



News & Current Events

March 2023

From the Desk of the Mayor

UPDATE: The lawsuit filed against the Village of Downs, Roanoke Concrete Products and Ken Hillard by a few Village residents has been dismissed, without prejudice, by the plaintiffs. Therefore, Roanoke will proceed with purchase of the property and building of the plant ASAP.

To address concerns and comments about the water quality, I have attempted to provide as much detail to help residents understand and catch up on history without writing a book.

- 1) The current water plant was built around 1976 and attempted to provide better water (obviously before my time). This filter system removes iron but has not been able to provide clear water. Plans were to add a water softener to the plant, but that never materialized AND it also would not have provided clear water.
- 2) In 2011 the Village hired a full-time public work employee to oversee the plant operations and try to improve the water quality through various methods among other things. This helped but we knew we needed to do something in the plant.
- 3) Halt all increases on water fees until water is acceptable (new plant built). Note this does not apply to sewer because increases are controlled by BNWRD.
- 4) I became Mayor in 2013 and “fixing” the water was one of my goals. The Village relied on our engineers to help us with what needed to be done and how to get funding for a new plant (more on that later). Additionally, the residents could not afford the additional debt service that would be placed on them because we had just finished the new sewer system and they had to spend lots of money to connect.
- 5) If a new plant was going to happen, we needed a Grant to eliminate or reduce that debt service and drastically increase our sales tax revenue. Nothing was ever presented by our engineers, and we were told grant money was NOT being given out, so we kept doing what we could to improve the water thinking we couldn’t get funding.
- 6) In 2013 we developed a TIF process to give assistance for improving property, especially in the downtown, to start building sales tax income through business growth.
- 7) In 2015 we implemented a new TIF district, primarily for commercial development, to further build sales tax revenue (ex. Gameday with infrastructure for new building).
- 8) In 2018 we started an RFI process to start a streetscape project for the downtown to help with parking and beautification because grant dollars were available for these projects.



Village Of Downs

From the Desk of the Mayor

Improving the downtown would also attract new business. During the RFI process, we discovered from one of the engineers, MSA, there were IEPA loans and potential principal forgiveness for water plant work, which caught us off guard.

- 9) We immediately started a process to get bids from engineers to start designing and engineering a new water plant because we were hearing that we had better chances with grants, etc. if we had “shovel-ready” projects.
- 10) In 5/2019 we signed an agreement with MSA to do water plant study on how we could finally fix the water.
- 11) Our public works superintendent resigned in 2019.
- 12) In 11/2019 we signed an agreement with MSA to move forward with engineering the “new” water plant which would overhaul and expand the current water plant and install a 3rd well. The water plant would be the latest and greatest technology which would include a larger iron filter, organics filter (clear water), and water softener. This project will cost the village and its residents ~\$4mil to complete.
- 13) We were on track to get this completed in 2021 when COVID brought everything to a slow crawl if not completely stopped.
- 14) As of 3/15/2023 we are out for bids on the “new” plant and hopefully will have contracts signed in June/July 2023.
- 15) Once contracts are signed, it will be 14-15 months before the plant is operational. The old plant will continue to operate alongside the construction until we are ready to “cut-over” to the new one.
- 16) Tower rehabilitation was a monumental task and kept us from flushing in the fall which caused decreased water quality over the winter.
- 17) Once we are done with completely flushing of all ~45 hydrants, we will employ a more frequent flushing schedule to keep the sediment from building up during the building of the new plant.
- 18) This round of flushing will take time because we can only flush 4-8 /day to keep an adequate reserve in the tower. We don’t flush on the weekends and must juggle with other issues that arise.
- 19) We are taking a different approach to try and speed up the process. We are flushing to a color versus x number of minutes, which is how it was done in the past.
- 20) Our village website and Facebook page are being updated with progress and additional information.
- 21) To make this new plant affordable for the village residents we need several things and are



actively working on them:

- a. Increase sales tax revenue as much as possible to take advantage of the 1% infrastructure sales tax passed in 5/2021 effective 7/2021 by attracting new business to Downs. This is the best way to reduce the debt obligation to the residents.
 - b. Continue to apply for grants where it makes sense...applied for three rounds of Rebuild Illinois grants which we were not awarded. Still waiting for another round to be announced in June/July.
22. Water rates will increase once the plant is operational, but you will no longer need RO, bottled water, or water softeners. We expect the rate increase and debt service increase will be offset by the reduced expenditure of no longer needing those items. *Please note that using a water softener after the new plant goes live could be harmful to your pipes.*

We continue to work on the following major items. Dollar amounts provided are estimates. Actual numbers will not be known until bidding and final 1% sales tax revenue is received (updates are in italics):

