



THE TOWANDA HERALD

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TOWANDA, KS

Volume 3, Issue 5

July 2026



“Alligator” pattern cracking is marked for repair on Clay Hill Road. The marked sections of Clay Hill and 6th Street indicate places where failing sections of road base will be repaired to create a stable base before roads are resurfaced. Work began in late June and will continue into July.

Council approves repairs to Clay Hill, 6th Street

When asked about budget priorities, members of the Towanda City Council focused on the basics.

Council members directed the City Administrator to focus on core priorities, including the following:

- Addressing the deteriorating condition of City streets
- Public Safety, including possibly starting a local police department
- Improvements to the water system
- Condition of properties in town, through code enforcement

In other words, Council directed City staff to “Take Care of What We Have”.

The City isn’t waiting until next year to act, though. Staff reviewed needs and budget and recommended repairs this

summer to two of the City’s most-traveled streets (which also happen to be sources of many complaints, as deteriorating conditions impact drivers who regularly travel these roads).

Council authorized spending up to \$150,000 out of the City’s Street Reserve Fund on repairs to Clay Hill Road between Hunter and 6th Street, and also to 6th Street South of Main.

Work includes digging out and re-stabilizing the road base where it has failed, and then re-sealing the road with a “slurry seal” that protects the structure from water and elements that can erode it.

Work began in late June and is expected to continue over the next few weeks, subject to weather conditions. Detours will be posted as work progress-

es. Drivers are asked to respect all signage and stay off closed roads to allow the surface to set properly.

The City recognizes that other roads also desperately need repairs, and some roads would benefit from maintenance to prevent future deterioration.

To this end, Council has proposed a 1.5% sales tax to help fund ongoing street repairs and public safety priorities. The proposed sales tax would begin next year when one of the current 1% sales taxes ends, and it would generate more than \$250,000 each year to help continue the work.

Voters can learn more at <https://www.cityoftowanda.com/streets-safety-sales-tax>

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Letter from the Editor

It's budget season for cities, libraries, fire districts, schools, and other local governments in Kansas, and a key task for staff and governing bodies is to balance service expectations with revenue ... or in plain terms, to determine the tax level necessary to fund the level of operations desired by the community.



In February 2027, a 1% sales tax that has helped with general fund costs (streets, law enforcement, general maintenance, operations, etc.) will sunset. This tax has generated the same level of revenue as 18 mills of property tax in the City of Towanda.

On August 4, voters will have the opportunity to approve a new 1.5% sales tax designated for streets, sidewalks, and public safety. This allows us some additional revenue to advance our efforts in these services.

However, if this tax doesn't pass, the City will need to increase its mill levy significantly to sustain basic service levels.

The information below ran in the March Herald and is presented again to help voters understand how their property taxes are calculated and the impact of a mill levy increase.

Water Bill Questions?

We know water bill fluctuations can be frustrating and confusing. To help, City staff have developed a new bill review process. If you notice a higher-than-usual bill, we're glad to take a closer look.

How It Works

Contact us by noon on Friday, July 10 to request a review

- Call City Hall at 316-536-2243 and ask for Cami, or
- Email Sarah at administrator@cityoftowanda.com

Our staff will:

- Pull your water usage data
- Manually check your meter
- Confirm bill calculations

You'll receive a detailed report, including your meter readings and usage patterns. This can help identify:

- Unusual spikes in use
- Possible leaks
- Other issues affecting your bill

Important Timeline

- We aim to return results by the 17th
- Bills must still be paid by the 20th to avoid late fees
- If an error is found after payment, your account will be adjusted accordingly

We're happy to work with you, and our goal is to make sure your bill is accurate and help you understand your water use.

Making sense of property values and mill levies

Each year, the County Appraiser assigns an Appraised Value based on fair market value of the property.

Appraised value is multiplied by an assessment weighting. In Kansas, residential property is assessed at 11.5%.

The value of 1 mill on that home is 1/1000 of the Assessed Value.

Examples:

\$100,000 home (appraised) x 11.5% = \$11,500 Assessed value (1 mill = \$11.50)

\$250,000 home (appraised) x 11.5% = \$28,750 Assessed Value (1 mill = \$28.75)

Towanda residents pay mill levy rates for multiple taxing entities. Property tax statements reflect the total of all taxes.

