



Village of Downs Board of Trustees Meeting Overview

May 14th, 2026, 7 pm @ Village Hall & via TEAMS

Executive order 2021-9 by the Governor of Illinois allowed this meeting to be held via TEAMS and at the Village Hall.

1. Mayor Mike James called the May 14, 2026, Village of Downs Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to Order at 7:01 p.m.
2. Trustees present were Maureen Roach, Diana Reynolds, Stephanie Adkisson, Sarah Gassaway, and Toby Twyford. Trustee absent was Brian Warfel. 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. The Village of Downs Board of Trustees received updates on several major infrastructure and development projects throughout the community. The Downs Water Plant Improvements and the Downtown Streetscape and Parking Lots Project are both nearing completion, with final project closeout items currently being addressed. The Downs Crossing Water-main Extension project continues to move forward and is also nearing completion, including improvements that now provide added fire protection capabilities in that area.
5. Trustees also received an update that the Village was awarded a \$239,169 Safe Routes to School grant to support construction of a new sidewalk project. The South Lincoln and Colleen Lane Road Project has also been completed, with a few remaining concerns being addressed.
6. Mayor James shared updates regarding several active TIF applications and ongoing discussions related to long-term community development planning for the next five to ten years.
7. Department reports were presented with important updates.
8. The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

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.

Door-to-Door Sales

Solicitation 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.



Clean-up Day **June 6th: 7am - 2pm**

The Events Committee is holding the 10th Annual Downs Clean-Up Day. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this once a year opportunity.

We will have a trash and recycle dumpsters. Please take advantage of this free service to our residents.

Drop-off location:

The Police Department
315 S Lincoln

Junk Car?

If you have a vehicle you want to dispose of, please contact the village hall at (309) 378-3221

We will not be accepting Electronics. You can take these to the recycling center for McLean County. See the following website for more information:

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

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

We WILL Accept Any of the Following Items:

- Tires (\$10 each for no rims, \$15 for with rims; No Tractor)
- All Metals
- Batteries
- Dried Paint
- Construction Material
- Mattresses and Furniture

We WILL NOT Accept Any of the Following Items:

- No Tractor Tires
- Vehicle Batteries
- Appliances
- Oil Based Paint (paint dried out is ok)
- Hazardous Liquid
- Electronics



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.

E-Billing Began March 1st

Email billing went very well for the March billing. Thank you to everyone for your patience with us as we use this new method. The Village is saving, postage, cost of forms and labor by using the email billing.

Be sure to check your emails each month for your bill. Should you wish to continue to receive a printed bill, please let the office know.

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 help.



From the Desk of the Chief

Good day folks. I would like to start by saying our small department is running as smoothly as can be. With both myself, and Officer Thornton, we are providing the Village with good response times and professionalism on every call we create or respond to. I know there are wait times associated with our responses sometimes due to our department being a part-time department. We appreciate your patience and understanding, as you make calls for us to respond.

Our department had 22 citations between Bellflower and Downs. Most being here. We are also in the middle of many cases, all that are in some phase or another due to information coming in and leads being followed up on. With that we are staying busy both on the road and following up on investigations.

Summer is coming up on us fast. With that, come more kids on bikes, scooters, electric bikes and just plain running around. Please be careful and watch out for them. Parents have done a good job reminding them to look both ways, and please keep that up. They remember those lessons but sometimes they are too excited and forget. Let us all do our part to move about through the Village safely.

Thank you,
Chief Joshua Dingler
Downs Police Dept.
309 622 2207

Golf Cart/Utility Terrain Vehicle Permit Reminder

May 30th due date

If you haven't already obtained your 2026 permit, your current permit has expired, and you need to apply for a new one. To reapply (or apply) submit your completed application, copy of Insurance and Driver's License(s) and \$60 fee at the Village Hall. Application forms are available on the website or at the Village Hall. You can submit your packet during open hours or using the after-hours drop box. Once your application has been filed with the hall, you can contact the police department at 309-622-2207 to schedule an inspection. You will receive the permit upon passing the inspection.

