



# INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

March 2015

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

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

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The Indian Creek Homeowners Annual Meeting  
will be held at the Towanda Library  
on Tuesday April 21 at 7 p.m.

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## Towanda Scouts

The Towanda Scouting Organization would like to thank the community for their support at the 59th Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. This tradition could not continue without the continued 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 over 1,050 people. With the support of the community, Scouting will continue to thrive in Towanda.

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## Missing Valentine Project



Successful authors constantly credit libraries with helping them immensely in their careers. Aspiring authors are often supported by libraries. Linda Garbe, who lives in Indian Creek, is one such aspiring author in our area. The Missing Valentines Project is her creation.

The Missing Valentine Project creates a home for those valentines never-sent or those wished-for but never received. This is a chance for people to say what they wish they had said or to admit what they wish they had received. Valentine's Day brings not only the thrill of valentines received but also the disappointment of valentines wished-for but not received. As the years go by, Valentine's Day can also bring regret about valentines we wish we had sent. It can be years before we realize we wish we had sent a special valentine, a note, or a thank you to someone we cared about, someone who made a difference in our life, or someone no longer here to receive our message.

This is an ongoing, year round project to express dreams or regrets. It is not too late. Submissions may be hand written, collages, slick graphics, notes written on napkins, or typed messages. The public is invited to send valentines to [MissingValentines@gmail.com](mailto:MissingValentines@gmail.com) or mail them to: Missing Valentines, P.O. Box 284, Towanda, IL 61776. They may be sent anonymously. The cards, stories, poems, and dreams sent will become part of a collection. They may be shared on The Missing Valentine website [www.missingvalentines.com](http://www.missingvalentines.com).

You never know, they might also live on in a book, a play, a performance, or an art exhibit.



**FAITH**  
**IN ACTION**  
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois

## Faith in Action of Bloomington–Normal to Begin Serving Towanda Seniors

Faith in Action of Bloomington-Normal (BNFIA) will begin extending its volunteer services for older adults in the Towanda area beginning **March 18, 2015**, subject to volunteer availability.

BNFIA is an interfaith ministry that partners with local congregations and community members to provide screened volunteers to transport residents over age 60 and to provide for other non-medical needs such as grocery delivery, friendly visiting and light home maintenance.

Towanda seniors who are in need of services of this type are invited to contact BNFIA at 309-827-7780 beginning March 18, 2015, to apply for services. Services are delivered FREE of charge and there are no financial eligibility requirements.

### How You Can Help:

- Provide rides to medical appointments
- Offer to shop with or for a senior in our community
- Be a friendly visitor to an elderly person to reduce loneliness and isolation
- Make friendly phone calls to homebound seniors through "Telecare Phone Ministry"
- Put your handyman skills to use in our home repair and maintenance program

Faith in Action also provides a flexible volunteer opportunity for those who might wish to serve their Towanda or other nearby neighbors. To become a volunteer, a two-hour orientation (held monthly) and a background check are required.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, the next volunteer orientation is scheduled for March 16, 2015 from 2 - 4pm at 705 E. Lincoln St. Suite 10, Normal, IL 61761. Call 309-827-7780 to reserve your spot. More information is available by calling BNFIA or by visiting the website at [www.bnfia.org](http://www.bnfia.org).

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## Towanda Lions Club



The Towanda Lions Club will offer its annual Ham & Bean Dinner at the Community Building from 4:30pm to 7:00 pm on Friday, April 10, 2015. Tickets are \$6 at the door, or they may be purchased for \$5 in advance from any Lions Club member. Dinner will include all-you-can-eat ham and beans, cornbread, beverage, and dessert. An alternative meal will be a hotdog, chips, beverage, and dessert. Children ages 11 and under will eat free when accompanied by an adult. Carry outs are available.



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## Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



If you haven't been checking your house plants, you should check them to see if they have any insects on them. The insects thrive in warm dry, winter air.

Mealy bugs are about 1/8th inch long and are covered with white waxy strands that make them look like a tiny ball of cotton. You can spray them, top and bottom, with insecticidal soap.

Aphids are pin sized, usually green, and feed on new growth. You can hose them off or spray with insecticidal soap.

Scale are brownish and without legs, they look like a scab and are usually found on the stems. You can scrape them off or spray using insecticidal soap.

