

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

June 2016

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Indian Creek Workday

A big thank you to all of you for your time and work. We accomplished a great deal due to your efforts and commitment to bettering our community. You make Indian Creek a special place to live for all our homeowners and it's a pleasure to work with you.

Fred Walk

On Tuesday May 3rd, Greg Beneze, Carol Beneze, Linda Garbe, Dan Duback and Val Beguin cleaned up our adopted piece of highway stretching from our subdivision towards I-55.

On the evening of Wednesday May 4th, Larry Lynn, Jim Ferrier, Greg Beneze and Fred Walk cut down several dead ash trees along the road north of the bridge and a bunch of scorched dead silver maples north of the green space common area. Jim Russell also mowed the common ground area for the first time this spring beyond the well road.

On Saturday May 7 Jim Russell, Bob Hancock, Larry Meyer, Ben Dailey, Mike Emery, Mike Orrick, Connie Whittum, Keith Whittum, Tom Chlipala, Kathy Dumler, Ruth Parsons, Ron Parsons, and Fred Walk completed the following jobs.

- Put up two sections of split rail fence setting off our new trail just north of the bridge.
- Cut down a wide swath of honeysuckle south of the water tower.
- Cleared the original trail of fallen trees and debris.
- Cleared out large brush piles on the west side of the road just north of the bridge.
- Cut up and removed dead ash and silver maple trees from the common ground area.
- Removed a dead tree near the bridge that was on the verge of falling into the creek.
- Mowed the original and new trails.



Dan Duback and Val Beguin made arrangements to provide refreshments on Saturday.

Safe Driving in our Neighborhood

School is out and that means kids will be outside all day. Though all of Indian Creek doesn't have speed limit signs, the speed limit in most subdivisions is around 25 mph. Please watch for balls rolling out onto our roads and slow down to avoid endangering children. Kids are kids and even though they are told to watch for cars, they are still kids and will run onto the road. Also, there are many 'walkers' in our neighborhood; a lot of those with dogs. So let's make our neighborhood a safe one and please drive 25 (or slower!). Thanks!



48th ANNUAL

Towanda 4th of JULY CELEBRATION – 2016

Towanda, Illinois 61776

(Exit 171 - on I-55; 7 miles North-East of Bloomington)

Website: <http://towandajuly4.com>

MISS & MASTER

By **Monday, June 20** ~

Email or call to enter children who will be 3-years to 6-years old on that date, and are, or will be, attending Towanda Elementary, to: hllueschen@gmail.com or (309 826-8735). Include child's name, gender, parents' name(s) and contact information.

Court members will be notified by July 1.

Winners will be announced at the dance on July 3, and ride in the parade on July 4.

Sunday, July 3, 2016

4:30 – 7:00 pm Spaghetti Dinner *Community Building*
8:00 – 11:00 pm Community Dance *South Park*
Music by "Sweetwater"

Monday, July 4, 2016

All Day Flea Market *North & South Parks*
All Day Food Concessions *Community Bldg And Parks*
8:45-9:30 am Parade Lineup *School*
10:00 am Parade 'Steps Off'
Dusk Fireworks

Sunday, July 3

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Serving spaghetti, salad, and bread prepared by Avanti's with homemade dessert and beverage at the Community Building ~ 4:30 – 7:00 pm. Carry Outs are available. Tickets are \$6/adult; \$4/child 2-7; under 2 - **FREE** (both advance & at the door); Cindy Kelley ckek71@frontier.com, 663-4796 or Pat Pulokas, 728-2118, palp@mchsi.com;

COMMUNITY DANCE

The FREE dance in South Park is from 8:00 – 11:00 pm with music provided by "Sweetwater"
Miss/Master winners announced. Concessions. Donations appreciated. Bring lawn chairs.

Monday, July 4

FLEA MARKET

The Flea Market will be held all day in North and South Parks. Furniture, primitives, bottles, coins, art glass, china, pressed and cut glass, jewelry, brass and copper, handcrafted items, books, clocks, antiques, collectibles; many booths will have LOTS of items for sale. Free admission; dealer space reserved @ \$40/space.
Linda Potts ~ 728-2384

PARADE

"OUR Citizens Make Towanda Great!"

