



News & Current Events

May 2023

From the Desk of the Mayor

UPDATED: 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. Leaving for the second newsletter.

- 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 because of the high tannins in the water. Plans were to add a water softener to the plant, but that never materialized AND it also would not have provided clear water. We MUST have an organics removal system.
- 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 knew we needed to do something in the plant but needed funding. At this time, we were close to finishing the sewer system.
- 3) The Village Board decided to halt any further increases to water fees until the water was 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 the later).
- 5) Residents could not afford the additional water debt service that would be placed on them because we had just finished the new sewer system in 2012 and they had to spend a lot of money to connect to the sewer and got hit with about \$25-\$30 increase per month for sewer.
- 6) If a new plant was going to happen, we needed a grant to eliminate or reduce the 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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).



- 9) 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. 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.
- 10) 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.
- 11) In 5/2019 we signed an agreement with MSA to do water plant study on how we could finally fix the water.
- 12) Our public works superintendent resigned in 2019.
- 13) 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 (removal of tannins to clear water), and a water softener. This project will cost the village and its residents ~\$4mil to complete and resembles the new plant in Lexington, IL, which was about to be completed.
- 14) We were on track to get this completed in 2021 when COVID brought everything to a slow crawl if not completely stopped.
- 15) As of 3/22/2023, we are out for bids on the “new” plant and hopefully will have contracts signed in June/July 2023.
- 16) 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. The go-live date is now scheduled for late 2024.
- 17) Tower rehabilitation during the fall of 2022 was a monumental undertaking and kept us from flushing hydrants. Because of this we saw a decrease in water quality over the winter.
- 18) Once the cold weather broke, we started the task of flushing 88 hydrants and by the time this flyer reaches you we will have completed the process. Yes, it has created nasty water and we tried to address it as quickly as possible. However, discolored water is typical and expected because of the tannins and the sediment it leaves in the water mains. Flushing removes this sediment and is essential.
- 19) Going forward we will employ a more frequent flushing schedule to keep the sediment from building up during the building of the new plant.



- 20) Additionally, we are researching a new method for providing more timely information and alerting to our residents. In the meantime, we continue to use our village website, flyer, and Facebook to provide information and trust residents will review these sources.
- 21) To make the “new” plant affordable for the village residents we need several things and are actively working on them:
- 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.
 - Continue to apply for grants where it makes sense. We have applied for three rounds of Rebuild Illinois grants which we were not awarded.
- 22) Water rates will increase once the plant is operational, and this amount will be at least \$16.
- 23) However, 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.
- 24) Please note that using a water softener after the new plant goes live could be harmful to copper pipes and is not recommended. Softening water to 90%+ will make your water “thirsty” for minerals and will look to copper pipes for those minerals. Our plant will soften the water 70-80%.
- 25) If you have any further questions or concerns about the water, please reach out.
-

UPDATED: 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. *We received ONE (1) bid for the water plant. The amount was \$2.5 mil more than estimate back in 2019. We had to adjust out IEPA loan amount to \$6.5 mil. We have new posting requirements which might delay contracts until August, but we are targeting July.*
 - d. *Once contracts are signed, we expect it to take no more than 14-15 months to complete the water plant rehabilitation and expect “new” plant to be operational by*



late 2024.

- 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) Downtown Streetscape and Parking
 - a. *Did not receive the ITEP grant for the second time. Walking trails received the focus of the funding.*
 - b. *Starting the paperwork and process to get this project rolling with our \$2.128 mil federal grant. With the bids received for our water plant we are not sure how far this money will take us.*
- 4) Extend Water and Sewer to Freedom Oil – *Waiting for final bids from additional contractors.*
- 5) S. Lincoln and Colleen Lane Water and Sewer Extensions – *Expect sewer lift station to be delivered soon. PJ Hoerr is working on bid for installation. Watermain installation expected to continue in when weather gets nicer to avoid freezing pipes during exposure.*

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

In your service,

Mike James, Mayor

309-830-7374, Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org

Consumer Confidence Report

The annual Consumer Confidence Report for the 2022 Village of Downs water supply is available on the website at https://media.rainpos.com/1071/2022_ccr.pdf. This is required under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996.



