



November 2011

Sewer- Construction is complete, all that's left is reconstruction. One Sewer Ordinance remains to be reviewed and amended. Potholes on Huff Road will be addressed with both contractors. Negotiations with BNWRD continue regarding the pre-annexation that needs to be executed in order for the Village to utilize the BNWRD facilities.

Village Board Legislative Action

Motion approving Ordinance 2011-17 amended Chapter 19, Sewer Use Ordinance 2009-05
Carried unanimously

Motion approving Resolution 2011-18 an amended Intergovernmental Agreement with BNWRD
Carried unanimously

Motion approving Ordinance 2011-19 approving Public Works Superintendent position
Carried with 4-2 vote

Motion approving posting for Public Works Superintendent position
Carried with a 4-2 vote

Motion approving purchase of Fisher Salt Spreader
Carried with a 5-1 vote

Motion approving audit for fiscal year ending 4/30/11
Carried unanimously

Motion approving a work change order for Phase B
Carried unanimously

Motion approving amended agreement with CIRBN
Carried unanimously

Senior News: The Seniors met at Shannon's for breakfast on Thurs., Nov. 3rd. The Dec. 1st breakfast will be at CJ's Restaurant. Everyone enjoyed Peggy McManus as she gave a presentation on the culture of the Virgin Islands during the Oct. 19th meeting.

The Nov. 16th meeting will be at the Downs United Methodist Church for our annual Thanksgiving meal. Turkey, potatoes, gravy will be furnished. Please bring supplies for the holiday baskets. The committee is Ray and Della Prince and Dixie Curtis.

New Seniors are always welcome!

The Village Hall will be **CLOSED** on Thurs., Nov. 24th and Fri., Nov. 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Mayoral Update

November 7, 2011

Dear citizens,

We have had an absolutely beautiful fall and the good weather has allowed finishing work on the sewer to progress nicely. The very difficult bore under Interstate 74 is finally complete and all of the sewer pipe is installed. Pressure testing and the televising of the pipe will begin in the next few weeks. Televising of the existing sewer pipe in Mallard Subdivision will be performed this week to insure pipe has not lost any integrity over the years and that it will perform properly once connected to the entire system. We do not yet have a final date when homeowners and businesses will be able to begin connecting. Every home and business will be receiving a letter of readiness to connect to the system.

There is no doubt our Village roads have taken a beating during the sewer construction and we have been addressing this with the engineers and contractors. The potholes to the immediate North and South of the railroad viaduct on Huff Road will be completed with hot mix asphalt this fall to smooth out the potholes and settling. A new cover of seal coat will be completed in the spring. Unfortunately, there were issues out of control that caused too much delay to fully complete Huff Road this fall. The plants that supply the oil for spray patch and seal coat work have closed their operations for the year.

Our garbage collection company, Casali and Son's, attended our meeting to propose a new recycling schedule, which would add an extra day of picking up recycling. We will keep you updated as to the possibility of the additional day and schedule change for recycling pickup. Casali stated that roughly only 30% of the homes are recycling and they would like to see 75% participation in recycling. I encourage everyone in the Village to use our curbside recycling service. If we can all reduce the amount of garbage going to the transfer station we can keep future garbage collection fees to a minimum.

The Village Board discussed Farmland subdivision's road at the last few board meetings and the Board is working with the developer to have the road completed as soon as possible.

Please read the November finance report in the flyer. As of 10/31/11 the total funds for the Village has increased 340% from May2009! I am very proud that even in the awful economic times of our state and nation, our current Village Board has been very fiscally responsible and able to maintain a healthy financial reserve for our Village. Over the last few years, we have adopted numerous Intergovernmental Agreements with other municipalities that has created unique partnerships and significant cost savings. These arrangements of local partnerships are crucial for small governmental entities such as Downs and I look forward to more successful partnerships in the future.

