



News & Current Events

April 2025

From the Desk of the Mayor

The water plant is set and ready to go online as soon as we receive the final approval from the IEPA. We will, then, be able to pump our clear water into the system. This is very exciting as there are residents that have waited, and never thought it would happen, for a very long time. For many, a lifetime! It is funny how those that have been here the shortest, complain the most. The good thing is, now, all you will have to complain about is how much more you will have to pay. Probably, everyone will complain, but hopefully the lack of needing a water softener, buying water, and its hassle will offset the increase.

We are working hard to keep the increase as low as possible. Water rates have not been raised since before 2009. This was a commitment the Board made until the new plant was in operation and we produced clear water.

Once the plant is distributing water it will be softened to 50%. We will slowly increase it to around 75-80%. We have started flushing the water mains to clear out as much sediment as possible and based on a water quality issue that started last week. The process to clear it out will take time, and we can't guarantee we will get it completely cleaned out. We will communicate progress over our FB page and website as we progress.

It will be left to the discretion of each homeowner and their preferences if they want to keep any current systems in their home.

I am told once we are at our softener operating target you will no longer need a water softener. We will recommend, if you don't already have one installed, a whole house filter to catch any debris in the water. RO systems and other filtration systems will be up to each homeowner's preference. It is hard to believe we are almost there and look forward to the open house and ribbon cutting.



The top cup shows the water taken from the new plant. The bottom cup shows the water taken from the old plant.

The streetscape project started in 2015. This project will complete the downtown transformation the development committee envisioned when it created the strategic development plan and updated the comprehensive plan for the Village which was then adopted by the Village Board of Trustees in 2014 as Chapter 18 of our Village Code. The Streetscape design is final and bid letting has begun. Once bids are closed, contractor chosen, and contracts signed, we will be able to provide more details around the construction plan. We hope this project can be completed by Labor Day. It will be another great accomplishment to get the first phase of this project completed. I am excited to see it on my way out the door. See website for more details and design.

Downs Crossing Water Main and Tower:

- 1) The water tower construction was completed on April 11.*
- 2) The tower will be the same color and lettering as our current tower but will be a 150k gallon pedestal tower.*
- 3) The yellow pipe on the north side of Rt 150 will be our water main going to Downs Crossing. It is in 500' sections and they plan to bore 1000' per day once they get started again. They hope to be completed in April/May weather permitting.*
- 4) Pressure reducing stations are delayed but we still anticipate their coming in July/August. Once we have those systems and everything is tested and complete, we can begin operation. Tentative plan is for late summer or early fall.*
- 5) Once completed the tower will provide 150k gallons more water capacity (250k total). It will back feed water to the Village by looping dead ends for the highest areas of the village, increase pressure, and provide better water quality (circulation).*



Downs Crossing Water Tower completed April 11



Annexation for Beecher East was voted down by the Board and will not continue under the Village. If it happens, it will be under the County. The annexation request from Tony Soper passed and so did the zoning map amendment for Hillard/Misch. For other action, please see the meeting summary later in the flyer.

April was my last meeting as the elected Village President for Downs. It completes 12 years of service as your Mayor and 16 years in public service. I am very proud of what the Board of Trustees and I have accomplished for Downs under my leadership. At the meeting, I showed pictures of Downs from when I started, finances from 2013 to now (\$24k to \$300k), personnel from 3 Part-time employees to 6 Full-Time employees (with benefits)/ 6-10 Part-time employees depending on the season, and new equipment I never dreamed we could afford in 2009 or even 2013.

I wish to thank MANY people that have helped me along the way. Hundreds of volunteers and family. Trustees that have served and continue to serve. Downs Township Road Commissioners, especially Rodney Lush. Friends that kept my spirits up when being knocked down. Finally, my beautiful wife who has been my rock and biggest supporter. I could not have done this without her support.

It has been a pleasure serving my community and home of the past 20+ years. I am leaving Downs better now than when I started and have accomplished my goal of making Downs self-sufficient and not reliant on the State of Illinois. I am blessed to have had this opportunity with zero regrets.