Village of Downs Board of Trustees Special Meeting Overview May 11th, 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 Mike James called the May 11, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting to Order at 7:08pm.
2. Clerk Julie James swore in newly elected trustees Toby Twyford, Brian Warfel and Stephanie Adkisson into office. Also sworn in was newly elected Village President Mike James. Trustee Sarah Gassaway was sworn in at 7:45pm.
3. A Motion to Approve Appointment of Sarah Gassaway for Village Board of Trustees to Serve a Term to Expire 4/30/2025 was made and approved.
4. Roll Call was taken. Trustees present were Maureen Roach, Anna Milliken, Stephanie Adkisson, Sarah Gassaway at 7:45pm, Brian Warfel and Toby Twyford. A quorum to do business was declared. Also present were Clerk Julie James, Village Attorney Dawn Wall and Treasurer Julie Bakewell.
5. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
6. A Motion to Approve Agenda and Order was made and approved.
 - Motion to Approve the Final Plat of the Quality Oil Subdivision was removed from Consent Agenda
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 - Motion to Hire _____ as a Full-Time Public Works Maintenance Workers, with Full Eligibility of Benefits per the Village Handbook, for the Village of Downs at \$__ per hour with Three (3) month Evaluation Period was split into 2 motions.
 - Motion to Approve the Notice of Intent to Award Public Water Supply Improvements to _____ was removed from consent agenda.
 - Resolution 2023-R19 Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of Vacuum Excavator was removed from Consent agenda.
7. Reports can be found in flyer
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.
 1. Motions
 - a. Motion to Approve the April 6, 2023, Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes



- b. Motion to Approve Wages Increases for Employees
- c. Motion to Approve Amended Village of Downs Fee Schedule
- d. Motion to Approve the Final Plat of the Quality Oil Subdivision was removed from Consent Agenda
- e. Motion to Declare Gas Stove in Pavilion Surplus
- f. Motion to Hire _____ as a Full-Time Public Works Maintenance Workers, with Full Eligibility of Benefits per the Village Handbook, for the Village of Downs at \$__ per hour with Three (3) month Evaluation Period was removed from Consent Agenda.
- g. Motion to Hire Cali Whiteside, Noah Conn and Jacob Jones as Part-Time Seasonal Summer Public Works Maintenance Workers for the Village of Downs at \$15 per hour with Three (3) month Evaluation Period.
- h. Motion to Hire Alex Steupfert as a Part-Time Seasonal Summer Public Works Maintenance Worker for the Village of Downs at \$16 per hour with Three (3) month Evaluation Period
- i. Motion to Authorize and Approve up to \$5,000 to Support the Legal Opposition, if Needed, to the CIRAA Full McLean County Expansion.
- j. Motion to Release a Notification of Acceptance of Bids for a Spray Patch Machine Trailer and Tanker
- k. Motion to Approve Alley Closure from Water St to Seminary St for The Station's St Jude Fundraiser on May 20, 2023
- l. Motion to Approve the Notice of Intent to Award Public Water Supply Improvements to _____ was removed from Consent Agenda.
- 2. Ordinance
 - a. Ordinance 2023-11 Authorizing the Public Water Supply Loan Program Agreement Between the Village of Downs (Non-Home Rule Entity) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- 3. Resolutions
 - a. Resolution 2023-R16 Ratifying the Consent Resolution Authorizing and Approving Consent Resolution to Execute Amendment One (1) to Agreement with Browns & Roberts, INC. and Village of Downs
 - b. Resolution 2023-R17 Authorizing and Approving Amended Contract with Billy DuBois for Water Plant Operations, Training, and Consulting
 - c. Resolution 2023-R18 Authorizing and Approving the Notice of Intent to Award Public Water Supply Improvements to Leander Construction Inc.
 - d. Resolution 2023-R19 Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of Vacuum Excavator was removed from Consent Agenda.
- 17. No action was taken in New Business.