2025 Mill Levies

State of Kansas	1.500
Butler County	29.625
City of Towanda/Library	43.577
Towanda Township	1.842
USD 375 /Circle Rec.	58.651
Fire District No. 11	6.483
Butler Community College	13.239
Total	154.917

Examples:

\$100,000 home (appraised) = \$1,781.55
 \$250,000 home (appraised) = \$4,453.86

The Towanda Herald is a publication of the City of Towanda, Kansas

110 S. 3rd • P.O. Box 160, Towanda, KS 67144

316-536-2243 (Office)

Business Hours

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday -Thursday

9 a.m. to 12 noon Friday

Find us at:

www.cityoftowanda.com

facebook.com/TowandaKS

Governing Body

Mayor

Mike Hayes

City Council Members

Jennifer Watkins - President

Chris Hunt

Angel Ramsey

Drew Shaults

Kit Williams

City Staff

City Administrator Sarah Gooding

administrator@cityoftowanda.com

Deputy City Clerk Cami Jones

clerk@cityoftowanda.com

Zoning/Code Enforcement Lisa Long

zoning@cityoftowanda.com

Public Works Foreman Rylan Rose

super@cityoftowanda.com

Towanda Lions Club



The Lions Club donated \$400 worth of food to the Towanda Library.



The Lions Club donated \$600 worth of food to Mom's Pantry.



The Lions Club donated 30 smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to the fire department.

Towanda Battery Co.



316-536-2969

424 Highland - Towanda, KS 67144

BCA
Motors



See our cars online!



CAR SALES

316.370.1110

704 Main,
Towanda, KS

www.bcamotors.com

Griffin Max Construction, Inc.



Backhoe, Dump Truck, Trencher, Water Lines,
Dirt Work

316.323.2060

Towanda Public Library

Hey Everyone!

Our summer reading program, "Unearth a Story," is in full swing! We are having Story Time at 10:30am the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month (focused on toddler and pre-school age) and we will have 1 more older children's activity (focused for 2nd grade and up) on the 2nd Wednesday of July. So far we have grown crystals in eggs, excavated fossils, made fossils, painted fossils, and played team games! We are working on getting our Building Buddies group started at the end of July, to continue into the school year.



The library is looking for a program to do for adults, and we want to hear from you! If you have an idea for an adult group to start tell us! If we get enough citizens that want to do it, we will get it started!

Code violation reporting tool

Concerned about overgrown lawns, inoperable vehicles, trash and junk accumulation, dangerous structures, or other code enforcement issues? Report these issues directly to the City's Code Enforcement service, Pierce Code Compliance. The link for reporting nuisances and violations can be found by scanning the QR code.

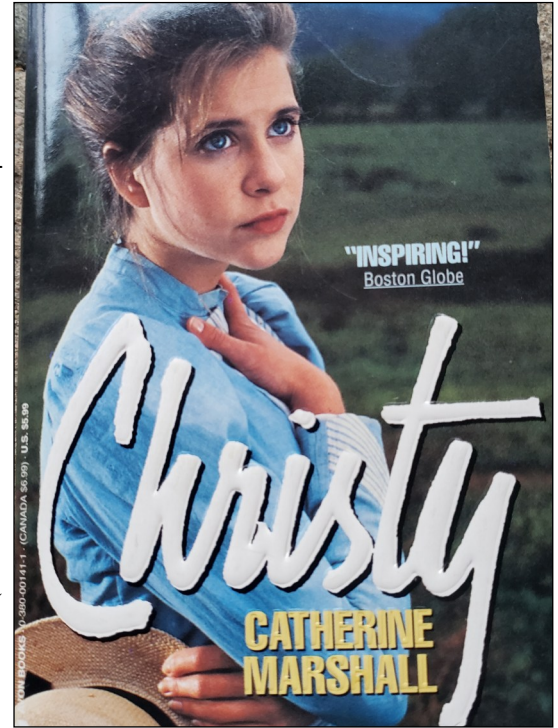


Book Club

The July 29 book club will feature the book Christy, by Catherine Marshall, and will meet at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, at the Towanda Public Library.

Book Description: At nineteen, Christy Huddleston left home to teach school in the Smokies - coming to know and care for the wild mountain people, with their fierce pride, terrible poverty, dark superstitions ... and their yearning for beauty and

truth. But in these primitive surroundings, Christy's faith would be severely tested by the unique strengths and needs of two remarkable young men - and challenged by a heart torn between desire ... and love.



