

Happy 2015!

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

January 2015

On the web at <http://www.indiancreeksubdivision.org> Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Towanda Home and Community Education



The Towanda Home and Community Education group will be meeting on Monday, January 12, 2015, 7pm at the Towanda Community Building. The program "Where do I want to live when I grow up?" will be presented by Clara Lehan. This lesson informs us of living options as we grow older and our needs change. The fact find is on Plantains, a tropical fruit that looks like the banana. Hostesses are Pat Pulokas and Sandy Whalen. This is also our annual snowman meeting where members and guests may bring or wear snowmen items to show and tell. We have some very memorable items brought every year. So do not pack up the snowmen after Christmas. Guests are cordially invited to attend our meetings. Contact Robin Pearson for more information: 815-579-1650.

Other HCE county activities include an embroidery workshop on Jan 12, 1-4p, at Culver's on Hershey Road. RSVP to Edna (309-662-5520) by Jan 5 for supplies and fee information. There is a card making class on Tuesday, Jan 13, 9-12 at the Miller Park Pavilion, Bloomington. You can make cards from scratch or from used cards. These cards are sent to the soldiers for their own use. Contact Barb, 309-242-6187 for more info.

The McLean County Extension has moved. Their new address is, 1615 Commerce Parkway, Bloomington, south of Veterans Parkway. Free classes will be held there on Jan 19, 9-12, Comfort Quilts, Eileen, 309-533-1135; Hats, scarves, gloves for children workshop, 1-4p, Barb 309-242-6187. On Jan 26, Dr. Kirk Noraian DDS will present a free program, "The silent killer of teeth". For more information- Joann, 309-310-9205. The Public is invited to all meetings of the Towanda Unit and county HCE activities.

Towanda American Legion



The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday January 4th from 7:30 – 11:00. Breakfast includes eggs, egg casserole, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, French toast, fresh fruit, biscuits and gravy, juice, milk and coffee for \$9.

There will be a steak dinner at the Legion on Friday January 9th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include steak, baked potato, salad, roll, drink and dessert for \$12.

Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday January 15th at 7:00 at the Post. The Legion is available for rent for reunions, parties and meeting. For more information contact Mike Potts at 728-2384 or Tom Wagner at 287-7861.

Thank you for your continued support of the Legion and our Veterans.



FAITH
IN ACTION
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois

*Though Towandans may be just a fraction
Meeting their needs can gain more traction
When vision grows dim
Helpful options are slim
Until you unleash Faith in Action.*

**To be part of the “unleashing” of services for seniors in the Towanda area,
Please read on...**

Faith in Action of Bloomington-Normal (FIA) is an interfaith not-for-profit ministry that provides practical services to adults age sixty and over by coordinating volunteers to meet their nonmedical needs. Driving seniors to medical appointments and grocery shopping form a major part of Faith in Action's efforts. Up to now, services have only been available to residents of Bloomington-Normal. However, efforts are now underway to expand FIA services to Towanda, including its subdivisions and rural residents.

A steering committee of Towanda residents headed by Denny Redick met recently to learn more about FIA and to provide feedback to FIA staff. Members of the steering committee are Bob Hancock, Sherry Shipley, Lyle and Mary Merritt, Gail Ann Briggs, Randy and Robin Pearson, Connie Priess, Kay Liebenow, Judy Schulthes, and Debbie Kinsella. Members of the steering committee are available to answer questions and provide additional information for potential volunteers as well as seniors over age 60 who might need services through FIA. Interested persons are invited to contact a member of the steering committee or the FIA office to learn more. FIA is located in Normal and can be reached at 309-827-7780. Its website is www.bnfia.org.

Volunteer efforts are coordinated through an online database of needs that maximizes volunteer autonomy and flexibility. As soon as five Towanda volunteers are ready to serve, Faith in Action will begin accepting applications from Towanda seniors who need services. There is no cost and services are provided regardless of the senior's financial circumstances. An orientation for new volunteers will take place at the Towanda Community Building at a date and time to be announced soon. For additional information or to register for volunteer orientation, please contact Faith in Action's Volunteer Coordinator, Carolyn Wetzel at 309-827-7780 or carolynw@bnfia.org.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



Just about every store we go into now, we see the pretty, bright red poinsettias.

There are also some shades of red and ivory. Once in awhile, you will find a bright blue or another color. Those have had dye injected into their stems below where the colored leaves began. With the bright blue orchids, they choose an all white orchid and inject coloring into the stem.. You will notice that the unopened buds will be a lighter blue when they open. Next year when that orchid blooms again, it will be white.