18. 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. Resolution 2023-R__ Authorizing and Approving Intergovernmental Agreement Between Tri-Valley School District and the Village of Downs
3. Resolution 2023-R__ Authorizing and Approving Agreement Between PJ Hoerr, INC. and the Village of Downs for Directional Boring
4. Resolution 2023-R__ Authorizing and Approving the Law Enforcement Policies and Procedures for the Village of Downs Police Department

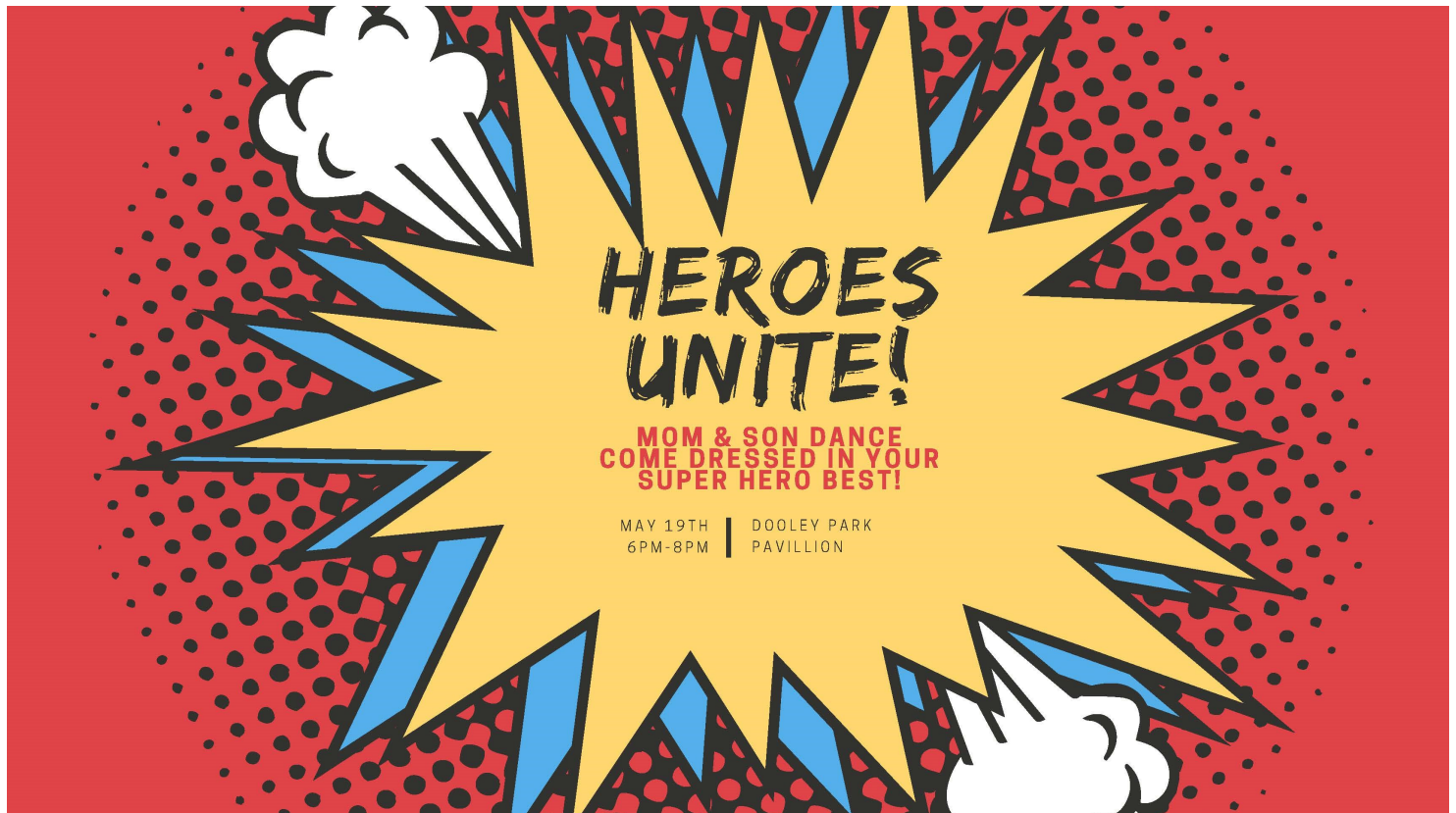
19. A Motion to Approve Payment of Bills was made and approved.