You will need to schedule an appointment for an inspection by May 30th. After May 30th, owners are subject to a fine of no less than \$75. (Chapter 8, Article X Sections 1-5)



ILLINOIS SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT HAS BEEN AWARDED!

The Village of Downs and Tri-Valley School District is excited to announce we have received \$239,169 for the Safe Route to School (SRTS) Grant through the IL Dept. Of Transportation (IDOT) that will enhance pedestrian safety and connectivity in our community. We needed public support and the community responded! The grant application process was extremely competitive, and IDOT saw the need for sidewalks to make the route to school safer for students walking to and from school, catching the school bus and for all pedestrians.

The Safe Route to School Grant will focus on implementing infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic calming measures, ensuring the safety of our children and all residents who use this infrastructure to get around. More specifically, sidewalks from Price Street to Gadwall Lane. Additionally, reducing the number of car trips decreases traffic congestion and air pollution around schools, contributing to a healthier environment. By promoting safe, healthy, and environmentally friendly ways for children to get to school, the Safe Routes to School Grant Program is beneficial for everyone involved.

Thank you to those who signed petitions and wrote letters of support. We received approximately 226 online petitions and 227 signatures on paper petitions distributed throughout businesses, schools, and Market Day attendees. Approximately 12 people attended a public hearing. A special thanks to Superintendent Dr. Ben Derges for sending a survey to the Tri-Valley community. All these combined efforts helped to receive the grant.

Maureen Roach, Public Safety Trustee



Water Sewer Report for April 2026.

The average iron concentration for the finished water was **.03** ppm. Monthly bacteriological testing on the raw, finished, and distribution samples were all satisfactory; fluoride concentration was **.71**. The volume of water pumped for the month was **3.157** million gallons, averaging **105,233** gallons per day. The sewer lift station pumped **3.591** million gallons for the month, averaging **119,700** million gallons per day.

- 2 Water shut offs
- 15 outdated water meters/transmitters replaced with updated units
- 3 Curb Stop repair
- 29 JULIE tickets within Village
 - 6 Streets/Water Department
 - 23 outside companies (1 was extended ticket, need to remark)
- 24 JULIE tickets outside Village (0 were extended tickets, no need to remark)



Brush pick-up started on April 6th. We announced in 2025 that all leaves **MUST BE BAGGED**, or they will be left at the curb. **THANK YOU!**

The Water Department continues to show well-balanced testing results with an “A” grade quality. We’re continuing water analysis in the four quadrants of the Village with the same test results and grade. This is excellent news for the Village and residents.

Beecher Trails

Chlorine 1.51
PH 8.1
Hardness 24
Orthophosphate 1.71
Fluoride .71

Indian Hills

Chlorine 3.68
PH 8.1
Hardness 30
Orthophosphate 1.88
Fluoride .71

Mallard Point

Chlorine 2.88
PH 8.1
Hardness 38
Orthophosphate 1.80
Fluoride .71

Water Plant

Chlorine 3.90
PH 8.1
Hardness 36
Orthophosphate 1.54
Fluoride .71

Water meters/transmitters replacement changeout continues. This will be at no cost to the homeowner as it is Village Property.

Your awareness of the Streets/Water team is appreciated. As the weather betters, we’ll be out in full force mowing, street repairs, water leaks, etc. so please continue to be cautious of our Village workers.

If you have any questions/comments, please contact me.

Jill Combs
Supervisor of Public Works & Maintenance



Monthly Brush Pickup

April thru November

Our debris pickup starts in April on the first Monday of the month. 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.)
- **Leaves must be bagged.**
- 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.

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.



Incorporated in 1917, the Village of Downs is a non-home rule Illinois municipal corporation with a population of 1,201. The Village seeks an experienced, fiscally sound, and dedicated individual to serve as the Village Treasurer. This is an appointed and exempt position. The position offers flexibility in status and work environment. At the direction of the Village President with input from the Treasurer and Finance Trustee, the position may be part-time or full-time. The work environment offered is a hybrid of office and remote work.