1) Water Plant upgrade

- a. Remodeled and Expanded water plant, new 3rd well, larger filter, organics removal (color), and water softener. Est Cost: \$4 mil.
- b. Still waiting for a decision from DCEO on Rebuild Illinois Grant Application
- c. *Bid letting was complete March 15, 2023.*
- d. *Once contracts are signed (June/July 2023) we expect it to take no more than 14-15 months to complete the water plant rehabilitation.*

2) Plans for water main extension to Downs Crossing via Rt 150, New tower, and looping dead ends

- a. Project will provide clean drinking water to Downs Crossing and make it business friendly and ready for new businesses to build. Project will increase water pressure for Beecher Trails, Village, and Indian Hills by looping the system. Project will provide increased daily water supply to Downs and increase our total stored water capacity to 250k gal.
- b. New Phase I is presently estimated at \$2,112,461
- c. Phase II is presently estimated at \$2,000,000.
- d. *Pushed project out due to delay in starting water plant rehabilitation. New estimated completion Timeline: Phase I – 4/2025; Phase II – 4/2026*

3) Securing new businesses for Downs and increasing our 1% sales tax revenue and reduce the estimated monthly debt service for both above water projects:



Village Of Downs

From the Desk of the Mayor

- a. Kickapoo Tea Room continues to prepare for its future opening at 102 S. Seminary St.
- b. Other business opportunities are being discussed and can't be disclosed at this time.
- 4) Downtown Streetscape and Parking
 - a. Still waiting for a decision from DCEO on Rebuild Illinois Grant Application
 - b. *Starting the paperwork and process to get this project rolling.*
 - c. *Working with McLean County Highway Depart. on what will be allowed since we don't have jurisdiction over Seminary, and we won't ever get it. Our previous plans WILL change, and we will have to adjust.*
- 5) Finalize Corn Belt Energy Park plat and public access – *No Update* - Landowner accepted three times and then rejected easement offer for public access based on fair appraisal. The Village can't accept until a public access easement has been established. Other options are being reviewed. No progress has been made to secure easements and we are not able to pay the amount Roger Reynolds wants for the easement.
- 6) Extend Water and Sewer to Freedom Oil – *No Update* - *Waiting for final bids from additional contractors.*
- 7) *Williamson Subdivision (I-74 & Seminary, across from Mobil) - I have not received confirmation of the removal of restrictive covenants. Board action will be void if this is not carried out.*
- 8) Huff Road Subdivision – *No Update.* *Dave Stark rescinded the petition for annexation and preliminary plans for 50-home subdivision due to change in agreed terms and conditions.*
- 9) S. Lincoln and Colleen Lane Water and Sewer Extensions - *No Update* - *Installation contractor is finalizing proposal and watermain installation expected to continue when weather gets nicer to avoid freezing pipes during exposure.*
- 10) Colleen Lane and Hillard Court roads – *No Update* – *Project for power to begin soon.*
- 11) DCEO Grant for Watermain Replacement – *No Update* – Village employees will be using \$25k grant for materials to replace watermain on East (including loop back to Woodlawn), Oak, Dooley, N. Lincoln streets once water and sewer extension has been completed on S Lincoln and Colleen Lane.

Please reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

In your service,

Mike James, Mayor

309-830-7374, Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org



Village of Downs Board of Trustees Special Meeting Overview March 9th, 2022, 7 pm @ Village Hall & via ZOOM

Executive order **2021-9** by the Governor of Illinois allowed this meeting to be held via Zoom, telephone and at the Village Hall.

1. Mayor James called to order the March 9, 2023, Village of Downs Board of Trustees Special Meeting at 7:00pm.
2. Roll Call was taken. Trustees present were Maureen Roach, Anna Milliken (via Zoom), Peggy Keylin, Sarah Gassaway and Brian Warfel. Toby Twyford was absent. There was a quorum to do business. Also present were Clerk Julie James, Village attorney Dawn Wall and Treasurer Julie Bakewell.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. A Motion to Approve Agenda and Order was made and approved.
5. There was an EnPower and Common Energy presentation.
6. Reports can be found in the flyer.
7. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
8. A Motion to Approve Items Contained within the Consent Agenda was made and approved.
9. A Motion to Approve Consent Agenda was made and approved.
- 10.

1. Motions

- a. Motion to Approve the February 9, 2023, Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Motion to Approve the February 9, 2023, Village Board of Trustees Executive Meeting Minutes
- c. Motion to Authorize and Approve the FY2024 Garbage Collection Monthly Rate of \$13.75 to Start May 1, 2023
- d. Motion to Approve Amanda Knight to the Events Committee
- e. Motion to Authorize and Approve Executing the FY2023 CPF Grant Agreement
- f. Motion to Approve Submitted FY2024 Event Plan from the Events Committee
- g. Motion to Approve Village of Downs Regular Events Committee Meeting Location, Dates and Time for FY2024



2. Ordinance

- a. Ordinance 2023-06 Approving the FY2023 Zoning Map of the Village of Downs
- b. Ordinance 2023-08 Approving and Adopting Amendments to Chapter 13 - Parks of the Village of Downs Municipal Code
- c. A motion to change rule to allow for unauthorized motor vehicles was made and approved.

