



News & Current Events

September 2025

From the Desk of the Mayor

The month of August was a key milestone for the Village of Downs. We have now ended the years of “bad water” stigma in Downs. The water is free of iron, organics, and is softened coming out of the plant for everyone. Softening is currently set at around 60%. We have begun flushing hydrants and used the filling of the new water main to Downs Crossing as a flushing mechanism. Years of sediment will take time to completely clear out of the water and from time to time will break loose and cause color issues. However, this time will clear up completely with a short period of running water.

What do you need in your home? This is a personal choice because taste to everyone varies. However, we do highly recommend a whole house filter to “catch” any sediment coming into your home. I and others have bypassed our water softener. I don’t have RO but do have a refrigerator filter and I drink the water from both now. Again, your preference may be different, and it is up to you if you keep using those expensive items.

How much will the water rates increase? Right now, we can’t answer that because we don’t have enough data on the plant running. We have stated all along we will try to stay close to the survey number of \$15-17 / month. We will continue to meet and discuss this change and how best to recommend to the Board for implementation.

This month marked the first **Mayor Monday** discussion. I will continue to be available each Monday before the Village Board Meeting (6 - 7pm @ Viking Brew). The goal is to provide a time for me to listen, be open and approachable without the formality of a stuffy meeting or public hearing. I hope you can take advantage of this monthly scheduled time. If you can’t make it and have something to discuss, please reach out for a one-on-one time to meet.



Downs project updates:

- 1) The new water plant is 100% operational. Deconstruction of the old plant inner workings is about 80% completed. I hope all work will be completed before end of October.
- 2) Downs Crossing Tower and watermain extension. The tower is done and ready for water to complete the remaining tasks. The pressure reducing stations and watermain are installed. Water pressure tests are being performed and issues corrected. Once pressure tests are completed, we must pass IEPA required tests. The tower will be filled and tested once the water main has been given the green light.
- 3) Our streetscape project is progressing very well. Next week they plan to start grinding the street in preparation for the final surface. They hope to have the road completed next week. The Board discussed adding a “top cap” to “sitting walls”. We felt the bid of \$25k was excessive. All power poles (not the large poles along the old RR) will be removed from the downtown and relocated underground or off main street.
- 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. Knapp was the only contractor to bid on this project, and the price was \$43k. The village will use its employees to do some of the work on this project to get the price closer to \$20k.
- 5) Colleen Ln and S Lincoln St Road improvements will start in September. This project is being done by Roanoke Concrete and Stark and will widen and concrete this road.

In your service,

Mike James, Mayor

309-830-7374, Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org

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.



Village of Downs Board of Trustees Meeting Overview September 11th, 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 September 11, 2025, meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Roll Call was taken. Trustees present were Maureen Roach, Diana Reynolds, Stephanie Adkisson, Sarah Gassaway, Brian Warfel, and Toby Twyford. There was a quorum present. Also present were Mayor Mike James, Clerk Rachel Eagles, Treasurer Julie Bakewell, and Village Attorney Dawn Wall.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Reports can be found in the flyer.
5. Public Comment – there were comments from constituents in person, via email, and via Zoom.
6. The Village Board reviewed the ongoing infrastructure projects including the water main extensions, water treatment plant, Streetscape improvements, and utility easements, with updates provided on ongoing construction, road repairs, and maintenance work across multiple locations in the village. Various financial matters were discussed, including budget allocations for events, vendor contracts, and utility projects, while the Finance Committee addressed accounting issues and audit reviews. The Board also covered community initiatives like the Village Market's success, Park improvements, Village Market Committee member changes, and Public Safety updates, before concluding with discussions on financial agreements and administrative matters.
7. Executive Session was entered at 9:12 pm for Semi-Annual Review of Meeting Minutes, Annexation Agreements, and Development Agreements.
8. A Motion to Adjourn at 9:48 pm was made and approved.

Please note: Detailed minutes from the Village Board of Trustees meetings are available after they are approved by the trustees at the following month's meeting. If you would like to be added to the email list to receive the approved minutes each month, please visit our website and use the form located at the bottom right corner of the home page. Or you can visit the Board Agenda and Minutes page to view all posted agendas and minutes.