In your service,

Mike James, Mayor

309-830-7374

Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org



Village of Downs Board of Trustees Meeting Overview April 10th, 2025, 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 April 10, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:01pm
2. Roll Call was taken. Trustees present were Maureen Roach, Anna Milliken, Stephanie Adkisson, Sarah Gassaway, Brian Warfel and Toby Twyford. There was a quorum present. Also present were Clerk Julie James, Treasurer Julie Bakewell, Interim Treasurer Rachel Eagles and Village attorney Dawn Wall.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. A Motion to Approve Agenda and Order was made and approved.
5. Lauterbach & Amen Audit Presentation – Monica Adamski, Principal Auditor
6. Zoning Board of Appeals (R12, O10)
 1. A motion to pass Ordinance 2025-13 Annexing the Territory Set Forth in the Annexation Agreement Executed Between the Village of Downs and MM Bowers, Inc. was made there was not a second motion made and was not approved
 - There was much public discussion with residents of Shadyville. They asked that the board consider bringing it back to vote, so that it could be officially voted down.
 - A motion to pass Ordinance 2025-13 Annexing the Territory Set Forth in the Annexation Agreement Executed Between the Village of Downs and MM Bowers, Inc. was made and was not approved.
 2. Ordinance 2025-__ Approving Zoning Map Amendment on Parcel #22-33-353-007 from A, Agriculture, to R-2, Medium Density Residential – No action taken.
 3. Resolution 2025-R__ Authorizing and Approving Annexation Agreement with MM Bowers, Inc. and the Village of Downs – No action taken.
 4. A motion to approve Ordinance 2025-10 Annexing the Territory Set Forth in the Annexation Agreement Executed Between the Village of Downs and Tony Soper was made and approved.
 5. A motion to approve Ordinance 2025-11 Approving Zoning Variances for Horses on Parcels #29-05 300 016 and 29-05-300-015 Tract I & II Zoned A, Agriculture was made and approved.

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6. A motion to approve Resolution 2025-R12 Authorizing and Approving Annexation Agreement with Tony Soper and the Village of Down was made and approved.
 7. A motion to approve Ordinance 2025-12 Approving Zoning Map Amendment on Parcel #29-10-100-005 from C-2, General Commercial District, with Solar Special Use to R-1, Low Density Residential was made and approved.
 7. Reports can be found in the 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 March 13, 2025, Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. Motion to Approve Village of Downs Regular Board of Trustees Meeting Location, Dates and Time for FY2026
 - c. Motion to Approve Village of Downs Regular Events Committee Meeting Location, Dates and Time for FY2026
 - d. Motion to Approve Village of Downs Regular Parks Committee Meeting Location, Dates and Time for FY2026
 - e. Motion to Approve Submitted FY2026 Event Plan from the Events Committee
 - f. Motion to Approve Julie Huezo as Village of Downs Zoning Board of Appeals Replacement for Loretta Terven Starting 4/10/2025
 - g. Motion to Approve FY 2023-2024 Audit
 - h. Motion to Approve FY 2023-2024 Annual Treasurer's Report
 - i. Motion to Approve FY 2023-2024 Annual TIF Reports
 - j. Motion to Approve Wages Increases for Cali Whiteside, Full-Time Public Works Maintenance Worker for the Village of Downs at \$19 per hour Starting March 17, 2025

- k. Motion to Approve Wages Increase for Julie Bakewell, Village Treasurer, TIF Administrator, and Budget Officer, to \$47 per hour for the Village of Downs Starting March 17, 2025
- l. Motion to Hire Caleb Smith as a Part-Time Public Works Seasonal Maintenance Worker for the Village of Downs at \$17.50 per hour Starting March 31, 2025, Reporting to the Public Works Supervisor
- m. Motion to Approve Ken Myszka Subdivision Preliminary Plan Within 1.5 Miles of the Village of Downs

2. Ordinance

- a. Ordinance 2025-14 Approving the Revised FY2025 Budget Under the Budget System for the Village of Downs
- b. Ordinance 2025-15 Approving the FY2026 Budget Under the Budget System for the Village of Downs
- c. Ordinance 2025-__ Amending the Municipal Code of The Village of Downs – Chapter 11 Building – No action taken.

