



## Village of Downs

211 S. Seminary, PO Box 18

Downs, IL 61736-0018

Voice/Fax: 309-378-3221

Email: [Info@VillageOfDowns.org](mailto:Info@VillageOfDowns.org)

Website: [www.VillageOfDowns.org](http://www.VillageOfDowns.org)

### *Mayor, Village Board and Clerk*

President/Mayor	Public Safety/ President Pro	Public Works	Streets	Building	Finance/ Services	Parks/Youth Center/Food	Clerk
Mike James	Maureen Roach	Toby Twyford	Erik Bryant	Mary Goveia	Sarah Gassaway	Margaret Keylin	Julie James

From the Desk of the Mayor - November 2018

## Thank you to our Veterans and Happy Thanksgiving!

This month the Board reconvened its meeting on Oct 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and passed the FY2018 audit, treasurer report and TIF reports. All other action was not considered.

The Village Board meet again two days later and only acted on the approval of meeting minutes. The Board pushed the action for CBEC Park and Cross Creek to December's meeting. The Board will also consider extension of two TIF projects not completed by the December 1, 2018 deadline.

Cross Creek has final drawings and a second party agreement with the village to work out, but the Village should be assuming all responsibility for this subdivision by the end of 2018 or after Jan 2019 meeting. CBEC Park needs to finalize access to the Park before we can accept all easements, right-away and property ownership. CBEC will continue to provide maintenance for the park for the next few years. The park will not be open to public at this time.

Next spring, April 2019, we have an election for 4 positions on the Village Board of Trustees. Three 4-year terms and one 2-year term. Assignments will be made, in May 2019, after newly elected trustees are sworn into office. Candidate packets can be obtained by contacting the Clerk and are due December 10-17, 2018. Please make arrangements with the Clerk to turn in your packet.

Please support your local businesses so we continue to have them and attract others. We are not Bloomington, and nor do we want to be. It is very hard to operate a business in a small town without the support of its residents. Support doesn't just mean your business but can also be your understanding and patience as hours change, building doesn't happen as one would expect, and/or service may be slow because it is hard to get help, or the help doesn't have the experience.

In your service,  
Mike James, Mayor  
309-830-7374, [Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org](mailto:Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org)

Police Chief  
Josh Dingler

Public Works Superintendent  
Kevin Whitehouse

*Other Positions and Committee Chairs*  
Treasurer/Budget Officer/TIF Administrator  
Julie Bakewell

Zoning Enforcement  
Lyndall Cuba

Zoning Board Chairperson  
Linda Bowman

# Looking Ahead

## QUICK GLANCE AT UPCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

### November:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Garbage Collection
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> – Decorate Dooley Park with Christmas Lights in Dooley Park, 9 am – 3 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Final 2018 Village Brush/Burnable Pickup
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Coordinating Council Meeting, 6 pm @ Village Hall
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Events Committee Meeting, 6 pm @ Village Hall
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Parks Committee Meeting, 6 pm @ Village Hall
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Garbage Collection
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Happy Thanksgiving
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Garbage Collection

### December:

- All Month – Christmas Lights in Dooley Park – Dusk – 11 pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Coordinating Council Meeting, 6 pm @ Village Hall
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Garbage Collection
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Cookies with Santa, 9 – 11 am & 5 – 7 pm @ Dooley Park Pavilion
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Cookies with Santa, 1 – 3 pm @ Dooley Park Pavilion
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Garbage Collection
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Events Committee Special Meeting for Christmas Light Judging, 6:30 pm @ Village Hall
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Merry Christmas
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Garbage and Recycle Collection

### January:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Happy New Year
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Garbage Collection
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Coordinating Council Meeting, 6 pm @ Village Hall
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Events Committee Meeting, 6 pm @ Village Hall
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Garbage Collection
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Garbage Collection

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

# FY2019 Tax Levy

## 5% INCREASE TO BASE PROPERTY TAX RATE

The Village is considering the allowed max 5% tax rate increase on property tax rate within the village.

The following table shows a breakdown of the current and proposed tax levy and what this money is used for by your local government. It is all note-worthy that Road and Bridge tax also comes to the Village but is levied by our two townships and then passed onto us for road and bridge use only. It also must be noted that this levy doesn't cover all these expenses for the Village for all the items listed. The general corporate amount of \$37,813 is not broken down, but our payroll is budgeted at over \$70k in the General Fund, which doesn't include Public Works or Public Safety.

