



News & Current Events

August 2025

From the Desk of the Mayor

I feel I owe an explanation for my return without the noise of social media/rumors. I needed to step away for two reasons. Mainly because my wife was done with being Clerk, and felt if I continued, she would be obligated to be clerk and be dragged back into that position. I didn't want that to happen or for her to feel obligated anymore. She has put up with too much over the last 12 years and that was unfair to her. However, when nobody ran for either position, like so many said they would, it made it even more difficult to not throw my name in. Instead, I asked Maureen to step into that position as I felt she had the knowledge and experience to be your mayor.

Maureen did a fantastic job of picking up where I left off and keeping projects moving. She is fully capable of being the mayor, but other circumstances warranted my saying I would accept an appointment if the Board chose me in July. Since the clerk position was filled, I knew Julie would not have to worry about being drug back into being clerk, so I let Maureen know shortly after the June board meeting. I formally sent a letter to Maureen on June 26, 2025, which I posted on Facebook on June 27 for transparency.

The July public comment was a good opportunity to hear concerns that haven't been expressed before or at least not directly to me. When I took my seat, I thanked them for the open and honest comments and said I would consider how to implement change to do a better job. I am open to any discussion about the village and what we are doing. Please reach out and ask for a meeting to talk.

In addition, to be more proactive, I will set up monthly open times for us to talk, if needed, each Monday (Mayor Monday) before the Village Board Meeting (6 pm @ Viking Brew) to hear concerns outside and before that meeting.

It has been a pleasure serving my community and home of the past 20+ years. I am grateful for the 5 trustees that have faith and confidence. I will continue to lead with the honor and integrity of the last 16 years. I am confident other important opportunities will continue to come our way. These opportunities will improve Downs even further and continue the goal of making Downs self-sufficient and not reliant on the State of Illinois.



Village Of Downs

From the Desk of the Mayor

I am blessed to have this opportunity to serve two more years to the best of my ability.

Downs project updates:

- 1) The new water plant will be 100% operational, barring any setback, by Friday, August 22, 2025. The watermains will take time for sediment to clear out and we plan to do flushing to help with this process. The water is crystal clear, 50% softened, 0 iron, and 0 tannins. This is a huge step forward for Downs and a long time coming. We will increase the softening over the next few months as long as we don't have any setbacks with operations.
- 2) Downs Crossing Tower and watermain extension. The tower is almost done and is ready for water to complete the remaining tasks. The pressure reducing stations and watermain are installed. The final work is being completed on the pump station behind the water plant. Once completed our new clean water will be used to flush the new watermain, fill the tower, and test the system.
- 3) Our streetscape project is progressing well. The eastside of Seminary Street will be completed hopefully this week or early next week. They will then start on the westside, and we will be finished with this project by this fall. Funding has been set aside and not at risk from federal cuts.
- 4) Illinois Senator Sally Turner secured a \$20k grant for Downs last year and we are using this grant to complete the sidewalks on the southside of W. Main St from Seminary to Price St which are a part of Phase II of the streetscape project.
- 5) Colleen Ln and S Lincoln St Road improvements will start in September. This project is being done by Roanoke Concrete and Stark which will widen and concrete this road.