20. A Motion to Enter Executive Session at 9:44pm for Personnel and Potential Litigation was made and approved.

21. No Action was taken on Executive Session Items.

22. There was no Other Business.

23. A Motion to Adjourn at 10:28pm was made and approved.



Water Sewer report for April 2023.

The average iron concentration for the finished water was .88 ppm. Monthly bacteriological testing on the raw, finished and distribution samples were all satisfactory, fluoride concentration was .8. The volume of water pumped for the month was 2.725 averaging 87,903 gallons a day. The sewer lift station pumped 2.316 million gallons for the month averaging 74,709 gallons per day.

- 0 service leaks
- 0 residential leak

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.

Monthly Brush Pickup Continues

Each year, depending on our Streets Department ability, the Streets Trustee will put in the flyer if we are able to continue with this service. We missed the April flyer but did start our monthly debris pickup. Debris pickup will continue, based on the Streets Trustee's direction, the first MONDAY of each month. Pickup will run from April through November (weather permitting). If the designated Monday pickup is not favorable, we will pick up on the next nice day following that Monday. The following are the rules we will follow with no exceptions.

- Items to be picked up must be burnable and free from all nails, screws, and metal (ex: Leaves, sticks, brush, branches, etc.)
- All items must be within the Village right away on curb, driveway or as close to the road as possible without creating a hazard in the road. (Note: Since we use a backhoe, in most cases, to do this work, we DO NOT want to tear up or rut yards or ditches. If we can't reach the debris from the road or a driveway, we WILL NOT pick it up.)

Please note that there is NO BURNING in the ditches or on the edges of the road. Doing this causes clogging and backup in the ditches and culverts. It can also damage the road surface causing us to spend what little tax dollars we must to fix these issues.

Spring Cleanup

We will start working on spring projects such as filling holes, grade alleys and roadside edges, fix culverts and repair ditches. This also includes grade and repair for water main fixes during the fall or winter.

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!

New Seasonal Crew

Starting in May you will be seeing some new faces working with our Streets crew. We are pleased to welcome Cali Whiteside, Jacob Jones, Alex Steupfert and Noah Conn to our team. They will be working seasonal/part time, during our busiest seasons. We know they'll make a great addition to our summer crew. Their focus will be mowing, weeding, cleaning up the ditches along, monthly brush pick-up along with other tasks as needed. If you happen to see them, please welcome them.



GFL Environmental

Rate increase starting May 1, 2023

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

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.

Trash and Recycle carts to be delivered by end of May

The Trash and Recycle Carts that were ordered during our April Cart Event will be delivered to your driveways by the end of May. Please call the Village Hall at 309-378-3221 if you have not received yours by June 1st.

APPLICATIONS FOR USE OF GOLF CART AND UTILITY-TERRAIN VEHICLES

May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024

Permits must be obtained to operate a qualified golf cart or utility-terrain vehicle. Permits shall be granted for a period of one (1) year and **renewed annually**. Applications are available on the Village of Downs website at www.villageofdowns.org. The cost of the permit is \$50.00 per golf cart or utility-terrain vehicle.

GOLF CART UTV INFORMATION/SPECIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS DEFINITIONS: Per Chapter 8 Article X of the Village of Downs Code are located on the website www.villageofdowns.org.