When you purchase a plant at the store, be sure to cover it completely to protect it from the cold air. Just a few minutes walking from the store to the car in the cold can make the buds or flowers fall off. The shock of the cold air can severely damage the plant. Also do not place it in a cold car or leave it in the car while you finish shopping.

When I purchased my Amaryllis this year and read the fine print on the tag, I noticed it contained coir. The thing that looks like a big cookie and you put it in 2 cups of warm water, is ground coconut shell that will become the soil you place around the bulb. Good recycling. Coir also can be used as mulch around your plants.

Don't forget to water the evergreens before the ground freezes.



The seed catalogs are arriving in the mail. After the busy time getting ready for Christmas it is time to sit down, relax and enjoy the beauty of Christmas and think about spring.

While it is cold outside, enjoy the pictures of all the pretty flowers. There is also a lot of good information under the pictures. It tells how tall and wide the mature plant will be, when it blooms, and whether it likes sun or shade. For trees, shrubs and perennials, you need to know if they will survive in our cold zone.

Make a list of all the garden plants you "must have", then decide where you can find a spot for them. In January, when the seed racks appear in the stores, get your seed while they are still available and cross those plants off of your list.

Then when the garden centers get their plants in, you can get a nice healthy plant, one that has not spent the last few days in a box. Best of all, you will be helping the local economy.

We forget that snow is a good insulator, however do not throw a lot of snow on top of the shrubs. If the snow is trampled on, it could lead to plant suffocation. Use an upward sweep with a broom to gently remove snow from evergreens, especially arborvitae if the branches are bending. Some people tie a rope loosely around the arborvitae to keep it from bending way over.



If your home is like a lot of homes who donate to well deserving organizations, you also have received several beautiful calendars in the mail. More calendars than you have places to hang them. Save one calendar for your gardening diary. The dates are already marked into squares. Simply mark down when you ordered something, when you started seeds or saw the first robin, etc.

We are thankful that the first measurable snow is much later than last year. Was the weatherman or the Farmers Almanac right on that?

House plants are more than just attractive. They also clean the air in our homes. Many dangerous and common toxins, such as benzene, formaldehyde, trichloroethylene are absorbed and eliminated by house plants, which then return oxygen to the air. We unknowingly bring those toxins inside our homes with new furniture, carpeting, etc.



It won't be long until the snow will be falling. If you haven't started the snow thrower, time to start it now to see if it will need some repair. It will probably need some grease and lubrication. Also check the belts, rubber paddles and scrap bar.

It is a good idea to keep an extra bolt or 2 for the auger, and an extra belt. They do break and if that happens when you are trying to get the driveway cleared before going to work, you will be prepared.

If it is just a light snow, it might be quicker to use the leaf blower to clear the drive way and side walks. Remember, safety comes first.

Stihl gives some gasoline guidelines for Stihl outdoor power equipment. Only use gasoline rated E10 or lower in your Stihl equipment. It could also apply to other brands of outdoor equipment. Avoid gasoline with more than 10 percent ethanol. Use a fuel with a minimum of 89 octane. Only buy enough fuel to last for a 2 month period. We don't like to eat old food, and lawn equipment doesn't like to use old fuel.

You can buy Stihl Motomix patented premixed fuel. It does cost more than gas at the gas station, but it will be better for your machine.

Anytime you are removing snow, either by scoop or by machine, be sure to take a break often. We are all a year older than we were last winter.

Towanda Busy Bees 4H

Towanda Busy Bees 4H will be meeting at the Community Building on Tuesday, January 20th at 6:30 pm. New members and guests are always welcome. For more information contact, Martha Rients 309-728-2178.

Indian Creek Resident Featured

Linda Garbe, (IC resident) was interviewed about her creativity and optimistic outlook on life by Dave Tomkins. The article appeared on the front page of the December '14 edition of NEWS & VIEWS and highlighted Linda and her sister Nancy's accomplishments and infinite creativity. The two are artists in their own rights, but also have collaborated to create specialty works of art such as their 'Wisteria' piece. If you'd like to view Linda's work online, search www.garbedesigns.etsy.com, or watch the sisters joint efforts to create the Wisteria piece at www.YouTube.com, searching for Wisteria Blossom, Wisteria Collaboration, or Wisteria The Story.



Towanda Library

Story Hours @ 10:30 each Wednesday:

January 7 – Birds, the letter B, and read a Big Book
January 14 – Ducks, the letter D, and shapes games
January 21 - Owls, the letter O, and puppet play
January 28 - Pigeons, the letter P, and make cheerios bird feeder



Tax Workshop @ 4:00 on Monday, January 12:

Lula Zimmermann, an H&R tax representative, shares tax information and answers questions you may have.