Community DINNER

Towanda Community Church

Second Wednesday each Month 5-6 p.m.
Everyone is Welcome!

VINTAGE BANK KANSAS
COMMUNITY BANKING • INSURANCE AGENCY

400 Main St
Towanda, KS 67144
PH: 316-536-2282

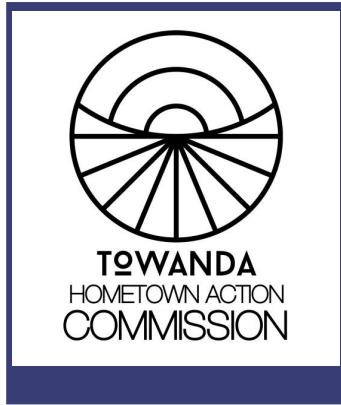
Moving Through
THE FUTURE WITH YOU.

www.VintageBankKS.com

Towanda Hometown Action Commission

Members of the commission met at the Towanda Area Historical Museum on June 18th. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 16th at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Area Historical Museum.

We have completed a trash pick-up project with the local Lion's Club, painted cemetery sections markers and replaced the numbers (1 post needs to be replaced by the Towanda Township), gotten the downtown pots adopted and planted, and updated the Lion's club sign garden near Main and Lions Ave. Work is progressing on creating a monarch butterfly mural near the Towanda Library and refurbishing the shelter/picnic area at the swimming pool park. Some concern was shared about current vandalism happening in the parks. It is a concern that money and resources might be wasted if the areas are



immediately vandalized. Our plans are to move forward with the projects.

We are already making plans for the Hometown Christmas Kick-off Party the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 29th . We will be confirming participation in our expanded activities and food trucks soon. Dash A Way Reindeer has already confirmed. If you or your organization/business would like to participate,

please contact us and we'll get you a location.

If you would like to be a part of making Towanda a more beautiful and better place to live, please let us know at towandahometown@gmail.com , add your thoughts to our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/towandahometownaction/?ref=share&mibextid=NSMWBT> or attend our next meeting.



Upcoming Events:
July 2 - Sew Crafty 7:00 p.m. Towanda Area Historical Museum
June 8 - Towanda Community Church Community Meal 6:30p.m.
July 16 - Towanda Hometown Action Commission meeting 6:30 p.m. at the museum
July 29 - Book Club at the Library 2-3 p.m.

AUCTION

- Business & Commercial Equipment
- Estate & Farm Auctions
- Antiques & Collectibles
- Personal Property & Consignments

 butlercountyauction.com

SCAN TO BID 

316-854-0550
 704 Main - Towanda, KS 67144

MYERS
AUTOMOTIVE



407 Main St. Towanda, KS
 316-768-7000

Towanda Area Historical Museum

Exhibits!! Come see the newly finished 1892 Tornado Exhibit and the re-freshed Native American exhibit. We are excited about a new exhibit. An artist friend has been working on a replica Railroad Depot based upon historical photos and re-searched colors, etc. The depot has arrived onsite and it will be added with a historic, toy locomotive upstairs near the Whitewater Stock Farm barn



exhibit. People would travel from all over the country, and the world, via the train to attend one of the stock sales of the famous Percheron horses. We are sharing a sneak peak of the depot with you all in advance of the completed exhibit.

Tours!! Museum tours are free! Of course, we always welcome donations. June's tour group was Camp Butler 2000. Middle schoolers from Butler County attend this camp and this year, their activities included historical museums. If you would like a tour, stop in during open hours, or contact us for a private tour. Private tours are also free to the public.

250th Anniversary of the Founding of our Country Deals—We are decorated and



celebrating 250 years of freedom. During the month of June, if you visit the museum and ask for the 250th free gift, you can receive a free copy of the Declaration of Independence (Limit 1 per household). Our remaining patriot T-shirts are also on 50% off clearance. Sizes are limited so come take a look early to be ready for July 4th!!

If you would like to volunteer at the museum, please contact us, or come on down during open hours to see how you can join in the preservation of our town's history.

Visit our website <http://www.storyoftowanda.org/> for more information about the museum and our area's history. You can also email us at info@storyoftowanda.org



Towanda Area Historical Museum

WE'RE OPEN!

