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## Towanda Home and Community Education



The Towanda HCE unit of the McLean County Home and Community Education group will meet on Monday, Nov 9, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Pat Pulokas is giving the program, "Making your dollars stretch!" The fact find is about "House Plants". Our hostesses are Leatha Poshard, Cindy Jacobs and Dorothy Brickey.

Other activities to check out include a Fleece Shrug Workshop on Monday, Nov 9, 1-4p.m. at the McLean Co Extension Auditorium. RSVP/supplies needed and fees call by Nov 3 to Edna, 309-662-5520.

There will be a HCE Community Service Day on Monday, Nov 16, 9-12 and 1-4 when seat belt covers for cancer patients will be made. Come for all or part of the day held at the McLean County Farm Bureau Building off West Route 9 near the Interstate Center. Questions- contact Karen, 826-9559. Also held that same day will be the Read & Share, 2-3:30 p.m. at the McLean County Extension Board room. The book to be discussed is The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom. Contact LaVonne, 661-6391 for more information about this free event. A program on "Pass the Pink Packet" will be held on Tuesday, Nov 24, 1-3 p.m. Jenna Smith will present this free program held at Christ Lutheran Church, corner of Hershey and Ft Jesse Road.

Another big event in November for McLean County HCE will be our "HCE Attic Treasures and Bake Sale" held on Nov 14, 9am-2pm at Trinity Lutheran Church Gym, 801 S Madison, Bloomington. Enter through the northwest and southeast doors. Find all sorts of bargains of holiday and household items and baked goods. Proceeds from this sale will benefit the McLean County 4-H program! All units in McLean County including Towanda Unit will be bringing sale items and working at the event. Questions- Kathryn, 309-275-8898.

For more information regarding the Towanda HCE meeting and other programs, contact Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650 or Cindy Kelley, 309-663-4796. Come and enjoy some special time with friends and learn new information about many topics. Guests are always welcome at all the events.

# Gardening Tips

by Helen Leake



In the spring, we are happy to see the leaves come out on the trees and shrubs, telling us that winter is on the way out. The leaves give us color, shade, break the wind and sound, as well as absorbing the pollutants in the air and return oxygen or us to use. They absorb nutrients from the sun to feed their roots. The roots pull moisture from the soil and on a hot summer day, a willow tree can pull up to 5,000 gallons of water into the air through its leaves.

In the fall, as the day light hours get shorter and the temperature gets lower, the leaves put on a beautiful show by changing the color of their leaves telling us good bye. They're still working for us. They collect under the shrubs and perennials to help insulate the roots for the winter. Also they are host to many beneficial insect eggs. They also provide shelter for some wildlife.

Only about 10 percent of the insects are bad, and the birds or other insects like to eat them. Next spring the birds will need a lot of insects and larvae, newly hatched eggs, to feed the baby birds.

It is nice to have a very neat yard, but we do need to save a spot for the wild life.

It is time to start watering the evergreen plants and anything that we planted in the last 4-5 years so they don't dry out during the windy winter.

The sight of falling leaves is telling us winter is on its way. With the night temperature are falling in to the 50's, it is time to bring the house plants in. The Christmas cactus, orchids, potted azaleas, and kalanchoes can stay out until the temperature drops down to the 40's.

Before you bring the plants in, make sure there are no insects making a home in the plant. It won't hurt to spray the plant and top of soil with insecticidal soap. Also be sure to wipe the container off and check for spider homes. They like to hide under the rim and on the bottom of the pot.

When you bring the plants in, you can expect some of the leaves to turn yellow and fall off, because the light isn't as bright as it is outside.

Also you should stop fertilizing the plants now. Most plants rest during the shorter daylight hours and do not use the fertilizer. You can start feeding them again next February when they start to show new growth.

Continue to mow the grass and break up the leaves. They will feed the earthworms. You can also compost the leaves or work them into the garden. Remember to leave the leaves that have collected around to base of the shrubs and perennials. That helps prevent the fluctuating winter temperature of the soil.

Now that we have had a frost, it is time to dig you summer blooming bulbs, if you haven't already.

The dahlias have tender tubers that must be over wintered indoors. Cut the stalk off 4-6 inches above the ground, dig up the tubers, be careful not to damage the tuber with the fork. Shake off the excess soil and let them dry. Do not wash them. Shake off as much soil possible can and store them in peat or sand. Place them in a cool basement

Gladiolus should be dug when the foliage begins to dry. Shake off as much of the soil as possible. Do not wash. Let the corms [the bulb] dry and place them in a paper bag. After the leaves dry, break them off, discard the dry tops and old corms. Keep the new corms and small offsets. Dust them with an organic sulfur or copper fungicide. Store them in a cool dry place.