3. Resolutions – moved to Old Business

- a. Resolution 2023-R11 Authorizing and Approving Intergovernmental Agreement Between Tri-Valley School District and the Village of Downs
- b. Resolution 2023-R14 Authorizing and Approving Agreement Between Duce and the Village of Downs for Directional Boring and Installation of Sewer Lift Station

11. New Business

1. Motions

2. Ordinances

- a. A motion to approve Ordinance 2023-07 Approving the Mayes Subdivision Final Plat was made and approved.

3. Resolutions

12. Old Business – No action was taken in Old Business

1. Motion to Reconvene the Village of Downs Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on _____ @ 7 pm at the Village Hall
2. Ordinance 2023-__ Approving and Adopting Amendments to Chapter 13 - Parks of the Village of Downs Municipal Code

13. A Motion to Approve Payment of Bills was made and approved.

14. Motion to Enter Executive Session - Executive Session was not entered.

15. Other Business – There was no other business.

16. A Motion to Adjourn at 9:25pm was made and approved.



All Building Permits

All Building and Demolition Permit Applications must be processed, approved, and issued a permit number before work can begin. This includes small projects, renovations, and new builds which could take up to 2 weeks to process. Please leave enough time before working on your project.

We have updated many of our forms! Make sure to print out the latest forms. Permit Forms can be found on our Forms and Applications page on the Village Website listed under Quick Links.

Billing

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING BILLING ISSUES INCLUDING PAYMENT ARRANGMENTS NEED TO BE DIRECTED TO THE VILLAGE HALL AT 309-378-3221 DURING OFFICE HOURS MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:30 a.m.—12.:30 p.m.

REMINDER: The billing due date is the **15th of the month**. Payments received after the 15th are subject to the late fees.

The Village is using an **ACH** (automatic withdrawal) program. This program has NO FEE to you! If you sign up for this program, you will continue to receive your monthly bill. On the 15th of the month, the Village will withdraw the entire amount due from the checking or savings account you provided on the authorization form. Authorization forms are on the website and will need to be submitted to the Billing Office by the 1st of the month you wish your first payment withdrawal to be made.

Reminder: if an ACH comes back as NSF it is treated like a check and cash or money order is needed to cover the NSF ACH. A 2nd NSF will result in no longer being eligible for ACH and all payments will need to be in cash or a money order.

GFL rate increase

Rate increase starting May 1, 2023

The garbage rate will increase from \$13.25 to \$13.75 starting on May 1, 2023.

GFL Environmental Bulk Pickup

First Garbage Day Pickup of the Month

Do not forget that the first garbage pickup of each month is our contracted bulk waste pickup for the Village. If you have a large item or a lot, please call GFL customer service prior to the scheduled pickup. Sample of items not taken - electronics, appliance with a compressor, batteries, landscaping material, bricks, block, construction material. If you have questions call GFL customer service at 309-688-0760.

Dumpster Use

Please remember, Dumpsters at residences, businesses, and parks are private and not for public use. If you have a need for a dumpster you can call GFL customer service at 309-688-0760 to order one.

Streets Report

Illegal Dumping

Please do not dump yard waste and ANY other items at the entrances to Kickapoo Park, Village storage land, and/or along Huff Rd South of Main St. Violators will be caught and fined accordingly!

If you have questions or concerns, please call Brian Warfel at 309-261-0183.

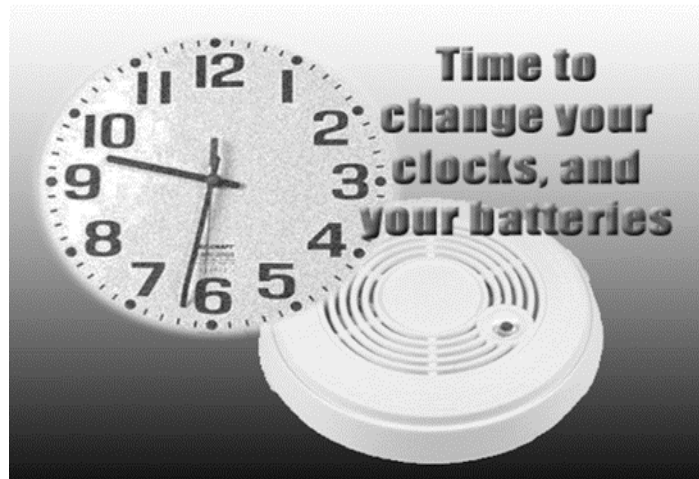
Village Snow & Ice Removal

Please Help Us Make Plowing Easier, Safer and More Efficient

The Village doesn't have a snow parking ban law and we prefer not to create one because we know we can rely on YOUR assistance and cooperation to help make our job easier. The following outlines our procedures and will adjust as needed:

We will usually precede each storm with salting intersections, hills, curves, and trouble areas. Snow removal will start at ~2" and will focus on getting one pass through all streets and keeping them open, until snow stops. Cars parked along the side of the roads will slow this process down and you may end up with a lot of snow around it. Please help us by parking your car(s) preferably in your own driveway, during storms where we are expecting 4" + of snow and/or high winds. Once removal is completed and the snow has stopped, we will come back through to widen, cleanup and spread salt.