8:45 am Registration and line up at Towanda School
9:45 am Grand Marshals Award for the float that best represents the parade theme.
10:00 am Parade 'steps off' from the school

Parade Route: Adams & East St go West; Jefferson turn North; Washington go East; Madison turn South; Monroe go East; at Taylor go South; exit at Hely & school grounds.

Participants: Grand Marshals Dolly and Steve Fincham; Tin Lizzies; Community Band; Calliope; elected dignitaries and candidates; floats; Towanda's volunteer firemen; antique cars, tractors, other vehicles, bicyclers & walkers.

Local flag bearers will be able to carry the U.S. flags in the parade! Plan to be a part of this spectacular and breathtaking unit!

Older youth and adults are urged to sign up.
The route is a little hilly and about 1 mile long.
Only 50 flags are available.

Speed Check-in & FLAGS for units that are pre-registered. No fee to participate; but donations are appreciated.
Gail Ann Briggs ~ 728-2187 ~ rgbriggs@frontiernet.net

FOOD CONCESSIONS

Towanda Scouts ~ pork chop and BBQ sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, desserts, and drinks, at the Community Bldg.
Other items ~ will be available from vendors in both parks: fried vegetables, ribbon potatoes, tenderloins, corn dogs, elephant ears, shake-ups, Kettle Corn, & more!

FIREWORKS ~ at Dusk !!

The fireworks will be set off from the Towanda Township Building about .8 miles East of Towanda on 1900 North Road. The display will be clearly visible from town.

202 W. College Avenue
Normal, Illinois 61761-2552



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

Ecology Action Center

April Showers Bring Rain Barrel Workshops

The Ecology Action Center welcomes the spring and invites all landscapers and gardeners to participate in one of their ever-popular, hands-on workshops in which individuals build their own water-saving, rainwater collection system. EAC provides all the materials, equipment, and training so that each participant goes home with a high-quality rain harvester at a very low price.

The Ecology Action Center will hold a rain barrel workshop on Saturday May 28, with more dates coming in June. Participants have a choice of a traditional 55-gallon rain barrel (food-grade) or a 275-gallon "Mega Rain Harvester". Workshop fees are \$45 (\$35 EAC member) for a 55-gallon rain barrel or \$105 (\$90 EAC member) for a 275-gallon Mega Rain Harvester.

Rain barrels are an ancient technology seeing a significant resurgence in recent years. They not only increase water conservation but also help reduce storm water runoff pollution, a major source of water pollution locally and nationwide.

Workshop space is limited and pre-registration is required; online registration is available at ecologyactioncenter.org. Consult the BN-Green Events calendar on the right side of the home page for dates and registration.

Plastic Garden Pot Recycling Program on Hiatus

A local volunteer-based program to recycle plastic garden pots is on hold because a lack of suitable space to house the program. In the eight years since the program began, nearly 71 tons of garden pots have been recycled instead of landfilled, due to the hard work of a small group of dedicated volunteers.

The program previously was housed at the Crossroads Center in a donated space; that space is no longer available, putting the program on hold until a suitable space can be found. Previous local drop-off locations for plastic garden pots are no longer accepting the pots; these locations include Casey's Garden Shop, A&B Hatchery, Niepagen Greenhouse, and the Crossroads Center. Residents are asked to reuse their pots where possible or otherwise throw them in the trash, as this grade of plastic is not accepted in curbside recycling programs, despite the fact that they are often labeled with familiar recycling codes.

The garden pot recycling program started in late 2007 as a partnership between the Ecology Action Center, McLean County Master Gardeners, and other organizations. Additional entities provided assistance to the program over the years, most notably YouthBuild McLean County and Bloomington Township.

The effort to recycle garden pots long been possible only due to the hard work of many volunteers; it is a labor intensive process that involves cleaning the pots of dirt and debris, sorting by size and material, and stacking or baling the material for accumulation until a sizable load is ready for sale to a plastics recycler. While the plastic does have value as a commodity, the revenue is insufficient to cover the true

full costs of the program. The program has only been viable with the donation of rent-free work space and thousands of hours of volunteer labor.

Ecology Action Center Announces Sugar Creek Stewards Program

The Ecology Action Center is starting a volunteer-based riparian stewardship program for Sugar Creek and invites the public to participate in removing non-native or invasive plants and beautifying the greenway. Volunteers will learn about rivers and floodplains, the importance of native grasses and flowers to wildlife and humans, the benefits and the differences between native, non-native and naturalized plants, as well as what “invasive” means.

