

A background image of a wooded area with a stream, used as a header for the newsletter.

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

January 2016

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Towanda Library

Bulldog Book Club on Wednesday January 13 and 27 after school: Scavenger Hunt and discussing the book *This Journal Belongs to Rachel* by Nancy Cavanaugh.

TOWANDA READS Adult Book Club is reading *Mind Change* by Susan Greenfield for February 9th.

Pre-School Story Hours each Wednesday at 10:30: January's theme is nursery rhymes and classic children's stories. We'll share new approaches to these beloved basics. Nursery rhymes come alive through puppet plays, songs, finger plays, and crafts. Follow the fun on the library's Facebook page by using the Facebook icon on the library's website.

Crocheting each Tuesday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 – This group has been meeting regularly for 3 years. Instructor, Susie Shoemaker, leads the group. Bring your own projects and/or questions.

Calming Coloring each Tuesday evening from 5:00 to 6 :00 – Barnes and Noble is not the only place hosting these de-stressing sessions. TDL is offering a quiet atmosphere to visit with friends and relax by coloring. So if your New Year's Resolution was to treat yourself in a more calming way, join these Adult Coloring sessions....to be held each Tuesday in January and February. Colored pencils, conversation, companionship, and coloring books provided.

Downton Abbey Fever on Tuesday, January 26 at 5:00: Last chance! Downton Abbey is in its final season. If you love to talk "Downton Abbey" and predict how the next episode will unfold, join us for a few treats from the "Downton Abbey Cookbook" and a chance to reminisce on this British phenomenon. We promise that the cream puffs will be the best you've ever tasted! Colcannon samples, too! The library owns all seasons of Downton Abbey on DVD – plus many other PBS favorites...including Rick Steve's travelogue DVD's.

Towanda Busy Bees 4H

The Towanda Busy Bees spread Holiday Cheer by ringing bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign on Friday, December 18th. The next meeting of the Towanda Busy Bees will be on Tuesday, January 19, 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. Recognition and Project Night will be held.

Towanda Busy Bees is open to all children ages 8 (by Sept 1) to 18. Cloverbuds is also available for children ages 5 (by Sept. 1) to 7. For more information contact Martha Rients at hrients@frontiernet.net or 728-2178



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake

If you haven't started the snow blower, do so now. You don't want to wait until you need it to find out it needs some work.

If you have a lot of rabbits, you want to put a fence around the tender trees and berries, high enough so that the rabbits can not stand on their hind legs on top of the snow to chew on the plants.

You can prune your Holly now to keep it an attractive shape. Use the trimmings to add interest to your winter decoration. To keep it looking its best, keep the cut ends consistently moist. Dogwood and evergreens can also be used.

Snow is a good insulator around the shrubs, but if it is too heavy it can lead to plant suffocation. Also if it is too heavy, it can break the branches of evergreens. Use a broom or your hands and gently lift the branches up, the snow will fall off. If you try to shake it off, the extra weight could break the branch.

Right now, the soil has not froze, water the evergreens and shrubs. The evergreens lose water through their needles all winter. More so if it is windy.

Winter has arrived and the leaves have fallen, except the oak, and they sometimes hold until spring. It is time to clean up the lawn mower and weed trimmer before storing it for winter. You can either let them run until they run out of gas or add something like Sta-Bil to protect the gas for next spring. While you are working with the mower, you could sharpen the blades so they will be sharp for spring mowing. Also clean all the grass clippings and dirt and wash them off before you store them for the winter.

If you brought your hibiscus or geranium in, put them in a south or west window for bright light. Let the top of the soil dry to touch before you water them again. Also give the pot a quarter turn each time you water, so the plant won't lean toward the light. It is only natural for them to have some leaves turn yellow and drop off. It is because of the change from outdoors to indoors.

If you notice gnats flying around the top of the soil of house plants, it is because you are keeping the soil too wet. Let the soil dry and the gnats should die. More houseplants are killed by over watering than under watering.

Now that the leaves are all off of the trees, and the trees are dormant and bare, now is a good time to do some pruning. Winter pruning promotes quick growth in the spring and limits the exposure of the wounds to insects and disease.

Start with clean sharp tools and if you are removing any diseased branches, wipe your tools with a 10% bleach solution after each cut, so you do not spread the disease.

First of all, you want to remove any dead, diseased or damaged wood. When you cut the branch off, cut back to the collar of the main stem or collar at the trunk. Do not leave a stub, it will not heal-over and will leave the door open for future insects and diseases. Also do not paint over the cut, it will heal better if left open. You also want to remove any crossing branches, which in time will cause injury to

tissues. Usually remove the smaller branch. Also remove any water sprouts, they grow straight up from a branch and interfere with healthy growth. Remove the sucker at the bottom of the trunk. Now, step back and take a good look to see what needs to be pruned to make the tree look better. For any long, unbranched stems, cut back to a healthy, outward-facing bud. That is called heading and it will encourage the side branches to grow.

Never remove more than 1/4-1/3 of the canopy per year. This causes a shock to the tree. Also don't forget safety and do not cut too close to the power lines. Wear eye protection. Don't prune any spring flowering shrubs or trees now, or you will be cutting off the buds. Maples, dogwood and birches have heavy sap flow and will make a sticky mess but it will not hurt the tree. It is best to wait until midsummer to prune them.

Towanda HCE



The Towanda HCE will meet Monday, January 11, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Sandy Whalen will be presenting the program, "Pass the pink packet". The Fact Find will be about "care for your Christmas plants."

