



January 2012

Sewer –Most of the administrative items for the Sewer Project were finalized this month. A letter will be sent to all property owners in the next 30 days outlining the process to obtain a permit for installation of the sewer service connection.

Living Hope Church- will be submitting paperwork to the Zoning Board of Appeals to annex property into the Village of Downs to build a multi-purpose facility.

Village Board Legislative Action

Motion approving Ordinance 2012-01 an Ordinance approving and adopting Chapter 20 Wastewater Service Charges as amended. Carried Unanimously

Motion approving Resolution 2012-02 approving the Pre-Annexation Agreement with BNWRD. Carried Unanimously

Motion approving Resolution 2012-03 approving the amended and restated Intergovernmental Wastewater Treatment Agreement between The Village of Downs and Bloomington and Normal Water Reclamation District. Carried Unanimously

Motion approving Resolution 2012-04 approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between McLean County and the Village of Downs for the Improvements of County Highway 36 and Jurisdictional Transfer from McLean County to the Village of Downs. Carried Unanimously

Motion approving Ordinance 2012-05 authorizing an installment agreement to purchase a New Holland T4.100 tractor over a period of time not to exceed 60 months. Carried Unanimously

Motion to approving Resolution 2012-06 Authorizing the Village Clerk to destroy executive session audio taped minutes over eighteen months old and to keep sealed specific executive session minutes of the Village of Downs. Carried Unanimously

Motion to authorize the Mayor to seek up to 5 certified persons to act on a rotation to serve as Village Sewer Connection Inspector. Carried Unanimously

Motion to approve cost sharing of mediator for mediation on 2/7/2012. Carried unanimately

Motion approving bids for fence located at sewer pump station. Carried Unanimously

Motion approving substantial completion certificate for Fischer. Carried Unanimously

Motion approving sewer connection letter to Village homeowners as amended Carried Unanimously

Motion approving the use of Tri-Valley CUSD #3 phone notification system Carried unanimately

Motion to approve moving the 2/2/2012 meeting to 2/9/2012 but still paying the bills as needed on 2/2/2012. Carried Unanimously

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.

Mayoral Update

January 7, 2012

Dear citizens,

In February every homeowner should receive their letter explaining the connection process for the sewer system. At our January board meeting, your village board passed the final administrative ordinance pertaining to the sewer system. We are in the process of fine tuning the final steps in this multi-year and multi-million dollar sewer system. With the timing of our project, we were able to take advantage of both state and federal stimulus funding, it will cost each of us much less than similar communities installing infrastructure of this magnitude. Our 11 year, \$11 million project, the loans we did need are 0% loans that have 25% principal forgiveness, saving us millions over the life of the loan.

I know many of you have had questions regarding the financials of this project and here is the financial breakdown and where all the funds were derived:

1. Engineering design and construction
2. Three phases of sewer installation
3. Cornbelt Energy for pump station

These three components totaled roughly \$10.8 million in costs. The village received a last minute Build Illinois grant of \$3.8 million that does not have to be repaid. This grant also provided another \$1.6 million in principal forgiveness from our loan. This leaves the remaining \$5.3 million in a 0% interest 20 year loan.

We have been interviewing candidates for the Public Works Superintendent position. This person will be devoting their time to the water plant operation, sewer system monitoring and maintenance and street department work. Their immediate task will be devoted to improving the quality of water and maintenance of equipment to decrease the probability of more boil orders due to mechanical repairs. We know as a board that basic services such as water and roads are what residents expect from their local government. The results of the water quality survey on the village website(www.villageofdowns.org) made it clear that the water quality is one area of our infrastructure we must improve.

I want to personally thank Trustee Mike James and members of Downs Township for their hours of dedication in planning, improving and maintaining the village road ways.

Please read the reports from the trustees in this month's flyer as they pertain to important issues for all citizens.

1. A phone notification system that the village is utilizing with the school district (Thank you Tri-Valley CUSD#3 and Mr. Pearson).
2. Detailing snow plowing and speed limit reduction through town
3. Sewer system connection information

As always, if you have any questions please call me or any trustee. Have a safe and Happy New Year!