The Stewards will meet from 9 am to 12 pm on the third Saturday of the month throughout the year: there is always something to do, even if there is frost on the ground. Individuals eighteen years old and older can sign up to volunteer at <https://ecologyactioncenter.org/event/sugar-creek-stewards-workday/>. Workday location and other details are provided upon registration. Volunteers are requested to bring their own workgloves and register online.

Water will be provided; participants should bring a reusable water bottle. The Sugar Creek Stewards is a program of the Ecology Action Center, and is supported by the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal. For more information about volunteering, contact Marcus Ricci at mricci@ecologyactioncenter.org or at 309-454-3169, ext. 15.

McLean County Goes Solar

McLean County, IL – May 3, 2016 – The Ecology Action Center (EAC) of Normal, IL, is partnering with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) to bring their solar group buy program to the Bloomington-Normal area. MREA’s program works with home, business, and farm owners throughout McLean County to lower their electricity bills by making solar more accessible through the power of volume purchasing. “This is an exciting opportunity to expand solar in McLean County, lower energy bills for participants and expand our community’s sustainability efforts,” said Michael Brown, Executive Director for the Ecology Action Center.

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 American Legion

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday June 5th 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.

There will be a pork chop dinner on Friday June 17th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include pork chop sandwich, French fries, green beans, 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 June 16th 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.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake

Mulch is used and needed in so many places in the garden, and when we go to buy some, which is kind is best? The most common types of mulch are wood mulch and rock mulch. They all have advantages and disadvantages. The most common mulch is wood mulch. It can be wood chips or bark chips. It is usually inexpensive and available at many places, some places it is free. Wood chips will break down and return nutrients to the soil. They are light weight and can be easy to remove if you change your mind. Wait until the soil has warmed up before applying mulch. Never apply more than 2 inches and keep it back from the crown of plants to prevent insects and disease problems.

The disadvantage of wood mulch; it does need to be refreshed periodically. If you use the colored mulch it will fade with sun and rain. It can also blow or wash away. Weed seeds can be blown in and germinate. (Fluff it up with a rake)

Rock mulch rarely needs to be refreshed. It doesn't blow away or wash away unless there's a heavy rain. It is permanent.

The disadvantage of rock is it can be hard to walk on and hard to remove if you change your mind. It helps to put plastic down before the rocks, but in time the plastic works up. Rock mulch is expensive to purchase and is heavy and the lawn mower can throw it out.

If you treat your ash trees in the spring, wait until the leaves are 3/4 of the way out. By then the pollen has blown away and won't be as bad for the pollinators. Be sure to pull the mulch or sod back before applying the drench, you want the roots to get all of it.

The grass has been growing and the trees, shrubs, and perennials are also growing. Now it seems something always needs to be done in the garden.

If you use some dark green spray on wire baskets, you could place them over the valuable plants to protect them from the rabbits and squirrels. The baskets can be removed when the plants have matured and aren't so tasty to the rabbits.

Watch for and control the eastern tent caterpillars and pine sawfly. Also treat euonymus and pines for scale crawlers when the bridal wreath spirea is in bloom.

Start pinching the top 1-2 inches of new growth of chrysanthemums, tall asters, and sedum to have a more bushy plant. Stop pinching by the 4th of July.

When common lilacs are in bloom, spray white bark birches, if needed.

Let the tulip leaves turn brown before you cut them off. They need to collect and store nutrients from the sun for next years flowers.

Set up soaker hoses and cover them with 2 inches of mulch. It will be easier to do it while the plants are smaller and they will be ready to use when needed.

Once spirea and other spring blooming shrubs have finished blooming, it is time to prune them. You can cut 1/3 of the old wood out from the center and remove the top 1/3 of the shrub. Then step back and see what else needs to be trimmed to make it look nice. If this is done every year, that will help keep the size under control.

It is possible to have a healthy organic lawn. Grass is capable of fighting off invasion of weeds, pest and diseases without use of chemicals. Water deeply and infrequently when needed. That will encourage deep roots. Mow high.

Grass that is mowed to no less than 3 inches can shade the soil to keep the roots cool. It will also shade the soil so the weed seeds will not have the light to germinate and it will be harder for the weed seeds to reach the soil.

