	Clerk
Mike James	Mike Freimann	Mary Goveia	Danny Lush	Maureen Roach	Susan Luke	Paul Myszka	Julie James

**From the Desk of the Mayor
September 2014**

This month the Board adopted the new Strategic Development Plan and revised Land Use Plan found in Chapter 18 of our Village Ordinances. We also signed a new agreement with a copier lease company that cut our term by 1 year, cut our payment over 50% and we will own the Canon copier after 3 years. Finally, we approved a 15 year franchise agreement at 1% with Mediacom locking in the \$500 community grant to our parks. The Board increase the percentage as it would more than likely would have been passed onto the residents.

Topics gathering conversation and rumors are the police situation, TIF and medical cannabis. I will attempt to cover these briefly. I encourage, as always, get the facts and please call a trustee or myself to talk about your feelings regarding these topics.

First, is the police situation. You will read the statement made by Maureen Roach, Police Trustee, in the paper, in her report and the overview of our meeting. Simply put, Maureen is exploring options to establish a police presence as soon as possible and we will work with the school to get this completed ASAP.

Second, the Village Board is now pursuing an additional TIF District in the Village. This new TIF district will attempt to add a new TIF district adjacent to the current Downtown TIF. It will encompass the surrounding old gravel pits, parkland, flood plain, drainage land and areas for possible commercial development off of I-74. A new TIF will allow us to realize the full 23 years to improve these areas rather than the remaining years from our Downtown TIF. The areas are primarily free of roof tops which will reduce the impact on the other taxing bodies. The process will take up to 8 months and will require several public hearings. So if you are interested, please watch for these hearings.

Finally, there has been a lot of news regarding the proposed medical cannabis farm outside of Downs (unincorporated Downs). In June, the Board wanted me to pursue trying to attract or determine the validity of having a farm within our corporate limits. When reviewing the possible locations against the requirements we had 2 potential locations. Both of these locations were presented to the companies looking for locations, which quickly was apparent they would not be considered. This new location fits within the strict requirements by the state. There have been plenty of articles in the paper that cover most of these requirements. There are ways the Village can still benefit from this farm as the state requires a plan from the business on how they will give back to the area. I have been approached with several ideas, but I have nothing that is concrete enough to talk about.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, questions, explanation or clarification.

In your service,
Mike James
309-830-7374
Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org

Other Positions and Committee Chairs

Public Works Superintendent
Kevin Whitehouse

Treasurer
Alan Zwilling

Zoning Enforcement
Lyndall Cuba

Zoning Board Chairperson
Linda Bowman

Village of Downs

Fright Fest

Haunted House & Hay Rack Ride

October 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 and November 1

6:30 - 10:30 PM

UnHaunted Lights On: Sunday, October 26 from 1 -3 PM

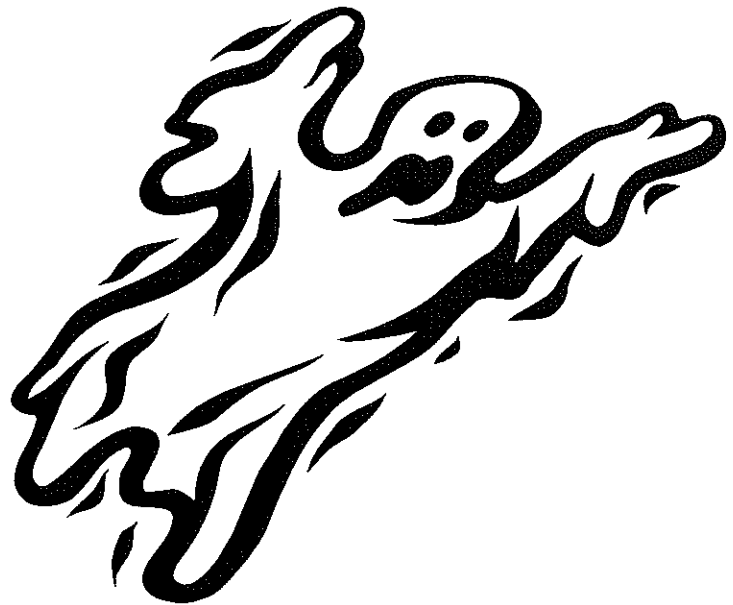
(Children are encouraged to dress in costume and bring treat bags for the lights on event-no activities in Dooley Park on 10/26)

\$3 tickets

\$7 wristbands

All Ticket Sales in Dooley Park

Food – Hot Dogs, Marshmallow,
Hot Chocolate and Cider



Please see the Village of Downs website for the latest event information and weather delays.

www.VillageOfDowns.org

Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Events

PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR ONE OR MORE EVENTS

The following are a reduced list of events planned and approximately how many volunteers are needed. If you do not have the time to volunteer, please consider a donation for your favorite event.