Finally, I would like to inform you of a new job title for a Village employee. With the completion of our new sewer system and our ongoing infrastructure needs, the Village Board has approved a position of Public Works Superintendent. This position will allow us to properly maintain our sewer system, improve our water quality, continue to make improvements on our roads and be the most cost-effective way to accomplish all three critical infrastructures for our Village.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ryan



Website!!

Ladies and Gentlemen!! Boys and Girls!!

It is time for our own website:

www.villageofdowns.org

DATE: Today

TIME: Anytime

WHERE: www.villageofdowns.org

WHY: To come together as a community and share

- 1) We are looking for contributors of ideas, photos, and content.**
 - 2) Submit your email address for future notifications**
 - 3) This is a work in progress and will continue to grow**
 - 4) As soon as possible, please let us know if you would prefer the village flyer information via paper or web.**
- Contact Mike Sumner at mjpsumner@yahoo.com**



Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks Committee

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

Mike James
Chairperson / Indian Hills

Lori Aldridge
Clerk

Open
Mallard Point

Lori Aldridge
Village Westside

Randall Stine
Village Eastside

Street Report For October 2011

Fall weather wraps up another season of street repair and we have had a lot!

We have been scrambling to get as much of the sewer street repair completed as possible this fall. However, we will fall short of getting everything completed. Next spring we will finish up the remaining punch list streets items for Huff, Cleveland, Kickapoo, Franklin, Fox Run, Lincoln, Gadwall and possibly others.

Sidewalk work was completed last month as we attempt to wrap up all the bad spots in town and work toward sprucing up Seminary Street at little each year. New street signs are starting to go up around town and we still hope to complete the installation of all our new signs that we had ordered this fall.

Snow removal preparation is taking place. The Streets Department will be doing all of our snow plowing this year, which will allow us full control over the work being done. I realize that there are different ways to plow and always different ideas on how it should be done. I expect this to be a rather interesting year and hope to have the cooperation of all residents for helping make transition as easy as possible.

Snow removal will start at ~2" and will focus getting one pass through all streets before widening and cleanup is done. Cars parked along the side of the roads will slow this process down. Please park your cars in your driveway during days where we are expecting 4"+ of snow or high winds. Once removal is completed we will come back through and spread salt. We still could use a few more backup drivers. If you are interested please email or call me immediately.

During the fall we all have to deal with leaves, brush and fall cleanup. I am still not where I want to be in this regard with helping and providing a healthier way for cleanup. Please do not put or burn this in ditches or in front of culverts in order to keep the debris from washing into the culverts and causing problems downstream or with your neighbor (This is against village ordinances). I do appreciate all the help and support with keeping Downs looking great by picking up litter, keeping ditches clean and mowed.

Financial High-Level Plan for FY2011 Street Funds as of 10/31/2011:

Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks Fund		
Description	Actual	Budget
FY2010 Ending Balance	\$8,207.17	\$8,207.17
Budget RB Tax & GF Repayment	\$19,626.37	\$26,484.65
Total Revenue for Expenditure	\$27,833.54	\$34,691.82
Road and Bridge Expenses	\$12,164.72	\$34,220.00
Net Income(Loss)	\$7,461.65	\$471.82
Percent of budget	35.55%	
SAS Account Balance	\$14,890.97	

Motor Fuel Tax Fund		
Description	Actual	Budget
FY2010 Ending Balance	\$17,210.99	\$17,210.99
Budget MFT Revenue	\$15,934.69	\$25,446.00
Total Revenue	\$33,145.68	\$42,656.99
MFT Expenses	\$32,434.74	\$36,996.00
Net Income(Loss)	\$710.94	\$5,660.99
Percent of budget	87.67%	
MFT Account Balance	\$712.39	

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 Financial Report, November 2011

The end of October marks the 6th month into the fiscal year and time for a brief update from the Finance Committee. The sewer project is near completion with homeowners and businesses ready to connect. Did we think we would ever reach this historic point in time? The Village Board with direction from Treasurer Cuba has maintained a close and watchful eye overseeing sewer disbursement checks and overall sewer project finances. I am pleased the Village was able to offer a low interest financing option to assist our citizens with BNWRD costs. The paperwork loan process with citizens went smoothly and re-payment processes are in motion.