3. Resolutions

- a. Resolution 2025-R13 Authorizing and Approving the Services Agreement Between PGAV and the Village of Downs for TIF District Extensions
- b. Resolution 2025-R14 Authorizing and Approving the 5 Year Agreement Between TeamViewer and the Village of Downs
- c. Resolution 2025-R15 Authorizing and Approving the Agreement Between KCN Solutions INC and the Village of Downs for Bulk Softener Salt
- d. Resolution 2025-R16 Authorizing and Approving the Agreement Between Vermeer Midwest and the Village of Downs for Hydrovac Extended Warranty (\$2,412.20)
- e. Resolution 2025-R17 Authorizing and Approving the Agreement Between Halo Americas, INC., dba Halos and the Village of Downs

10. New Business

1. Motions

2. Ordinances

- a. A motion to approve Ordinance 2025-16 Authorizing and Approving Food Truck Permitting Process was made by Roach and seconded by Milliken. Approved 6-0
- b. Ordinance 2025-__ Amending Chapter 16, Miscellaneous Regulations, of the Municipal Code of the Village of Downs – No action taken.

3. Resolutions

- a. A motion to approve Resolution 2025-R18 Authorizing and Approving the FY2026 Proposed Program for Maintenance of Streets and Highways was made by Warfel and seconded by Milliken. Approved 6-0

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

1. Ordinance 2025-__ Amending the Municipal Code of The Village of Downs by the Addition of Article[Chapter] _____ Establishing Standards for the Construction of Facilities on the Rights-of-Way
2. Motion to Continue the Village of Downs Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on _____, @ 7 pm at the Village Hall

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

13. A Motion to Enter Executive Session at 10:42pm for Development Agreements, Annexations and Personnel and was made and approved.

14. Mayor Mike James called the April 10, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting to order at 11:34pm

15. Roll Call was taken. Trustees present were Maureen Roach, Anna Milliken, Stephanie Adkisson, Sarah Gassaway, Brian Warfel and Toby Twyford. There was a quorum present. Also present were Clerk Julie James, Treasurer Julie Bakewell, Interim Treasurer Rachel Eagles and Village attorney Dawn Wall.

16. There was no Action on Executive Session Items.

17. There was no Other Business.

18. A Motion to Adjourn at 11:34pm was made and approved.



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As I step down after serving as your Village Clerk for the past 12 years, I wanted to take a moment to say thank you—and goodbye.

Looking back, it's incredible to see the progress and positive changes our village has experienced. It's been a privilege to witness that growth up close. When I first took on this role, I had so much to learn about municipal government. One of the biggest lessons has been how much patience and persistence it takes to make things happen. Change doesn't always come easily or quickly, and sometimes it's simply out of our control. But still, we keep trying—because this community is worth it.

Serving the public isn't something you do for recognition or reward; it's a labor of love. I've been fortunate to work alongside a dedicated mayor, trustees, staff, and volunteers who truly care about making a difference. Thank you for your partnership, your hard work, and your kindness.

I'd also be lying if I didn't say there were tough moments, too. One of the hardest has been watching my husband, who pours so much of himself into serving this village, be criticized by people who don't understand the challenges or have the full picture. It's never easy to watch someone you love to be subjected to that. But even in the face of that, he's shown resilience, integrity, and a deep commitment to serving this community—and for that, I'm so proud of him.

A special thanks to everyone who made our last meeting so thoughtful—Mike and I were truly touched by the sweet treats and flowers.