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.



From the Desk Of the Chief

Happy Fall to you all. It is coming, I promise. School is back in session and there is a SRO (School Resource Officer) the district hired from the county Sheriff's Department. Give her a warm welcome.

Officer Thornton is back and he is extremely happy to be back. His tour was uneventful and now he has hit the ground running with vigor. The smile we all missed is back. Our increased enforcement is up and it shows.

With school in session, I urge folks to slow down a bit the lines to the school are the same, speeding to get in line and wait is just reckless and is putting people at risk for no reason other than selfishness. If you need to be in line sooner, leave sooner, be responsible please.

With the change of the season, you will start seeing very large and slow moving farm equipment on the road. Be careful, sometimes they come through Downs and take up the whole road. Be patient, and let them pass. If you are behind them, do not pass without doing so safely and legally.

Enjoy the weather, the food, the outdoor fires, and be good to each other.

Thank you,

Chief Joshua Dingler

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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

LETTERS OF SUPPORT NEEDED FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECT FUNDING FOR THE "ILLINOIS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL" GRANT

The Village of Downs and Tri-Valley School District are excited to announce a joint effort to reapply for the Safe Route to School (SRTS) grant through the IL Dept. of Transportation to enhance pedestrian safety and connectivity in our community.

If you drive a vehicle, you know how difficult it is to see pedestrians on W. Main Street as visibility is extremely difficult and hazardous due to the morning and evening sun glare. In fact, we've had several near-miss accidents along this street. The grant program will provide funding to implement sidewalks along W. Main St from Price to Gadwall. The need for a sidewalk beyond Gadwall is needed; however, grant dollars are limited, but this would be a good start.

To enhance our application for funding, we need public support! Because this grant is highly competitive, we need letters of support from citizens and organizations in addition to signing the online petition stating your support for the need for a sidewalk to make the route to school safer for students walking to and from school, catching the school bus and for all pedestrians.

The deadline for submitting letters and signing the petition is September 30. For an example letter visit the villageofdowns.org website.

Sign the petition here: <https://form.jotform.com/252585887062166>

Send your letter to: ltruong@msa-ps.com

Public Hearing - Illinois Safe Route to School Sidewalk Project - Sept 23rd 6pm @ the Downs Village Hall. Your attendance will show support for the project and enhance our application.

Please help us to improve the safety of our community by sending a letter of support and/or signing the petition by **September 30th**, so we can enhance our opportunity to receive this grant funding.

Thank you! Maureen Roach, Public Safety Trustee



Billing

Billing Questions, Issues, and Payments

All questions regarding billing issues including payment arrangements need to be directed to the Village Hall at 309-378-3221 during office hours. Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 12:30pm.

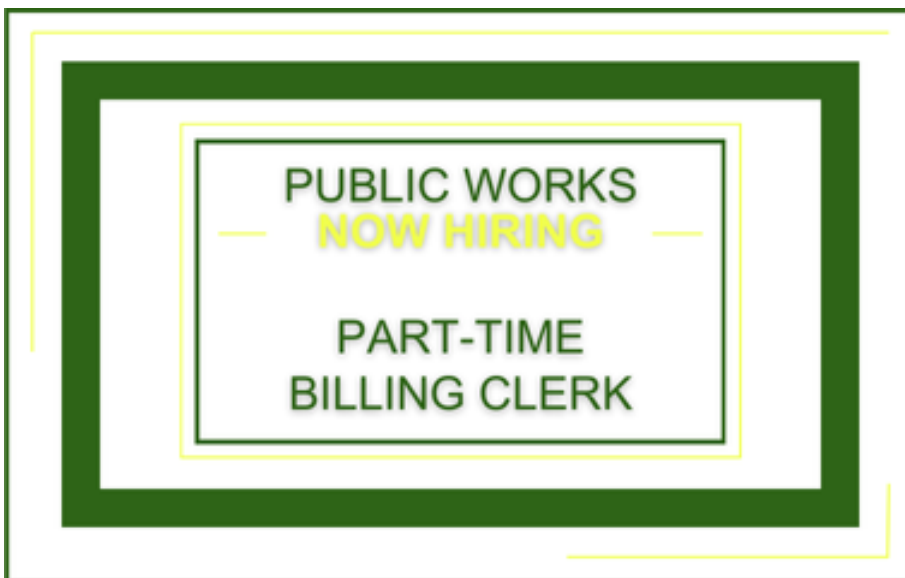
REMINDER: The billing due date is the **15th of the month**. Payments received after the 15th are subject to the late fees. If not paid by the 25th of the month, and the office has to call you regarding payment, there will be an additional fee of \$20. If not paid on the 26th, shut off of water can occur. 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 id on your payment.

