



From the Desk of the Mayor

Our water rates will again be increased starting in August. Here is a breakdown of what the increase will mean to each resident depending on your water consumption. Overall, we are raising the base \$8 and every 1000 gallons of usage \$8. This rate is still ~\$7.13 per 1000 less than what we needed to break even last year. However, for most, who had water treatment or bought water, the water cost should be less. Debt Service, which is supplemented with 1% sales tax to reduce overall cost, will remain the same as will operations, maintenance and repair (OMR).

[illegible]



Village of Downs

Mayor

I have been hearing that water treatment companies are coming around, testing water and still telling you that you need their services. This is NOT true. Call us and we will test the water with our precision equipment; we don't have sales quotas to meet. Please see the water report from this month which provides a breakdown and rating of our water.

We are back on track with the new village hall and approved the contract with Illinois Valley Construction. Due consideration has been given to the other locations and ideas suggested. To keep costs lower and retain a possible business location, we plan to move forward with the planned building location.

MSA is hard at work with required paperwork and engineering to get the Safe Routes to School grant project approved to moved forward. Our previous estimate for completion was incorrect. The project is now preliminarily expected to be completed late summer of 2027.

We haven't received any information about the grant request for phase II of the streetscape project.

Kickapoo Creek Estates Subdivision developer's variance for cul-de-sac size was approved after no concerns were received from TV or FD.

Downs project updates:

1. Our new water plant is operating as expected with glitches here and there but overall, everything has gone well. The open house for the water plant is August 1, 2026, from 9-11 am. Light snacks and water will be available.
2. Downs Crossing Tower and watermain extension are operational. They are working on final punch list items and operation tweaks.
3. The board had a lengthy discussion of a proposal I had put together for accessories to our downtown. Others are encouraged to submit their ideas and a couple of Trustees are also going to work on a proposal.
4. Village Hall: Update above.
5. Solar: The board is also considering solar panels at the Les Fitzwater PW building to reduce the cost of electricity for the new water plant. The option being considered could offset electrical costs by up 90% for all village buildings.

Please provide your feedback on any pertinent topic at any time.

In your service,

Mike James, Mayor

309-830-7374, Mayor@VillageOfDowns.org



Village of Downs Board of Trustees Special Meeting Overview July 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, along with Junior Mayor Clayton Adkisson, called the July 14, 2026, Village of Downs Board of Trustees Special Meeting to Order at 7:01 p.m.
2. Trustees present were Maureen Roach, Diana Reynolds, Stephanie Adkisson, Sarah Gassaway, and Brian Warfel. Trustee absent was 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. The Village Board received several presentations and updates on projects in the Village. Constituents discussed a proposed water service connection for a newly annexed property near Freedom Gas Station and Corn Belt, including options that would allow for future expansion of water service in the newly annexed area. The Board also reviewed zoning and annexation matters.
5. The board received reports that this year's Fourth of July celebration was a tremendous success, with strong community attendance, successful vendors, and an impressive fireworks display.
6. There were infrastructure and development projects updates, with most of the projects nearing completion, throughout the Village. Improvements at the new water treatment plant are nearing completion, while the Downs Crossing water-main extension and new water tank is now providing high-quality water service. The downtown streetscape project has been completed and came in under budget, and preliminary work continues on the Safe Routes to School sidewalk project.
7. The board also discussed possible future street scape enhancements to the downtown area, including possible benches, picnic tables, pergolas, and other amenities, as well as discussions surrounding financing options and planning logistics for a possible new Village Hall.
8. The meeting adjourned at 9:53 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.

Water Sewer Report for June 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 **3.269** million gallons, averaging **108,966** gallons per day. The sewer lift station pumped **10.327** million gallons for the month, averaging **344,260** gallons per day.(per heavy rains in June)

- 2 outdated water meters/transmitters replaced with updated units
- 1 Water Leak repaired
- 1 Hydrant repair
- 16 JULIE tickets within Village
 - 1 Streets/Water Department
 - 15 outside companies (0 were extended ticket, no need to remark)
- 11 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.

<u>Beecher Trails</u>	<u>Indian Hills</u>	<u>Mallard Point</u>	<u>Water Plant</u>
Chlorine 1.38	Chlorine 2.01	Chlorine 2.36	Chlorine 2.56
PH 8.1	PH 8.1	PH 8.1	PH 8.1
Hardness 25	Hardness 25	Hardness 25	Hardness 25
Orthophosphate 1.21	Orthophosphate 1.15	Orthophosphate 1.17	Orthophosphate 1.21
Fluoride .71	Fluoride .71	Fluoride .71	Fluoride .71
Iron .01	Iron .02	Iron .02	Iron .01

We hope you all had a wonderful 4th of July with friends and family, enjoying the festivities all day.