While I'm stepping back to spending more time with our growing family (something I'm very much looking forward to), I'm not disappearing entirely. I'll still be around, especially for Cookies with Santa—that one will always have a special place in my heart—and I'll continue to help out with community events whenever I can.

I stayed in this role longer than I originally planned, simply because I cared so deeply for our little village. Now, I truly hope someone will feel called to step into this role and bring their own heart and dedication to it.

With gratitude,

Julie James, Village of Downs Clerk



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.

Public Safety

Applications for use of Golf Cart and Utility-Terrain Vehicles

May 1, 2024-April 30, 2025

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 listed documents need to be submitted to the Village Hall each year. An officer will schedule an inspection time with you.

Dooley Park Pavilion

Parks

To reserve the pavilion for an event or a meeting or to find/verify open rental dates, contact the Village Hall **between 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Monday through Friday** at 309-378-3221. You can also check the calendar on the website to see currently reserved pavilion dates.

The rental agreement and clean-up checklist can be printed 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 and turn in your signed rental agreement form at the Village Hall, the pavilion will be reserved for you for that date and time.

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. If not paid by the 25th of the month, and the office has to call you regarding payment, there will be an additional fee of \$20. If not paid on the 26th, shut off of water can occur. To reconnect, there is a additional fee of \$30.*

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 \$25 NSF fee + the amount of the bill. 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. Please put your service number on your payment.

Trash and Recycle carts Order Form

The Trash and Recycle Carts order form is available on the following page in this newsletter and on our Forms and Applications page on the www.villageofdowns.org site.

2024 Consumer Confidence Report

The CCR report is available on the website

You can find the 2024 CCR on the Public Works Department page located on our website at www.villageofdowns.org/public-works.htm or https://media.rainpos.com/1071/2024_ccr.pdf

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.

Our permits are revised and posted on the website throughout the year. 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.



2025
95-Gallon Trash and
Recycle Cart Sale
Due: April 25th at noon

Village of Downs
211 S. Seminary, PO Box 18
Downs, IL 61736-0018
Voice: 309-378-3221
Email: Info@VillageOfDowns.org
Website: www.VillageOfDowns.org



This is a ONE-TIME sale sponsored by the Village of Downs and GFL Environmental for a new 95-gallon trash or recycle 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 number of "Trash" or "Recycle" carts 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** 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/Recycle Cart Application

Name

Street Address (Village of Downs)

Phone Number

Email Address

Trash Cart \$75.00 (each) _____ (Quantity)

Recycle Cart \$75.00 (each) _____ (Quantity)

Total amount due: \$ _____

Make check payable to Village of Downs.

For Office Use

Service ID # _____ Check Number _____

Date Stamp: _____

Water Sewer report for March 2025.

The average iron concentration for the finished water was **0.81** ppm. Monthly bacteriological testing on the raw, finished and distribution samples were all satisfactory, fluoride concentration was **.5**. The volume of water pumped for the month was **3.238** million gallons, averaging **104,474** gallons per day. The sewer lift station pumped **2.436** million gallons for the month, averaging **78,580** million gallons per day.

- | | |
|--|---|
| • 4 outdated water meters/transmitters replaced with updated units | • 32 JULIE tickets within Village <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ 3 Streets/Water Department□ 29 outside companies |
| • 2 Water leaks repaired | |
| • 1 Curb Stop repair | • 51 JULIE tickets outside Village |
| • 1 Driveway repair | |

With mowing season right around the corner, please welcome Caleb Smith to the team as our newest seasonal worker. Caleb joins us with a strong skill set, which will be very beneficial with the many projects ahead of us.

The water department has been replacing the outdated water meters and transmitters with updated units. We have a list of the residents with the older versions and will be contacting in the future to schedule a time when our team can replace the old with updated versions. This will be at no cost to the homeowner as it is Village Property.

Please continue to be cautious of our Village workers who are out and about. We want to make sure the Village is safe for the residents and ourselves.