Mayor Ryan

Sewer Update January 2012

The Village of Downs' and its engineering firm, Farnsworth Group, continue to finalize details before opening the new village sewer collection system to homeowners. Homeowners should expect to get the sewer connection packet from the village by the end of February.

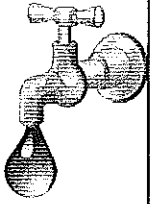
At January's meeting, the board approved the part of the sewer ordinance that set the rates residents will pay for the sewer.

- 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.
 - This portion of the fee for will be \$22 per month, broken down as follows:
 - \$17 for payment of the zero-percent interest loan (\$5.3 million financed); this replaces the current \$15 sewer charge (a net increase of \$2 per month)
 - \$5 for operation, maintenance and repair
- Once homes are connected to the sewer system, they will be billed as follows:
 - \$0.98per 1,000 gallons of metered water use assessed by the village
 - \$1.63per 1,000 gallons of metered water use assessed by Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District
- The village will send a letter to residents telling them they may begin connecting to the system
 - We anticipate this letter being sent during February 2012.
 - The letter will include an application for connection.
 - 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).
 - There will be a permit fee of \$85 assessed to cover the cost of the inspection when the service is ready for final connection

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.



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.

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.

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.



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 amounts 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, January 16th for the Martin Luther King Holiday.



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 December 2011

Winter is officially here, but you certainly wouldn't know it from the unseasonable weather we have been having. I must say that God has been very good to us in our first full year of doing our own snow plowing.

Because of this, we have been able to do dry runs and one live run to test our routes and find additional troublespots. These spots have been marked with reflectors, etc. Please do not remove these reflectors and please help by watching and reporting where they have been removed. Many hours have been spent preparing our trucks, drivers, equipment and routes for when the snow really falls.

We will continue to salt as needed and will continue to do practice runs with small accumulations, etc. I said this back in November but will restate it again: I realize that there are different ways to plow and different ideas on how it should be done, but we are drawing from the knowledge of experienced drivers. I hope to have the cooperation of all residents for helping make this transition as easy as possible and will do our best accomodate special requests. The best way to assist us is by removing, if possible, any cars parked along the edge of the road during times when we are clearing the roads.

We are working to finish replacing all regulatory signs with the new MUTCD Federal Standard signs. All stop signs have been replaced and most of the weight limit signs have been replaced or implemented. If you have a business in town and will be operating vehicle(s) above the posted Village weight limits, then you must complete, yearly, a free permit to exceed posted Village weight limit. This permit application can be gotten from the Village website or Village Hall and returned to the Village Hall to my attention.

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. Mallard Point and Main Street will see the posted speed limit reduced to 25 mph per ordinance Chapter 8 Article IV Section 4. These speed limit signs will have red flags on them to help draw attention to where these changes have been implemented.

Finally, the Village Board approved the purchase of a tractor and loader for the Streets Department. This is another big step forward in bringing all our Village maintenance back inhouse and provide further long-run savings to our Village. To date, we have saved money by using inter-governmental agreements, part-time employees, volunteers, snow plowing, salting, chipping and providing resources for mowing.

Financial High-Level Plan for FY2011 Street Funds as of 12/31/2011:

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	\$22,532.92	\$26,484.65	MFT Revenue	\$20,348.55	\$25,426.00
Total Revenue for Expenditure	\$30,740.09	\$34,691.82	Total Revenue	\$37,559.84	\$42,656.99
Road and Bridge Expenses	\$15,640.56	\$34,220.00	MFT Expenses	\$32,434.74	\$36,996.00
Net Income(Loss)	\$6,892.36	\$471.82	Net Income(Loss)	\$5,125.10	\$5,660.99
Percent of budget	45.71%		Percent of budget	87.67%	
SAS Account Balance	\$14,150.68		MFT Account Balance	\$5,126.55	