Cannas and caladiums need to be treated like the dahlias.

Now that the soil had cooled, it is time to plant the summer blooming bulbs. Also plant your garlic for next year.

Dig your sweet potatoes and store them in a cool place.

With the cooler temperatures, the mice are going to be looking for a warm place to stay. A mouse can squeeze thru a 1/4 inch opening. Walk around the outside of the house and look for cracks in the foundation and openings around the air conditioner and doors and windows. Also check the bottom of the garage door. Depending on where the cracks are, you can use cement, foam spray or steel wool to fill them. The garage door might need a new gasket. Also don't leave the garage door open for long periods of time.

When checking inside for places for the mice to get in, check around the pipes under the sink and other holes or cracks and fill in the space with steel wool, Mice like to find piles of clothes in the corner and stacks of paper or card board boxes for a place to make a nest. Also they can live on the crumbs on the floor or where ever. Try not to leave food in places they can get to.

You can put mouse poison out, the mice will eat it and go off and die. That should be put in a place where children and pets cannot get to it. Also the mice could die in a place you don't know where until you smell them.

You can use a cage trap to lure them into and they can't get out. Carry the cage outside and release the mouse. it could then go back to the hole it found to get back inside.

You can also use a sticky trap inside. Place some peanut butter or cheese in the middle. As the mouse walks to the food it's feet stick to the trap. Destroy the mouse and trap.

There is also the old fashion spring trap Put peanut butter on the center or tie a piece of cheese on it. When the mouse goes to the food the spring will trap them. You can use the trap over and over.

Place the traps close to the wall because that is where they usually travel. Also place where the children and pets not get to it.

Helen J. Leake

## Indian Creek Workday/Picnic

Indian Creek Residents, In order to prepare our neighborhood for fall, we are holding one more workday for 2015. It will be on November 7 at 9:00 am. We will start at the bridge and work on the following: trail restoration, removal of honeysuckle, sign painting, and brush removal. We will need the following tools: chainsaws, handsaws, loppers, shovels, and rakes. Please bring what you can and help to keep our subdivision beautiful!

Afterward we are planning a subdivision picnic to start at 12:30.

Following are the details:

DATE: November 7

TIME: 12:30 - 2:00

WHERE: Common Ground (former soccer field at the bend on Eastwood Ct.)

WHAT TO BRING: Lawn chairs for yourself and/or family, a beverage other than what the subdivision will provide, and a side dish with a serving spoon.

The subdivision will provide plates/napkins/utensils, frankfurters/buns, condiments, lemonade, water and s'mores. We will be cooking the hotdogs over a fire. Games will be available.

Please RSVP by October 30th back to this address. Also, if a few of you have portable tables, we could use them for the food/beverages. So come on out and have some fun and food while meeting and greeting our neighbors!

## Lake Bloomington Water Management Plan

An article written by former resident Sue Arnold about IC for the Lake Bloomington Management Plan.

Lake Bloomington Management Plan: June 22, 2008

Indian Creek Homeowners Association

The Indian Creek Homeowners Association ([www.frontiernet.net/~indiancreek](http://www.frontiernet.net/~indiancreek)) is a group of nearly 100 homeowners making up the Indian Creek subdivision. The wooded, rural subdivision is located within the Lake Bloomington/Money Creek watershed two miles due north of Towanda on the east side of County Road 1900. It straddles Money Creek about 3 miles southeast of where it enters Lake Bloomington. The Indian Creek subdivision consists of approximately 160 acres of former farmland, pasture, and deciduous woodland, including approximately 60 acres of common ground that was deemed unsuitable for home construction. Approximately 20 acres of this common ground are being maintained by the residents as a private nature area with hiking trails along Money Creek. Management efforts carried out entirely by resident volunteers include trail maintenance, exotic species control, placement of bird houses, tree identification tags, and removal of "weed" trees in areas where older oak and hickory trees are still found. Future goals include continued restoration of the woodland, and establishment of a prairie in an open area that had previously been used as a soccer practice field.