Spider mites are tiny insects found on the bottom of the leaf. You will see fine webbing on the leaf axel and between the leaves. You will also see sticky matter on the lower leaves or on the table. The leaves will turn yellow and then brown. Spray top and bottom of the leaves with insecticidal soap.

When you see small white flies on the bottom of the leaf or when you brush the plant, they fly. Use insecticidal soap.

Anytime you find insects on your plants, you need to spray a second time in 7-9 days. That will kill the eggs that hatched after the first spray. It is a good idea to spray a third and fourth time to make sure you got all of them. If you wait too long, the eggs will have hatched and grown enough to start laying more eggs.



During the winter, we had low light and cooler temperatures in the house. We didn't have a lot of energy, neither did our house plants. We did not feed them and they did not draw much moisture into their leaves, so they took a nap. Now that we have longer, brighter sunlight hours, our house plants are waking up and might start to grow. The middle of February or Valentine's Day is the time we can start to fertilize the house plants. When you fertilize your plants, follow the directions on the container. Be sure the soil is moist when you add fertilizer, if the soil is dry, you could damage the roots. You could also gently wipe the top of the leaves to remove the dust that collects there.

You should check your tubers or bulbs that you are storing for the winter. You might need to sprinkle some water on them if they look shriveled. If any of them have started to sprout, pot them and keep them in a bright location until it is warm enough to plant them outside.

You can start your tuberous begonias now. They are slow to start growing.



We are seeing a lot of houseplants in the garden centers. Plants do more than just add color to your room. A lot of them are in the 4 inch and 6 inch pots. These plants are small, but they will grow. Also, they are small enough that you can cover them to protect them from the cold air going from the store to the car. Always check to see if they have any insects and if it is a healthy plant. After you get the plants home, give them a couple of weeks to get over the shock of being moved from the growers to the garden.

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center and moved again to your home before you fertilize them.

A house plant gives you something to look forward to, seeing a new leaf grow and to see a bud appear. Plants teach kids responsibility. They need to be watered regularly and have proper light. If your plant isn't doing well in one spot, move it around until you find a spot the plant likes. Just be sure it is not too close to the heat register.

Live houseplants are good air cleaners. They absorb the carbon dioxide that we exhale and return oxygen to the air. Also the synthetic material in the carpets and plastic items put out an odor that plants will filter. The artificial plants can not do that.



After the long, cold months, we are all ready to get outside and do something in the yard. Remember not to walk a lot on grass when it is really wet. The freezing and thawing of winter has loosened the soil and we don't want to pack it down. Pick up the sticks and trash on the lawn. If the leaves have piled up, fluff them with a rake so air can get thru. We will have more cold air, so don't clear them off yet.

In one of the pretty parks in Chicago, they did not remove any of the annuals or perennials in the fall. In the spring, they cut the tall plants with a weed eater and then mowed everything with a lawnmower. That broke up the spent plants into small pieces creating mulch. That way, they did not have to haul off the "trash" and then go buy new mulch.

When the new plants start to come up, they pull the mulch back so the plants can get light and air to grow. As the soil warms, the earthworms, grubs, etc., start working to make good soil for the plant roots to grow eliminating the need for synthetic fertilizer. It also left more insects to feed the birds so they could get their needed protein.

You can still apply new purchased mulch on top if you want to improve the looks.

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## American Legion

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday March 8th 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.

Celebrate St Patrick's Day at the Legion. There will be a dinner on Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will include corned beef, cabbage, carrots, new potatoes, rye bread, dessert and drink for \$10. Dinner will be served from 4:30pm 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.

Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday March 19th 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.

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## Local Events and News

### Kindergarten Registration

On Tuesday, March 17, 2015, Unit 5 will hold registration for children turning 5 years old on or before September 1, 2015. Parents should bring a certified birth certificate, current immunization and health records, proof of residency and bring incoming kindergarten students with them for registration activities. Questions? Call Towanda School 309-557-4426 or Unit 5 District Office 309-557-4400 or go to [www.unit5.org](http://www.unit5.org).