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

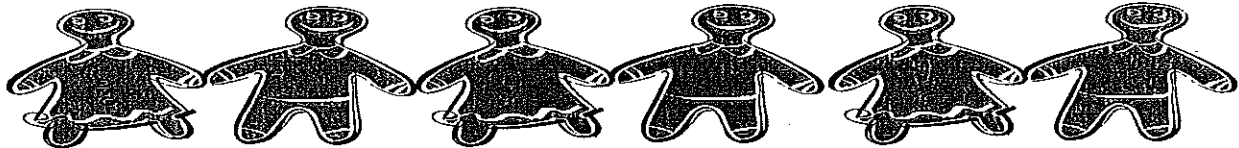
Christmas Committee



Thank you to everyone who helped with Christmas in the Park. All help is so much appreciated. There were many people and families that participated. Without volunteers, we could not have Christmas in the Park. Special Thanks to Denise O'Brien, George VanWinkle Josh Rund and their classes for all their work in putting the "Happy Holiday" sign together and unloading the Christmas Decorations from the trailers Jeff Misch moved for us. Thank you to Donna Kleinlein for repairing one of the inflatables and for donating craft items to the Gingerbread House.

Should you be interested in helping with this project in 2012 or have any ideas for the 2012 season, please contact Mary Goveia at 212-0594.

We are always looking for items that make good stakes such as larger dowel rods, fence posts and rebar. We do recycle old Christmas lights and any you have to donate, we will accept throughout the year. This year we generated \$120 with this project.



Village of Downs Phone/Email Notification Process

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 on Radio Bloomington. 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.

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 or email your information to downsvillagehall@hotmail.com. This information is confidential and we will utilize our best efforts so that it will not be used for any purpose other than that stated above.

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

**** Notice – Speed Limit Change ****

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East Side Highway Environmental Assessment Public Meeting Announcement



You are invited to attend an East Side Highway Public Information Meeting to be held on:

DATE Wednesday, January 11, 2012

TIME 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PLACE Normal Community High School
3900 East Raab Road
Normal, Illinois

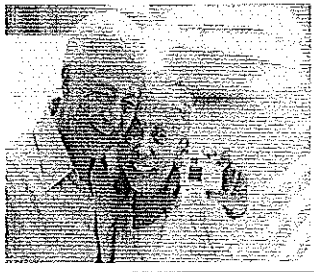
Purpose

The purpose of the meeting is to present the alternative evaluation process to date, and identify the remaining alignments.

A presentation will be given at 6:10 p.m. and 7:10 p.m. The content at each presentation will be identical. The presentation will include an overview of the alternative evaluation process, identification of the remaining alignments, and a discussion of roadway facility type. The remainder of the meeting will be open-house format with opportunity to browse exhibits. Staff will be available for discussion and questions. Comments will be taken at the meeting, and by mail, email, or fax after the meeting. For more information, visit the website at www.eastsidehighway.com.

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Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should contact Mr. Jerry Payonk of Clark Dietz at (217) 373-8900 to advise of planned attendance and needed accommodations.



SENIOR NEWS:

Everyone enjoyed the Christmas meal and gift exchange at Jack's on December 14th. We provided five baskets of food which included a ham and other non perishable items for the needy. Special thanks to Ed Carter for helping with that project.

There was no Senior Breakfast on first Thursday in January. The regular meeting will be held at the Downs United Methodist Church on Wednesday, January 18 at 11:30am. This is our annual soup meal. Come join us for Chili, Potato or Chicken Noodle soup. Bring a bowl for your soup and a salad or dessert to pass.

The committee for January is Jim & Lori Schaefer and Linda & Ken Bowman.

The February 2nd breakfast will be held at Jack's in LeRoy.



Don't forget to check out the Village of Downs website at:
www.villageofdowns.org

We are looking for contributors of ideas, photos, and content. Please let us know if you would prefer the village flyer information via paper or web. Contact Mike Sumner at mjpsumner@yahoo.com

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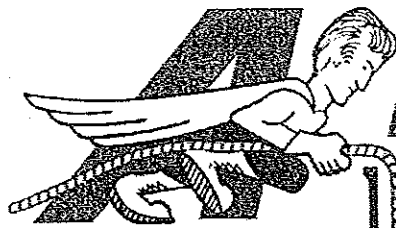
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DOWNS IL
PERMIT NO. 2

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	