- 1) Downs Fright Fest (October) – Listed below are a few areas needed.
 - a. Characters for the Haunted House
 - b. Drivers for hay rack ride
 - c. Ticket Sales in Dooley Park
 - d. Food coordinator
 - e. Kid's activities
- 2) Veterans Breakfast (November 8 or 9) – Need 4+ volunteers to cook and/or serve.
- 3) Christmas in Downs (December) – Listed below are a few areas needed.
 - a. Gingerbread House Coordinator
 - b. Santa and Helper Coordinator
 - c. Lights setup
- 4) Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt (March or April 2015) – Need 4+ volunteers to cook and/or serve.

Downs Event Fund Donation

SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE DOWNS EVENT – IT IS A TAX DEDUCTION

Please consider making a donation to your favorite Downs event or the events on a whole. Downs events are funded through donations, sponsors and if-needed Village funds. Write a check to the Village of Downs Event Fund.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____ Check #: _____

Event you want donation to be used for: _____

Comments or Suggestions: _____

I would like to volunteer to help, please call: (_____) _____ - _____

Receipt #: _____

**** More information and registration forms are available on the Village website or at the Village Hall**

Let Us Know How You Can Help

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Often someone wants to help, but doesn't know how. Often I hear, "Let me know if I can help.", but I don't know how. See the dilemma? The flyer and the website contain a "Volunteer Registration". This registration will allow you to tell us where you can help and how we can utilize your talents and skills. I hope you will take the time to consider how you can help.

You Requested, Please help!!

EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEES

You asked for this, we built it, now please come, volunteer and help make it successful. The Events Committee is wrapped up its event plan for the new fiscal year and needs volunteers to come forward to help organize their favorite event. It is no fun to beg for help and no fun to do it all ourselves. We would hate to cancel something for lack of help. Please contact Mike James, Dan Lush or complete the volunteer registration form if you can help. See more information regarding the Event Plan in the newsletter. Volunteering is open to our Tri-Valley Community and NOT just the residents within Downs.

Donations Now Accepted!!

VILLAGE OF DOWNS EVENTS FUND

Our goals with the events this year are to create a plan, a positive cash flow, a fund, which will be dedicated ONLY to Village events, and a solid foundation for the future. With this fund being dedicated for this specific purpose within a tax-exempt entity, your donation is tax deductible. Finally, you can even specify which event you want your donation to be used toward. To donate, please write a check payable to the "Village of Downs Events Fund" and specify, if applicable, which fund to apply it to. We will send you a receipt of your donation. Thank you very much for your donation and consideration.



VILLAGE OF DOWNS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OVERVIEW
7:00 PM
September 4, 2014

Village Hall
211 S. Seminary St,
PO Box 18
Downs, IL 61736

1. Mayor Mike James called the meeting to order at 7:05
2. Roll call was taken with Trustees Roach, Goveia, Freimann, Myszka and Luke all present. Trustee Lush was absent. Also present were Clerk James, Treasurer Zwilling and Attorney Wall.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was taken.
4. A motion to approve the order of the agenda was made and approved.
 - Discussion: Item 8ii should read November. Item 1iii, this ordinance will be scratched. We will post-pone a vote on Mr. Kretz's Eagle Scout project. Add discussion item for Beecher Trails railroad agreement.
5. Eagle Scout Project(s) Report. No report given.
6. Superintendent Report-Kevin Whitehouse reported that 1.333 million gallons was pumped to BNWRD last month. The iron content was 1.5.
 - We had a couple of leaks that were fixed this month. One boil order was issued. The water came back clean and the boil order has been lifted.
7. Engineer Report- Shawn from Farnsworth updated the board on Beecher Trails. .
8. Treasurer Report- We are still waiting for the audit report. The street fund is still rather tight.
9. Committee Report(s) No reports were given.
10. Mayoral Report- There is a Medical Cannabis farm being proposed 3 miles outside of Downs. The article was in The Pantagraph. Property values will increase which will benefit the school.
11. Trustee Reports
 1. Building Report- Trustee Freimann reported that we are getting about one building permit per month out at Cross Creek.
 2. Water and Sewer Report- Trustee Myszka reported that water department purchased a computer to upgrade software. BNWRD paid for half of the computer.
 3. Police and Services Report- Trustee Roach is working with 3 properties over weeds. One property has been resolved.