March Public Safety Tip



Check smoke alarms. While you turn your clocks forward on March 12, take time to check your smoke detectors.

- Replace batteries twice a year, unless you are using 10-year lithium batteries. A regular schedule may help to avoid that annoying alarm of a low battery
- Replace the entire smoke alarm unit every 10 years according to manufacturer's instructions
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement
- Check your carbon monoxide detector batteries too!

Police and Public Safety

Resource: ready.gov



Village Of Downs *Parks*



March 2023 Parks Committee Report

Parks Committee's revisions of Parks Ordinance Chapter 13 were approved by the Village Board. Parks 2023-24 Proposed Budget is complete and will be acted on by the Village Board next month.

March and April will be filled with plant and tree trimming and flower bed preparation in all parks. Parks is ordering an electric stove for Dooley Park Pavilion. We are researching electric heating and cooling options for the Food Pantry building. Estimates and information are being sought on tree surveys, tree ordinances, Kickapoo Park debris removal, and costs for Dooley Park road improvements.

Thank you, Downs Girl Scouts! As soon as the ground is ready, we'll install a tether ball game funded by the Girl Scouts. Parks Committee is starting plans for putting a stage in Dooley Park which will be partially funded by the Girl Scouts' donation.

Upcoming Projects

Parks has several upcoming plans that would make great Eagle Scout Projects. If you're a Scout looking for a project, contact Parks at parks@villageofdowns.org.

Save the Date!!!! Saturday, April 22 from 7:00 am to 10:00 am in Dooley Park Pavilion, join us for our Earth Day Parks Breakfast Fundraiser! Enjoy a hearty breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, fresh fruit, sweets and drinks. We'll have Earth Day activities for kids of all ages and information on living green in Downs! Join us for food and fun! Bring family and friends! Your donations at this event go directly to improvements in Dooley Park.

Spring is coming and the outdoors is calling! We encourage volunteers who'd like to beautify and improve Downs' parks to contact us at:

parks@villageofdowns.org.



BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER at DOOLEY PARK in DOWNS!

Saturday, April 22, 2023

from 7AM to 10 AM

**Enjoy a home cooked meal with friends
and family.**

**Fill your plate with eggs, bacon,
sausage, biscuits & gravy, casseroles,
fresh fruit, sweets, juice, and coffee
served buffet style.**

Earth Day Activities! Ways to go Green!

[Your donations support Dooley Park projects.]

THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!

EST. 2003

DOWNNS VILLAGE MARKET



We are looking for Vendors!

We are currently accepting new vendors for the 2023 season!

- Musicians
- Produce Vendors
- Meat Vendors
- Craft Vendors
- Fruit Vendors

**If you are interested, check out our website for
the vendor registration packet.**

<http://www.villageofdowns.org/downs-village-market.htm>

Sponsorships available!

The village market is growing this year along with the community! If you or your business would like to sponsor the market, we have different options available.



New Volunteer Opportunities

If you are looking for new ways to get involved in the community or are interested in learning more about agriculture, let us know! We are very flexible so you can choose your date and time that works best for you. Send us an email at:

downsvillagemarket@gmail.com
for more information.



Village Of Downs Food Pantry



Our Mission

To serve the people of Tri-Valley School District who need food assistance by providing monthly food boxes and to be on call to assist in any emergency that involves a need for food and emotional support.

"Serving the residents of the Tri-Valley School District."

Month	Friday	Saturday
March	10th	11th
April	7th	8th
May	5th	6th
June	9th	10th
July	14th	15th
August	11th	12th
September	15th	16th
October	6th	7th

Distribution hours

10:00 am until Noon

Location

The Food Pantry is in the Youth Center located at the Washington St. entrance to Dooley Park.

2023 Food Pantry Distribution Schedule

Food boxes are distributed during the first Friday and Saturday after the first Monday of each month barring holidays when the distribution is usually the following week.

Contact the Food Pantry:

Linda Bowman:
309-261-3809
llbowman3@gmail.com

Bill Clark:
309-531-7884
downstwpclerk@aol.com

Highlights this month

The Food Pantry continues to move on its mission to provide food and support for those in need in our community. They distributed 24 boxes this month. The Pantry also provides ongoing support for the Weekly Share Pack program in partnership with **Tri-Valley National Honor Society**. Heartfelt thanks to our **wonderful Volunteers and Donors**, whose contributions assure these vital services continue.