Applications along with payment and other documents need to be submitted to the Village Hall. An officer will schedule an inspection time with you.



May 2023 Parks Committee Report

Thank you to everyone who got out and voted for me this year. I have big shoes to fill at the Parks and am looking forward to jumping in and moving forward with some of the plans laid out by the previous committee. I want to thank Peggy Keylin for her 8 years of service to the community!

My name is Stephanie Adkisson. I have lived in Downs for 5 years and Ellsworth for 4. During that time, my kids have attended Tri-Valley and I have become more active in the Events Committee. I have organized the Fourth of July celebration for 3 years now and am looking forward to this year and many more. I am excited to bring a fresh perspective to the Parks and cultivate a good working relationship between the Events and Parks. Stay tuned for upcoming information and events!

Old Business:

- A new electric stove and 220 is installed.
- Trimming, pruning and flower bed clearing and planting are complete.
- Possible stage sites as a gift from The Girl Scouts have been discussed and will continue.
- Earth Day Breakfast April 22 was a success.
- The Tri-Valley Honor Society served in their last month of backpacks for the school year!

New Business:

- Seeking new members for the committee! Please Join me Tuesday, May 23 for my first Parks Committee meeting at the Pavilion if you are interested in joining or helping out!
- The old commercial gas stove was approved as surplus and will be going up for sale in the coming month. If you are interested, please contact me at 309-212-8345

Thank you to Peggy Keylin for her years of past service in the Parks.

The Village has been lucky to have someone
so invested in the green spaces in our community.

EST. 2003

DOWN'S 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>

Save the Date for Opening Day!

Wednesday June 7th

[Community Group Policies](#) and [Sponsorship Options](#) are available on our website.



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.



March, 2023



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
May	5th	6th
June	9th	10th
July	14th	15th
August	11th	12th
September	15th	16th
October	6th	7th
November	3rd	4th
December	8th	9th

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 served 22 boxes this month!!

Linda Bowman and Bill Clark are working hard to serve those in need and always appreciate donations!!



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:

single toothbrushes
mouth wash
tooth paste
floss
bar soap
Deodorants
liquid hand soap/
sanitizer
feminine products
shampoo

CLEANING NEEDS:

laundry detergent
dish soap
miscellaneous house-
hold cleaning
supplies

PAPER GOODS:

napkins
paper towels
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

Downs Clean-up Day

June 3: 7 am — 2 pm



The Events Committee is holding the 9th Annual Downs Clean-Up Day. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this once a year opportunity.

211 S. Seminary St.

VillageOfDowns.org

info@villageofdowns.org

(309) 378-3221

We will have a trash and recycle dumpsters. There is very little that we can not take so please take advantage of this free service to our residents.

The drop-off location will be by the Haunted House Shed from 7 am to 2 pm. There will be a charge for tires (\$5 each), TVs (\$10 each) and \$5 for computers or other electronics.

If you do not want to pay us for TVs or electronics drop-off, you can take your own to the recycling center for McLean County. See the following website for more information:

<https://www.normal.org/484/Electronics-Recycling>

For residents who can't haul your items to our site, we will pick up at your house (curb-side). Please call the village hall to arrange for a pickup time. Donations for this service are appreciated for the 4th of July fireworks.

Junk Car?

If you have a car you want to dispose of, please contact the Village Hall

We WILL Accept Any Of The Following Items:

- ⇒ Stoves , Dishwashers and Microwaves, etc.
- ⇒ Tires (\$5 each; No Tractor and tires must be off rims)
- ⇒ All Metals
- ⇒ Electronics and Batteries
- ⇒ Tube Monitors/TVs (\$10)
- ⇒ Washers and Dryers

We WILL NOT Accept Any Of The Following Items:

- ⇒ Refrigerators or Freezers that still have Freon or compressor not drained.
- ⇒ Oil Based Paint (paint dried out is ok)
- ⇒ Hazardous Liquid
- ⇒ No Tractor tires