Crochet, Knit, Felt Group @ 5:00 each Tuesday:

This group continues to grow and to share project ideas.

Bull Dog Book Club @ 3:30 on Wednesday, January 14:

Discuss *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr. How many cranes can you fold?

Faith in Action:

Flyers about this outreach program that assists those who may need rides to doctor appointments are available at the library. Do you need such assistance? Would you like to volunteer to help those who do?

Winter Hours @ Your Library:

Monday and Wednesdays	10 am to 6 pm
Tuesdays	1 pm to 7 pm
Thursdays and Fridays	1 pm to 5 pm
Saturdays	10 am to 4 pm

The library is open every day after school. Use your library card for 24/7 access to our World Book Encyclopedia.

RSACat: The online catalog of Towanda District Library- plus 200+ other libraries- may be searched from your home 24/7. You can see if this library owns an item or if the item is currently on the shelf - before making your drive to the library. RSACat shows the shelf-status of items in all surrounding libraries - except Bloomington Library.

January Calendar

Thursday Jan. 1 – New Year’s Day
Monday Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King’s Birthday Observance
Monday Jan. 26 – 4th July Planning, Community Building, 6:30 p.m.

Unit 5’s January Calendar

Monday Jan.5 – Unit 5 Teacher Institute – No school for students
Tuesday Jan.6 – Students return to school
Wednesday Jan.14 – Late Start – (1 hour)
Monday Jan.19 – Martin Luther King’s Birthday – No School
Wednesday Jan.28 – Late Start – (1 hour)





January Green Drinks Environmental Networking Event Hosting the Citizen's Climate Lobby January 6

Green Drinks is an informal, social networking group for people working on or interested in environmental issues. Green Drinks groups meet in over 500 cities across the globe. The groups have no political affiliation and generally no agenda. They serve as a forum for environmental professionals and other community members to meet, socialize and share ideas. The Ecology Action Center holds Green Drinks in Bloomington-Normal on the first week of every month.

The January Green Drinks will take place Tuesday, January 6 at 5:30 p.m. at Medici and will feature a presentation by Wharton Sinkler of the Chicago area Citizen's Climate Lobby. Citizens' Climate Lobby is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change. They will discuss their proposal to reduce carbon emissions in the United States through a Carbon Fee & Dividend, along with what they are doing to build political will in the United States. The public is invited to attend Green Drinks; the group meets at Medici in Uptown Normal, in the small private room to the left of the lobby. For more information on Green Drinks, contact Michael Brown at the Ecology Action Center at (309) 454-3169 x.11 or mbrown@ecologyactioncenter.org.

Ecology Action Center Encourages Post-Holiday Recycling

Much of typical holiday waste can be recycled! The Ecology Action Center, as the solid waste agency for Bloomington-Normal and McLean County, reminds area residents of the following recycling programs available to help reduce waste landfilled.

Wrapping paper

Most gift wrap is recyclable, except plastic wraps or metallic papers. All cardboard and paperboard packaging is also recyclable. If you do not have curbside recycling where you live, you may utilize the Town of Normal's recycling drop-off locations. Please reuse ribbons and bows or discard in the trash.

Christmas trees

Residents of Bloomington and Normal enrolled in those municipalities' waste collection programs may dispose of their real (non-artificial) Christmas tree by placing it at the curb for collection on your regularly scheduled waste collection day. As these trees will be chipped into mulch, please be sure

to remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights, etc. Please do not put your tree or any other waste in the street.

For residents outside of Bloomington or Normal, please check with your local municipality for tree collection options. If you do not have tree collection service at your home or in your municipality, Twin City Wood Recycling will accept your tree for chipping into mulch at their facility at 1606 W Oakland Avenue in Bloomington at a cost of \$2 per tree. Call (309) 827-9663 for more information and operating hours.

Christmas lights & other e-waste

Illinois law bans most consumer electronics from landfills--they must be recycled instead. Residents can recycle strings of Christmas lights, cords, and related electronic items, regardless of condition, at one of the many locations listed below.

Did Santa bring a new TV? Note that only two local sites now accept the older tube-style CRT TVs and monitors for recycling. See "Items Accepted" for each of the e-waste recycling collection points below.

