

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

March 2017

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

The Indian Creek Annual Meeting
will be held at 7 pm
Thursday, March 2
at the Towanda Community Center

Calendar

Daylight Savings Time will begin at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 12, 2017. Remember to set your clocks ahead 1-hr.

Unit 5

1) Kindergarten Registration - Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Children reaching the age of 5 on or before September 1, 2017, will be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten. Parents should bring a certified birth certificate, current immunization and health records and proof of residency. Students entering kindergarten must turn in a current physical, vision, dental exam and immunization records. Students will be excluded from school without physical and immunizations by first day of school. Call Towanda School 309-557-4426 or the Unit 5 District Office 309-557-4400 or go to www.unit5.org to find out about proof of residency or how to register.

2) Late Start - Due to a change in the school calendar there is only a single 1-hour Late Start in March. It is on Wed. Mar.8.

3) Spring Break - There will be no school the week of March 27-31.

4) Election of School Board Members is on the Tuesday April 4 ballot.

Garage Sales

The Annual Spring Towanda Area Garage Sales will be held Thu. May 4-Sat. May 6. Detailed information will be in next month's newsletter. The spring sales are held each year at the beginning of the Illinois Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival which are Saturday/Sunday May 6 & 7, 2017 – go to www.il66redcarpetcorridor.org/ for information about this event.

HCE

The **Towanda Home & Community Education** group will meet on Monday, March 13, 7pm at the Towanda Community Building. The program, "**Beginners Guide to Buying Antiques**" and the Fact Find "**Spend Smart, Save Smart Tips**" will be presented by Bev Hornickel. Hostesses are Tammy Stewart and Ruth Stewart. Guests are welcome to attend. For more information contact Robin, 815-579-1650 or rbnprsn@outlook.com. You can bring an "antique" for show & tell. Three members of Towanda HCE are planning on going to the 93rd IAHCCE annual conference in East Peoria, Mar 14-16. The theme is "**Down by the Riverside.**"

Additional March HCE activities that are open to the public (some with fees). Call contact person for more information:

• **Mar 11, 9a-12n, Super Saturday HCE Tri-county Event**, at Christ Lutheran Church, 311 N Hershey, Normal- **Free** -9a, Register; 9:30a, Flag History presentation: 10:30a, 3 programs presented at the same time: Interior Design; Grilling & BBQ Tips, Tricks & Techniques; New & Interesting Fruits & Vegetables, 309-824-2784.

• **Mar 13, 1-4p**, Landscape painting class held at Extension Auditorium, 1615 Commerce Pkwy, Bloomington - Supplies to bring: paint brushes, paper towels, glass jar, palette for paint, class size limited to 10, RSVP by Mar 7/Info/Fees contact Lynda, 309-821-1266 or lkobs@aol.com.

• **Mar 20, 9-3**, Community Service Day at Farm Bureau Auditorium, 2243 Westgate Drive, Bloomington- **FREE**- making walker bags or bring project of your choice. Bring sewing machine if you have one. Bring lunch or go out for lunch, come and go as you are able. Sewers and non-sewers welcome. Questions: Karen Crull, 309-826-9559.

Each month we get together to work on crafts or other special projects. In Feb, bring your own projects or we will make dish towels, pot holders. More 2017 Meeting dates: Apr 17, May 15, Jun 19

LLL - "Beginners Guide To Buying Antiques" - Tuesday, Feb 28, 1-3 pm, Presenter: Pam Newby of Tamara's Estate Sales - Farm Bureau Auditorium, 2243 Westgate Dr, Blm. Free and open to public. Info: Delilah, 309-532-0314. **Units- send representative to give this lesson at March Unit meetings. Bring 1 "antique" to share & learn about.

SUPER SATURDAY 2017 Tri-County Event

March 11, 2017 ~ 9 am -12:00

Christ Lutheran Church

(corner of Hershey & Ft Jesse Roads, Normal)

Livingston, McLean, Woodford Counties

9 am: Registration / 9:30 am: Program - Flag History

Flag program is wonderful, informative and beautiful. Don't miss it!

10:15 am- Break / LLL's @ 10:30am-11:30

3 Local Leader Lessons going on at the same time:

· Interior Design

· Grilling & BBQ: Tips, Tricks, Techniques

· New & interesting fruits & vegetables

Public Invited to Attend ~ Contact Kathleen, 309-824-2784

Each County Unit: Send a local Leader for each program!

All members/non members invited to attend!

IAHCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
March 14-16
East Peoria, IL
Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center

The 93rd Annual Conference of the IAHCE opens on March 14, 2017 with opening ceremony at 11 am at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center. The theme for 2017 will be "Down by the Riverside with IAHCE." Tuesday, participate in a Fun Walk at 8:30 am. ALL Information - IAHCE website at www.iahce.org.

There are super workshops to attend for everyone. You will be amazed at all the fun and interesting topics that are presented. Join in the fun.