I would like to give a huge shout-out to our streets team for their incredible hard work leading up to the 4th! Dooley Park and roads looked absolutely top-notch for the holiday. Caleb, Ryan, Juan, Kailey, Laken and Colton, your dedication behind the scenes didn't go unnoticed. Thank you for keeping the community looking its best!

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

Jill Combs

Supervisor of Public Works & Maintenance



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

Email billing is going well. Thank you to everyone participating. The Village is saving postage, cost of forms, and labor by using 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, we hear, "Let me know if I can help." To answer the call, 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. We hope you will take the time to consider how you can help.



Public Safety Tips

Avoid Common Ordinance Violations!

With the completion of our beautiful new downtown streetscape, we want to keep our community clean, safe, and healthy.

Common ordinance violations that occur especially in the summer months are overgrown grass/weeds and garbage/refuse on the property. Tall grass/weeds and garbage/refuse are safety hazards and draw unwanted animals hiding within these conditions. You can avoid violations and fines by complying with ordinances. Here are common violations.

Weeds:

It is unlawful to permit any weeds, grass or plants other than trees, bushes, flowers or other ornamental plants to grow to a height exceeding twelve (12) inches anywhere in the Village (Chapter 16, Art. 1. Sec. 1).

Garbage/Refuse:

The owner, occupant or lessee of any premises shall remove from their premises or otherwise dispose of all garbage, ashes, debris, rubbish, refuse and trash, and shall keep the premises free and clear of any accumulation of such garbage and debris (Chapter 4, Article II, Sec. 4).

Speeding:

We've had a number of complaints about drivers' speeds. Please note that most speeds in the Village are 25 mph. With warmer weather there are more walkers, children riding bikes, dog walkers, and strollers on the roadways. We are increasing traffic enforcement. Follow the speed limits and avoid a ticket! Please slow down and keep our streets safe for everyone!

We have much to be proud of in our community! Let's work together to keep our community safe and healthy, and I wish everyone a fun summer!

Maureen Roach, Public Safety Trustee

Golf Cart/Utility Terrain Vehicle Permit Reminder

Permits are valid from May 2026 thru April 2027

You will need to schedule an appointment for an inspection immediately. Nonpermitted golf cart owners with no inspection scheduled are subject to a fine of no less than \$75. (Chapter 8, Article X Sections 1-5)



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.
- **All items must be at your address. We do not pick up debris piles at unaddressed locations.**
- This is a courtesy service for our homeowners. Contractor debris must be hauled away by the contractor.

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.

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.

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.

Village of Downs Event Plan

FY2027 (May 2026 – April 2027)

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.

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. The event will take place the first Saturday and Sunday in December. Session dates and times to be announced later.

Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt – This event will be hosted in Dooley Park on Saturday, March 20th, 2027 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.

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 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.

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: August 18th

Downs Village Market

<https://linktr.ee/downsvillagemarket>

Join us every Wednesday from 4:00–6:00 pm, June through September, at Dooley Park, and discover why the Downs Village Market is truly worth supporting.



Mayor Mike James
(309) 830-7374
mayor@villageofdowns.org

Local Business Owners:

The Village of Downs is moving forward with an important community investment: a larger Village Hall that will better support Village operations, public meetings, community services, and future growth. To help make this project successful and cost-effective, we are seeking in-kind support from local businesses for items such as labor, materials, equipment, or professional services related to the interior and exterior buildout of the new facility.

Examples of needed services and materials include:

- Drywall services and/or materials
- Painting services and/or materials
- Plumbing
- HVAC
- Electrical wiring installation
- Lighting installation and/or materials
- Ethernet wiring installation
- Sound system setup for the Board Room
- Siding
- Roofing
- Concrete
- Parking lot, and drive

Your donation would directly reduce construction costs and help make this much-needed office and meeting space possible for our Village staff, residents, and community partners. In appreciation of your support, the Village would be pleased to recognize your contribution through the following opportunities:

- Feature your company name or logo in the Village newsletter, on the LED sign, and on the Village Facebook page with a public thank-you
- Display your name on a recognition plaque inside the new building alongside other businesses and individuals who helped make the project possible
- Offer advertising time on the Village LED sign

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how you may be able to support this project through an in-kind donation. The Village can provide a tax-deductible receipt for the fair market value of eligible contributions. Please feel free to contact me directly at (309) 830-7374 or mayor@villageofdowns.org to discuss available opportunities. Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued support of the Village of Downs.