<b>Tax Levy 2014</b>	\$72,345.00			
<b>Tax Levy 2015</b>	\$75,962.25			
<b>Tax Levy 2016</b>	\$79,760.36			
<b>Tax Levy 2017</b>	\$83,748.38			
<b>Tax Levy 2018</b>	\$87,935.80	(\$83,748.38 x 1.05)	Increase Amount:	\$4,187.42
	<b>2017 Levy</b>	<b>Proposed 2018 Levy</b>	<b>Levy Calculation</b>	<b>Amount Available</b>
001 General Corporate	\$37,813.00	\$37,813.00	(\$22,276,518 x .0025)	\$55,691.30
027 Audit	\$7,650.00	\$7,700.00		No limit.
035 Liability Insurance	\$17,811.38	\$19,710.90		No limit.
042 Parks	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	(\$22,276,518 x .00075)	\$16,707.39
047 Social Security	\$13,649.00	\$15,886.90		No limit.
Garbage Disposal			(\$22,276,518 x .0020)	\$44,553.04
Police Protection			(\$22,276,518 x .00075)	\$16,707.39
Street Lighting	\$3,725.00	\$3,725.00	(\$22,276,518 x .00050)	\$11,138.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$83,748.38</b>	<b>\$87,935.80</b>		

Here is an example of the current property tax bill within the Village. The line that reads "Downs Village" is the rate that we are referring to for our tax levy:

<b>Taxing Body</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>Current Tax</b>	<b>Prior Rate</b>	<b>Prior Tax</b>	<b>Pension Amount</b>	<b>Difference</b>
MCLEAN COUNTY	0.91052	\$792.36	0.91399	\$787.56	149.10	4.80
CUSD 3 TRI VALLEY	5.65268	\$4,919.13	5.65639	\$4,873.83	159.94	45.30
DOWNS COMM FIRE PROT DIST	0.57087	\$496.79	0.58778	\$506.46	0.00	-9.67
OLD TOWN TOWNSHIP	0.12523	\$108.98	0.12670	\$109.17	0.00	-0.19
OLD TOWN TWP ROAD	0.41700	\$362.89	0.41700	\$359.31	0.00	3.58
DOWNS VILLAGE	0.40866	\$355.63	0.44355	\$382.18	57.96	-26.55
HEARTLAND COMM COLLEGE 540	0.58538	\$509.42	0.58840	\$506.99	0.00	2.43
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9.04425</b>	<b>\$8,568.44</b>	<b>9.10160</b>	<b>\$8,434.18</b>	<b>\$417.41</b>	<b>\$134.26</b>

Last year our rate was .4435 or \$382.18 compared to this year, which is show above and has dropped in rate and total depending on your assessment. Meaning, that even though we increased our total levied tax dollars 5%, you may have paid less on your tax bill to the Village. This decrease was, most likely, due to the new development within the Village.

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

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# Downs GPS (Grow, Play, Stay)

## HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

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It isn't too late to join in! you can join one of the 4 sub-groups as a member, worker, sponsor, etc. Help with all of them as needed if you like, but please join in. Check out the "Looking Ahead" section in the flyer for meeting dates and times. Please contact the person listed below from each of the goal groups or Mike James to join.

Only with the help from all of the Tri-Valley Community will we strengthen Downs and our School. The goals and sub-groups that have been identified are:

- 1) **Goal #1 Small Business Support and Development** – Marla Brotherton
- 2) **Goal #2 Festivals, Events, and Activities (Now Events Committee)** – Cyndi Miller
- 3) **Goal #3 Parks and Recreation (Now Parks Committee)** – Peggy Keylin
- 4) **Goal #4 Housing** – Brian Myers

We also have opportunities in the Coordinating Council.

### VISION Statement

Downs, with its agricultural roots and small-town feel, is an inviting community at the crossroads of Illinois. It offers National Blue Ribbon Schools, a perfect mix of housing options, and close proximity to a variety of transportation systems. Engaging festivals and attractions, unique shops and high-quality parks and recreational opportunities attract residents and visitors alike. Grow, Play, Stay in Downs!