### New Law Regarding Immunization Requirements

Beginning with the 2015 –2016 school year, Illinois law requires that all students entering 6th and 12th grade **MUST** have a meningococcal vaccine(MCV). **UNIT 5 STUDENTS IN 6th and 12th grades WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO START SCHOOL WITHOUT THIS IMMUNIZATION!** Sixth graders must receive one dose on or after the 11th birthday, 12th graders must receive two doses, the second dose must be after the 16th birthday. If the first dose is received at 16 years of age or older, only 1 dose is required. Contact your health provider to see if your child has received a meningococcal vaccine or to schedule an appointment. Please provide your school with proof of the immunization once it is completed. Questions? Contact your school nurse or the District Office 309-557-4400. For a full list of required immunizations go to: [http://www.isbe.net/pdf/school\\_health/immunization-requirements.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/pdf/school_health/immunization-requirements.pdf)

### Register AND Vote on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 ~ Consolidated Election

Election of Municipal Officials, School Board Members, Library Members, and more.

Tuesday, March 10 - Last day for registration or transfer of registration within the office of the election authority.

Wednesday, March 11 - Grace period registration and grace period voting begins.

Monday, March 23 - First day for early voting.

See McLean County website for detailed information. <http://www.mcleancountyil.gov/index.aspx?NID=191>

### Bonnie Lou (born Mary Jane Kath)

The Towanda Area Historical Society is looking for ANY information about a woman born in 1924 in Towanda. Mary Jane Kath was known by radio, TV and recording names 'Sally Carson' and 'Bonnie Lou', and called the 'Yodeling Sweetheart, Mary Jo'. She graduated from BHS, was married to Glenn Ewins (Carlock) and then Milt Okum (OH). Bonnie Lou became a popular Country Music and Rock & Roll vocalist during 1950-1970. Please be in touch with Gail Ann Briggs 309-728-2187, [rgbriggs@frontiernet.net](mailto:rgbriggs@frontiernet.net) or Pat Pulokas 309-728-2118, [palp@mchsi.com](mailto:palp@mchsi.com)

### CALENDAR (in addition to voting information, late starts & other info above)



Sun.Mar.8 – 2:00 a.m. – Daylight Savings Time Begins

Wed.Mar.11 – LATE START 1-hr in Unit 5

Tue.Mar.17 – Kindergarten Registration – District-wide

Mon.Mar.23-Fri.Mar.27 – Unit 5 Spring Break

Sun.Mar.29 – Palm Sunday

Mon.Mar.30 – Unit 5 Resumes School

Thu-Sat – Apr.30-May2 – Towanda Area Garage Sales – specific information will be in the next newsletter



The Towanda HCE will be meeting on Monday, Mar 9, 7pm at the Towanda Community Building. Bev Hornickel will be giving the program on "what every woman show know about varicose veins". The fact find will be on sweet almond will be given by Kathleen Emery.

Members and guests are welcome to attend the Tri-County HCE Super Saturday event, Saturday, Mar 14, 8:30 a.m.-12n involving all HCE units in Livingston, McLean and Woodford counties. Held at Christ Lutheran Church, corner of Ft Jesse and Hershey Rd, Normal. Registration and social time begins at 8:30 with a 9:45 a.m. style show put on by Christopher and CJ Banks Clothing Store. At 10:45 three programs will be presented at the same time: Freezer meals in a flash, presented by Jenna Smith; What's in your wallet?, by Pam Atkinson; Laughter works, by Sandra Lutz. These programs are free and open to the public. 309-310-9205.

Towanda HCE meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, September through June for educational programs and fellowship with others to discuss timely topics. Consider attending our meetings. Call Cindy Kelley, 309-663-4796 or Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650 or [rbnprson@mchsi.com](mailto:rbnprson@mchsi.com).

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## Towanda Busy Bees 4H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4H club met on Tuesday, February 17th. The members enjoyed a presentation by two dietetic interns on Heart Healthy Eating. Jaxson Carlson presented a Lego activity. Each member received a sack with 62 Legos to make their own creation. There are enough Legos in the world for every person in the world to have 62 Legos each.

The next meeting of the Towanda Busy Bees will take place [on Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30 pm](#) at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be Talks and Demonstrations. For more information please contact Martha Rients [728-2178](tel:728-2178).



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# Towanda Library

## March 2015 Library Programs

March 10: TOWANDA READS Book Discussion of *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr at 5:00. This discussion is open to the public.

March 10: FRIENDS of the Library meet briefly at 4:00 at the library. New members are always welcome.

March 10: Tessa Gilfillan-Jones, from Morton Audiology Center, presents a program - *Your Hearing Health* at 5:00.

