



# INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

March 2012

On the web at <http://www.indiancreeksubdivision.org>

Contact us by email at [indiancreeknews@hotmail.com](mailto:indiancreeknews@hotmail.com)

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## ICWHA Draft Minutes from Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Indian Creek Water and Homeowners Association was held Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building.

**Board President Brian Krause opened the meeting and board members and homeowners introduced themselves.**

**Secretary Barbara Ulbrich read the minutes of the 2011 annual meeting which were adopted.**

**Treasurer Dave Schulthes provided the Treasurer's Report.** On 12.31.11, the Association balance was \$49,700. The funds are invested in Certificates of Deposit and we are receiving the "going rate" of approximately 0.8%. Our expenses primarily consisted of costs associated with providing water: approximately \$550 per month for chemicals and approximately \$580 per month for fees to pay Frank Cottrell, our water system maintainer; this is a total of approximately \$1,130 per month. Our mowing expenses are approximately \$4100. Expenses for water locates were approximately \$2600 higher than anticipated this year. As an Association, ICWHA is responsible for these locates, because we must protect the overall water lines and cannot require homeowners to pay for their own locates. Brian discussed the expenses for the locates and noted that as to the high cost, the ICWHA Board is addressing this in four ways:

- 1) changing our Locate Vendor to decrease fees by a significant percent (possibly 80%);
- 2) include precise contract terms with the new vendor that are very rigorous and clearly define the geographic boundaries within which the ICWHA is clearly responsible for locates;
- 3) seek restitution from the current vendor which may have wrongfully billed us;
- 4) explore seeking reimbursement from the township or county, whichever entity appeared to have benefited from certain locates;
- 5) enhance coordination with Vendor and Board members to ensure transparent and clearly-understood billings.

**Water Commissioner Bob Hancock provided the water report.** He reminded homeowners to instruct the locate vendor to check not only for water lines near the road, but also for lines between shutoff and house. Next Bob reported on the New Year's Day water outage. It apparently occurred because of corrosion in the fuse box at the water tower, due to age of the fuses. Bob shared that he'd like to make homeowners aware that ICWHA now owns a water shutoff tool that he is storing for the subdivision at his house. If needed, please contact Bob. He then reported on the IL EPA recommendations. The recommendations and ICWHA responses are as follows:

- 1) eyewash station in the water tower; Frank Cottrell stated that he has the appropriate eyewash equipment in his truck and Frank therefore disagreed that this was necessary;
- 2) provide standby power; at this time ICWHA will decline;
- 3) install a #4 wire mesh screen on end of overflow tank pipe; this has been done;
- 4) conduct biannual cross connection survey; we will conduct this survey.

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Next Bob reported that ICWHA may want to consider installing 2 more flushing hydrants to address the brownish water we have; cost would be \$4000-\$5000 installed; there is not a guarantee that these extra flushing hydrants would remove the discoloration. The subdivision currently has 5 flushing hydrants. This will remain under consideration. As to notification of water problems/ outages/boil orders, we do have the red and green light system. We also have a phone tree notification system, but apparently some homeowners did not receive calls on New Year's Day. We will consider a text or email alert system.

Dave also reported on the water tower insurance claim. You'll recall that an explosion at the water tower occurred in June 2007 and two of the painters hired were injured. Our insurer maintains that the ICWHA is not liable, because the workers had complete control of the work place. It was noted that the painting company was cited for 6 OSHA violations. The insurance claim against the ICWHA has moved through the lengthy litigation process, and is now set to be heard by the Judge on 3.29.12 in a hearing that may conclude the case.

**Jim Russell gave the Groundskeeper's report.** Jim noted that he intended to rehire Gene Heitz to mow, except for the woods area, which Jim and Larry Meyer mow.