**Hashtag:** #SetYourGPSForDowns

**Group Name:** Downs GPS (Grow, Play, Stay)

**Tagline:** Grow, Play, Stay in Downs!

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# Keep up to Date with Facebook and Village Website

## VILLAGE OF DOWNS EVENTS

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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 at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DownsEvents/>. We also have information on our Village website at <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/>

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

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# Christmas Lights Volunteers Needed

## WORK STARTS NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

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For decades' community residents, have enjoyed the Dooley Park Christmas lights & decorations. Maintenance of the displays and decorating the park has always been on a voluntary basis and funding based on donations.

This year's endeavor will be coordinated by the 'Christmas Lights in the Park Subcommittee'. The November work day schedule will be 11/3, 11/4, 11/10, 11/11, 11/17 & 11/18. Dooley Park pavilion will not be available for rental on these dates as the subcommittee will need a place to stage lights & displays, provide food & refreshments and have restrooms available. The work time on those days will be from 9am to 3pm.

Volunteers are encouraged to assist as their schedule allows – Even if only for a few hours! Without community support the park will not be decorated. The light display will ONLY be as good as the volunteers which help. Anyone who would like to participate in the subcommittee or volunteer can sign up at the Village Hall, email: DownsVillageHall@hotmail.com or call (309) 378-3221.

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# Christmas Decorating Contest

## UNTIL DECEMBER 20, 2018

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The Village of Downs Events Committee is holding its 4th Annual Christmas Decorating Contest within the Village of Downs. No entry is required. The contest will run until December 20th, 2018. Winners will be determined at the special Event Committee meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, 6:30 pm at the Village Hall. The Event Committee will be the judges and will pick their top 5-10 houses and score them using the system below: ([https://siterepository.s3.amazonaws.com/1071/2017\\_xmas\\_rubric.pdf](https://siterepository.s3.amazonaws.com/1071/2017_xmas_rubric.pdf)).

The top 3-point winners will each receive a \$25 gift card to either Papa G's, Lucky 7's or Gameday Grill.

Category	4	3	2	1	Score
Overall Feeling	"In Awe!"	"Fabulous"	"Job well done!"	"Good Try"	
Craftsmanship	Exceptionally attractive. Well-Constructed and neat. Craftsmanship / skills are excellent	Attractive in terms of neatness. Good construction.	The house is attractive. Craftsmanship is average.	House is messy.	
Completeness	Well completed and space utilized well.	Well completed, but space was not utilized to the full extent. Some items seem out of place	House is somewhat complete	Started but not finished.	
Effort	Spent weeks	Spent days/hours	Spent several hours	Spent a couple of hours.	
	<b>Total Score</b>				

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

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# Downs Radio Advertising Opportunity

## 10 – SEC RADIO SPOTS FOR SALE

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The Downs GPS and Events have contracted with Neuhoﬀ Media Group to start an advertising campaign for the Events, Village, and local businesses. This advertising program will provide a 12-month radio advertising/promotion for the Village. The following are a summary of the packages available for purchase. Neuhoﬀ will work with you to create your 10-sec radio spot for free. Contact me if you would like to take advantage of this advertising opportunity.

### Overall Village Program - 1 Month Advertising (2 Weeks each month)

- 60 On Air commercials over 2 weeks each month
  - 10 Commercials per week Mon-Fri 5a-8p
  - 10 Commercials per week Mon-Sun 5a-12a
  - 10 Commercials per week Mon-Sun 12a-12a
- FREE Matching Streaming Schedule
- 120 total commercials over 2 weeks each month
  - On Air (60) + Streaming (60)

### Local Business Cash Option (1 Month Example)

- Local business would get 10 seconds of the 30 second commercials
- There are 60 On-Air Commercials each month
- Average Rate per spot is \$5
  - So, if a business wanted their 10 second part of the commercial with their own 10 second message, it would cost them \$300 in cash.
  - 60 spots x \$5 = \$300

### Local Business ½ off option (1 Month Example)

- Local business would get 10 seconds of the 30 second commercials
- There are 60 On-Air Commercials each month
- Business could provide 14 or more \$10 gift cards for Neuhoﬀ's ½ off website