In your service,

Mike James, Mayor

309-830-7374, Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org



Village of Downs Board of Trustees Meeting Overview August 14th, 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 August 14, 2025, meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
2. Roll Call was taken. Trustees present were Maureen Roach, Diana Reynolds, Stephanie Adkisson, Sarah Gassaway, Brian Warfel, and Toby Twyford. A quorum was present. Also present were Clerk Rachel Eagles, Treasurer Julie Bakewell, and Village Attorney Dawn Wall.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. A motion to approve the agenda and order was made and approved.
 - Boy scout presentation was added--Jonathan Alarie, representing the Boy Scouts of America, presented a proposal for his Eagle Scout project. He distributed a handout outlining plans to repair the wood ramp on the creek trail in Kickapoo Park and to install a new bench as part of the improvements. In response to a question from Roach regarding materials, Jonathan confirmed that he will be using pressure-treated lumber. He also noted that he has arranged with Lowe's to purchase the materials at cost. Jonathan aims to complete the project by December.
Note: This item will be added to next month's agenda, as it was not listed on this month's agenda.
 - Solar presentation from Solar on Earth—Sumeet presented via Zoom a potential program that would provide solar energy credits on the Village's Ameren electric bills. She explained how the program works through the use of renewable energy credits. Roach inquired about the cost to participate, and Sumeet clarified that there is no direct cost—participants receive at least a 10% discount on their annual Ameren electricity spend. In response to a question from the Treasurer regarding penalties or time commitments, Sumeet stated that there is a one-year commitment, with the discount continuing for up to 15 years. When asked if the solar credits could be adjusted as electricity usage fluctuates, Sumeet confirmed that recalibrations are possible if they are notified of usage changes. Note: no action was taken on this presentation.
5. Reports can be found in the flyer.
6. Discussion
 - Adkisson made a statement regarding an interaction and conversation that Diana Reynolds had with Chief Dingler. Conversation ensued.
7. Public Comment
 - An email was read from constituent Cheryl Bach: "I would like to know exactly what amount of the government grant for Streetscape has been received by the Village-only that amount not any received from McLean Road Dept."
 - a. Clerk will send MSA report that was presented to trustees at this meeting, with current amounts received, to Cheryl Bach via email.
 - b. Clarification was made by Mayor James that the Village is reimbursed as each bill is

submitted as construction stages are completed on the streetscapes project. Our federal grant was approved, and the money that was awarded to us is secure and is guaranteed to us.

- Julie James—question asked via Zoom why Reynolds addressed Chief instead of Mayor—the response was that was previously answered earlier in the meeting.
- 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, but trustees requested to vote individually on grocery tax and building permit fee and process separately.
 - Motions
 - a. Motion to Approve the July 10, 2025 Village Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes
 - b. Motion to Approve the July 10, 2025 Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes
 - c. Motion to Approve the July 10, 2025 Village Board of Trustees Executive Meeting Minutes
 - d. ~~Motion to Approve Changes to the Village of Downs Building Permit Fee Schedule.~~ *Moved below to vote on separately.*
 - e. ~~Motion to Approve Changes to the Village of Downs Building Permit Process.~~ *Moved below to vote on separately.*
 - f. Motion to Approve Wage Increase for Caleb Smith, Full-Time Public Works Maintenance Worker for the Village of Downs at \$20 per hour Starting August 16, 2025
 - g. Motion to Approve Reappointment of Julie Bakewell as the Treasurer, Budget Officer and TIF Administrator in the Village of Downs at \$47 /hr for Term to Expire August 2026 and effective August 1, 2025
 - Ordinances (22)
 - a. ~~Ordinance 2025-22—Implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax for the Village of Downs.~~ *Moved below to vote on separately.*
 - Resolutions (32)
 - a. Resolution 2025-R32 – Ratifying Consent Resolution Authorizing and Approving Agreement Between CWM Company, Inc and the Village of Downs not to Exceed Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000)
 - b. Resolution 2025-R33 – Authorizing and Approving Grant to Award a Bid for the Village of Downs Motor Fuel Tax Chip Seal Project in an Amount not to Exceed \$40,000.00
- 10. Items pulled out of consent agenda and voted on separately:
 - A motion to Approve Changes to the Village of Downs Building Permit Fee Schedule was made and approved.