Homeowners and Board reviewed several photographs of the former Hines property, which is now owned by Chase Bank. Chase has held the house for the past year. Per homeowners Rod & Joni Brittain, apparently Chase has hired a service to occasionally maintain the home, including draining the basement of black, brackish water, where mold has apparently grown. The state health department tested the water in the pool; mosquitoes breeding in the water tested positive for West Nile virus and the department then sprayed the water. 3-4 dead animals have been seen in the pool. The home continues to be in significant disrepair. ICWHA has shut off the water, over concerns about contaminating subdivision water supply. Apparently the gas company has recently marked the yard and it's expected the Bank will remove gas lines. There was discussion on petitioning the state's attorney to declare the house a safety concern and hazard; it seems that on such a petition, the state will then be obligated to contact Chase, which will have to take action to remedy the hazards. Rod will provide further information to Brian, who will review and consider our best next steps to address this property.

Barb Ulbrich did not have any Secretary's report, except to again thank Helen Mogill for her past service with the website and newsletter. Helen reported that Kathy Dumler now is handling the site and newsletter. Helen proposed that the association pay for an independently hosted website rather than relying on whoever is the current newsletter editor using their personal Frontier account. The board will take that proposal under consideration.

It was a very cold evening, with temperatures falling to around 8 degrees overnight. Very few homeowners came to this meeting, perhaps due to the weather or perhaps due to vacations. Homeowner Becky Emery proposed to have our next annual meeting in March, which would hopefully increase attendance.

Motion was made to adjourn, it was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned. These minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Ulbrich.

Please note that in a post-meeting discussion concerning the association's old mower deck, it was decided to pursue selling it. If anyone has any interest in it or knows of someone who does to let Jim Russell know at [jmr1234@frontier.com](mailto:jmr1234@frontier.com) or 728-8042.



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# Towanda Lions Club

## Ham & Bean Dinner



Friday, March 9, 2012 - 4:30 - 7:00 pm at the Community Building  
Cost \$5 for advance tickets from a Towanda Lion Member (\$6 at the door)  
Children 12 & under - \$3

### Menu

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|------------------|------------------------------|
| - Ham & Beans    | - Condiments                 |
| - Corn Bread     | - Dessert - Pie/Cake         |
| - Coffee & Juice | - Hot Dogs, Chips (for kids) |
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## Dog Courtesy/Snow Road Advisory

Please pick up after your dogs when walking.

Because the roads within Indian Creek subdivision can be difficult to navigate a large truck, Money Creek Township has asked for our cooperation in keeping vehicles off the street and parked in driveways when snowplows are out and about. Please pass along this information as a reminder to all drivers in your household.

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## Welcome New Neighbors!



### Greetings!

We are Eric & Barb Leathers, and we moved into 31 Candle Ridge a few weeks ago; previously we lived in Normal. We live here with our son, Nick, who is 12 soon to be 13 and in 7th grade, and our daughter, Natalie, who is 10, and in 4th grade. Both attend Metcalf School in Normal. Eric is a letter carrier for the postal service and Barb works at Heartland Community College in Human Resources.

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## Towanda Scouts

The Towanda Scouting Organization would like to thank the community for their support at the 56th Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. This tradition could not continue without the support of the community members who volunteered their time to work in the kitchen and dining room, who placed advance orders and attended the breakfast. This year we served nearly 1,100 people. With the support of the community, Scouting will continue to thrive in Towanda.

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## Towanda HCE

The Towanda Home and Community Education group will meet Monday, March 12 at 7 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be "Making Your Own Cleaning Products" presented by Charlotte Talkington. We will also receive a fact find about "Getting the most from vinegar." Hostesses will be Leatha Poshard, Cindy Jacobs and Dorothy Brickey. The roll call will be "Do you use homemade cleaning products? If so, what?"

Guests are always welcome to attend the Towanda HCE unit meetings. For more information about Towanda HCE or the March 12 meeting, call Robin, 815-579-1650 or Cindy, 663-4796.