Suggested Items to donate – Non-Perishable Items, Please

Daily Needs [* indicates items are for daily and holiday needs]

Canned meats: tuna, salmon, chicken, spam	Peanut butter, jelly
Boxed macaroni and cheese	Pasta or boxed pasta meals
Hamburger or tuna helper	*Canned vegetables
Canned or dried beans	Canned fruits or pie fillings
Canned tomatoes (various types)	Spaghetti/pasta sauce
*Chicken, beef or vegetable broths	*Instant potatoes
*Boxed scalloped/au gratin potatoes	*Assorted bread/rolls/muffin mixes
Boxed cereal	Pancake, waffle mixes
Instant oatmeal, grits or hot cereals	Crackers
*Cake/brownie mixes	*Cooking oil, spray or shortening
*Basic spices, herbs, seasonings & extracts	*Flour, white or brown sugar
Shelf stable or powdered milk	Gravy, mixes or jars/cans of ready to use
Zip lock bags: quart, half gallon & gallon sizes	

Personal Hygiene & Miscellaneous Cleaning

HYGIENE:	CLEANING NEEDS:
single toothbrushes	laundry detergent
mouth wash	dish soap
tooth paste	miscellaneous house-
floss	hold cleaning
bar soap	supplies
Deodorants	PAPER GOODS:
liquid hand soap/ sanitizer	napkins
feminine products	paper towels
shampoo	toilet paper

Holiday Needs

canned sweet potatoes/yams
 cranberry sauce
 evaporated milk
 corn muffin mix
 boxed pie crust mix/ graham cracker crusts
 boxed stuffing mix
 condensed soups
 green beans
 mushroom soup
 french fried onions
 canned pumpkin
 pineapple
 gravy, mixes or jars/cans of ready to use
 salt
 baking powder

Looking Ahead

Quick Glance at Upcoming Village Events, Activities and Meetings

March:

- 2nd – Garbage Collection – GFI Monthly Bulk pickup
- 2nd – Events Committee Special Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall
- 9th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 9th – Village Board of Trustees Special Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; Video/Audio via Zoom
- 16th – Garbage Collection
- 20th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Pavilion, Video/Audio via Zoom
- 23rd – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 23rd – Annual FY2023 TIF Joint Review Board Meeting, 6 pm @ Village Hall
- 30th – Garbage Collection

April:

- No Planned Events Committee this month
- 1st – Free Easter Breakfast, 7 – 10:00 am @ The Station
- 1st – Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 am registration, 10:30 Hunt @ Dooley Park
- 4th – Election Day
- 6th – Garbage Collection – GFI Monthly Bulk pickup
- 6th – Village of Downs Public Hearing for the FY2024 Budget, 6 pm @ Village Hall; Video/Audio via Zoom
- 6th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; Video/Audio via Zoom
- 13th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 20th – Garbage Collection
- 17th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Pavilion, Video/Audio via Zoom
- 27th – Garbage and Recycle Collection

May:

- 4th – Garbage Collection – GFI Monthly Bulk pickup
- 9th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall
- 11th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 11th – Village of Downs Public Hearing for the FY2024 Budget, 6 pm @ Village Hall; Video/Audio via Zoom
- 15th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Village Hall, Video/Audio via Zoom
- 18th – Garbage Collection
- 25th – Garbage and Recycle Collection

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



VILLAGE OF DOWNS ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT & BREAKFAST

Saturday April 1, 2023

@ The Station and Dooley Park

Free Family Breakfast:

7 – 10 am @ The Station

(See Events FB page for details)

Games and Registration: 10 – 10:30 am

@ Dooley Park Pavilion

Easter Egg Hunt: 10:30 – 11 am

@ Dooley Park Pavilion

Bring Your Own Basket!

Join us for family food and fun in the park!

Sponsored by The Station, Downs United Methodist and
other area churches and the Events Committee

Thank you to all our volunteers!

FY2024 (May 2023—April 2024) Budget Public Hearing

Proposed Budget

On April 6, 2023, 6 pm @ the Village Hall. The Village of Downs will hold a public hearing on their proposed FY2024 budget. The proposed budget will be posted on the Village Website and the Downs GPS Facebook page on 3/24/2023.

4th of July Grand Marshal

Nominations accepted until June 1, 2023

The Events Committee is once again seeking nominations for the 2023 4th of July parade Grand Marshal. Please use the form in the flyer or on the website, from now until June 1, 2023, to submit your nomination. Please be sure to write the required narrative to support your nomination, otherwise entry will not be accepted.

Monthly Flyer Mail Delivery

Discontinued

Starting May 1, 2023, the Village of Downs will no longer print hard copies and mail the flyer unless you have paid for it to be mailed to you. Please contact the Village Hall for pricing. Due to increases in labor, material, and postage it is no longer feasible for us to continue this method of delivery since it is available online 24/7 on our village website and can also be emailed without charge. We will print the flyer for you at the Village Hall if you come into the office and request it.