- A motion to Approve Changes to the Village of Downs Building Permit Process was made and approved.
- A motion to approve Ordinance 2025-22 – Implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax for the Village of Downs was made and approved.
- 11. New Business (none this meeting)
 - Motions
 - Ordinances
 - Resolutions
- 12. Old Business (no action was taken in old business)
 - Motion to Continue the Village of Downs Regular Board of Trustees Meeting on _____, @ 7 p.m. at the Village Hall
- 13. A Motion to Approve Payment of Bills was made and approved.
- 14. A Motion to Enter Executive Session for annexation agreements, development agreements, and personnel was made and approved.
 - Annexation Agreements
 - Development Agreements
 - Personnel
- 15. Action on Executive Session Items – no action was taken from the Executive Session.
- 16. Other Business (none at this meeting)
- 17. Mayor Mike James called the August 14, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting to order at 11:21 p.m.
 - A final roll call was taken. Trustees still present were Maureen Roach, Diana Reynolds, Stephanie Adkisson, Sarah Gassaway, Brian Warfel, and Toby Twyford. A quorum remained. Also present were Clerk Rachel Eagles, Treasurer Julie Bakewell, and Village Attorney Dawn Wall
- 18. A Motion to Adjourn at 11:22 p.m. was made and approved.

All Building Permits

Building

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.

If a bus has it's stop sign out it is either loading or unloading a student. It is telling you to stop and look for students. Just STOP, IT'S THE LAW.

This can not be shared enough



BACK-TO-SCHOOL PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDERS FOR DRIVERS

When a school bus's red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, drivers must stop, regardless of whether they are behind the bus or approaching from the opposite direction. Drivers should remain stopped until the bus resumes motion, flashing lights are turned off, the stop arm is retracted, or the bus driver signals you to proceed.

Pedestrians are trusting drivers to stop and wait for them to cross the road. We have many young walkers on various roads throughout the village and some streets do not have sidewalks, so be on the lookout and especially be careful driving during both morning and afternoon peak traffic times. Be mindful of Village speed limits. The school zone speed limit on Washington St. is 20 mph during school hours. Otherwise, Village speed limits are 25 mph. Also, please be cautious of workers in the work zones throughout construction. Speed limits will be enforced. Let's be extra alert and keep our students safe!



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

Golf Cart and U/T Permits

Valid from May 1—April 30

Applications are available on the Village of Downs website at www.villageofdowns.org.

Door-to-Door Sales

Permit Required

Door-to-door solicitation permits are needed 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.

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.



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.

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>

Water Sewer report for July 2025.

The average iron concentration for the finished water was **.76** 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 **3.037** million gallons, averaging **97,974** gallons per day. The sewer lift station pumped **2.116** million gallons for the month, averaging **68,283** million gallons per day.

- | | |
|---|---|
| • 3 Water shut offs | • 26 JULIE tickets within Village |
| • 10 outdated water meters/transmitters replaced with updated units | □ 3 Streets/Water Department |
| • 2 Water leak repairs | □ 23 outside companies (3 extended tickets, need to remark) |
| | • 13 JULIE tickets outside Village |

Water meters/transmitters replacement changeout continues. We will be contacting you in the future to schedule a time when our team can replace the old units 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 and all the new construction workers who are out and about. We want to make sure the Village is safe for the residents, visitors and ourselves.

Our Public Works Department is looking to expand our team! If you or someone you know is interested in a potential career in Public Works, we want to hear from you. Applicants must over the age of 18, have a valid license, and preferably have related experience. You may be exactly who we are looking for.

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

Jill Kasprzak

Supervisor of Public Works & Maintenance



Haunted House Characters and Volunteers Needed

Celebrating 33 Years of Scare

In October, the Village of Downs Haunted House will celebrate 33 years. Haunted House takes place every Friday and Saturday in October. This event draws thousands of people from all over Illinois and even surrounding states during October. We have been able to maintain all our activities including the hayrack rides, concessions, and Dooley Park activities with the help of our dedicated volunteers; in 2012, we started the free Un-Haunted version for the younger children to enjoy with no-scares and will continue that tradition on October 26th starting at 1 pm.