On Saturday, March 10, The McLean County HCE will participate in a "Super Saturday" where 3 local lessons will be given at the same time with Livingston and Woodford County HCE members also attending. Presented at Calvary United Methodist Church, Towanda and Raab Roads, Normal, 9:30-11:30 am. These will be the programs for the months of April, May, and June. Local Unit presenters should attend and also guests are welcome to come to the following classes by RSVP to Eileen Norin, 309 533 1135:

- 1) To Soy or Not to Soy presented by Jenna Smith, U of I Extension Educator
- 2) Maintaining Healthy Family Relationships presented by Cheri Burcham
- 3) Wreaths for all Seasons.

The McLean County HCE is also presenting a workshop on "Simple Embroidery on Monday, March 12 at the Extension Auditorium. Class fees are \$5-7. Bring a tote bag or denim shirt to learn embroidery. All



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## American Legion



The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday March 4th from 7:30 – 11:00. Breakfast includes eggs, egg casserole, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, fresh fruit, biscuits and gravy, juice, milk and coffee for \$8.

Celebrate St Patrick's Day at the Legion. There will be a dinner on Saturday March 17th. Dinner will include corned beef, cabbage, carrots, new potatoes, rye bread, dessert and drink for \$10. Dinner will be served from 5pm to 7:30pm.

All dinners are open to the public. Carry outs are available. Thank you for your continued support of the Legion and our veterans and troops.



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## Towanda Seniors

The Towanda Seniors Group will meet at 12:00 noon on March 14th at the Community Building for a Chili Lunch and members and any visitors are asked to bring side dishes and dessert and their own table service. Drinks will be provided. Hostesses are Dee Richards and Lou Summers. The Calendars are here and will be passed out to the group. If you have any questions please call Beverly Meginnes at 728-2769.

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## Important Dates

**Fri.Mar.9** ~ Lions Club Ham and Bean Dinner

**Sun.Mar.11** – Daylight Saving Time begins

**Wed.Mar.14** – 1-hr late start, Unit 5 schools

**Sat.Mar.17** – St. Patrick's Day

**Mon-Fri. Mar.26-30** – No school in Unit 5 – spring break

**Tue.Mar.20** ~ Kindergarten Registration - For children who will turn 5 years old on or before Sep.1, 2012.

Towanda registration is at 1:30 p.m.

Both the student and parents should attend.

Bring:

- 1) certified birth certificate (not the hospital-issued souvenir keepsake)
- 2) proof of residency, and
- 3) recommended to bring current immunization and health records (a physical exam and all immunizations must be turned in by the first day of school or the student will NOT be allowed to attend school)

QUESTIONS – call Towanda school ~ 557-4426 or Unit 5 District office 557-4400

<http://www.unit5.org/departments/curriculum/registration.shtml>

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## Nominations Requested

4<sup>th</sup> of July Theme and Grand Marshal nominations requested

A list of past Themes and Grand Marshals is posted at Library, Community Building and Library.

Your Suggestions are requested by **Wednesday, April 11** for Towanda's 44th 4th of July Parade THEME and GRAND MARSHAL

*Please* nominate both! Selection will be based on the connection between them

**Theme:** Please include:

- theme suggestion
- your name and contact information

**Grand Marshal:** Please include:

- name of person being nominated, and
- information about the nominee

Please mail to Towanda 4th of July Parade Committee; 112 Hunt St; Towanda IL 61776

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## Towanda Area Garage Sales

It isn't too early to begin planning for the annual spring garage sales. This year's dates are May 3-6 (Thursday-Sunday) ~ held in conjunction with the Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival (May 5-6). To share in the advertising cost and be included on the list, information about items for sale and the time and day of your sale is requested by Wednesday, April 28 to [rgbriggs@frontiernet.net](mailto:rgbriggs@frontiernet.net) (728-2187).

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## Classified



### **For Hire:**

Lauren Smith, age 12 and Myles Smith, age 13 will provide child care and pet care - call 728-2930

### **For sale:**

Like new clarinet \$150 call Kathy - (309)728-2009

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## Bag Worm Warning

I don't know if it is of any interest but today I picked a few HUNDRED bag worms from One of my Evergreen trees along the highway !! With the weather as warm as it has been, it was at least nice to get out in the sunshine for awhile.....(February 20, 2012)

*Brenda Watkins*



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## Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H will be meeting on Tuesday, March 6th. We will have a Wind Farm experiment that the group work on together.