Location: Best Buy, 2103 N Veterans Pkwy Suite 200, Bloomington, 309-663-8090

Items Accepted: Computers, computer accessories, monitors, televisions up to 32" (flatscreens up to 60"), all types of radios, VCRs, cameras, etc. Damaged or non-working items accepted.

Customers are limited to bringing in 3 units per day per household.

Items Not Accepted: appliances, microwaves, TVs that are consoles, rear-projections, or DLPs or larger than 32", items with freon such as air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators. No business generated waste.

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10:00 am-9:00 pm, Sunday 11:00 am-8:00 pm

Location: Home Sweet Home Ministries Warehouse, 1700 W Washington St., Bloomington, 309-828-1530

Items Accepted: Computers, laptops, printers, fax, scanners, copiers, peripherals, phone systems, all types of radios, VCRs, Microwaves, toaster ovens, hair dryers, curling irons, cash registers, cameras, blenders, and other small appliances. Damaged or non-working items accepted. All types of cell phones, pagers, PDAs and their chargers, cables, and headset accessories. All of the small computer accessories such as MP3 players, iPods, digital cameras, hand-held scanners, handheld games and other connected devices. All forms of electronic media and their cases: diskettes, zip disks, CDs, CD-Rs, CD-RWs, DVDs et al, game cartridges, DAT, DLT, and virtually all other type of computer tapes (ONLY at Mission Mart location)

Items Not Accepted: No CRT (tube-style) TVs or monitors, no VHS tapes or audio cassettes, no business-generated waste.

Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:00 am-4:00 pm, 24 hour drop-off

Location: Habitat For Humanity ReStore, 1402 W Washington, Bloomington, 309-454- 6047

Items Accepted: Computers, laptops, printers, fax, scanners, copiers, peripherals, phone systems, all types of radios, VCRs, Microwaves, toaster ovens, hair dryers, curling irons, cash registers, cameras, blenders, and other small appliances. Damaged or non-working items accepted. All forms of electronic media and their cases: diskettes, zip disks, CDs, CD-Rs, CD-RWs, DVDs et al, game cartridges, DAT, DLT, and virtually all other type of computer tapes. All forms of printer cartridges including both inkjet and toner. All types of cell phones, pagers, PDAs and their chargers, cables,

and headset accessories. All of the small computer accessories such as MP3 players, iPods, digital cameras, hand-held scanners, handheld games and other connected devices.

Items Not Accepted: No CRT (tube-style) TVs or monitors, no VHS tapes or audio cassettes, no business generated waste

Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10:00 am-5:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Location: Normal Public Works Garage, 1301 Warriner St., Normal, 309-454-9571

Items Accepted: Computers, laptops, televisions, monitors, printers, fax, scanners, copiers, peripherals, phone systems, all types of radios, VCRs, microwaves, toaster ovens, hair dryers, curling irons, cash registers, cameras, blenders, and other small appliances. Damaged or non-working items accepted. All forms of electronic media: diskettes, zip disks, CDs, CD-Rs, CD-RWs, DVDs et al, game cartridges, DAT, DLT, and virtually all other type of computer tapes. All forms of printer cartridges including both inkjet and toner. All types of cell phones, pagers, PDAs and their chargers, cables, and headset accessories. All of the small computer accessories such as MP3 players, iPods, digital cameras, hand-held scanners, handheld games and other connected devices.

Items Not Accepted: No VHS tapes or audio cassettes, no business generated waste

Hours: Monday-Friday 7:00 am-2:30 pm; the first Saturday of every month 8:00 am- 12:00 pm, Summer hours 6:00 am-1:30 pm (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

For more information on recycling, hazardous waste disposal, and more, residents can always consult ecologyactioncenter.org or call 309-454-3169.

The Ecology Action Center is a not-for-profit environmental agency with a mission to inspire and assist residents of McLean County in creating, strengthening and preserving a healthy environment. The EAC acts as a central resource for environmental education, information, outreach, and technical assistance in McLean County.

Classified

Business:

January is the perfect time for a Pampered Chef cooking show. Hosts in January get Double Free Products with \$650 in Guest Sales. Contact Annette Hancock to schedule your special show.

Call Home - 728-2990

Text or call cell - 309-242-1802

Email - oldcars@frontiernet.net

Website - <http://new.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock>



For Hire:

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

Grace Rients and Emma Rients will babysit for you! Both would be willing to babysit while you run errands, mow the lawn or have a date night. Both are certified by the Red Cross and have CPR training too! Grace and Emma Rients are also experienced pet caretakers. Please call them at 728-2178. In addition to dogs, we have experience with hermit crabs, hamsters and rabbits too!