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



VILLAGE OF DOWNS BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING OVERVIEW  
NOVEMBER 1, 2018  
7 PM @ VILLAGE HALL

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

1. Mayor Mike James called the November 1, 2018 Village of Downs regular board of trustees meeting to order to at 7:00pm.
2. Roll Call was taken. Trustees present were Maureen Roach, Mary Goveia, Peggy Keylin, Erik Bryant, Sarah Gassaway and Toby Twyford. A quorum to do business was declared. Also, present were Clerk Julie James, Treasurer Julie Bakewell and Village Attorney Dawn Wall.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was taken.
4. A motion to Approve Agenda and Order was made and approved.
5. All reports can be found in the flyer.
6. There was no Public Comment.
7. Motion to Approve Items Contained within the Consent Agenda – No action taken.
8. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda – No action taken.
  1. Motions – moved to New Business
    - a. A motion to Approve the October 4 & 30, 2018 Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes was made and approved.
9. New Business - No action taken.
10. Old Business – No action taken.
11. A motion to Approve Payment of Bills was made and approved.
12. Executive Session was not entered.
13. Action on Executive Session Items – No action taken.
14. A motion to Adjourn at 8:32pm was made and approved.

Julie James

Village of Downs Clerk



**Village of Downs**  
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Website: [www.VillageOfDowns.org](http://www.VillageOfDowns.org)

***Mayor, Village Board and Clerk***

President/Mayor	Public Safety/Services/ President Pro Tem	Public Works	Streets	Building	Finance	Parks/Youth Center/Food Pantry	Clerk
Mike James	Maureen Roach	Toby Twyford	Danny Lush	Mary Goveia	Sarah Gassaway	Margaret Keylin	Julie James

Downs Police Dept.  
309 378 3221  
Chief Dingler

11/1/18

**From the Desk of Chief Dingler**

Hello all, well the Haunted House event was a big hit and it went down without issue. I want to thank Hassan Holcomb and Heather Dingler for putting in security hours there to keep the folks safe. Officer Hempstead and myself would like to wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving Day and hope to see you folks starting to set up for Christmas. Please lend a helping hand in the park this year to help set up for the lights. It brings such joy to the folks in town and out of town and a certain amount of peace. Because of the peace it brings, we whole heartedly support it. With the holidays coming up please keep your houses and vehicles locked and your goods inside the house. We would rather see happy faces than write a report of those gifts being stolen.

We have been quite busy the last month with community events and wrapping up cases. We have made two arrests this month, one for Criminal Trespassing and the other for a suspended license.

We wish you the best and if there are any concerns you have please write up a complaint form online or in person. We will get to it as quickly as we can.

Thank you,  
Chief Joshua Dingler

***Other Positions and Committee Chairs***

Police Chief  
Josh Dingler

Public Works Superintendent  
Kevin Whitehouse

Treasurer/Budget Officer/TIF Administrator  
Julie Bakewell

Zoning Enforcement  
Lyndall Cuba

Zoning Board Chairperson  
Linda Bowman



The average iron concentration for the month in the finished water is .40 PPM. Monthly bacteriological testing on the raw, finished and distribution samples were all satisfactory, fluoride concentration was .666. The volume of water pumped for the month was 2.247 million gallons, averaging 72,500 gallons a day. The sewer lift station pumped 1.840 million gallons for the month, averaging 59,400 gallons per day. One service line leak was repaired during the month. We had two water meter failures and repairs for the month. One non-pay turn off for the month. The well at Cornbelt energy was removed for an intake screen cleaning. Two sections of column pipe were found to be in poor condition and were replaced. The well electric supply wire was also questionable and replaced. During repairs, a replacement pressure take was installed and the faulty tank removed.

Kevin Whitehouse  
Village of Downs  
Public Works Superintendent  
309-319-1010 (C)  
309-378-2137 (W)  
downswaterplant@hotmail.com

## **AMERICAN LEGION POST #1150**

215 S. Seminary Street

Downs, Illinois

**SERVED IN THE U.S. MILITARY?**

**VISIT THE LEGION / GIVE US A TRY !!**

**VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME**

Contact Number: 309-275-4505

**POST MEETING: FOURTH THURS. @ 6:00 PM**  
**HALL RENTAL AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS**

## November 2018 Board Meeting Parks Report

Parks is focusing on winterizing and making plans for spring. Thanks to **John Grant**, the pavilion doors are now insulated. Dirt and mulch will be spread under the pine tree in McManus Park. Replacing furnace filters, ordering a swing and putting mulch on the playground are in the works for Dooley Park. The pruning of bushes and trees will happen in the spring. Adding mulch to the trail and removing problem trees are on tap for Kickapoo Park as well as wildflower seeding in the spring. Our fundraising focus group is meeting this month to create a list of Parks' needs so they can locate funding sources.

