

Indian Creek Newsletter

May, 2009

on the web at <http://www.frontiernet.net/~indiancreek>
compiled by Helen Mogill, hmogill@frontiernet.net, 728-2048

Neighborhood Morning Coffee



Jessica Bliss has extended an invitation to the Indian Creek neighborhood to meet on **Friday, May 15, 10:00am** for refreshments and good company. All Indian Creekers are welcome.

Please let Jessica know if you are planning to come: 728-2101, jessie@digitalblasphemy.com. Jessica lives at 6 Eastwood Court.



Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival



On **May 2 & 3, Saturday 8:00am - 5:00pm, Sunday, 8:00am - 3:00pm**, plan to spend a weekend on this self-guided driving tour of towns and rural areas along the "Mother Road" from Joliet to Towanda. Each town on the tour will be producing its own event - There is sure to be something for everyone!

Towanda will feature a garage sale, flea market, music, crafts, antiques, Route 66 items, a drawing for a Wii, kids' games, a talent show, food, Schenk's Route 66 Memorabilia Garage, 50/50 drawing, and the Rt 66 linear park, as well as an old car show. See our flyer: <http://towandail.org/2009Rt66Flyer.jpg>! See our map: <http://towandail.org/2009Rt66Map.jpg>.

Velvet Groove Band at the Festival



The Velvet Groove Band will perform **Saturday, May 2, 2:00pm - 5:00pm** at the Towanda North Park. Hear the band on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/curlau>.

Car Show at the Festival



Sunday, May 3 will feature a CAR SHOW along Old Route 66 near KICKS Bar & Grill. The show begins with registration 8:00am -12:00 noon; awards will be presented at 2:00pm. Call Jodi, (309)533-1490 or Doug, (309)530-8851 for more information.

Talent Show at the Festival

A talent show will be held **Sunday, May 3 at 1:00pm at the North Park Bandstand**. Towanda area families and friends, individuals or groups should register their performances at the Community Building weekdays, 8:00am -12:00 noon, 728-2811; Pat Pulokas, 728-2118; or email to towanda_route66@yahoo.com. Talent show participants will meet at the south side of bandstand at 12:45pm the day of the performance.



At the 1972, Towanda PTA talent show: the Towanda Fire Department

Attendees should bring their own lawn chairs to the bandstand area for the free and entertaining event.

Hands on Science Exhibit at the Festival



The Lakeview Museum in Peoria will have a hands on science exhibit at the festival on **May 2nd and 3rd** in North Park. There will be 12 different fun and educational exhibits for children and adults to learn and experience outer space. Be sure and check this out!



Legion Breakfast

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on **Sunday, May 3, from 7:30am to 11:00am**. Breakfast will include scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash brown potatoes, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, fruit and drink for \$8. Carry outs are available.



Spring Garage Sales



Garage sales will be held **Thursday, April 30 - Sunday, May 3** in conjunction with the Red Carpet Corridor Event. Garage sale flyers with maps will be available at Library, Kick's, FS, and all 23 garages. The map can also be printed at <http://towandail.org/Spring09SaleMap.pdf> and the flyer at <http://towandail.org/Spring09SaleList.pdf>.



Legion Pork Chop Dinner

The Legion will have a pork chop dinner on **Friday, May 15 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm**. Dinner will include pork chop sandwich, green beans, fries, drink and dessert for \$8. Carry outs are available.



Spring Work Day

by Jim Russell

The Indian Creek spring work day will be **Sunday May 31 from 1 until 5**. We'll meet at the bridge first to get organized. Depending on how many people volunteer we'll do the following:



1. Indian Creek Association's Adopt-A-Highway is Rt 29 from I-55 to Hudson Rd. This needs at least 4 people and 8 would be better. I'll bring the safety vests, trash bags and county release forms in case you haven't already signed one. You'll need to bring gloves and, if the grass is high or wet, boots are a good idea.

2. In the common grounds between the bridge and the soccer field we need 2 or 3 person teams who can identify and mark "good" trees, clear space around

them by cutting "bad" trees, multi-flora and honeysuckle bushes and herbicide the cuts. I'll bring the herbicide. You'll need to bring loppers and/or chain saws.