1ST & 3RD WEEKENDS

Every Tuesday 10 am-noon

From 1pm-5pm

More info at storyoftowanda.org

BC 11 FD

Butler County Fire District 11-Towanda

Training:

Over 117 Man hours of training happened in June. On June 10. Three members attended “Pride in Ownership” with Rick Laskey in Winfield.

Another 3 members attended “Into the Job Tactical Training” in Wichita. Training drill on June 17 was a table top drill on Incident Command and Fire Ground Decisions. June 24 was another training scenario concerning Confined Space. Appa-

ratus, hose lays, and driver training also took place throughout the month.

Events and Happenings: Free Family Fun Day:

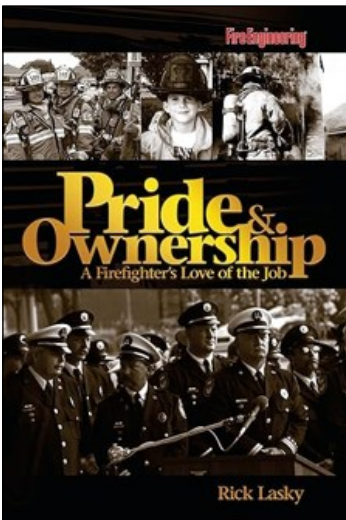
The department hosted a free event for families on June 7 as a community thank you for the support throughout the last year. Free hotdogs, pizza, and watermelon were served up. Some outside games, an open house library, bunker gear try-on station and touch-a-truck were some of the activities. Due to recent rains, the water events were cancelled.

Fulton Valley Farms 30th Anniversary Party:

The department also participated in Fulton Valley Farms’ 30th anniversary free family fun night on June 21 st . Touch-a-truck-tours and photo ops in bunker gear were provided as our part in the activities.

BCFD 11 Towanda Fire Board Meeting:

Members of the fire board



met June 9 for their regularly scheduled board business meeting. 2 additional budget workshops were held to determine a proposed 2026 budget that was then assembled and submitted to Butler County for their consideration.

Upcoming events:

July 12-13 th - KSFFA Yates Center Fire School and other training opportunities

Annual BBQ, Raffle and Street Dance on September 13. Mark your calendars now to

attend this event.

Firefighters will be smoking meats and cooking up great sides. The band is yet to be announced

If any individuals or businesses wish to donate items for our raffle, please contact the department via Messenger on Facebook or 448bcfd11@gmail.com

Watch the Herald newsletter and follow us on Facebook at Towanda Fire Rescue for more upcoming details.

Calls for June 2026 (as of 6/23/26)

June is historically the slowest month for the department as far as the number of calls.

- 24 total in June, 184 YTD
- 6 Fire
- 1 Vehicle Accident
- 1 Water Rescue
- 3 Public Assist: 2 lift assists, 1 smoke alarm
- 13 Medical

Get Involved!

There are Loads of Ways to Volunteer in Towanda!



Towanda Hometown Action Commission

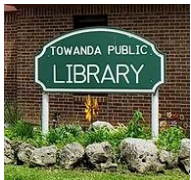
www.facebook.com/groups/towandahometownaction



Towanda Lions Club

www.facebook.com/towandakslion

Meetings: 6:30 p.m. 3rd Monday of each month



Towanda Public Library

www.towanda.scklslibrary.info

316-536-2464

Friends of the Towanda Public Library

Debbie Heitzenrator 316-250-0761

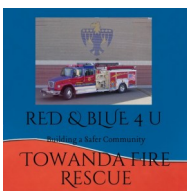
Dkheitz19@gmail.com



Towanda Area Historical Museum

www.storyoftowanda.org

info@storyoftowanda.org



Towanda Fire Rescue

Tom Pyle, Fire Chief

www.cityoftowanda.com/fire-department



Towanda Senior Center

316-536-8999



Towanda Rustlers 4-H

Carla Varner

cvarner92@wheatstate.com

The Towanda Herald promotes and celebrates the Towanda Community and opportunities to bring the community together.

For More Information:

For more ways to join us in "Lovin' the Small Town Life" check out cityoftowanda.com/getinvolved.

To submit local news or request advertising, email Sarah Gooding at administrator@cityoftowanda.com

All submissions must be received by the 25th of each month for consideration in the next month's edition of The Towanda Herald. All submissions will be considered, but placement is not guaranteed.

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316.323.2060