The proceeds from Haunted House help fund other Village of Downs annual events (Mainly 4th of July) and make significant additions/improvements to the haunt each year. With your help, this year will be the best yet!

Volunteers are needed for construction, prop building, acting, makeup application, costume coordination, hay rack drivers, vendor donations, and concessions. If you are available to volunteer and help continue our small-town tradition, please email us at info@downshauntedhouse.org or fill out the volunteer/actor registration form at www.downshauntedhouse.org.

PUBLIC WORKS
NOW HIRING

MAINTENANCE
CREW MEMBER

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.



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
August	8th	9th
September	5th	6th
October	10th	11th
November	7th	8th

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

Parks Meeting Schedule

Dooley Park Pavilion @ 6 pm

Held the Tuesday after the Board Meeting. Coming up: September 16th

Dooley Park Pavilion

Rent the Pavilion for your events

Rental Agreements and availability are available on the Village of Downs website at www.villageofdowns.org or call the Village Hall at 309-378-3221.

starting
JULY 1, 2025



REPLACING SERVICE
OPERATED BY SHOW BUS

TEMPORARILY
NO FARE

**AVAILABLE
TO ALL RIDERS
IN MCLEAN
COUNTY**

DOOR-TO-DOOR TRIPS
connecting RURAL
MCLEAN COUNTY and
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL,
PONTIAC and GIBSON CITY >

To reserve a ride, call
Connect Transit by noon,
one-day in advance.

309-828-9833
8AM-5PM (LAST RETURN TRIP BY 4 PM)

NORMAL



BLOOMINGTON

GIBSON
CITY

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
TRIPS AVAILABLE UP TO
3 days IN ADVANCE

connect-transit.com/connectgo

 **connect**
TRANSIT

MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC



McLean County Health Department is taking Public Health on the road!

 Friday, September 5th 2025 9am-1pm

 Downs Dooley Park Pavilion (parking lot)

The mobile unit will be offering the following FREE services:

-  A1C Test
-  Blood Pressure Checks
-  Height, Weight & Body Mass Index
-  Heart Health Education



Looking Ahead

Quick Glance at Upcoming Village Events, Activities and Meetings

August:

- 28th – Garbage and Recycle Collection

September:

- 1st - Labor Day - Village Hall Closed
- 5th – Garbage Collection – GFL Monthly Bulk pickup
- 5th—Mobile Health Clinic, 9am—1pm @ Dooley Park Pavilion
- 8th – Village Monthly Brush Pickup
- 8th—Mayor Monday, 6pm @ Viking Brews
- 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
- 16th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Pavilion
- 18th – Garbage Collection
- 25th – Garbage and Recycle Collection

October:

- 2nd – Garbage Collection – GFL Monthly Bulk pickup
- 3rd & 4th—Downs Haunted House: 7—11 pm, Tickets online @ DownsHauntedHouse.org
- 6th – Village Monthly Brush Pickup
- 6th—Mayor Monday, 6pm @ Viking Brews
- 7th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall
- 9th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 9th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; Video/Audio via Zoom
- 10th & 11th—Downs Haunted House: 7—11 pm, Tickets online @ DownsHauntedHouse.org
- 14th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Pavilion
- 16th – Garbage Collection
- 17th & 18th—Downs Haunted House: 7—11 pm, Tickets online @ DownsHauntedHouse.org
- 23rd – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 24th & 25th—Downs Haunted House: 7—11 pm, Tickets online @ DownsHauntedHouse.org
- 26th—Downs UnHaunted House: 1—3 pm
- 30th – Garbage Collection
- 31st—Downs Haunted House: 7—11 pm, Tickets online @ DownsHauntedHouse.org

**** 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

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**

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**



Downsumc.org

309-378-2651

Up and Coming Events

- Sunday morning Adult Sunday School 8:30am in Youth Room
- Sunday evenings at 6pm is in person Bible Study in the Chapel
- Tuesday morning Bible Study 10am in Youth Room and on Zoom.
- Wednesdays 6:30pm Choir practice in Chapel. Time changes to 6pm on September 3rd.
- ***YOUTH WORSHIP during the regular worship service. It is a service geared for the 4th through 8th grade students and they meet in the Youth Room.***



Starting September 3rd, 2025

During the school year Downs UMC will have student ministries on Wednesday nights. Kindergarten through 8th Grade will all share space each week. For updates and additional information visit www.downsumc.org or on Facebook at Downs United Methodist Church.