Looking Ahead

Quick Glance at Upcoming Village Events, Activities and Meetings

May:

- 1st – Brush Pickup by Village Streets Department
- 4th – Garbage Collection – GFI Monthly Bulk pickup
- 9th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall
- 11th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 11th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; Video/Audio via Zoom
- 18th – Garbage Collection
- 19th – Heroes Unite!, Mother and Son Dance, 6 pm @ Pavilion
- 23rd – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Dooley Park Pavilion
- 25th – Garbage and Recycle Collection

June:

- 1st – Grand Marshal nominations close
- 1st – Garbage Collection – GFI Monthly Bulk pickup
- 3rd – Village of Downs Annual Clean-up Day, 7am – 2 pm, See flyer info or Facebook
- 3rd – Dooley Park Cruise-In, 3 – 7 pm @ Dooley Park
- 5th – Brush Pickup by Village
- 6th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall
- 8th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 8th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; Video/Audio via Zoom
- 15th – Garbage Collection
- 20th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Dooley Park Pavilion
- 22nd – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 29th – Garbage Collection

July:

- 3rd – Brush Pickup by Village
- 4th – 4th of July Celebration: Music, Craft Fair, Food, Parade and Fireworks
- 7th – Garbage Collection – GFI Monthly Bulk pickup
- 11th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall
- 13th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 13th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; Video/Audio via Zoom
- 17th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Village Hall, Video/Audio via Zoom
- 20th – Garbage Collection
- 27th – Garbage and Recycle Collection

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

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.

To be featured in the Celebration Booklet, please consider and include:

\$50- business card sized add

\$100- half page add, may provide a banner to be placed on fence at Dooley Park

\$150-Full page add, may provide a banner, sponsorship will be announced at the fireworks

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____ Check #: _____

Event you want donation to be used for: _____

Comments or Suggestions: _____

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

VOD Receipt Date and Number: _____

***** Banners will be hung on the basketball court fence facing Washington St from July 1-Sept 1. With the \$150 donation, your banner will be moved to the HH fence facing Seminary St from Sept1-Nov 1*****