March 11: Bulldog Book Club for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders. Discussion of *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. Enjoy banana boat treats.

March 17: Attend a *Relaxation Workshop* presented by Vanessa Houssian. Learn the benefits of essentials oils and other relaxation techniques.

Each Tuesday from 5:00 to 7:00: Knitting/Crochet/Felting Group meets to share projects. Some members are currently making sleeping mats for the homeless – using plastic grocery bags.

### Story Hours each Wednesday at 10:30 am:

March 4: Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

March 11: Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!

March 18: Caterpillars and Butterflies

March 25: Spiders and Webs

April Preview: National Library Week is April 12 through 18. Money Smart Week programs at the library on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars now!

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## Towanda 4H

Please be advised that the Towanda 4H will hold its next meeting March 3, 2015, at 6:30pm, at the Towanda Community Building. There will be a demonstration on "How to Pour Candles", from a local candle maker. Towanda 4H is open to everyone from 5 to 19 years old. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Schultz at 309-728-2137 or Jeanne Wager at 309-728-2852.



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202 W. College Avenue  
Normal, Illinois 61761-2552



www.ecologyactioncenter.org  
Phone: 309-454-3169 • Fax: 309-454-7508

## Ecology Action Center Announces 2015 We Care Twin Cities Races

The Ecology Action Center, along with title sponsor Fleet Feet Sports, announces the schedule for the fourth annual We Care Twin Cities races. A Kid's Run and a 5K race will take place on Friday, September 25, 2015 and a 10K and Half Marathon will be on Saturday, September 26.

Last year, the events drew approximately 800 participants and proceeds benefitted not only the Ecology Action Center but also an additional thirteen non-profit organizations in McLean County. The EAC uses its proceeds from the races to supplement other funding sources for its efforts to improve the local environment.

The We Care Twin Cities races are the largest Zero-Waste running events in the state of Illinois, with last year's race generating less than five pounds of garbage to be sent to the landfill. Bottles, cartons and paper were recycled; food and food service items were composted; reusable hydration systems were used instead of paper cups; even the trophies were repurposed.

Registration is now open for this year's races, and non-profit partners and sponsors at all levels are being sought. For more information or to register, go to [wecaretwincitiesmarathon.org](http://wecaretwincitiesmarathon.org) or contact EAC Assistant Director Kris Hall at (309) 454- 3169 x. 12 or [khall@ecologyactioncenter.org](mailto:khall@ecologyactioncenter.org).

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## Green Drinks

### Ecology Action Center Schedules March Green Drinks Environmental Networking Event about Local Food in Bloomington-Normal

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 March Green Drinks will take place Tuesday, March 3rd at 5:30 p.m. at Medici. Bill Davison and Chad Sanders will discuss projects here in town and how they have been collaborating to boost the local food movement. Bill is the Small Farms and Local Food Systems Extension Educator for the University of Illinois Extension Office. Chad is the master Bread Baker for the Garlic Press Cafe in Uptown Normal. Bill and Chad will share with us how local food issues relate to sustainability.

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](mailto:mbrown@ecologyactioncenter.org).

*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.*



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# Classified

## For Sale:

Larin 2 1/2 ton folding engine lift. \$100.00 Contact Bob Hancock at 309-728-2990

## Businesses:

Spring Open House on Saturday, March 14 at my home at 7 Bent Tree Lane. Serving lunch 11 AM to 2 PM featuring new Spring Pampered Chef recipes. See the new products & get a new catalog & free Season's Best Cookbook.

Annette Hancock

Call Home - 728-2990

Text or call cell - 309-242-1802

Email - [oldcars@frontiernet.net](mailto:oldcars@frontiernet.net)

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



## Introducing an ALL-NATURAL ENERGY DRINK!

It's not your typical energy drink!! And you are invited to sample it for FREE at this open house tasting event! Please come and bring a friend or 3! It's in my home and it's open to everyone. Yes it's an energy drink, but it is actually healthy for you. Won't spike blood sugars or give you the jitters, and no crashing afterwards. Just an all natural sustained energy for the day and packed full of antioxidants and B vitamins to give your brain focus and improve functioning! AND IT TASTES GREAT!

Open House Tasting Event

March 13th 4pm-8pm

4 Candle Ridge Rd

Contact info: Janette Jones (309)838-2994

[doublej08@live.com](mailto:doublej08@live.com)



## 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!