Sincerely,
Mayor Mike James
Village of Downs



New Village of Downs Website Coming Soon!

Additional details will be posted on our current website as progress is made.



**VIKING BREWS
COFFEE HOUSE**
1 MIKES WAY,
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61705

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**



**EVERY THURSDAY
9:30AM-10:30AM**

Brew time
WITH THE CHIEF



Event is subject to be canceled due to service calls

Looking Ahead

Quick Glance at Upcoming Village Events, Activities and Meetings

July:

- 23rd – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 23rd - Brew Time with the Chief, 9:30 am - 10:30 am @ Viking Brews
- 30th – Garbage Collection
- 30th - Brew Time with the Chief, 9:30 am - 10:30 am @ Viking Brews

August:

- 6th – Garbage Collection – GFL Monthly Bulk pickup
- 6th - Brew Time with the Chief, 9:30 am - 10:30 am @ Viking Brews
- 11th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm @ Village Hall
- 12th - Mobile Health Clinic, 3 pm - 6 pm @ Dooley Park
- 13th - Brew Time with the Chief, 9:30 am - 10:30 am @ Viking Brews
- 13th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; TEAMS
- 13th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 18th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm @ Pavilion
- 20th - Brew Time with the Chief, 9:30 am - 10:30 am @ Viking Brews
- 20th – Garbage Collection
- 20th - First Day of School for Tri-Valley
- 25th - Senator Sally Turner Mobile Office Hours, 10 am - 1 pm @ Village Hall
- 27th - Brew Time with the Chief, 9:30 am - 10:30 am @ Viking Brews
- 27th – Garbage and Recycle Collection

September:

- 3rd - Brew Time with the Chief, 9:30 am - 10:30 am @ Viking Brews
- 3rd – Garbage Collection – GFL Monthly Bulk pickup
- 7th - Village Hall Closed - Happy Labor Day
- 8th – Events Committee Regular Meeting, 6 pm, @ Village Hall
- 10th – Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 7 pm @ Village Hall; TEAMS
- 10th - Brew Time with the Chief, 9:30 am - 10:30 am @ Viking Brews
- 11th – Garbage and Recycle Collection
- 15th – Parks Committee Regular Meeting, 6:30 pm @ Pavilion
- 17th Brew Time with the Chief, 9:30 am - 10:30 am @ Viking Brews
- 17th – Garbage Collection
- 24th - Brew Time with the Chief, 9:30 am - 10:30 am @ Viking Brews
- 24th – Garbage and Recycle Collection

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



McLean County
Health Department
Healthy People • Healthy Places



MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC



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



Wednesday, August 12th, 2026 3:00pm–6:00pm



Downs Village Market
Downs Dooley Park Pavilion (parking lot)

The mobile unit will be offering the following FREE services:



A1C Tests



Blood Pressure Checks



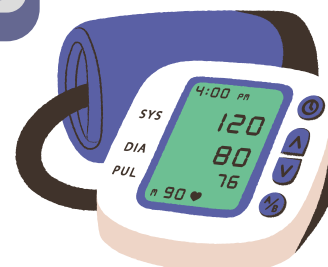
Height, Weight & Body Mass Index



Heart Health Education



Car Seat Checks (time permitting)



(309) 888-5446



health.promotion@mcleancountyl.gov

FINANCE
— **NOW HIRING** —
TREASURER

The Village of Downs is looking for a part or full time treasurer to manage the short and long-term financial health and growth of the Village.

Looking for Houses to Clean

Also do private
care in seniors
homes



Immediate
openings

call Trisha 309-273-8610

An adventure you'll fall for!



EVERYONE'S INVITED!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 26 - 30 • 6:00 - 8:00PM

REGISTER TODAY AT: DOWNSUMC.ORG

 @DOWNSUMC
205 SOUTH HIGHWAY AVE • DOWNS


DOWNS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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.*
- Sundays—Jr/Sr Hi Youth breakfast at 10:30, youth group at 11
- Sunday evenings at 6pm is in person Bible Study in the Chapel
- Vacation Bible School information on the website

www.downsumc.org.

July 26-30 6-8pm



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.
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)



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

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



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 Dinger	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	