Fertilize roses with a liquid 20-20-20 solution when the plants set flower buds.

You can place a couple inches of organic mulch around trees, plants and shrubs to reduce weeding and help conserve moisture. Be sure to keep the mulch 2-4 inches back from the trunk and crown to give air circulation and prevent disease.

It has finally warmed up enough so that we can plant tomatoes, peppers and sweet potatoes. Also once the night temperatures stay above 50 degrees, you can take the house plants out. Place them in a shady area for a few days to adjust to the bright sun.

When planting your containers, first of all think about if they will be in the sun or shade when choosing the plants. Also, you don't want plants that like dry soil mixed with plants that need moist soil. To make them look balanced, you want something tall as a "thriller", something kind of a vine as a "spiller" to drape over the side, and a "filler" to fill in the space between. Don't completely fill the container, leave about 1/3 of the soil uncovered. The plants will need to have space to grow and not crowd out and kill other plants. Check the tag to see how big the mature plant will be. Also, the roots need space in the soil to grow.

When you place your containers, it helps to have a saucer under the container to hold some water, giving the roots time to absorb it but don't leave so much that the roots stay too wet. Also, place the container on a trivet so air can circulate between the container and deck or patio. You don't want the moisture to stain the deck or concrete. Also when the sun heats the concrete, it would also heat the soil and damage the plant.

Towanda Library

ROVER Classes Presented by McLean County Museum of Art @ 3:30 to 6:30 on Tuesday, June 7th: Ages 12 to 19 participate in a Plaster Life Casting Class. You must register online at McLean County Arts Center www.mcac/Education/ROVERRegistration

Towanda READS Book Club is reading "Cane River" by Lalita Tademy to discuss on June 14th at 5:00 pm at the library. See all Book Club selections for the coming year on the library's website. Join us when the title interests you. Discussions add a whole new dimension to your reading experience.

Youth Summer Reading @ 10:30 on Wednesdays and 4:30 on Mondays from June 13 through July 27: This summer's theme is "Read for the Win." Each week focuses on a characteristic of "winners." Plenty of prizes thanks to the support of many community businesses and organizations!

Monday, June 13th @ 4:30 -- Opening Games!

Wednesday, June 15th @ 10:30 – Back by popular demand - Music Therapist Meryl Brown

Monday, June 20 @ 4:30 – Mini-golf and making your own Foosball table

Wednesday, June 22 @ 10:30 – Play Ball!!! Join the Cornbelters for a baseball game on our lawn.

Monday, June 27 @ 4:30 – Active Game Day! Play Angry Birds and Bucket Tag.

Wednesday, June 29 @ 10:30 – Make your own rocket using STEM concepts. Whose flies farthest?

Flight Simulation Classes @ 2:00 to 4:00 on Fridays June 17th and 24th: Seeking Middle School/ High School-Aged Pilots to join our Quad Squad. Crew size is limited...apply now at library! Must attend both sessions – one teaches you the basics of flying using flight simulators on computers and then next provides quad-copters for you to fly! Eureka Library is teaching these sessions at our library.

Adult Summer Reading: Adults read for prizes too! Pick up an Adult Reading Bingo card after June 1st at the library. This program runs until August 15th -- when winners will be drawn.

Teen Summer Reading: Stop in the library weekly to enter the in-house contest. Also pick up a Teen Bingo card to read in a contest that ends August 15th.

Teen Volunteers: We need teen volunteers during each of the Youth Summer Reading sessions, as well as every Friday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00– to help us prepare some of the games, such as Angry Birds. *Teen Volunteer Appreciation Party* will be in August. Please fill out a Volunteer Application Form at the library prior to June 13th.

Crochet Group @ 5:00 each Tuesday: This lively group meets throughout the summer.

Towanda Busy Bees 4H Club

Blood Drive

Towanda Community Building

103 South Jefferson
Towanda, IL 61776

**Tuesday, June 21, 2016
2:30 PM to 6:30 PM**

For an appointment, please call: Martha Rients at 309-728-2178

Sponsored by: Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club & Towanda Home and Community Education Group

Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID.

Bring a friend and help save lives together.

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information.