Keep up to Date with Facebook and Village Website

Village of Downs Events (New Sites Added)

The Events Committee has put together a Facebook site for announcements, information and other social media interaction for the events within the Village. I hope you will find this useful and join (“Like”) our Facebook group/site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DownsEvents/>.

We also have information on our Village website: <http://www.VillageOfDowns.org>.

Other social media sites of interest are:

- You know you are from Downs FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/downsil/>
- Downs Citizens In Action (CIA) FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/115323465475046/>
- Downs Haunted House FB Page and Website:
 - ◊ <https://www.facebook.com/downs.hauntedhouse>
 - ◊ <http://www.downshauntedhouse.org>
- Dooley Park FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/108924229128032/>
- Downs Freedom Run: <https://www.facebook.com/downsfreedomrun/>
- Downs GPS (Grow, Play, Stay): <https://www.facebook.com/DownsGPS>
- Downs Village Market:

Let Us Know How We Can Use Your Expertise

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? Our website contains a “Volunteer Registration Form”. 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 you help.

Door-to-Door Sales

Banned in Downs During the Governor’s State of Emergency Declaration in IL

Door-to-door solicitation permits within the village limits of Downs during the Governor’s State of Emergency in IL are not allowed. Due to the continued risk of COVID-19 spread and the source of employees used by companies operating transient merchant businesses. Expected deliveries to homeowners will be allowed. Examples of such deliveries are Schwan’s, UPS, FedEx, water delivery, salt delivery, etc.

Furthermore, all merchants ignoring this order will be issued an ordinance violation, to the company, for \$100. All subsequent violations will also be \$100. If comfortable, please grab any information from the solicitor to identify them and report them immediately to the Downs Police Department.

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



4th OF JULY PARADE GRAND MARSHAL NOMINATION

Grand Marshal nominations for the July 4, 2023 parade are now open until end of day June 1, 2023.

Please give this some thought and submit your nomination to the Village Hall. You can also submit the nomination via email to info@VillageOfDowns.org, the village website or drop off this form at the Village Hall during office hours or place in the 24-hr mail slot.

All nominations must contain the following information:

Name(s) of nominee: _____

Have they been the Grand Marshal before: Yes or No If so, what year: _____

Reason for the nomination (Required):

FY2024 (May 2023 – April 2024) Village of Downs Event Plan

Current Plan—Subject to Change

The following describes each planned event at a high level. Further details and changes will occur during final planning by the committee or sub-committee in charge of the event. Budgets have been estimated based on last year's expenditures and revenue. Some events have been eliminated due to lack of participation or they were merged with something else.

1. **Dooley Park Cruise-In** – This event will be held Saturday June 3rd in Dooley Park from 3 – 7 pm. There will be no rainout date.
2. **Village Cleanup Day** – This event will be held on the first Saturday in June each year. We hope to have containers for garbage, recycle, electronics, batteries, tires (extra fee). Home pick up can be arranged for a donation.
3. **4th of July** – This event will be the first of two large events for the Village. This year will be a one-day event.
4. **Freedom Run** – The Freedom Run will be held July 15th and is a 5K Run, 1 Mile Walk & Kids Fun Run held at Tri-Valley Middle School & High School.
5. **Creepy Car Cruise-In** – This event will be held Saturday October 7th in Dooley Park from 3 – 7 pm. There will be no rainout date.
6. **Downs Haunted House** – This event will be the second of the two large events. This event will be every Friday and Saturday in October until Halloween. The Un-Haunted House for kids will be on the last Sunday in October. The Haunted House and Un-Haunted House event will continue to use the ticketing system adopted in 2021.
7. **Cookies with Santa** – This very popular family-oriented event providing free picture(s) with Santa for the family and/or kids, cookies, and drinks. Cookies with Santa will continue to use the ticketing system used last year. The event will take place the first Saturday and Sunday in December in several sessions to be announced later.
8. **Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt** – This event will be hosted in Dooley Park on Saturday, March 23, 2024, and will involve the area Churches for the egg hunt. The host for the family breakfast before the egg hunt in the park is TBD.

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

Video/Audio Information for ALL Public Meetings

Zoom Meeting Information Below

Persons who wish to attend in person are allowed at the meeting location shown on the agenda without special consideration. Both Audio and Video are available using a computer or smartphone using the information below. If you don't have access to the internet you can dial-in for audio only using any telephone via the information below. Please keep your phone muted until called upon for your question or you need to make a follow-up comment during your 5-minute time (See rules for public comment).

You may submit comments or questions via the following methods:

- Online chat during the meeting
- During the "Public Comment" item on the agenda using conference call audio/video
- e-mail the clerk@villageofdowns.org
- Text the Village Clerk 309-830-7373

Video/Audio conference call information:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/uzvjsq6>

Meeting ID: 715 697 2265

Password: VOD2020

Dial by your location: (312) 626-6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 715 697 2265

Password: 682969

Dooley Park Pavilion

How to reserve the Pavilion for an Event:

Pavilion reserved dates are posted on the calendar at villageofdowns.org. To reserve the pavilion for an event or a meeting or to find open rental dates, contact the Village Hall **between 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Monday through Friday** at 309-378-3221.