3. Another group will be identifying and starting to clear a new walking path in this part of the common grounds.



If you haven't already given me your name please call me at 728-8042 or email jf3b@frontiernet.net if you plan to volunteer. Let me know too if you have other ideas for this or future work days. Thanks in advance to all who volunteer their time to improve our neighborhood for everyone!

If you want to help but aren't available for the official work day there are usually jobs that can be done in the main Nature Area including:

- Bird houses can be repaired/cleaned out/straightened up as needed.
- Limbs down across trails and in mowed areas need to be cut up and/or moved.
- An ash tree on the trail behind Ferrier's split down the middle and should be cut down below the level of the mower. A sign on it needs to be moved to another ash.
- A tree near the big wood pile in the meadow has some broken, hanging braches that should be cut down (the branches not the tree).
- A buckeye on the well head trail is in the process of falling and its tree sign should be moved to another buckeye.
- Other tree signs should be checked. I think some have lost/broken screws and need to be replaced with screws made for exterior use.
- Trash from the last flooding can be picked up in the main nature area as well the edge of the soccer field and that whole area from the field to the bridge.
- A copper cap on the gate post came off. I have it and but it needs to be reattached.

Leaf and Landscape Waste Burning at Indian Creek

by the Indian Creek Association Board



The controversial topic of leaf and landscape waste burning comes up at almost every Association meeting as it did at the most recent meeting last January. Some residents strongly oppose burning and others just as strongly want to be able to burn. At the meeting, after much discussion, there was no motion made to ban leaf and landscape waste burning. These guidelines are intended to help Indian Creek neighbors maintain our healthy, friendly, neighborly atmosphere for everyone.

Be aware that many people find the smoke and smell of leaf burning to be noxious and intolerable. They cannot enjoy being in their own yard or having their windows open when burning is going on.

- Be aware that smoke is a serious health hazard for those with asthma, emphysema, heart and other cardio/vascular conditions. We don't know the health conditions of our neighbors.
- If you do decide to burn:
 - Never leave a fire untended. What may seem like a safe fire can quickly get out of control in dry or windy conditions.
 - Only burn when wind conditions will not carry smoke, embers or ash onto a neighbor's property.
 - Only burn dry material. Trying to burn wet leaves and grass smells especially bad and creates large amounts of smoke.
 - Keep the fire small and hot and when you're done put it out completely. Letting a fire smolder for hours is not acceptable.
- Consider mulching and/or composting. Burning releases carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide directly into the atmosphere. Mulching and/or composting will sequester those greenhouse gases in the soil and in other plants.
- From the Illinois EPA website:
 - Smoke from burning leaves, grass, brush, and most plants contains high concentrations of pollutants such as carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and photochemically reactive chemicals, some of which are known carcinogens and some that contribute to smog formation.
 - Carbon monoxide can bind with hemoglobin in the blood to reduce oxygen flow. Particulate matter can become embedded in lung tissue. The burning of leaves releases the photochemically reactive chemical, benzo(a)pyrene, known to cause cancer in animals and which has been linked as the major factor in lung cancer caused by smoking.

Contact any board member if you have questions or concerns about these guidelines.



Garlic Mustard



Garlic Mustard is an invasive, non-native plant that is harmful to the native ecosystem because of its prolific seed production and dense growth casting shade that weakens native plants. Garlic Mustard is just now reaching the height where it can be easily pulled. And for anyone who doesn't have enough of their own, there is plenty in the nature area!

Towanda Library News

(on the web at <http://towandalibrary.org>)

Wild and Wonderful - May 19, 2:20pm

Towanda Elementary School students will enjoy a musical assembly program on May 19th at 2:20. Librarians and musicians will introduce the Summer Reading Program - "Read on the Wild Side".

Wild on the Walks - May 26 and 27

If you see students drawing all over the sidewalks at the library on May 26 and 27, do not be alarmed! Each elementary class will go "Wild on the Walks" in preparation for the Summer Reading Program.