Trustee Roach stated that she was disappointed that the article about Downs no longer having police coverage was published in The Pantagraph. She explained that originally she had asked for an \$85,000 budget for police and was told she had to cut to \$51,000.

 - She had a candidate ready. This person had to withdraw an hour before last month's meeting.
 - According to the article, Superintendent Dave Mouser said he was not given advance notice about no police coverage. This was not correct. She left him a phone message and an email.
 - She asked the county to reduce their hours from 26 to 20 hours and they declined.

- We are learning through this process that police coverage is important to this community.
 - Other towns our size, co-op for police coverage. We don't tax like other municipalities do.
4. Streets Report- Mayor James reported for Trustee Lush. He asked for better cooperation with the water and sewer department.
 5. Parks, Community Center and Food Pantry Report- Trustee Goveia reported that the spotted grass is bad in the playground and she is working on it.
 - They were accepted in the backpack program this year. Any student K-6 that qualifies for reduce lunch qualifies for this program.
 - The football team is having a fundraiser from Nelson's catering. Residents can donate their meal to the food pantry.
 6. Finance Report- No report given.

12. Discussion

1. TIF 3
 - Trustee Luke, Mayor James and Shawn from Farnsworth went through a series of interviews with TIF firms.
2. Re-Development Agreement with Corn Belt Energy. They are having internal discussions about Energy Way. It was never dedicated and taken over by Downs.
3. BP Letter- Mayor James needs to do some more research on this.
4. Farmland Subdivision- The ordinance says we need a final set of as built plans from Mr. Misch.
5. Railroad agreement with Beecher Trails- MM Bowers reached out to the RR to put in a pipe. We received agreement from the RR that we are the licensee and not MM Bowers.

13. Public Comment

- Mr. Neubauer was interested in the progress on the police issue.
- Ms. Keylin asked several TIF Fund questions.

14. Motion to Approve Items Contained within the Consent Agenda was made and approved.

15. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda made and approved.

1. Motions

- i. Motion to Approve the August 7, 2014 Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
- ii. Motion to Approve Road Closures: Franklin from Seminary to Lincoln, Water from Franklin to Main, Dooley Park Road 6 - 11 pm on October 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 and November 1, 2014
- iii. Motion to Approve the Extension of Dooley Park Hours on October 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 and November 1, 2014 until 11 pm

2. Ordinances

- i. Ordinance 2014-11 Approving Replacing Chapter 18 - Land Use Plan with Chapter 18 - Strategic Development and Land Use Plan
- ii. Ordinance 2014-12 Enacting and Approving the Franchise Agreement with Mediacom Illinois LLC and the Village of Downs

- iii. Ordinance 2014-13 Authorizing a Variance of the Village of Downs Code Chapter 14, Article VI, Section 3c Allowing Recycled Asphalt with CA-6 for Off-Street Parking in Kickapoo Park

16. New Business

1. Motions

- i. Motion to Approve continuance of the Village of Downs Regular Board Meeting to _____, 7:00 pm at the Village Hall No Action
- ii. Motion to rescind 8/7/2014 Approval of Lease with IKON for Village Hall Copy Machine at \$189 /mth for a Term of 48 Months was made and approved.
- iii. Motion to Approve Lease with Capitol Business Systems for Village Hall Copy Machine at \$170.50 /mth for a Term of 36 Months was made by approved.

17. Old Business

1. Postponed

- i. Motion to Approve Recommended Village Donation of \$___ to Steven Kretz' Boy Scout Eagle Project

18. Executive Session no action

19. Action on Executive Session Items no action

20. Motion to approve payment of bills was made and approved.

21. Motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm was made and approved.

Public Safety Information

This is a reminder to please keep weeds mowed for safety reasons and to keep our roads and community safe for all residents and visitors. Overgrown grass and weeds create safety hazards especially for drivers. Please take note of the following Village ordinance:

Overgrown weeds, grass or plants that grow to a height exceeding eight (8) inches are hereby declared to be a nuisance and in violation of the Village of Downs Ordinance: WEEDS-NUISANCE (Chapter 16 Section 1 and 2)

Lets work together and help beautify our Village!

