

Indian Creek Newsletter

September 2016

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Towanda HCE

Towanda HCE Unit will be meeting for their first meeting of the 2016-2017 year on Monday, September 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The program, "Someday is today; live your bucket list" will be presented by Sandy Whalen. A business meeting will follow the program and refreshments will be served. Our new program books will list the years meetings September through June. Guests are always welcome to attend and interact with our program discussions.

Home and Community Education (HCE) believes in the Cooperative Extension's mission of helping area residents put knowledge to work. Our lessons, demonstrations and workshops promote lifelong learning. Community service activities and social events promote friendships and help "members find a better way to a better life through education." Contact Cindy Kelley, Towanda HCE president for more information about this meeting and HCE: 309-824-4797. You may also contact Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650 or rbnprsn@mchsi.com.

September activities include many cultural enrichment activities that open to the public, some with fees. **Quilted drawstring plate carrier**, Mon, Sep 12, 1-4 p.m. at the Extension Office Auditorium, 1615 Commerce Parkway, Bloomington. Call 309-821-1266 for list of supplies to bring, fees. RSVP/fees due by Sep 6. **Read & Share**, Mon, Sep 19, 2-3:30 p.m.. The book *Best Girl* by Anita Diamant will be discussed. More info: Lavonne, 309-661-6391.

Community Service Day is Mon, Sep 19, 9-12, 1-4 –Farm Bureau Auditorium near Interstate Center We will be working on xmas stocking to send to soldiers. Bring your lunch or go out for lunch. Come and go as you are able and bring a sewing machine if you have one. You may also bring your own project(s) to work on. This is a great group of very industrious people. You don't have to know how to sew to participate.

Save the date of the International Study of Ecuador, which will be held Sat., Oct 8, 9a-1p at Christ Lutheran Church, corner of Ft Jesse and Hershey Rds. Learn all about the traditions, foods and customs of Ecuador. Program open to the public. More info, Phyllis, 828-5465.

McLean HCE is planning their **3rd annual Attic Treasures & Bake Sale on Saturday**, Oct 22, 8a-2p at Trinity Lutheran Church, 901 S Madison, Bloomington. "Treasures" include Christmas items, household items, books, small furniture, linens, crafts, special bake goods and so much more. **Sale proceeds will benefit the McLean County 4-H program. Call 309-275-8898 for more information**

The McLean County Regional Planning Council needs people to take this short transit survey for their long-range planning in transportation.

"...outreach campaign to seek feedback and opinions on how people feel about transportation in our community. The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) serves as a framework for how transportation will look in our community over the next 20 years.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRTP2017BPS1>

We hope to distribute this as widely as possible, so please share the link with your network. We will be promoting the survey on Facebook and Twitter so please share our posts and tweets with your followers."

I just took it! Doesn't take long.

Gardening Tips

by Helen Leake



It brightens up a room and your spirit when you can bring in some fresh flowers from your garden. It is disappointing when a day or 2 later they are ready to be thrown out.

To get your flowers to last longer, go out to your garden to cut the flowers early in the morning when the flowers are fresh. Take bucket with some lukewarm water and a sharp knife or pruners.

Choose flowers that are nearly open or freshly open and don't have any brown or dying petals. Many of the stems have solid stems and they just need to be cut at a 45 degree angle. This increases the surface area so the stem can easily take up more water.

Some stems, like hollyhock, larkspur, and delphinium, are hollow. Once cut, turn the flower upside down and fill the stem with tepid water. Then stuff the end with a piece of cotton to hold the water until the stem is placed into water.

The woody stems, like lilac, don't take up water as easy as other types. Open the surface area by making 1/2-1 inch long cut up the stem with sharp pruners.

Then, there are milky stems, such as dahlias and poppies that put out a milky sap that prohibits water from moving into the stem. Stop the sap flow by searing the end. Hold the cut end over a candle or lit match, or dip the cut end into boiling water for 10 seconds.

Make a fresh cut before you place the flowers in the vase and remove all leaves and flowers that would be under water in the vase. Give it fresh water every 3 or 4 days and enjoy.

Japanese maples are often planted in the shade, but they do better if they receive some sun. They will grow better and have better leaf color with some sun. They cannot take the afternoon sun, so plant them on the south-east side of the house or in a place protected by a fence or other shrubs to protect them from the strong wind.

Japanese maples prefer moist, but well drained slightly acid soil. Before you plant the tree, add compost to the hole. Also mulch 3-4 inches deep around the trunk, adding to it every year to help keep the soil moist and cool and protect the roots during the winter. Be sure to keep the mulch back a few inches from the trunk to prevent disease and allow air exchange. Add slow release, balanced fertilizer every spring.

On warm sunny days in the winter the sap can start to flow inside the tree, then freeze at night. Wrap the trunk with vinyl ventilated tree wrap in the fall and be sure to remove it in the spring.