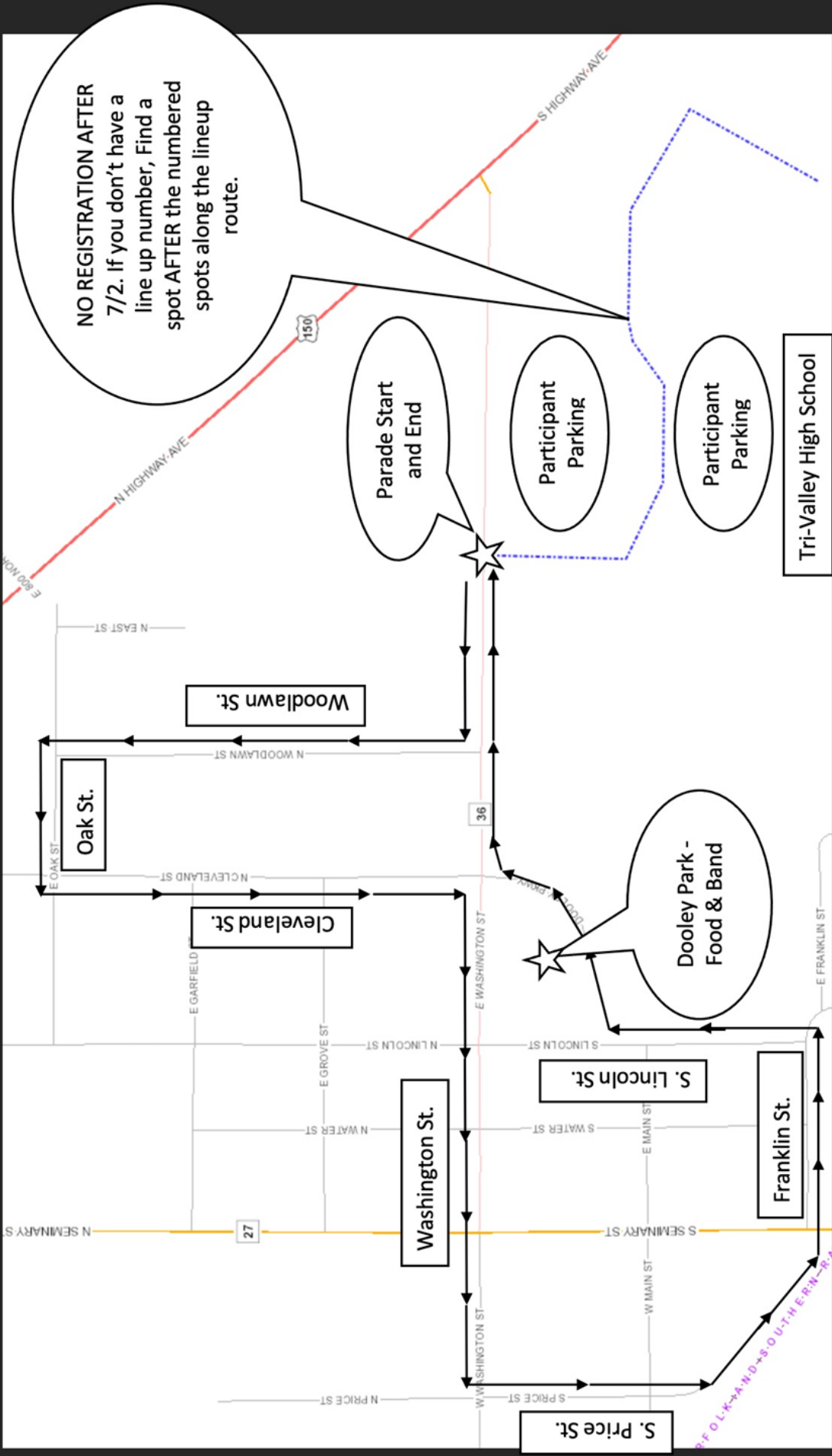
During setup, shoot and break-down, unauthorized individuals are not allowed anywhere within the red areas above.

4th of July Parade Registration

Live on the Village of Downs Website

2023 parade registration for the 4th of July parade is located on the village website and a valid email is required. The deadline for sign-up is July 2, 2023. After that date you can register the day of and will be put at the back of the parade line. You are not required to register or check in on site on the 4th. If you register, we will email you your position number which will be marked on the pavement in the lineup area.

2023 Village of Downs 4th of July Parade Map



* Register online at www.VillageOfDowns.org to be a participant in the parade. Parade starts at noon and you will need to be checked in and lined up by 11:45 am



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):

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.

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>
-

Door-to-Door Sales

Ban Lifted Due to Expired Governor's State of Emergency Declaration in IL

Door-to-door solicitation permits are now allowed again.

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.

To start a subscription for the Snail-Mailed Newsletter, please fill out the [Newsletter Subscription Form](#) located on our website on the Forms and Applications Page. This is a yearly subscription option running from May through April.

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

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**

have your say

THE LIBRARY WANTS TO KNOW

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There are 3 ways to take the survey:

1. Scan the QR Code.
2. Visit heyworthlibrary.com and select the survey link.
3. Pick up a paper copy at the library.



GET HOOKED ON FISHING!

Brought to you by the McLean County Fatherhood Coalition & the
Illinois Department of Natural Resources



A FATHER-CHILD FISHING FUN DAY

For fathers & father figures
and the children in their lives



SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

9AM UNTIL NOON AT MILLER PARK

1020 SOUTH MORRIS AVE BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701

- FOOD AND DRINKS PROVIDED
- INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO FISH, CATCH, CLEAN, & COOK FISH
- FISHING POLES AND BAIT PROVIDED!
- ATTENDEES MUST BE AT LEAST 7 YEARS OLD
- FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPANTS 16 YEARS AND OLDER.