The Village Treasurer performs a variety of routine and complex clerical accounting, finance, investment, tax collection, and administrative work in managing the short and long-term financial health and growth of the Village. For more information and a complete job description, please visit: <http://www.villageofdowns.org/village-of-downs-employment.htm>

Minimum Qualifications

Bachelor's degree in accounting or five (5) years related accounting experience.

Minimum of five (5) years of responsible experience in accounting, financing, budgeting, and reporting in the private and/or government sector.

Equivalent combination of education, training, experience, and licensure.

Must be bondable.

Ability to operate a personal computer using standard software applications appropriate to tasks including Google and Microsoft

How to Apply

The position is open until it is filled. Interested applicants should provide a cover letter, resume, and contact information to three (3) professional references to

Treasurer@VillageofDowns.org. Questions may be directed to Julie Bakewell at the Village Hall at 309-378-3221. Only electronic applications will be accepted.



Building Permits

Submit to the Village Hall

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.

Refuse & Recycling

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.

Recycling and Trash Guidelines

Passed down from our Local Pickup Crew:

- Label recycling with the word Recycle or the Recycle Symbol. **We have stickers in the office!**
- Place recycling well separated from trash. For example: Place your containers on separate sides at the end of your driveway.
- Place your cans with the lid opening towards the road.

Following the above guidelines will help our Recycle and Trash crews pickup the correct items and not leave some behind.

GFL Announcement

Final update on the Free Bin Offer

We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may cause. Due to a miscalculation by GFL Environmental, the garbage and recycling bins that had previously been offered to the Village are unfortunately no longer available. We appreciate your understanding and patience regarding this matter.



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.

2026 Schedule

Month	Friday	Saturday
June	5th	6th
July	10th	11th
August	7th	8th
September	18th	19th
October	9th	10th
November	6th	7th
December	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.

Contact the Food Pantry

Linda Bowman:
309-261-3809
llbowman3@gmail.com

Bill Clark:
309-531-7884
downstwpclerk@aol.com

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.

Parks

Parks Meeting Schedule

Dooley Park Pavilion @ 6 pm

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

Downs Village Market

Opening Day is June 3rd!

Market season is revving up for the summer. The Downs Village Market will be located at Dooley Park again this year on Wednesday's from 4pm - 6pm. The committee is always looking for volunteers to share the load and provide ideas. Check out the Village Market page on the website for more information.

Looking Ahead

Quick Glance at Upcoming Village Events, Activities and Meetings

May:

- 2nd - Golf Cart Drive Thru Police Check, 9 am - 1 pm @Dooley Park
- 4th - Yard Refuse Pickup: leaves must be bagged!
- 5th - ZBA Public Hearing, 6pm @ Village Hall
- 7th – Garbage Collection – GFL Monthly Bulk pickup
- 9th - Golf Cart Drive Thru Police Check, 9 am - 1 pm @Dooley Park
- 12th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall
- 14th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; TEAMS
- 14th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 19th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Pavilion
- 21st – Garbage collection
- 25th - Happy Memorial Day, Village Hall Closed
- 29th – Garbage and Recycle Collection

June:

- 1st - Yard Refuse Pickup: leaves must be bagged!
- 3rd - Opening of the Village Market, 4pm @ Dooley Park
- 4th – Garbage Collection – GFL Monthly Bulk pickup
- 4th - 6th - Village of Downs Garage Sale Days
- 6th - Village of Downs Clean Up Day
- 9th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall
- 11th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; TEAMS
- 11th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 16th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Pavilion
- 18th – Garbage Collection
- 25th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 27th - Cruise-In @ Dooley Park

July:

- 2nd – Garbage Collection – GFL Monthly Bulk pickup
- 3rd - Village Hall Closed - Independence Day Observed
- 4th - Happy Independence Day
- 6th - Yard Refuse Pickup: leaves must be bagged!
- 7th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall
- 9th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; TEAMS
- 9th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 14th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Pavilion
- 16th – Garbage Collection
- 23th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 30th – Garbage Collection

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



2026 Lexington in Bloom Garden Walk

Saturday, June 27th
9 am - 12 pm

This event is held annually on the 4th Saturday in June as a fundraiser to help replace trees and rebuild the green spaces in Lexington. The tour this year includes 5 beautiful private gardens, as well as 2 additional bonus gardens! The event is held rain or shine and includes food tastings at each garden from local eateries. Tickets are \$20 and are available online, or at Lexington City Hall, and can be purchased in advance or on the day of the event at Lexington City Hall at 329 W Main St, Lexington.