Pruning requires a gentle touch, the branches break easy. You can prune any time of the year, but you really do not need to prune at all, unless it has gotten too big. Don't prune during extreme heat and when the sap is flowing in late winter when the tree is more susceptible to fungus disease. Cut the branches so that its right up to the collar, not flush against the trunk.

On weeping Japanese maple, prune back branches that touch the ground. Remove the weak branches and the ones that touch or rub each other. Cut the branches that grow straight up.

The earthworms, that we seldom see, are very busy, important creatures. They are a sightless creature with a gizzard to grind the mulch, an alimentary canal, reaching from its mouth to its anus, and a body made of rings surrounded by bristles, short stiff hairs. When it moves, it doesn't zigzag like a snake. It compresses and expands with the rings and bristles, moving straight through the soil. As it moves, it leaves an opening for ventilation for air and water to get to the roots of the plants.

The earthworms eat the vegetable matter, such as dead plants roots and other vegetable matter and their body turns it into very rich castings that come out of the alimentary canals. It will also detoxify the materials they eat, leaving clean, pathogen free castings out their back end, giving us fertile soil.

Worms incubate in a small cocoon until conditions are right to support their hatching. The cocoon is about the size of a pin head. The worms and their eggs can lay dormant while in an inhospitable conditions. When the conditions improve, they come to life again and are productive. They thrive in cool, dark, damp conditions.

In order to attract more earthworms, we need to provide a habitat they like. The thicker the soil canopy, the easier to maintain, whether it is living forage or compost, wood chips, leaves or straw. Manure and compost will give them food and help keep the soil cool, moist and dark. Chemical fertilizers, pesticide, and herbicides contain acid-based nutrients that are toxic to earthworms. Don't apply anything to the soil that an earthworm cannot eat. They can take compost and turn it into rich soil.

If we want to improve our soil, we need to encourage the earthworms to multiply.

Helen J. Leake

Calendar

Mon.Sep.5 – no school / Labor Day

Tue.Sep.6 – no school for Unit 5 students / Teacher Institute

Wednesdays: Aug. 31, Sept.14, and Sep. 28 are 1-hr late starts in Unit 5

It is hoped that Raab Rd between NCHS and Towanda Barnes Rd will re-open by late September.

Annual FALL Towanda Area Garage Sales

Want to share advertising cost (and benefit from a 'built-in' crowd)? Sales dates are September 8-10 (Thursday-Saturday)

To be included on the list of area sales, provide ~ by **Wednesday, August 31, 2016:**

- Sale location
- Contact information (phone & email)
- Days and times of your sale (you do not need to have your sale each day)
- List of items (include as much as you like, in priority order, and depending on space available, they will be listed on the flyer and by category in the Pantagraph ad)
- \$7 fee (for flyers, Pantagraph ads), checks payable to Gail Ann Briggs

Please

- Email sale information to rgbriggs@frontiernet.net (preferred) or
- Send to 112 Hunt St; Towanda IL 61776
- Call (728-2187) with questions.

You'll get a response by email when I have your information! Anyone with items they particularly want to sell may want to take out an individual ad as well.

Thanks!

*Gail Ann Briggs
112 Hunt St
(309) 728-2187*

Towanda Library

PreSchool Story Hours Begin September 7th

Each Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 preschoolers are invited to enjoy stories, songs, crafts, and other pre-literacy building activities at the library. Very young children and their even younger siblings learn about the magical place that is "the library." Regular attendance at Story Hours shapes the way your child will always see and use the library. Stories are a wonderful way to explore and encourage social/emotional awareness. Story Hours are a great place to meet and make friends!

Bulldog Builders LEGO Club Begins September 7th

On the first Wednesday of each month during the coming school year our library will host a LEGO Builder's Club from 2:30 to 3:30. Parents may pre-register their child by picking up a registration form

at the Towanda Library. Sessions begin September 7th and are led by a certified LEGO instructor who will provide literacy-based activities geared toward 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders. Snacks will be served.

New School Year – New Bulldog Book Club Begins September 14th

4th and 5th Graders [meet every “late-start” Wednesday throughout the school year from 2:30 to 3:30](#) at our library — to discuss the best juvenile literature, play games to locate library resources, create their own literary masterpieces, and have fun doing it! This is a safe environment to practice and hone reading skills learned at school. An after-school snack is served. Pre-registration is required. First [session of the school year is September 14.](#)

Tuesday Tunes Begins September 13th

The first Tuesday of school attendance each month a music therapist from Developing Melodies will lead singing, dancing, and stories at our library from 2:30 to 3:30. *Tuesday Tunes* is geared toward the developmental needs of Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Graders. Parents need to pre-register their child by picking up a registration form at the library prior to the first session on September 13. An after-school snack will be served.

Read to Dogs Begins September 13th

Read-to-Dogs begins September 13 and runs through November 15. Each Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 6:30 young readers may 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.

TOWANDA READS Book Discussion

This groups meets the 2nd Tuesday of even-numbered months. You are invited to join the group any time that the title interests you. October 11th @ 5 pm the group discusses “Bella Cora” by Phillip Margulies. Joining a book discussion adds a whole new dimension to reading!