See registration for information on purchasing a 24-hour license for \$5.50. Reimbursement available the day of the event.



REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

CLICK HERE OR SCAN
THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



For more information contact
Corey Love-Jones at clove-jones@childrenshomeandaid.org



children's home & aid

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and Modified Vehicles through quality Club Events"

Mid State Cruisers

DOOLEY PARK CRUISE-IN

*** All Vehicles Welcome ***

Antique - Classic - Hot Rods

Race Cars - Trucks

New Cars - Motorcycles

*** Plush Grass Parking For All Show Vehicles!**

June 3, 2023
3-7PM

⚡ WEATHER PERMITTING ⚡

Downs, IL.

Corner of S. Lincoln & E. Washington St.

**MAYOR'S CHOICE
TOP 3 TROPHIES!**

**Dash
Plaques!**

★ 50/50

**Food provided by:
Downs Boy Scout
Troop 53**

**Gramma Nana's Ice Cream
On Site!**

Coordinated by the Mid State Cruisers in conjunction with the Downs Events committee

Questions? Call, Text or Email -

Don & Cindy @ 309-824-5594 or mscbnl@gmail.com



**The Village of Downs assumes no responsibility for damage
to personal property or injury during this event.**

Tri-Valley HUGE Garage Sale for Charity
Saturday, July 15th 8:00-1:00
(at the Elementary School)

The annual Tri-Valley Garage Sale For Charity will be held from 8am-1pm on Saturday, July 15th. In order for the sale to be a success, **we need YOUR donations!**

We are accepting clean, usable clothing, books, household items, toys, holiday decorations and small furniture. Please no old TVs! Due to space issues, we are asking that you wait to bring your donations until AFTER July 8th. **We will only accept donations July 8 through July 13.**

Saturday 9:00-11:00

Sunday 12:00-2:00

Monday-Friday, 9 am - 3 pm in the High School commons.

If you have questions please contact Shari Riley at sriley@tri-valley3.org.

Last year we raised \$6000 dollars! The money raised is used to help families within our district. Some examples of how the money has helped others are: gift cards to help with school supplies and clothing, rent for a family in need, new shoes for a student, propane for heating a family's home. This sale is only successful with lots of good quality donations and people to buy them!

In addition, if you would like to help with the setup (**July 13 and 14 from 12pm-3pm**) or tear down of the sale (**Sunday, July 16th from 12:00-3:00**), please contact Shari Riley at sriley@tri-valley3.org. This crew actually has quite a bit of fun as we work!

Thank you in advance for your support! **Go Vikings!**
Shari Riley





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CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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309-838-7001



VBS 2023—Mark your Calendar

*This year we will host a Stellar VBS
from July 30 to August 3.*

Worship Service

Sundays 9:30 AM In Person

Online at www.downsumc.org



Up and Coming Events

- **May 19th**—Church Potluck in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and prayer at 5:30 PM.
- **June 7th**—**SUMMER YOUTH MINISTRY Begins!** Jr High and High School summer youth group begins for current 7th through 12th grade students. We will meet on Wednesdays from 6-8 PM beginning June 7th. We will play games, be in fellowship together and pause for a devotion in the middle. Doors are open to all students during that time, if you need to leave early that is ok! If you are going to be late, that's ok too!
- **June 22—6:00 PM**—**CornBelters Church Outing!** For tickets and information please contact Kyle Boward (youth@downsumc.org).

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



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EMAIL QUESTIONS TO
SWAPROOM@DOWNSUMC.ORG



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FOR SNEAK PEEKS!

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BRAND NEW BUILDING JUST ADDED IN DOWNS!

Non-Temperature Controlled Units
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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	Stephanie Adkisson	309-212-8345	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	Jill Kasperzak	309-319-1010	downswaterplant@gmail.com	Public Works
Streets Building	Jill Kasperzak	309-319-1010	VODStreets@gmail.com	Streets Supervisor
Police	Joshua Dingler	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			