Hiring Part-Time Billing Clerk

We have a part-time Billing Clerk position open in the Village Hall. The job is 8-12 hours per week plus additional hours available when the demand increases. Check out our Employment page for a brief Job description and an employment application.



Visit our Employment Page located on our website under the Contact Us Tab.

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

Water Sewer report for August 2025.

The average iron concentration for the finished water was **.05** 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 last 18 days of August was **1.563** million gallons, averaging **86,833** gallons per day. The sewer lift station pumped **1.054** million gallons for the month, averaging **34,007** million gallons per day.

- | | |
|--|---|
| • 0 Water shut offs | • 36 JULIE tickets within Village |
| • 5 outdated water meters/transmitters replaced with updated units | □ 3 Streets/Water Department |
| • 4 Water leak repairs | □ 33 outside companies (3 extended tickets, need to remark) |
| | • 57 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.

The Public Works department is looking to expand our team! If you or someone you know is over the age of 18, has experience and a driver's license you may be our missing piece. Applications are online or at the Village Hall.

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.

Visit our Employment Page located on our website under the Contact Us Tab.

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



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.

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.

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>



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
October	10th	11th
November	7th	8th
December	5th	6th

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: October 14th

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



Haunted House Characters and Volunteers Needed

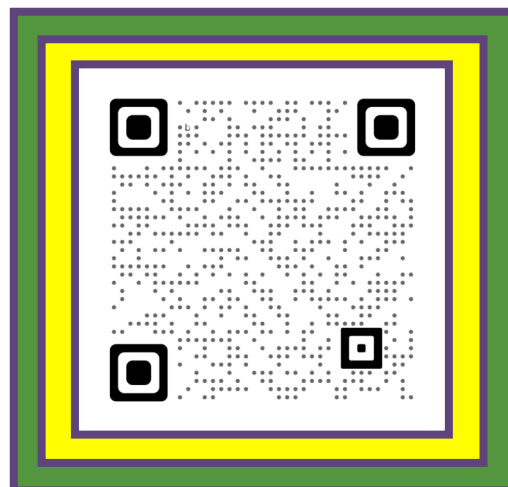
Celebrating 33 Years of Scare

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 November 2nd 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.

For Tickets



Looking Ahead

Quick Glance at Upcoming Village Events, Activities and Meetings

September:

- 23rd - IL State Senator Sally Turner Office Hours, noon - 2pm @Village Hall
- 23rd - Public Hearing for Safe Route to School Project, 6pm @ Village Hall
- 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
- 4th - Creepy Car Show, 3 - 7 @ Dooley Park
- 6th – Village Monthly Brush Pickup
- 6th—Mayor Monday, 6pm @ Viking Brews
- 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
- 30th – Garbage Collection
- 31st—Downs Haunted House: 7—11 pm, Tickets online @ DownsHauntedHouse.org

November:

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| • 2nd—Downs UnHaunted House: 1—3 pm | • 13th – Garbage and Recycle Collection |
| • 6th – Garbage Collection – GFL Monthly Bulk pickup | • 18th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Pavilion |
| • 3rd – Village Monthly Brush Pickup | • 20th – Garbage Collection |
| • 11th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall | • 27th— Happy Thanksgiving—Village Hall is closed |
| • 13th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; Video/Audio via Zoom | • 28th – Garbage and Recycle Collection |
| | • 28th—Village Hall is closed |

**** 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

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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 November 2nd.