Sales Tax

The Village of Downs continues to be challenged financially accruing less sales tax dollars which have been slower than anticipated. Income tax receipts are three months late and approaching \$18,000 that is due the Village. A payment received in September was vouchered in June.

Water Fund

Challenges remain, with some line items over budget; however, the overall budget is not. Water line breaks and hydrant replacements have strained the budget, but are maintenance necessities.

Motor Fuel

Motor Fuel is close to spending all of the budgeted dollars allocated; however this is typical for this time of year. Due to cash flow issues we have borrowed from SAS since the income into Motor Fuel has not all been received as it comes in on a monthly basis.

Budgets

Over the next six months the finance committee will continue to closely monitor line items so notto exceed budgets. General Fund Cash Balance for 4/30/2011 is \$82471.53 in comparison to \$48796.35 for 4/30/2010. The Village maintains various bank accounts. As of April 30, 2011 total cash and cash equivalent accounts was \$699,495; April 20, 2010 was \$424,558 on the books. *Line 513Vehicle Maintenance* is over because Police needed maintenance performed on the squad car. *Line 655Fuel* is over the 50% mark, but mowing should be done for the season with less gasoline costs. We will continue to closely watch sewer project dollars. We need to build up our reserves. Unlike state government, as local officials, we will need to continue making hard decisions and living within our means to balance our budgets every year.

Future Goals

With the completion of the sewer project, the Village needs to focus attention on economic growth and development. A task force should be formed and involve citizens. In addition, the board needs to consider upgrades to the Village Hall to make this facility a community hub for governmental business that is accessible to all citizens, and a welcome center to this community. It is therefore, my proposal to the mayor and board of trustees to consider using TIF and SAS funds to build a handicap ramp and a few other minor structural upgrades to make this public use facility both functional and accessible and compliant with ADA regulations to meet the future goals of this Village. We cannot afford to wait any longer to accomplish these much needed renovations.

I am honored to serve as the Finance Trustee. A special thanks to our Treasurer Janice Cuba for her leadership and guidance throughout the sewer project and overseeing the day to day financial complexities related to Village finances. Submitted by Maureen Roach, Finance Trustee



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.

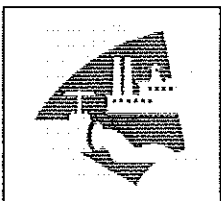
Hydrant Flushing will be November 15, 16, 17 from **9:00-12:00 noon**. Evening flushing has been discontinued due to high water usage in the evenings.

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.

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND BUSINESSES FOR
YOUR SUPPORT IN MAKING HALLOWEEN IN DOOLEY
PARK AND THE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES A SUCCESS
IN 2011!!!!!!**

Donating Businesses

Avon – Amie Mouser Representative
Bob Evans
Buffalo Wild Wings
Downs Travel Mart
McDonald's
McLaughlin Chiropractic
Meijer
Niepagen's Garden Shop
Shannon's Five Star Restaurant
Smoothie King
Subway

Volunteers for Children's Activities

Jon Nelson
Lindsey Abeling
Alex Wielander
Jeanne Hall
Leigh and Ashlyn Hayes
Janelle Zachow
Paul & Brooke Myska
Ron & Laura Bass
Morgan & Amie Mouser
Ryan & Angie McLaughlin

Hayrake Rides/Assistants

Jeff Riddle
Jeff Sutton
Jeff Misch
Bill White
Mike Sumner
Dick & Leora Osborne
Paul Myska
Tim Wert Carolyn Carter

Costume Contest Winners:

Cutest: Ulysses Torres
Scariest: Jack Boema
Most Original: JD Clark
Best Costume: Morgan Mouser

Concession Workers:

Steve Stark and Living Hope Youth
Daisy Troop 1359
Maureen Roach
Janice Cuba
Peggy Stark
Mary Lou Romine

Candy Corn Game Winner:

Brady Sutton

Coloring Contest:

Paige Meadows
Kami Meyers
Madison Adams
Olivia Haerr
Sydney Nelson
Amanda Kelley

Ticket Sales

Julie Hahn
Karen Lilenthal
Teresa Capodice
Mary Langhoff

Bon Fire

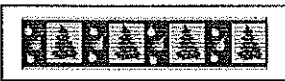
John Capodice
Jarod & Julie Hahn
Randy Hadfield and Familyl



PARK NEWS

There are four new trees in Dooley Park! Thanks to Jerry Prochnow, the Senior Citizens, Downs Market Committee, and the Downs Youth Center for making this happen.

Our Veterans Day Tea went well, with Don Kirk adding a brick to our display. Thanks to Maureen Roach for thinking of current service people, and Marla Brotherton for putting the program together. James McManus played bugle. Bricks can be purchased by contacting Mary Goveia or Marla Brotherton.



Christmas in the Park is starting to decorate! This can only be successful with volunteers. Starting Saturday, November 12th at 1:00, anyone who would like to help would be greatly appreciated. If you can be there, please come! If you have any questions, please contact Mary at (309) 212-0594. We have much to put up, but it needs bodies to do that!

Thanks to Tri-Valley High School teachers Denise Obrien and George Van Winkle and several students for helping with new letter cutouts that will be part of this year's display, as well as several years to come.

We are still looking for old garden umbrellas, a wheel barrow or wagon, and any other Christmas decorations you no longer use, If you have old lights that need pitched, bring them to the park as we are collecting and will take to Morris Tick at the end of the season. The profit will be donated back to the Christmas fund.



The Gingerbread house will open Friday, December 2, at 6:00. It will be open Thursdays through Sunday, until December 18th, and will be open Thursday, December 22nd for their last night. If you would like to volunteer to help with cookies, please contact Janice Cuba at 378-4500.

Thank you to all who stopped by and supported the Haunted House this year. It was a great success! We added the "Un Haunted House" this year and I'm pleased to report that we had great feedback from those who stopped by. We will be continuing this new tradition next year as well. A special thanks to all the lil ghosts, goblins, princesses, zombies, and characters that came through, without you it wouldn't have been possible.

I would also like to thank the list of the haunted house members and crew, who without them there wouldn't be a haunting.

An enormous THANK YOU goes out to Bob Bair, for without his electrical, mechanical and physical labor our haunted house would not have been haunted! Thank you very much.

A special Thank you to Joe Bair whose determination, inspiration, hard work and many laughs kept us going every night we were there working. We'll see you next year!

Thank you to Karen and Jake Bair for your ideas, enthusiasm, your hard work and loaning us ½ of your family.

And to the crew: What can I say, we have the best crew anywhere, each bringing their own "creepiness" to their character to make it unique. Thank you to Eric, Jeff, Vinney, Megan, Chelsea, Matt, Brad, Chris, Kyle, Angie, Lauren, John, Christian, Jo, Tony, Billie, Megan, Jessica, Tommy, Randy, Dylan, Marshall, Harley, Crystal and Dan! A special thank you to John Dolan for your help with what needed done and to your family for their time away! Thank you to Steve Miller who help out in more ways than one and for the use of your fishin bucket, may it bring you luck in future endeavors! And to Cyndi Miller, we had so much fun this year. Thanks for taking on the new venture and learning the trait. I know by next year you'll be a pro! Can't wait until February so we can start planning for 2012!

Thank you to Alisha and Nicole for serving the hot chocolate and keeping everyone in order that night. You were a big help.

Thank you to Dick Osborn for the use of his driveway each year. We appreciate your kindness.

Thank you to Mary Goveia for helping me this year. I was very nervous in the beginning but you made my job very easy. I appreciate your help.

I would also like to thank my family for allowing me to spend the past 3 months at the haunted house getting it ready for the season. I truly love watching the crews inspirations grow each year from and then seeing our effort end up on the community's faces. Thank you for allowing me the time away.