You can download the rental agreement and clean-up checklist from the village website. Click **forms and applications** on the homepage, then click **Pavilion rental agreement** and **checklist** separately to download and print the two forms. You can also pick the forms up at the Village Hall. When you pay your rental fee at the Village Hall, you'll receive a passcode and directions for its use which gives you access to the pavilion during the period of time you've rented. **The code will ONLY work during the times you indicate on your reservation form.**

Before leaving the pavilion after your event, complete the clean-up checklist and leave it on the kitchen counter. **Cost** - \$50.00 for a regular rental or \$25.00 for community service organizations

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



Downs, IL. | 309.688.0760

YOUR 2023 TRASH AND RECYCLE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Thank you for being a GFL Environmental customer! We wanted to provide you with an annual collection schedule for the 2023 year. The calendar below is marked with your area's collection dates. You'll notice that if your collection falls on a holiday, pickup will occur on the following day. **Picking up trash every Thursday and recycling every 2nd and 4th Thursday. Please have your trash and recyclables out by 6:00am.**

We would also like to reassure you that the safety of our customers, their families, and our employees remains our number one priority. In the event of inclement weather, your schedule may be altered. Please visit us online to track inclement weather alerts.

The Following Holidays Could Affect Your Service Date:

- January 1st - New Year's Day
- May 29th - Memorial Day
- July 4th - Independence Day
- September 4th - Labor Day
- November 23rd - Thanksgiving Day
- December 25th - Christmas Day

*Collection services will be delayed by ONE day during the holiday week, beginning the date of the holiday.

 = Trash

 = Recycling

 = Holiday

For pickup on or following a holiday, your collection will be delayed by one day.

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
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WE RECYCLE:

All recycling materials must be INSIDE your container - cardboard must be broken down.

- Milk Jugs
- Soda and Water Bottles
- Laundry Soap Jugs
- Tin and Steel Cans
- Cardboard Boxes
- Newspaper • Glass
- Magazines
- Phone Books
- Office Paper
- Aluminum Cans
- Junk Mail
- Food Boxes

*All plastic and metal containers should be rinsed with water. Food and cardboard boxes should be free of liners, styrofoam, or any other packing materials.

95 Gallon Trash or Recycle Cart (Container with wheels) **Sale!!!**



This is the ANNUAL sale sponsored by the Village of Downs and GFL Environmental for a new 95 gallon trash cart. Residents that purchase a cart now until April 25th through the Village of Downs, will have the delivery fees waived. Carts will be delivered to your home in May.

To purchase a cart through this program:

Submit the application below along with a check for full payment, with the check noted “trash cart” or “recycle cart” to **Village of Downs; PO Box 18; Downs**. All requests **MUST** be prepaid, and will not be accepted after 12 noon on April 25th. To prepay, **ONLY** a check or cash will be accepted.

(For rental options available through GFL Environmental contact them at 309-688-0760 or gflenv.com)

95 Gallon Trash or Recycle Cart Application

Name

Address

Phone Number

Email Address

Trash Cart \$75.00 X _____ (Quantity)

Recycle Cart \$75.00 X _____ (Quantity)

Total amount due: _____

Make check payable to Village of Downs and note “trash cart” or “recycle cart”.



LIVING HOPE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FAITH IN GOD | LOVE FOR EACH OTHER | HOPE FOR THE WORLD

No matter where you are in your own faith journey,
you'll receive a warm welcome at Living Hope.

February Sermon Series: The Geography of Jesus

February 19th: River

February 26th: Wilderness

March 5th: Village

March 12th: Lake

March 19th: Mountain

March 26th: Ocean

April 2nd: Garden

April 9th: Road



608 North Huff Road, PO Box 345, Downs, IL 61736

LivingHopeDowns.com

309-838-7001

31st Annual!

JOIN US FOR A



FISH FRY

March 3, 17, 31

Curb-Side Pickup
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Dine-In / Carry-Out
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Curb-Side Pickup Menu

- Walleye (3 pieces)
- French Fries
- Cole Slaw
- Brownie

Dine-In / Carry-Out Menu

- Walleye
- Pizza & Grilled Cheese
- French Fries
- Green Beans
- Cole Slaw
- Home-made desserts

Donation

- \$ 10.00 for Adults
- \$ 5.00 for Kids (6-12)
- FREE** for Children 5 and under