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 6:00pm Choir practice in Chapel.
- *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.*



Student Ministries

During the school year Downs UMC has 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).

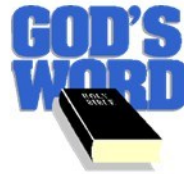
4th-8th Grade will meet from 5:30-7:00; with Games, Dinner and Lesson stations.

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 Director – youth@downsumc.org or by phone 309-378-2651. Check out our Facebook page for updates as well!

Worship Service

Sundays 9:30am In Person

Online at www.downsumc.org



SERMON SERIES

starting

September 28th

"Journey Series: Escape"



205 S Highway Ave
Downs, IL
Behind the Church
Building

Come Shop With Us

Open Every Sunday
10:45am - Noon

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

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



EMAIL QUESTIONS TO
SWAPROOM@DOWNSUMC.ORG



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

September 2025

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

DOWN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**FREE WILL OFFERING
ACCEPTED FOR MISSIONS**



**SUNDAY,
SEP 28**

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm



DOWN'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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



St Mary's Knights of Columbus

Tootsie Roll Drive

Saturday, September 20th

The St Mary's Knights of Columbus will once again conduct their annual "Tootsie Roll" fund drive. The Knights will man street corners in the LeRoy and Downs communities to accept donations and hand out Tootsie Rolls as a token of appreciation.

Please consider generously donating online to The Intellectual Disabilities Fund Drive supporting local individuals in our area schools.

"Officially, this fundraiser is The Intellectual Disabilities Fund Drive", said Jim Suiter, St Mary's Knights of Columbus Deputy Grand Knight. "However, everyone knows it simply as the "Tootsie Roll" Drive. Traditionally, the LeRoy and Downs communities are very generous in their support of this fundraiser." This is one of the most recognizable activities that the Knights of Columbus do. The funds generated from this drive are used to support local programs which help people with special learning and life needs. Specifically, the St Mary's Knights of Columbus donate their collections to the LeRoy and Tri-Valley school Special Education programs.

Last year, each program was presented a check for \$1,000. These funds were accumulated from the communities Tootsie Roll donations and an additional donation from the St Mary's Ladies Auxillary and the St Mary's Knights of Columbus.

The Tri-Valley school district planned to use the funds to purchase supports to help meet the unique academic, behavioral, functional, and social-emotional needs of students. These supports include research-based interventions/programs and hands-on materials and manipulatives.

The LeRoy school district planned to use the funds to support their special education department, most specifically their HERO classrooms. Their vision is to create a sensory cart that all special education teachers could check out and use. Additionally, funds would help support their community trips and small businesses run by the HERO students.

To the LeRoy and Downs communities... we greatly appreciate your generosity.

We are forever thankful! Thank you!



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.

McLean County Strategic Plan

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

We invite you to join a Community Conversation session to share your thoughts about life in McLean County. Tell us what you enjoy, the challenges you see, and your ideas for making our community even better. Your voice matters—come be part of the conversation!

SEPT. 29 / 7:00 P.M.

GOVERNMENT CENTER

ROOM 400

115 E. Washington Street
Bloomington, IL

OCT. 1 / 10:00 A.M.

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

COMMUNITY ROOM 2

205 East Olive Street
Bloomington, IL

OCT. 1 / 6:00 P.M.

HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ASTROTH COMMUNITY CENTER

1530 Millennium Boulevard
Normal, IL





DOWNS CUB SCOUT PACK 53

Contact: Chad Mirock

Email: chad.mirock@gmail.com

<https://sites.google.com/site/wdboycepack53>

**Interested in racing in our
Pinewood Derby in January?**

**Scan the QR code and fill
out our Google form.**



DOWNS BOY SCOUT TROOP 953

Contact: Chad Mirock

Email: chad.mirock@gmail.com

<https://sites.google.com/site/wdboycetroop53>

The boy scouts have been ...

**Surviving in the
wilderness**



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«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 Combs	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	