And to the community of Downs, thank you for supporting us each year. We love what we do and will continue to do our best to make the Down's Haunted House better for you each year.

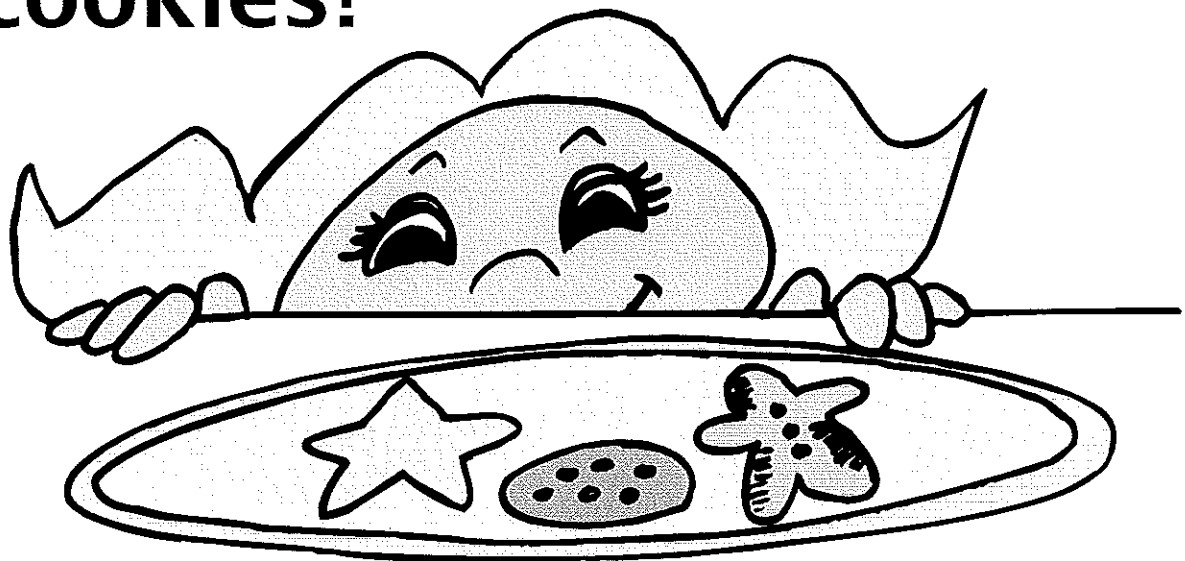
Jill Kasprzak

Downs United Methodist Church

Annual Cookie Walk

**Homemade
cookies!**

**Homemade
candy!**



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

COME BOUNCE WITH US!

A Basketball camp organized by
Seth Bauersfeld and Travis Goveia
of the McLean County Diversity Project

PURPOSE: A basketball camp experience for students with special needs ages 8 and above

WHEN: Saturday, November 12, 2011, from 9:30 to 11:30

WHERE: Tri-Valley High School Gym and Commons, 503 E. Washington Street, Downs, IL

COST: One can of food for Neville House

WHAT WILL WE DO? We will work on some basic fundamentals of basketball with guidance from the Tri-Valley Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams, coached by Jon Nelson and Brad Harmon. After the review of the basics, scrimmage games will occur.

AND THEN? A social interaction is planned, with words of encouragement being shared. Refreshments will be served.

Please complete this information, and e-mail to goveiamary@yahoo.com or mail to Travis Goveia at 212 E Washington, Downs, IL 61736

Questions? Call Mary at (309) 212-0594.

Please pre-register, but know that walk-ins are also welcome.

Student's name _____

Parent's name _____

Home or cell phone number _____

E-mail address _____

WAIVER

**We, the parents of _____, do hereby agree to waive any liabilities
Through injuries or damages incurred during this basketball camp.**

(parent signature)

****Please note: Due to the possibility of post-season football conflicts, an alternate date for this event may have to be scheduled. If this occurs, you will receive at least 3 days advance notice via e-mail or phone contact. ****

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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	