K-3rd Grade will have Music Ministry from 5:30-5:45, followed by Lesson, Dinner and Games and ending at 7:00pm (Musical Rehearsal will start soon, and that will be from 7:00-7:30).

4th-8th Grade will meet from 5:30-7:00; with Games, Dinner and Lesson stations.

We would love to have your students join us for NextGen this school year. We ask that when you drop your child off, you come in and sign them in, and also provide us with emergency contact information. For more information on the ministry contact Kyle Boward – Youth & Children's Ministry

Worship Service

Sundays 9:30am In Person

Online at www.downsumc.org



SERMON SERIES

starting August 24th

"Journey Series: Frontiers"

August 24th-September 14



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DOWNS, IL

BUILDING BEHIND THE
CHURCH

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Open Every Sunday

10:45am - Noon

ALL ITEMS ARE PICK YOUR
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100% OF PROCEEDS SUPPORT
DOWNS UMC

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



EMAIL QUESTIONS TO
SWAPROOM@DOWNSUMC.ORG



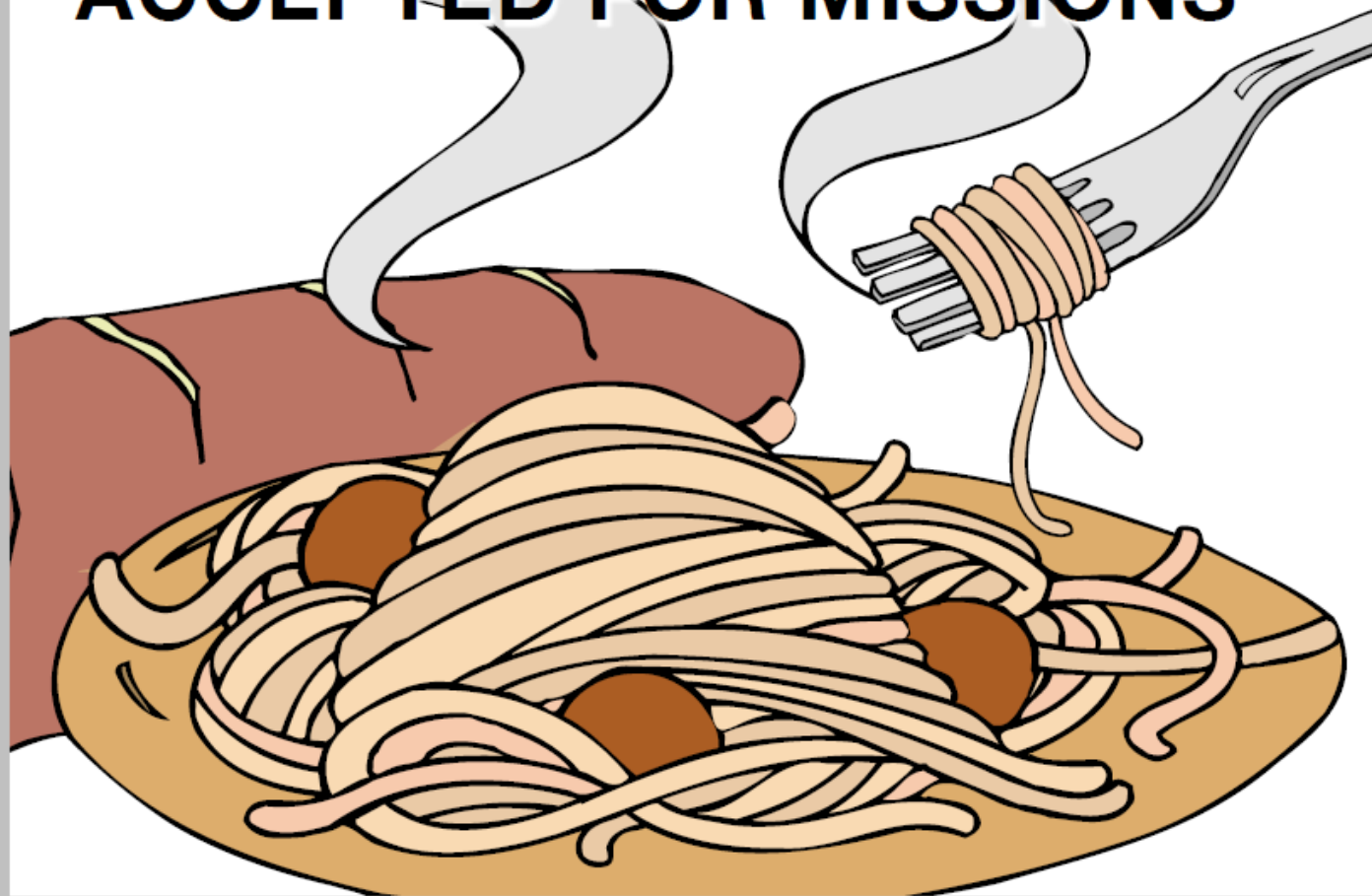
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR
SNEAK PEEKS & NEW INFO!
[FACEBOOK.COM/DOWNSUMC](https://www.facebook.com/downsumc)