Video/Audio Information for Public Meetings

Using TEAMS

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. Please remain 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
- TextVillage Clerk-390-6709

Video/Audio conference call information:

Join TEAMS Meeting:

Meeting ID: 250 776 149 659 2

Passcode: F2UB9xG2

OUR STAFF IS GROWING.

DOWNS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS CURRENTLY SEEKING a passionate and skilled *Worship Director* to join our growing community of faith.

As we continue to grow alongside the Downs community, **we are looking for a leader** who can not only **facilitate beautiful music** but also **foster an environment** where people of all ages can **share their creative gifts**.

We are looking for someone with a strong Christian faith, musical proficiency, and the technical ability to manage modern worship flow.

TO LEARN MORE,

we invite you to **scan the QR code** or visit:

<https://www.downsumc.org/worship-music-director-opening/>



Scan to learn more and apply

Looking for Houses to Clean

Also do private
care in seniors
homes



Immediate
openings

call Trisha 309-273-8610



Tri-Valley HUGE Sale for Charity
Saturday, July 18th 8:00-1:00

The annual Tri-Valley Sale for Charity will be held from 8 am-1 pm on Saturday, July 18th at the high school and a bag sale on Sunday, July 19th from 12:00-1:00. For the sale to succeed, **we need YOUR donations!**

We accept clean, usable clothing, books, household items, toys, holiday decorations and small furniture. Please no old TVs! Due to space issues, we ask that you wait to bring your donations until July 11th. **We will only accept donations from July 11 through July 16 in the high school commons.**

Drop off will be at the front entrance of the school.

7/11 Saturday 9:00-11:00
7/12 Sunday 12:00-3:00
7/13 Monday 2:00-4:00
7/15 Tuesday 2:00-4:00
7/16 Thursday 12:00-3:00

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

Last year we raised \$12,000 dollars! The money raised is used to help families within our district. Some examples of how the money has helped others are gift cards to help with school supplies and clothing, rent for a family in need, new shoes for a student, and propane for heating a family's home. We also help This sale is only successful with lots of good quality donations and people to buy them!

In addition, if you would like to help with the setup (**July 16 and July 17 from 12 pm-3 pm**) or tear down of the sale (**Sunday, July 19th from 1:00-3:00**), please contact Shari Riley at sriley@tri-valley3.org. This crew actually has quite a bit of fun as we work!

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



Downsumc.org

309-378-2651

Up and Coming Events

- Sunday morning Adult Sunday School 8:30am in Youth Room
- *YOUTH WORSHIP during the regular worship service at 9:30am. It is a service geared for the 4th through 8th grade students and they meet in the Youth Room.*
- Starting June 7th—Jr/Sr Hi Youth breakfast at 10:30, youth group at 11
- Sunday evenings at 6pm is in person Bible Study in the Chapel
- Tuesday morning Bible Study 10am in Youth Room and on Zoom.
- Watch for Vacation Bible School information on the website.

SWAP ROOM WILL BE OPEN DURING THE VILLAGE OF DOWNS GARAGE SALES. Hours are:

June 4th 2-7pm

June 5th 8-4pm

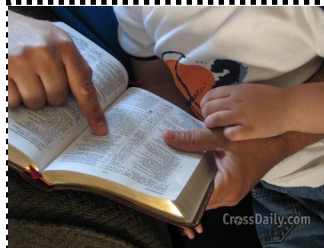
June 6th 8-2pm



Worship Service

Sundays 9:30am In Person

Online at www.downsumc.org



SERMON SERIES

“Walk of Life ”

Studying the book of Ecclesiastes



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.
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 - 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)



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.

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LivingHopeDowns.com

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PO Box 18
Downs, IL 61736



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	zbachair@villageofdowns.org
EMA Director	Travis Misch	309.378.3221	