We are getting closer to going online with the new water plant. With all new projects, there will be kinks to work out, but we are confident they will quickly be resolved. Once we have a more accurate date of officially going online, we will post it on Facebook, announce it in the recent news section of our Website, and send out an email through the Notification system.

As always, your support means a lot. If you have any questions/comments, please contact me.

Jill Kasprzak
Supervisor of Public Works & Maintenance

Monthly Brush Pickup Continues

April thru November 2025

Debris pickup will continue, based on the Streets Trustee's direction, the first MONDAY of each month (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.
- If you know you will have a larger than normal pile, please contact the office so they can make the streets department aware.

Please note that there is NO BURNING in the ditches or on 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 have, to fix these issues.

Illegal Dumping

Please do not dump yard waste and ANY other items at the entrances to Kickapoo Park, Village storage yard, 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.

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.



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."

2025 Schedule

Month	Friday	Saturday
April	11th	12th
May	9th	10th
June	6th	7th
July	11th	12th

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.

2025 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

Parks News

Meeting Schedule

Dooley Park Pavilion @ 6:00pm

- April 15, 2025

Looking Ahead

Quick Glance at Upcoming Village Events, Activities and Meetings

April:

- 12th – Free Easter Breakfast, 7 – 10:00 am @ The Station – Downs
- 12th – Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 am registration, 10:30 Hunt @ Dooley Park
- 15th – Parks Committee Special Meeting, 6 pm @ Pavilion
- 17th – Garbage Collection
- 24th – Garbage and Recycle Collection

May:

- 1st – Garbage Collection – GFL Monthly Bulk pickup
- 5th – Village Monthly Brush Pickup
- 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, 6pm @ Pavilion
- 22nd – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 29th – Garbage Collection

June:

- 1st – Grand Marshal nominations close
- 2nd – Brush Pickup by Village
- 5th – Garbage Collection – GFI Monthly Bulk pickup
- 7th – Village of Downs Annual Clean-up Day, 7am – 2 pm, See flyer info or Facebook
- 7th – Dooley Park Cruise-In, 3 – 7 pm @ Dooley Park
- 10th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall
- 12th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; Video/Audio via Zoom
- 12th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 17th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Village Hall, Video/Audio via Zoom
- 19th – Garbage Collection
- 26th – Garbage and Recycle Collection

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

Video/Audio Information for Public Meetings which use Zoom

Broadcast for Village Board of Trustee Meetings Will Continue

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

Looking for Houses to Clean

Also do private
care in seniors
homes



Immediate
openings

call Trisha 309-273-8610

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

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

Permit Required

Door-to-door solicitation permits are PRIOR to doing solicitation door-to-door. No warnings will be granted. Please report anyone that does not have a permit to come to your door. Please try and get their name and car make/model/color. Solicitors without a permit will be fined.

Keep up to Date with Facebook and Village Website

Village of Downs Events

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 FB Page and Instagram:
 - ◇ <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090958995532>
 - ◇ <https://www.instagram.com/downsvillagemarket/?igshid=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ%3D%3D>

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

FY2026 (May 2025 – April 2026) 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.

Dooley Park Cruise-In – This event will be held on the first Saturday in June in Dooley Park from 3 – 7 pm. There will be no rainout date.

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.

Freedom Run – The Freedom Run will be held June 28 (Saturday before July 4) and is a 5K Run, 1 Mile Walk & Kids Fun Run. Event will start and end at the Tri-Valley Middle School & High School. See Facebook/Meta for more information.

4th of July – This event will be the first of two large events for the Village. This year will be a one-day event.

Creepy Car Cruise-In – This event will be held the first Saturday in October at Dooley Park from 3 – 7 pm. There will be no rainout date.

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.

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.

Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt – This event will be hosted in Dooley Park on Saturday, March 28, 2026, and will involve the areas Churches for the egg hunt. The host for the family breakfast before the egg hunt in the park is TBD and we are open for any business to volunteer to host.