Towanda Lions Club

Topic: Small Change for Your Community

Some of you are aware that the Towanda Lions Club sponsored a project where "Small Change" containers were distributed around the Towanda community. 100% of the change collected benefits 4 local organizations, Towanda Elementary School, Towanda Library, Towanda American Legion, and Towanda Fire Department. Currently, the containers are located at FS Fast Stop, KICKS, Towanda Elementary School, Towanda American Legion, Towanda Community Building, FS Grain, and Towanda Fire Station.

The first container was placed at FS Fast Stop during the second week of March, 2016 with subsequent containers being placed throughout April and May. The Towanda Lions had no idea how well this program would be received, but as of April 29, 2016, \$166.82 was collected. The 4 organizations mentioned above were presented with checks in the amount of \$41.70 each.

A big thank you goes to you, Towanda Citizens. You obviously thought this was a worthwhile cause and without you this would not be possible. This shows you how far "Small Change" can go.

It is your Towanda Lions club desire for the "Small Change for Your Community" project to continue and prosper. So, if you see one of our containers and you have some spare change in your pocket or purse, please consider contributing. We will keep monitoring the containers and distributing the money as long as it comes in. Oh, if you see one of our Towanda Lions events, we would appreciate your support too.

Thank you!

Bob Hancock
President Towanda Lions

Your Towanda Lions Club members are: Stan Bauer, Jerry Bersche, Louie Blank, Glenn Block, Sam Foster, Ralph Gibson, Bob Hancock, Maurice Jones, Dick Jurgens, Bob King, Mickey Lang, Doug Leathers, Wayne Lutz, Lyle Merritt, Jim McDermott, Rick Myers, Randy Pearson, Mike Potts, Roy Redding, Denny Redick, Dennis Rollins, Curt Ronnekamp, Mel Schlueter, Steve Shipley, and Mike Thomas.

Towanda HCE

The Towanda HCE Unit will have a special June outing on Wednesday, June 1, 2016. We will be going to the Funks Prairie Home and Gem & Mineral Museum in Shirley. We will meet at the Towanda Community Building at 8:15 am, carpooling and leave no later than 8:30 am for Shirley, IL and the Funk Prairie Home. We will eat out for lunch and that is yet to be decided.

For questions and to RSVP as soon as possible, contact Kathleen Emery at 309-824-2784. We will need an accurate number of those participating.

Towanda HCE will again sponsor the July 3rd Spaghetti Supper which is on a Sunday evening, 4:30-7:00 p.m. Advance Tickets may be purchased from Towanda HCE members or from Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797. **Tickets are Adults/\$6; Children 2-7 yrs/\$4; Under 2 yrs free.** Spaghetti, bread and salad by Avanti's. Homemade desserts and drinks. Carry out is available and walk ins are welcome. Come preview the Towanda Flea Market and enjoy good food!

Local News & Events

Beginning May 24, 2016 Raab Road will be closed to all traffic between Normal Community High School and the entrance to the Apostolic Christian Church located just west of Towanda Barnes Road. Raab Road will remain closed until approximately the middle of August 2016. Access to NCHS will only be from Airport Road. Through traffic will be detoured to Fort Jesse Road. This road closure is for the reconstruction of Raab Road from NCHS to Towanda Barnes Road.

- Sat.May.28 – Commencements for both NCWHS (2p) & NCHS (6p) will be held at the Coliseum
- Mon.Jun.27 – 4th July Planning meeting, Community Building at 6:30 p

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).

Justin (16) and Jairon (17) Schwamberger are available to help with yard work or other maintenance jobs. Call 728-2857.

Need help mowing and trimming your lawn this summer? Joe Kaufmann (4 Eastwood Ct) would be glad to mow for you! Prices vary depending on lawn size and use of your equipment or his. Call 309-824-1027 (Joe's cell) or 309-728-8095 house phone

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

"Looking for someone to help you with yard work? Need help taking care of your pet while you are away or while you are at work? Call Avery Hartman, 728-2093. I have experience and references."

Want to prevent the "summer slide" or the loss of knowledge over summer break. Feel like your kid needs more education? Have your son or daughter come down to 5 Fox Creek Road for a summer tutoring program. Twelve-year-old Tyler Allen can just help you with what you need for math, writing, and science. If you want to enroll your child or want to become a tutor for reading and/or social studies, and are open on Mondays or Tuesdays, contact me at 309-684-1567 or email me at baseballtylerallen@gmail.com. When you enroll, I will provide you with the schedule.