Maureen Roach
Trustee

Village of Downs Water/Sewer Trustee Report

September 4, 2014

A new computer was purchased for the Village hall as an upgrade to run the water/sewer billing software. The old computer had an outdated operating system that was no longer being supported by Microsoft. BNWRD has offered to pay for half of the cost of that upgrade.

The water main break on Woodlawn that required a boil order was on a type of pipe and in a location that caused a delay in repairs. A special crew familiar with that transite pipe was brought in for that repair and I apologize for the delays.

Sincerely

Paul Myszka

Water/Sewer Trustee

Water and sewer report for the month of August 2014

9/3/2014

The sewer lift station delivered 1,332,000 gallons to BNWRD for the month, averaging 43,000 per day. The total water pumped for the month was 2,264,200 gallons for an average of 73,000 gallons per day. The average iron concentration in the finished water was 1.50 PPM for the month. Service line leaks were repaired at 106 E Garfield and 208 N Woodlawn. The water main was damaged during repairs at 208 and required a section of main to be replaced with a boil order being issued. No other main repairs were needed in August. The conversion to radio reads continues. We still have no results from the recent ISO inspection.

Kevin Whitehouse
309-319-1010
309-378-2137
downswaterplant@hotmail.com

PARKS, COMMUNITY CENTER, AND FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Thanks to the Tri-Valley Football Moms and Varsity Football Team for their generous donation of over thirty prepared meals from Nelsen's catering given out to senior citizens and food pantry recipients. This was an awesome community service project and deeply appreciated by all.

We are ready to start the Backpack program with Tri-Valley K through 6th grades. Each Friday, students who have reduced or federally funded lunch eligibility, will receive a sack of nutritious snacks and food items. If you would care to donate to this program, or the regular food pantry please contact Mary through the e-mail or phone number listed below.

The tree removal in the park has occurred, thank you to all who came and helped with the clean up and removal of both the brush and the wood. The remaining wood will be kept by the village for the upcoming Frite Fest in the village. Also, due to community service volunteers, the spider grass is finally out of the playground area and hopefully will not return.

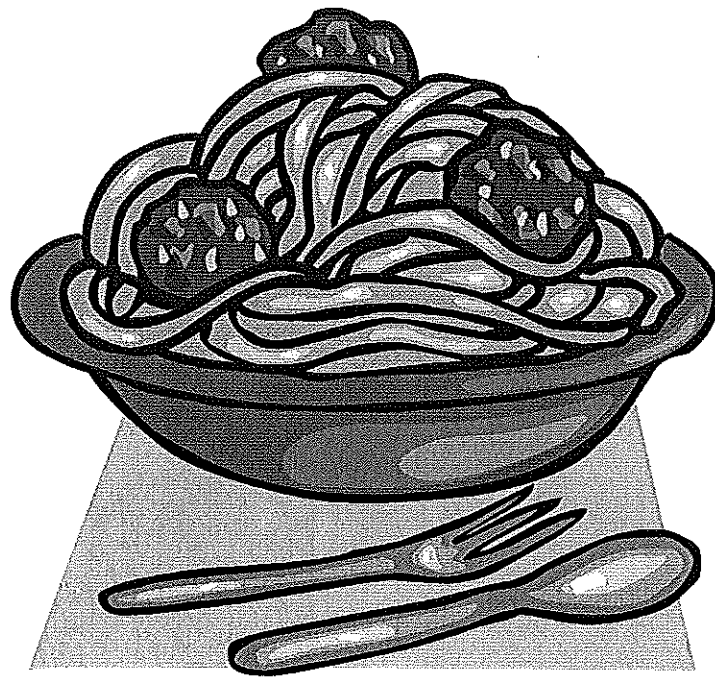
Dooley park will be a point of concentration this month to clean out weeds and brush and getting ready for the winter season.

The next Park Meeting is Monday, September 29th, 7:00 P.M. at Dooley Park Pavilion. This is a public meeting for discussion of adding a bike path to Kickapoo Park, and Frisbee Golf, plus long range plans for Kickapoo Park, with our regular meeting to follow.