# Calendar

Sun.Nov.1 ~ 2:00a ~ Daylight Savings Time Ends

Mon.Nov.9 ~ 5:00-7:30p ~ NCHS Spaghetti Supper (\$8.00); and FREE Music Concert

Sat.Nov.7 ~ 10:00a-2:00p ~ Library 'Tea' and Sale

Sat.Nov.7 ~ 1:00-5:00p ~ Duncan Manor Tours

Sat.Nov.7 ~ 4:00-7:00p ~ Chili Supper ~ Towanda Fire Station

Sun.Nov.8 ~ 12:00-4:00p ~ Duncan Manor Tours

Wed.Nov.11 ~ Veterans Day ~ Unit 5 is in session / veteran recognitions at the school in the afternoon

Wed.Nov.18 ~ 1-hr Late Start in Unit 5

Thu-Fri.Nov.26-27 ~ Thanksgiving ~ no school

Gail

## Towanda Library

6th Annual FRIENDS of Towanda District Library Artist/Vendor Christmas Tea and Holiday Sale

Saturday, November 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Duncan Manor Christmas Ornaments for sale with funds to Duncan Manor Restoration Fund and FRIENDS of Towanda Library

Enjoy a complimentary warm drink and Christmas cookie courtesy of the FRIENDS while you shop for holiday gifts from these artists and vendors:

- Beadwork by Betsy Thompson
- Alpaca Wool Art by Stan and Janetta Bauer
- Tastefully Simple by Marsha Mesk
- Scentsy by Jan Cavallo
- Norwex by Michelle Kerr
- 31 by Lindsey Hale
- Felt Designs by Kara Kirchner
- Pampered Chef by Annette Hancock

- Custom Pearl Designs by Melodee Beckman
- DoTerra Oils by Vanessa Houssian

Sign up for door prizes from vendors.

Support your library, your community, and Duncan Manor Restoration Fund.

Items from artists and vendors are currently on display at the library.

Stop by for a sneak peek or to pick up your own catalogs.

Preschool Story Hours: Each Wednesday morning @ 10:30 during the entire school year. November 4 – Our Friend the Policeman; November 11 – Apples; November 18 – Leaves; November 25 – Thanksgiving.

See photos of library events and learn about upcoming events: Use the library’s Facebook page. Just click the Facebook icon on the new library website ([www.towandalibrary.org](http://www.towandalibrary.org)). You need not be signed up for Facebook to view the library’s Facebook page.

4th & 5th Grade Bulldog Book Club on Wednesday, November 18 from 3:30 to 4:30: Discuss Rump by Liesl Shurtliff. It is a comical, adventurous take-off on the fairy tale of Rumpelstiltskin.

READ to Dogs Tuesdays in November from 5:30 and 6:30. Practicing a skill always improves it! Young readers will enjoy the attention of a therapy dog and its owner during a one-on-one reading session. Call the library to make a 15-minute appointment.

Crochet Corner each Tuesday evening from 5:00 to 7:00: Bring your own project or learn some new stitches while you visit with the friendly group of crafters.

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Calendar View Items: November 7th from 10:00 to 2:00 --- Artist/Vendor Sale at Library

Bulldog Book Club 3:30 on November 18<sup>th</sup>

The library will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and on Black Friday. As usual, the library closes at 5 p.m. the day prior to Thanksgiving.

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Karen Stott Bersche, Director

Towanda District Library  
301 S. Taylor St.  
Towanda, IL 61776-7582  
Phone: (309) 728-2176 Fax: (309) 728-2139

# Legion News

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday November 1st from 8:00 – 11:00. Breakfast includes eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, French toast, fresh fruit, biscuits and gravy, juice, milk and coffee for \$9. Note the new time and we fall back an hour.

There will be a pork chop dinner on Friday November 20th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include pork chop sandwich, French fries, green beans, applesauce, dessert and drink for \$9.

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 November 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.

-Linda Potts

## CLASSIFIED

### Businesses:

Time to Christmas Shop for family and friends! Plan to visit my Pampered Chef booth at the Towanda Library Christmas Tea Vendor Shopping Event at the library Saturday, November 7th from 10 am - 2pm.

Annette Hancock

Call Home - 728-2990

Text or call - 242-1802

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

Website - [www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock](http://www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock)

Pinterest Recipes - [www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935](http://www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935)



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## **For Hire:**

Do you need a babysitter? Do you need your house cleaned? Or, just an extra set of hands to help out around the house? Anna Kraft is willing to help! She is a sophomore at NCHS and can be contacted at 728-8088 (home) or (309) 830-7721 (cell).

Need help mowing your lawn or weed-whacking? Even if you just want someone to mow for a week while you're on vacation, give Joe Kaufmann a call. Joe's cell # 824-1027

Jairon and Justin Schwamberger (Senior/Sophomore at NCHS) are available for mowing/lawn care or other outside labor. Will be willing to take on summer long jobs, help with special projects, or mow while you're on vacation. Contact information: 728-2857, 830-9544.

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