August 2025

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

DOWNS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**FREE WILL OFFERING
ACCEPTED FOR MISSIONS**



**SUNDAY,
SEP 28**
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm





LIVING HOPE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

**Worship Sundays at 10:00 AM or Live Stream on
Facebook or YouTube**

facebook.com/DownsLivingHope

youtube.com/@livinghopechristianchurchd8107



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

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

LivingHopeDowns.com



State Farm Million Meal Pack Event

In celebration of Good Neighbor Month this September, State Farm is teaming up with US Hunger to host our second Million Meal Pack event!

1 in 8 people and 1 in 6 children in Illinois face hunger. This Million Meal Pack will provide packed meals to food pantries across McLean County and the state of Illinois to help those individuals and families.

Thousands of volunteers are needed to help with this impactful event. Please consider lending a hand (or many more!) to be a part of this groundbreaking event! This is a great opportunity for businesses, friends, and families to make a difference in the fight against hunger.

- **When:**
Saturday, September 20, 2025
8:30AM – 6:00PM
- **Where:**
Grossinger Motor Arena
101 S Madison Street
Bloomington, IL 61701



Participants can choose from a variety of volunteer roles and shifts. Volunteers as young as 5 years old are invited.

Scan the QR code to register to volunteer today!

One Day. One Community. One Million Meals.

NEED MORE STORAGE?

BRAND NEW BUILDING JUST ADDED IN DOWNS!

Non-Temperature Controlled Units

5x10, 10x10, 10x15, 10x20, 10x25, 10x30

STARTING AT \$60



COME CHECK US OUT

603 S. LINCOLN ST.
DOWNS, IL

217.306.6271

RENT ONLINE TODAY

WWW.HIDEAWAYSELFSTORAGE.NET



**211 S Seminary St
PO Box 18
Downs, IL 61736**

«AddressBlock»



Village Of Downs

Officials & Contacts

Mayor	Mike James	309-830-7374	mayor@Villageofdowns.org
Clerk	Rachel Eagles	541-390-6709	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	Sarah Gassaway	309-261-2540	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	Diana Reynolds	309-498-8361	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 Dingler	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	