Contact information Parks@villageofdowns.org. or Mary Goveia, at 212-0594.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

DOWNS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SUNDAY

Sept 28, 2014

4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

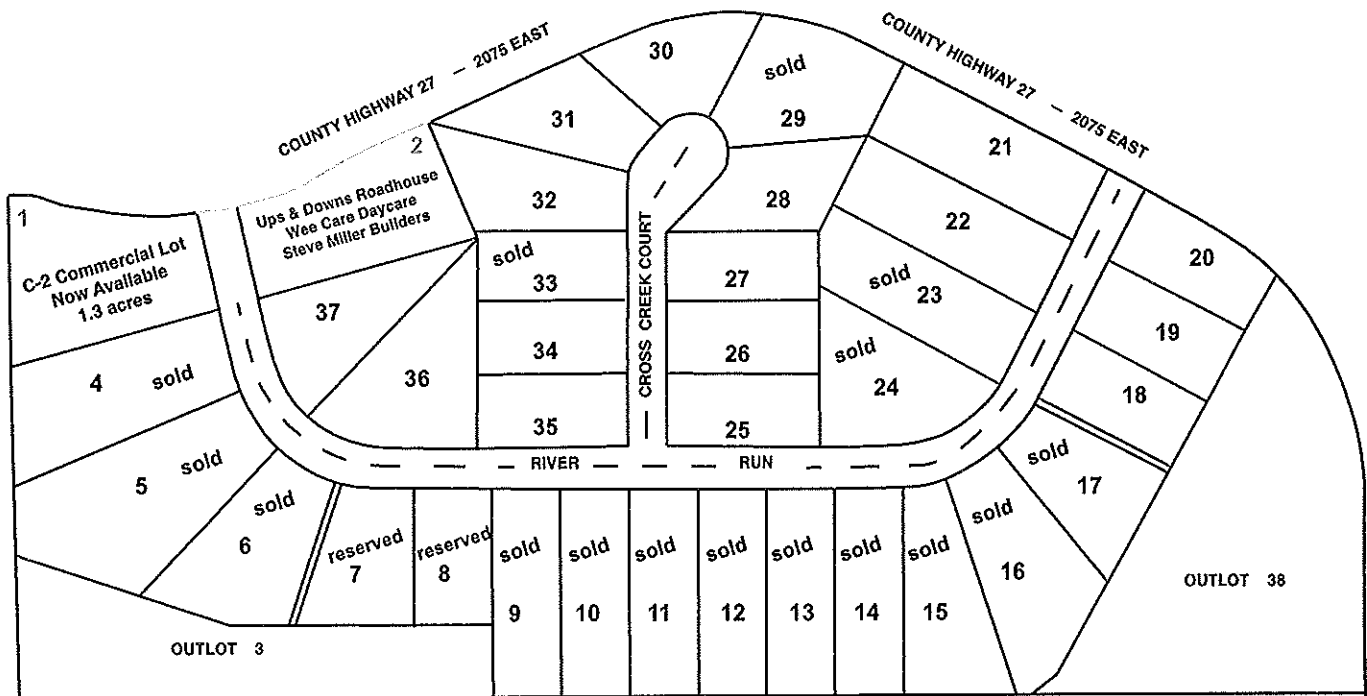
Free will offering accepted for missions.

STEVE MILLER BUILDERS

Cross Creek Residential Lots Now Available

For More Information and to Reserve Yours Today
Call or visit Steve Miller at Cross Creek's Design Center

1-309-378-3029 or steve@stevemillerbuilders.com



TRI-VALLEY SCHOOLS

All lots 22,500 sq. feet or larger

Building Permits ONLY \$350

Water included · Septic Required

No HOA and less than 10 min. from State Farm

All builders are welcome!!!

stevemillerbuilders.com for more information

Print this page.
Bring it to any market in 2014.

Get \$1 Off
any purchase
at the

Downs Village Market

See old friends.....
4 - 6 p.m.
Wednesdays
June - September
Live Music Every Week
New & Returning Vendors

Produce
&
More

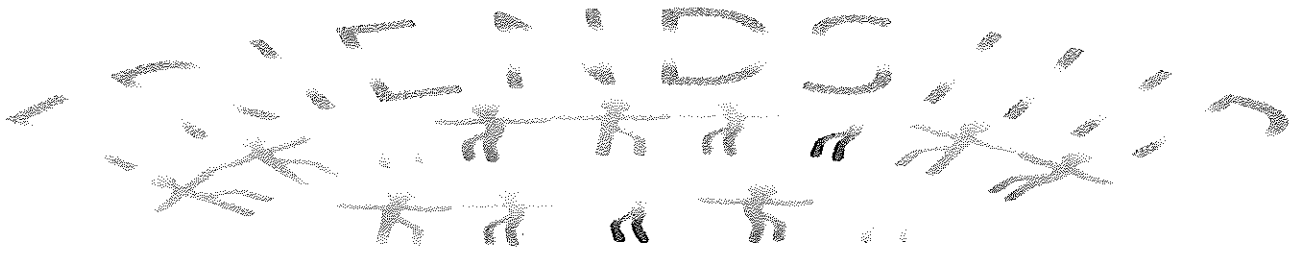
.....make new ones.....