We will have talks given by Abby Feit, Alex Kraft, Mackenzie Kraft and Nicholas Murray. And demonstrations will be given by John Richard, Sarah Kraft and Jasmine Dotson. The refreshments will be brought by the Dorgans (drinks) and Glasscocks (food).

The Towanda 4-H is open to boys and girls from ages 8 to 19 by September 1st. And Clover Buds are for kids ages 5 to 7. For more information, contact Kathy Schultz at 728-2137 or Jeanie Wager at 728-2852.

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## ESDA

The Village of Towanda Emergency Services Disaster Agency is looking for local members. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact ESDA Director Tom Wagner at (309)287-2861. A training class will be scheduled for new members.

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## Girl Scouts

The Towanda Girl Scouts would like to thank the community for their support! Our bake sale was a huge success thanks to the food donations and to those who purchased baked goods. (And thank you to the Boy Scouts also!)

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## Library News

### March Story Hours:

3-5 Dr. Seuss Birthday Party  
3-12 Green Things  
3-19 Windy Days  
3-26 Lambs



### Tuesday Evening Knitting Group

At 5:00 every Tuesday evening a group of knitters, crocheters, and felters meet to work and share ideas. Join the fun!

### Smart Money Week in April

#### Saturday, April 21

**Money Smart Kids "Big Read" at 10:00 a.m.** - It's never too early to learn about money: a special hour that will include a story, an age appropriately activity and take home items for the children, ages 3 and up. We will read *Dollar and Sense* by Stan and Jan Berenstain.

#### Monday, April 23

**Cooking from your Cabinet at 4:00 p.m.** - Learn how to stock your cabinet with staples to be able to cook creatively and economically. A food demonstration with food samples provided.

**Shop at Home before Going to the Garden Center at 5:00 p.m.** - A focus on container gardening using what you already have, recycling containers and using houseplants and perennials from your garden.

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202 W. College Avenue  
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[www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org)  
Phone: 309-454-3169 • Fax: 309-454-7508

## Ecology Action Center seeks nominations for McLean County Green Awards

The Ecology Action Center wants to know who is making a difference in McLean County. Nominations for the World of Difference Awards and the Recycling and Waste Reduction Awards are now being accepted. The recipients of these awards will be announced on April 14 at the Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo held at the Shirk Center at Illinois Wesleyan University. These annual awards recognize outstanding projects, activities, or individuals in McLean County that promote environmental awareness or conserve natural resources. Any business, organization, school, or individual may be nominated for either award.

Applications are available online at [www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org) or by stopping by the Ecology Action Center at 202 W College Avenue in Normal; all submissions are due by March 31, 2012.

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## Creative Entries Sought for Renewable Fashion Challenge

For six years, the Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo (ISLWE) has featured the Affordable Fashion Challenge, which invites area residents to create new garments out of old or outdated textiles. This year, the Ecology Action Center continues the tradition but has given the event a new name: The RENEWABLE Fashion Challenge. This name change acknowledges the fact that not only is re-purposing of clothing affordable, it is also a way to stretch our planet's limited resources.

By using existing clothing or other textiles to create a new garment, the raw materials and all the energy of producing the original cloth and shipping the original garment are saved. Past entries have ranged from simple modifications which update a look to complex garments crafted from unrelated items. There are fashion categories for all ages, as well as separate categories for accessories and home décor.

Items will be judged in the "Green is the New Black" fashion show held at the ISLWE on April 14, but the deadline for entries will be on March 22. More information on participating and the online application can be found at the ISLWE website at [www.islwe.org](http://www.islwe.org).

*The Ecology Action Center is a not-for-profit walk-in information and environmental education center with a mission to inspire and assist residents of McLean County in creating, strengthening, and preserving a healthy environment.*