St. Mary
CHURCH IN DOWNS



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

BISHOP EDWARD W. O'ROURKE COUNCIL #10967, DOWNS, ILLINOIS

Curb-Side / Dine-In / Carry-Out



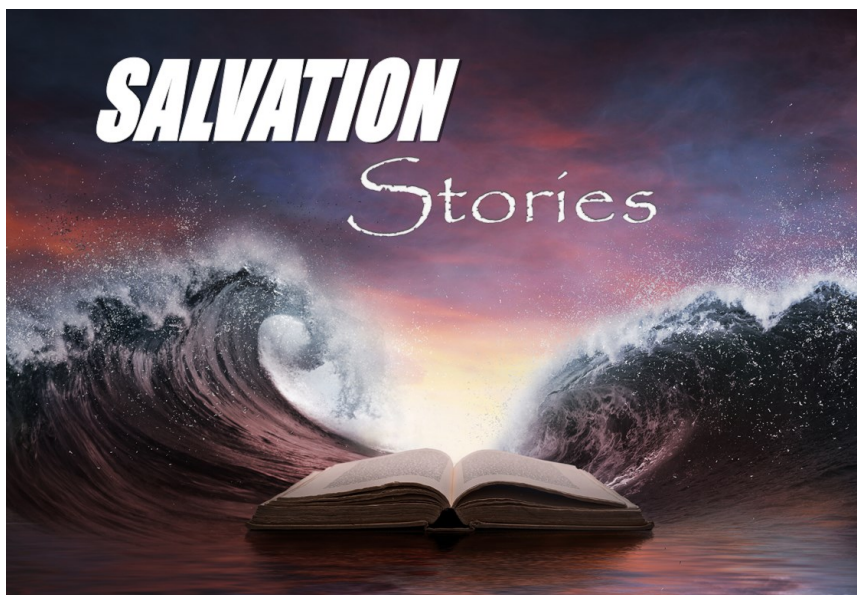
Worship Service

Sundays 9:30 AM In Person

Online at www.downsumc.org

Lenten Sermon Series

Join us as we prepare for Easter by taking a look at both the *Exodus* (story of Moses) and the *Gospel* (story of Jesus). The Biblical authors use the story of Moses to help us understand the work of Christ. Join us on Sunday as we study God's rescue!



Up and Coming Events

- **March 27th—6 PM** Downs UMC Sewing Group
- **April 6th—7 PM** Maundy Thursday—Join us for a worship service remembering the gift of Communion and the presence of Christ at the table.
- **April 7th—7 PM** Good Friday—Join us for a reading of the story of the trial and crucifixion of Christ.
- **April 8th—7AM to 1 PM** Boy Scouts Pancake and Sausage Breakfast
- **April 9th—6:30 Am**—Easter Sunrise service, Breakfast afterward at 7:30 at the church.
- **April 9th—9:30 AM**—Easter Sunday morning—Christ is risen! Join us for a very special worship celebration.

COME SHOP WITH US

DOWNS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



111 W. WASHINGTON ST., DOWNS, IL
WHITE HOUSE BEHIND THE CHURCH

Open Every Sunday
10:45am - Noon



ALL ITEMS ARE
PICK YOUR OWN
PRICE. 100% OF
PROCEEDS
SUPPORT DUMC.

- BOOKS
 - HOUSEHOLD GOODS
 - TOYS & GAMES
 - SPORTS EQUIPMENT
 - DVDs/CDs
 - JEWELRY
 - DECOR
 - SMALL APPLIANCES
 - HOLIDAY DECOR
- & much more!*



EMAIL QUESTIONS TO
SWAPROOM@DOWNSUMC.ORG



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
FOR SNEAK PEEKS!

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



Village Of Downs

Officials & Contacts

Mayor	Mike James	309-830-7374	mayor@Villageofdowns.org	
Clerk	Julie James	309-830-7373	clerk@villageofdowns.org	
Trustee - Pro Tem	Maureen Roach	309-830-4297	publicsafety@villageofdowns.org	Public Safety & Services
Trustee	Brian Warfel	309-261-0183	streets@villageofdowns.org	Building
Trustee	Anna Milliken	309-242-8980	finance@villageofdowns.org	Streets
Trustee	Toby Twyford	309-830-3448	publicworks@villageofdowns.org	Public Works
Trustee	Peggy Keylin	309-378-4098	parks@villageofdowns.org	Parks
Trustee	Sarah Gassaway	309-261-2540	building@villageofdowns.org	Finance
Treasurer	Julie Bakewell	309-378-5677	treasurer@villageofdowns.org	
Water Plant		309-319-1010	downswaterplant@hotmail.com	Public Works
Streets Building	Les Fitzwater	309-319-1010	VODStreets@gmail.com	Streets Superintendent
Police	Joshua Dinger	309-622-2207	downs.Village.pd@gmail.com	Police Chief
Non-Emergency	MetCom	309-888-5030		
Emergency		911		
GFL Disposal	Customer Serv.	800-935-5652		
Village Hall		309-378-3221	info@villageofdowns.org	Park Pavilion Reservations
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				
EMS Director	Open			