Meat
Crafts
Produce
Baked Goods
Plants & Flowers



Every Wednesday
Rain or Shine!

Remember—Local food tastes better!



Dear Friends,

This letter of request is being sent to you regarding a local family in Downs, IL. On April 4th, 2014, Brenda Lawson received the news that all families pray not to hear. Brenda was diagnosed with a tumor on her brain and needed to have surgery right away to remove the tumor. Brenda went into the hospital on Friday, April 11th, 2014 to have the tumor removed from her brain and was discharged from the hospital on April 28th, 2014. This surgery has affected Brenda in many ways, which include her ability to be able to go back to work due to her eye sight. It has also affected her speech and walking.

Brenda has been self-employed for twenty-five plus years cleaning residential houses. She has a husband, Jim Lawson, they have been married for 26 years and together they raised two children Tisha and Zach Lawson. They also have two grandsons Caleb Lawson, 7 and Lawson Detloff, 4.

Family, friends, and loved ones will be holding a benefit for Brenda Lawson on Saturday, September 27th, 2014 at Adkisson's at 209 S. Seminary St. Downs, IL from 4p.m-11p.m. Today we are asking from your establishment to make this a success, as the family is encountering mounting medical expenses. A dinner, silent auction, 50/50 drawing, bid boards, and live music will all be featured at our benefit. Please help support this small town family's benefit by donating to us from your company gift certificates/cards, or a gift basket of your company product. All donations big or small are greatly appreciated, as we would be honored for your company to lend us a hand.

Any contributions will be greatly appreciated by the Lawson Family. Our EIN number for the Friendship Benefit for Brenda Lawson is: 47-1386294

Please contact Tisha Lawson at: (309)242-7052 or by email at: tishey84@hotmail.com
or Jenny Knuth at: (309)275-6688 or by email at: jknuth0722@gmail.com

Any monetary gifts to the Friendship Benefit for Brenda Lawson, can be deposited at any local Busey Bank

Thank you for supporting this small town Family

Regards
Tisha Lawson

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

10' x 24' with 9' x 7' door

From \$42/month

Village of Downs
 211 S. Seminary St.
 PO Box 18
 Downs, Illinois 61736

Current Resident
 Downs, Illinois 61736

Village of Downs Officials and Contacts

Mayor	Mike James	309-830-7374	Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org	
Clerk	Julie James	309-830-7373	Clerk@VillageOfDowns.org	
Trustee – Pro Tem	Mike Freimann	309-378-1538	Building@VillageOfDowns.org	Building
Trustee	Mary Goveia	309-212-0594	Parks@VillageOfDowns.org	Parks - Reservations
Trustee	Susan Luke	309-275-3038	Finance@VillageOfDowns.org	Finance
Trustee	Dan Lush	309-838-6031	Streets@VillageOfDowns.org	Streets
Trustee	Paul Myszka	309-558-4673	PublicWorks@VillageOfDowns.org	Public Works
Trustee	Maureen Roach	309-378-1477	PublicSafety@VillageOfDowns.org	Public Safety & Services
Treasurer	Alan Zwilling	309-378-8554	Treasurer@VillageOfDowns.org	
Water Plant	Kevin Whitehouse	309-310-1010	DownsWaterPlant@hotmail.com	Public Works Superintendent
Non-Emergency	MetCom	309-888-5030		
Emergency		911		
Village Hall		309-378-3221	Info@VillageOfDowns.org	
Zoning	Lyndall Cuba	309-378-3221	Info@VillageOfDowns.org	Zoning Enforcement Officer
Zoning	Linda Bowman	309-378-3221	Info@VillageOfDowns.org	Zoning Board of Appeals Chair
Committee	Paul Messamore			Development Committee Chair
Committee	Don Kopack			Events Committee Chair