Summer Reading Program – Weds, 10:00 – 11:30, June 17 – July 29

The Summer Reading Program is held each Wednesday morning from 10 to 11:30. Weekly programs at the Towanda District Library will provide engaging, interactive performances, community speakers, craft projects, games, readers' theater, and reading challenges. Joanna Ranninger and Karen Bersche will provide a variety of age-appropriate programs for youth - ages 3 to 6 years and 7 to 12 years. Open enrollment allows children to join the fun anytime during the 7-week program – June 17 through July 29, 2009. The full schedule of summer activities is posted on the library website at <http://towandailibrary.org>.



Towanda Reads Book Club, Wed, June 10 at 7:00pm

The next book for TOWANDA READS club book to discuss is: "*The Coal Tattoo*" by Silas House. It is part of a trilogy that includes "Clay's Quilt" and "A Parchment of Leaves". It is also the selection for the Bloomington-Normal "One City" events. TOWANDA READS welcomes new participants at any of its sessions.



Watch the History of the Towanda Library on YouTube

For those unable to attend the celebrations at the Towanda District Library in April, you may watch the presentation about the library's history in its entirety on YouTube. Go to the library website: <http://towandailibrary.org> and then click on the YouTube icon. Linda Garbe, Helen Mogill, and the Towanda Area Historical Society web resources provided an exceptional background of the founding and development of Towanda's library. Board members and community leaders who worked so hard to build the current library are honored in the presentation.

Your Elected Officials

Tim Mogill, Mark Schwamberger, Letitia Hamblen, Martha Jane Foster, and Rachel Andrews were elected to the Towanda District Library Board on April 7, 2009. Congratulations!

Thank You

Thank you to all the loyal volunteers that made the National Library Week events a success. Friends of the Library brought singer-songwriter Chris Vallillo to Towanda for an evening performance. The Anniversary Committee of Letitia Hamblen, Gail Ann Briggs, Dana Maughan, Helen Mogill, Pat Pulokas, Kay Liebenow, Bettie Shultz, and Mary Merritt met monthly to plan the Anniversary Celebration. Max Foster, Judy Zimmerman, Randy Pearson, the Towanda Home and Community Education Unit, Towanda Ladies Night Out, Towanda 4-H Club, and Towanda Scouts made special contributions to the event's success.

Annual Consumer Confidence Report - 2008

by Bob Hancock, 728-2990



The 2008 Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for our water system will be delivered to as a paper copy to you this weekend. It is also available on the Water page of the Indian Creek website at http://www.frontiernet.net/~indiancreek/icwater_files/2008ConsumerConfidenceReport.pdf.

During the months of May through September please be sure to observe the Indian Creek water conservation guidelines by watering your lawn or washing your car on days that correspond to your street address, odd addresses on odd days, even addresses on even days. Swimming pools should never be filled using Association water. Your adherence to these guidelines helps ensure an adequate supply of water for our community and prolongs the life of the water system equipment we all rely upon every day. Excessive water use also stirs up sediment in the water lines and may cause discolored and sediment laden water for all of us.

If there are any questions regarding our Annual Report, please contact me or Frank Cottrell @ 309-830-2188.



Towanda Lions sponsored Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship.

The Towanda Lions Club is sponsoring a \$500.00 scholarship for a 2009 High School college bound senior and/or currently enrolled college student attending classes full time from the Towanda area. This is a one-time scholarship, not open to renewal.

Applicants for this scholarship must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant must have a Towanda mailing/residence address.
2. Average grade of at least a C, verified by a high school transcript.
3. In 250 words or less, submit a letter of application containing a brief biographical profile which includes your college plans, school activities, community service activities, and work history. Indicate your plans for using the scholarship money and why you are deserving of the award.
4. Submit two letters of recommendation: one from a teacher, counselor, or administrator, and one from a non-relative in the Towanda area.
5. Submit a copy of your fall 2009 class schedule of the college/university you will be attending.
6. Letter of application, recommendation, transcript, and class schedule must be received by the Scholarship Committee Chairman by September 15, 2009.