**"Christmas Lights in the Park" subcommittee** is busy transforming Dooley Park into a winter wonderland of lights! Volunteers are needed on 11/10, 11/11, 11/17, and 11/18. Sign up at the Village Hall by email: [DownsVillageHall@hotmail.com](mailto:DownsVillageHall@hotmail.com) or by phone: (309)378-3221. Food and refreshments will be provided!

The Food Pantry has had solid attendance on produce days. Over 40 food boxes were distributed this past month. Donations from organizations and local businesses are starting to come in for the holiday season. Thanks to the ladies from **McLean HCE** for their generous donation to provide turkeys for Thanksgiving. Ongoing and big thank yous to **all of Lori Rogers students** at Tri-Valley for gathering much needed boxes for food distribution. You rock! Thanks to **Mark Martin from Ameren** for donating reusable shopping bags. As always thanks to all the hardworking, dedicated **Food Pantry volunteers!**

In this season of Thanksgiving, Parks thanks all the groups, individuals and businesses of Downs who volunteer their time, money, goods and expertise constantly making our parks more beautiful and more responsive to village needs. Thanks to everyone who uses our parks for fun, exercise, picnics, relaxation, family gatherings, memorials and celebrations year-round.

# **Downs United Methodist Church Annual Cookie Walk**

**Homemade  
cookies!**

**Homemade  
candy!**



**December 8, 2018  
9:00 am until sold out!**

# COOKIES

*with* SANTA

December 8, 2018

9:00-11:00 a.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.

December 9, 2018

1:00-3:00 p.m.

*Enjoy cookies and milk*

*We will have a photographer take your picture with  
Santa*

*You will receive a letter mailed from Santa with your  
picture*

Dooley Park Pavilion, Downs

Questions? Please call the Village Hall at 309-378-3221

Donations accepted

#SetYourGPSforDowns



Grow, Play and Stay in Downs

Your Hometown Self Storage Facility

# Downs Self Storage

119 Shaffer Drive

PO Box 84

Downs, IL 61736-0084

309 962 3137

Rental Unit Sizes Available:

6' x 10' with 4' x 7' door

10' x 12' with 9' x 7' door

10' x 18' with 9' x 7' door

10' x 18' with 9' x 7' door

From \$50 /month

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

Current Resident  
 Downs, Illinois 61736

Village of Downs Officials and Contacts

Mayor	Mike James	309-830-7374	Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org	
Clerk	Julie James	309-830-7373	Clerk@VillageOfDowns.org	
Trustee – Pro Tem	Maureen Roach	309-830-3606	PublicSafety@VillageOfDowns.org	Public Safety & Services
Trustee	Mary Goveia	309-212-0594	Building@VillageOfDowns.org	Building
Trustee	Erik Bryant	309-261-6335	Streets@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	Finance@VillageOfDowns.org	Finance
Treasurer	Julie Bakewell	309-378-5677	Treasurer@VillageOfDowns.org	
Water Plant	Kevin Whitehouse	309-319-1010	DownsWaterPlant@hotmail.com	Public Works Superintendent
Police	Joshua Dinger	309-622-2207	Downs.Village.PD@gmail.com	Police Chief
Non-Emergency	MetCom	309-888-5030		
Emergency		911		
AREA Disposal	Customer Service	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
Committee			downsmapping-g@wiu.edu	Downs GPS
			downscoordinatingcouncil-g@wiu.edu	Coordinating Council
			downsbusiness-g@wiu.edu	Goal #1 Small Business
			downsfestivalsandevents-g@wiu.edu	Goal #2 Festivals/Events
			downsparksandrec-g@wiu.edu	Goal #3 Parks/Recreation
			downshousing-g@wiu.edu	Goal #4 Housing