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

Community Wide Clean-Up Day

Saturday, June 7

Spring cleaning? The community clean-up day is a perfect opportunity for residents to throw away those unwanted items. Dumpsters will be provided. More details will follow regarding what will be accepted/not accepted. Check the Village website for more information as it becomes available.

Medication Disposal

Saturday, April 26, 10 am - 2 pm @ Downs Community Fire Station

Medicine take-back will be held on Saturday, April 26th from 10 am – 2pm to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription and nonprescription medicines. Before disposing of prescription medicines, be sure to scratch out all personal information on pill bottle labels and packaging. All medicines dropped off will be destroyed.

This is just a reminder that medications unused or expired should never be flushed down the toilet because wastewater treatment plants aren't designed to remove pharmaceuticals, potentially contaminating water sources and harming aquatic life.



Planning for the 2025 season is underway!

If you are interested in helping with the Downs Village Market, please reach out to the Village of Downs (Info@villageofdowns.org) or any of the current market committee members.

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

Downs Zoning Board of Appeals

Seeking ZBA Members

We are seeking additional ZBA Members. We have one rolling off in May.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please reach out to Village of Downs (Info@villageofdowns.org) or Zoning Board of Appeals Chair (ZBACHair@villageofdowns.org).

4th of July Grand Marshal

Nominations Accepted until June 1, 2025

The Events Committee is once again seeking nominations for the 2025 4th of July parade Grand Marshal. Please use the form in the flyer or on the website, from now until June 1, 2025, to submit your nomination. Please be sure to write the required narrative to support your nomination, otherwise entry will not be accepted.



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Up and Coming Events

- Sunday morning Adult Sunday School 8:30am in Youth Room-meets 4/27
- Sunday evenings at 6pm is in person Bible Study in the Chapel-meet 4/27
- Tuesday mornings at 10am Bible Study in the Youth Room and on Zoom
- Next Gen Wednesday Night Ministries at 5:30pm.

K-3rd Grade

4th-6th Grade

7th-8th Grade



- Sr High is 10:45am on Sundays-meets 4/27
- Wednesdays at 6pm: Choir in the Chapel
- 4/17 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
- 4/18 Good Friday Service 7pm
- 4/20 Sunrise Service 6:30 am
- 4/20 Easter Service 9:30am
-

-
- ***YOUTH WORSHIP during the regular worship service will meet on 4/27. It is a service geared for the 4th through 8th grade students and they meet in the Youth Room.***
-

Worship Service

Sundays 9:30am In Person

Online at www.downsumc.org

Current Sermon Series

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Village Of Downs

Officials & Contacts

Mayor	Mike James	309-830-7374	mayor@Villageofdowns.org
Clerk	Julie James	309-830-7373	clerk@villageofdowns.org
Public Safety Trustee - Pro Tem	Maureen Roach	309-830-4297	publicsafety@villageofdowns.org
Streets Trustee	Brian Warfel	309-261-0183	streets@villageofdowns.org
Finance Trustee	Anna Milliken	309-242-8980	finance@villageofdowns.org
Public Works Trustee	Toby Twyford	309-830-3448	publicworks@villageofdowns.org
Parks Trustee	Stephanie Adkisson	309-212-8345	parks@villageofdowns.org
Building Trustee	Sarah Gassaway	309-261-2540	building@villageofdowns.org
Treasurer	Julie Bakewell	309-378-3221	treasurer@villageofdowns.org
Public Works Supervisor	Jill Kasprzak	309-319-1010	PWSuper@villageofdowns.org
Police Chief	Joshua Dingle	309-622-2207	downs.Village.pd@gmail.com
Non-Emergency	MetCom	309-888-5030	
Emergency		911	
GFL Disposal	Customer Service	309-688-0760	
Village Hall		309-378-3221	info@villageofdowns.org
Zoning Enforcement Officer	Lyndall Cuba	309-378-3221	info@villageofdowns.org
Zoning Board of Appeals Chair	Eric Thompson	309-378-3221	info@villageofdowns.org
EMA Director	Travis Misch	309-378-3221	