Mail to: Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship
c/o Robert Hancock
7 Bent Tree Lane
Towanda, Illinois 61776

The Towanda Lions Club committee will review all applications and select one scholarship winner. All applicants will be notified by mail of the committee's choice.

Unit 5 School News

Kindergarten Pre-registration:



Pre-registration for all 2009-10 kindergarten students will be held at Towanda School on **Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 1:00pm**. Students must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2009, to attend kindergarten this fall.

Pre-registration numbers are important, as they help to determine how many sections of kindergarten we will plan to have next year. Please share this information with neighborhood families who do not currently have a student attending Towanda Elementary.

If unable to attend on May 7, please call the school office at 728-2278.

New schools:

For information about Unit 5 groundbreaking for new schools go to <http://www.unit5.org/districtinformation/facilities/expansion.shtml>.

Saturday, May 2 - Groundbreaking at Unit 5 new schools: Cedar Ridge Elementary (9:00am) and Evans Junior High School (10:30am)

Saturday, May 16 - Groundbreaking at Unit 5 school Benjamin Elementary (10:00am)

Memorial Day: Monday, May 25 - No School

Commencement:

Commencement for both Unit 5 high schools will be **Saturday, May 30** at the Bloomington Coliseum for **NCWest HS (2:00pm)** and **NCHS (6:00pm)**.

Monday, June 1 - No School for students - School Improvement Day for staff

Last Day of School: Tuesday, June 2



Towanda HCE

The Towanda Home and Community Education Unit will meet on **Monday, May 11 at 7:00pm** at the Towanda Community Building for their regular monthly program. The program will be given by Sylvia Gibson on "New Fruits and Vegetables".



The McLean County HCE will sponsor a basket weaving workshop on **Friday, May 29, 1:00pm - 5:00pm** at the Extension Auditorium. Class fees will be \$10 for HCE members; \$12 for non members. Participants should bring: screwdriver, scissors to cut reeds, water container such as an ice cream bucket, and a towel. Reeds and all other supplies will be provided. Register by calling Eileen Norin, 309-722-3796 by Monday, May 4.

Blood Drive, June 23



The Busy Bees 4-H Club will sponsor their annual blood drive on **Tuesday, June 23, 3:00pm - 7:00pm** at the Towanda Community Building. Mark your calendars and call for an appointment: Pat Pulokas, 728-2118 or Brandon Bonner, 454-2275. You are eligible to donate if you donated on or before April 28. Be a HOLIDAY HERO and donate at our blood drive.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

by Jim Russell



Many people are conscientious about reducing, reusing and recycling paper, cardboard, bottles and cans but did you know that many other items that should never go to the landfill can also be recycled? The McLean County Ecology Action Center website <http://www.ecologyaction.center.org> has information about where you can recycle:

- All electronics including TVs, computers, and peripheral devices.
- Compact Florescent Light (CFLs). These contain mercury and should never be broken or put in the trash and sent to the landfill!
- Rechargeable batteries.
- Plastic bags.
- Plastic gardening pots.
- Household hazardous waste (pharmaceuticals, paint, chemicals, etc).
- Other special disposal items.

Another great way to reduce, reuse and recycle (and get a tax deduction!) is to donate to a charity. The McLean County Habitat for Humanity website <http://www.habitatmclean.org> has information about what, where and how to donate items which they sell at their Re-store to get much needed funds to build houses. They'll even pick up:

- * Appliances
- * Building materials
- * Doors and windows
- * Plumbing and electrical supplies
- * And more



Postage Rate Increase

On **Monday, May 11** the price for a 1-ounce First-Class Mail stamp will increase from 42¢ to 44¢; the rate for postcards will increase to 28¢. Prices for other mailing services — Standard Mail, Periodicals, Package Services (including Parcel Post), and Extra Services — will also change.

Customers can use their Forever Stamps — regardless of when purchased — to mail 1-ounce letters after the price change, without the need for additional postage. Forever Stamps are widely available through Post Offices, commercial retail outlets such as grocery stores, and online.