Towanda Home and Community Education group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month, September through June. Many interesting programs are presented at our meetings and guests and visitors are always welcome to attend. Please call Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650 or Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797 for more information about this meeting or Towanda HCE.

Towanda American Legion



There won't be a breakfast in January. We will start up again in the Spring

There will be a Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, January 15 from 5-7. Dinner will include all you can eat spaghetti, bread, salad, dessert and drink for \$8.

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 January 21st at 7:00 at the Post. The Legion is available to rent for reunions, parties, and meetings. For more information contact Mike Potts at 728-2384 or Tom Wagner at 287-7861.

Towanda 4-H

Towanda 4H will meet again on Tuesday, January 5 at 6:30pm at the Towanda Community Building. 4H is open to kids from ages 8 till 18 by Sept 1. If you have any questions about enrollment or more ways to get involved in 4H, please contact Jeanie Wager at 309-728-2852, Scott Clements at 309-275-5913, or Malisa Kraft at 309-825-1235.

202 W. College Avenue
Normal, Illinois 61761-2552



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

2015 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Report Released

McLean County's unique public-private partnership for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) yielded another successful collection event on Saturday, October 17, with a 22 percent increase in vehicles passing through the event compared to the most recent HHW collection that took place two years ago. The Ecology Action Center's (EAC) Executive Director Michael Brown describes the event as a "...tremendous, unqualified success, made possible due to the overwhelming broad-based support from our community." The full 2015 HHW Report can be downloaded from the EAC website at ecologyactioncenter.org.

Contributions to the EAC's McLean County HHW Fund have reached \$182,703--exceeding the original goal of \$180,000. This amount not only ultimately covered all of the event costs but also left seed money towards the next HHW collection, which is planned for 2017. Brown gives credit broadly for this achievement, noting that local government, businesses, and residents all contributed generously to ensure this collection would happen. He also extended thanks to the nearly 100 enthusiastic EAC volunteers that worked the event.

Almost 1,600 cars came through the HHW collection, with a total of 2,256 households participating. This is due to a high rate of residents "car-pooling" their hazardous waste materials, bringing the waste of multiple households at once.

Sponsors and partners of the 2015 HHW Collection include: City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, McLean County, Radio Bloomington, Republic Services, State Farm Insurance, Home Sweet Home Ministries, Midwest Fiber, WGLT, Henson Disposal and Recycling, Carlson Exteriors, Mitsubishi Motors North America, Illinois Farm Bureau, Country Financial, Growmark, Springfield Electric, McLean County Regional Planning, and McLean County Health Department.

Acting as the local solid waste agency, the EAC coordinates Household Hazardous Waste collection on behalf of Bloomington, Normal, and McLean County. Traditionally, the State of Illinois funded HHW collection through nearly annual events coordinated by the EAC. However, state budget cuts have severely impacted the HHW program, resulting in a lack of dependable options for safe and legal disposal of HHW materials. The EAC, in partnership with the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, and McLean County, originally created a unique and successful public-private partnership model to fund HHW collection in 2012.

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.



Towanda Boy Scouts Pancake and Sausage Dinner

The 60th Annual Towanda Boy Scouts Pancake and Sausage Dinner will be held Saturday February 13th at the Towanda Grade School serving from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. The breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, applesauce and drink. This is an all you can eat both pancakes and sausage so come hungry. The Boy Scouts work in the kitchen and Cub Scouts serve seconds. The Girl Scouts will hold a bake sale as well. Proceeds from the breakfast support scouting activities throughout the year.

For more information or to place an advance meat order, contact Mike Potts at 309-728-2384 or any Towanda Boy Scout.



2016 Advance Meat Order Towanda Scouting Organization

-Pick Up Meat Orders-
Friday, February 12th, 3-6 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building or,
Saturday, February 13th, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Towanda Grade School.

PLEASE BRING YELLOW COPY WHEN PICKING UP YOUR ORDER!
Questions? Call Mike & Linda Potts 728-2384

Country Store will have a limited supply of additional meat, etc.,
beginning at 8:00 a.m. Saturday on a first come, first serve basis.

Place Your Order Today ~ The Deadline is JANUARY 25, 2016

WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE	Pounds	Price	Total
BULK SAUSAGE (2# increments) Packaged ONLY in 2# packages.		\$3.50/lb.	\$
LINK SAUSAGE Packaged in 5# packages.		\$3.50/lb.	
BACK RIBS Packaged in 5# packages.		\$3.50/lb.	
COUNTRY STYLE BACON Packaged in 1# packages.		\$5.00/lb.	
ITALIAN SAUSAGE			
ITALIAN BULK (2# increments) Packaged ONLY in 2# packages.		\$3.50/lb.	
ITALIAN LINK Packaged in 5# packages.		\$3.50/lb.	
CHICKEN BREASTS			
BONELESS/SKINLESS Packaged in 5# packages.		\$4.00/lb.	
TOTAL			\$

ORDER TAKEN BY: _____ DATE: _____

PHONE: _____ Paid Not Paid

NAME: _____

Classified

Businesses:

Pampered Chef features Cooking Shows, Catalog Parties, Freezer Meal Workshops, Bridal Showers & Fundraisers!

Contact your local Indian Creek consultant for these events.

Annette Hancock
7 Bent Tree Lane
Call Home - 728-2990
Text or call- 242-1802
Email - oldcars@frontiernet.net
Website - www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock
Pinterest - www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935



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).

The Schwamberger boys, Jairon 17 and Justin 15, are available for snow removal services or as maintenance helpers. Call 728-2857.

If you need help with snow removal on your driveway or sidewalk, call Joe and Chet Kaufmann at 309-728-8095.

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