Thank You Summer Reading Sponsors/Donors

You helped to motivate more than 100 youth who participated in “Read for the Win” – our summer reading program. Sponsors/Donors: Towanda LIONS, Towanda PTO, McLean County Retired Teachers, Towanda Home Extension, FS Fast Stop, Ed Anderson Trucking, R-EZ Storage (Evelyn Zorn), Henson/KIRK Disposal, Towanda 4-H, Towanda Ladies Night Out, FRIENDS of Towanda Library, Avanti’s, Barnes and Noble, Teri Rutledge, Kroger, Great Harvest Bread Company, Wal-Mart, and Target.

Crocheting each Tuesday evening from 5:00 to 7:00

This group has been meeting regularly for 4 years. Instructor, Susie Shoemaker, leads the group. Bring your own projects and/or questions. New members are always welcome, as are one-time requests for help.

Summary for FY2015/16 Towanda Library Use compared to FY2014/15 Use

Adult Fiction book circulation was up 5%. Children's Fiction book circulation was up 28%. Children's Non-fiction book circulation was up 37%.

Visits to the library were up 12%.

Total Program Attendance was up 24.5%.

Children's Program Attendance was up 26%.

Adult Program Attendance was up 22%.

Magazine circulation was up 3%.

DVD circulation and Adult Nonfiction circulation was down 1%.

Total circulation was up 13%.

Adult Audio book circulation was up 40%.

Interlibrary Loan was up 4%. These are books borrowed from the other libraries in the area for Towanda residents and delivered free-of-charge to our library. ILL is NOT included in total circulation and totals approximately 2,500 items annually borrowed by our library users in Towanda plus 2,500 items annually sent from our library to users at other area libraries.

36 unique users borrowed 525 e-books and audiobooks from this library's online e-book collection in the past year

Total Adult Visits to our library = 6,602

Total Youth Visits to our library = 4,038

This library averages 210 users per week.

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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

<http://www.towandalibrary.org>

Email: director@towandalibrary.org

Towanda Busy Bees

Towanda Busy Bees 4H Club will hold their first meeting for the 2016-17 year on Tuesday September 20th, 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. 4H is open to all youth aged 8 to 18 by September 1st. Cloverbuds is open to younger youth age 5 by September 1st. For more information about 4H contact Martha Rients, Club leader [728-2178](tel:728-2178). New members are welcome.

Legion News

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday September 4th 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 ribeye steak dinner on Friday September 9th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include rib eye steak, baked potato, salad, roll, drink and dessert for \$12.

All dinners are open to the public. Carry outs are available.

Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday September 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.



American Legion Post 931

Commander: Tom Wagner (309) 287-7861 Adjutant: Mike Potts (309) 728-2384

Above All A Good Roof ~ We Need Your Help!

The Village of Towanda has been very fortunate to have such a nice meeting place to serve the entire community. Our Legion was founded in 1945 in memory of Marion Lee Miller. It is important that we maintain the building to serve our current and future generations.

It takes a Village to support a community meeting place. The **American Legion's** success depends entirely on active membership, participation, community support and volunteerism. The

organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives. The **American Legion** honors the sacrifice of those who served by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

Besides a monthly meeting place for the membership and a home for our fund raising meals, the building is available for rent to the public for family celebrations, reunions, special events and gatherings of all kinds.

Currently, our monthly fund raising meals barely cover our monthly expenses, leaving almost nothing for major upkeep and repairs.

The time has come that we need to reach out to the community to help us put a new roof on the building. Won't you please support this important cause with a monetary donation? ***This is also a great opportunity to make a donation in honor of, or in memory of a friend or family member.*** Volunteer labor will also be appreciated on our work days.

Please help today! Contact Mike Potts or Tom Wagner to volunteer or send your tax deductible donation to:

**Mike Potts, Adjutant
American Legion Post 931
P.O. Box 103
Towanda, Illinois 61776**

(Please make checks payable to: American Legion Post #931)

Tree Services

With all the tree losses our neighborhood is experiencing this tree service resource may be useful.

Paul L. Patterson
Oak Ridge Farms, Tree Sales and Transplanting
4799 N. 1625 East Rd.
Heyworth 61745
309.533.2450 (c)
309.473.3505 (h)

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

Call Home - 728-2990

Text or call- 309-242-1802

Email - oldcars@frontiernet.net

Website - www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock

Pinterest Recipes - 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).

Pampered Chef features cooking shows, catalog parties, freezer meal workshops, bridal showers & fundraisers! Contact your local Indian Creek consultant for these events.

"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."

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

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.

Need help taking care of your pet while your away, call Bailee Harmon at (309) 530-5360. "I love animals and have been volunteering at the Humane Society for almost six months. I would love to help take care of your animals".

Are looking for someone to watch your pets when you are gone or walk them while you are at work? If so, call Sami Hartman (30 Candle Ridge Road). I am responsible and LOVE pets. I have experience and references. My number is 728-2093."