Registration rate for all 3 conference days: \$150/HCE members; Guests: 3 day package/\$170
1 day package rates also available. Registration postmarked by Feb 14, 2017 or extra fee if after Feb 14.
Not a HCE member? More info: Kathryn McNeely - 309-275-8898 or kathryn.mcneely42@gmail.com

Busy Bees 4-H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4-H club will meet on March 21, 2017, 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The members will be holding a canned food and personal care item drive to benefit Salvation Army. Anyone wishing to donate may drop off items at the community building or contact Martha Rients for pick up. The program for the night will be talks and demos. Come see what interesting things the 4-Hers have to share. Guests and new members are always welcome. 4-H is open to all youth ages 8 to 18. Contact Martha Rients, 728-2178 for more information.

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H Club held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at the Towanda Community Building.

Our guest speakers were the Indy-pendence Service Dog group from ISU, along with their black lab Dasher. Their goal is to inform and educate the community about the training, rights, and use of service dogs. They are partnered with "Paws Giving Independence." We learned that a service dog is any dog individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, a therapy dog is a dog trained to provide affection for people in stressful areas, an emotional support dog is a therapy dog prescribed by a doctor, and a facility dog is a therapy dog in a school. Club members voted to donate \$50 to ISU.

Talks and demonstrations: Claire Malinowski spoke on weaving. Sophie Clement and Shriya Kesharajavenkata presented a pair of robotic rabbits.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Mar. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. 4-H enrollment will be open for new members through April 15, 2017. For more information about joining Towanda 4-H, contact Malisa Kraft at 309-825-1235.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake

It is good to see that the daylight hours are getting longer. The house plants are beginning to wake up from their winter nap, and will soon be showing new growth. They will also like to have something to eat. Mid February, or about Valentine Day, is usually the time to start using fertilizer. Some people like to use something dry, like Osmocote, but most prefer to add the fertilizer to water. You can feed full strength once a month or 1/4 strength once a week. As always, follow the directions on the container. The main thing to remember is to be sure the soil is moist when you fertilize the plants. Fertilizing when the soil is really dry could damage the roots.

You can start the tuberous begonias now, as they are slow starting. Also start cool season annuals such as pansies, violas and snap dragons. Also start celery, leeks, and onion seeds indoors for transplants.

Check your perennials to see if they are heaving up from the freezing and thawing, strawberries and Coral Bells are noted for that. Push them back into the soil and add extra mulch to prevent them from heaving more.

Grapes and bramble fruit can be pruned back now. Be sure to sterilize your tools between each cut to prevent the spread of disease.

We all like a beautiful flower garden, but sometimes that is a challenge. We need good soil for a lot of the plants to do well, and most new sub-divisions don't have good soil. It is usually too rocky, too sandy, or too much clay.

One way to improve that soil is to add a lot of organic matter. You can work 2-4 inches of rotten manure, compost or peat moss into the top 6-10 inches of soil. You will need to do this every year or as needed. Mulch from the compost pile contains a lot of worms, bacteria, etc that gives the soil good nutrients. It also loosens the soil so the roots can absorb the nutrients and grow. It also makes it easier for the rain to soak in.

After your plants are in the ground, add more mulch around them to suppress the weeds, moderate the temperature, and hold the moisture. When you decide what plants to use, remember there are some plants that will do better in poor soil than others. Check at the garden center as to what kind of soil some plants require.

Keep in mind that it takes nature 100 years to make 1 inch of good top soil, and it only takes just a few minutes to destroy it. It takes time to improve it, but it is worth the effort. Overuse of chemicals can destroy the good insects in the soil, and turn good soil into poor soil. You want the soil moist when you work it, but if it is too wet when you work it, the results will result in compaction and clods that will last all season. To test for the right moisture, grub a handful of soil and gently squeeze it. Open your hand and tap the soil, if it breaks up it is okay to dig in.

The warm sun shiny days make us want to get out into the yard and get busy. You can prune the fruit trees; be sure to sterilize the loppers with 10 percent bleach after each cut so you don't spread disease. If the temperature is going to be above 40 degrees, you can apply dormant oil. It breaks the life cycles of insects without using pesticides. You can also use it on many ornamental shrubs before they leaf out. Be sure to coat all the branches and trunk. As always follow the directions on the container.

Now is a good time to water deeply the evergreens and any trees or shrubs planted within the last 4 years. They have not had time for their roots to grow out far enough. You could also add 1/4 strength fertilizer.

If you have had a history of tent caterpillars, look for the dark brown or gray egg masses that encircle the twig. Pick and destroy or scratch them off with your thumbnail. Do not drop them on the ground or put them in the compost, the eggs will hatch and return to the trees.

Winter isn't over yet, we could still have some damaging cold weather, so don't be in a hurry to rake all the leaves away from the shrubs and perennials. You can cut the ornamental grass back to about 3-4 inches before it shows signs of new growth. If you have several large clumps, you could tie a rope around it and use a chain saw to cut it. Cut it into shorter lengths and put it in the compost pile or save it and place it between the rows in the garden.

Library News

March is Youth Art Month: Parent/Child art sessions are Monday, March 6th and March 13th @ 4:00. The art work of children's book illustrators, Eric Carle and Beth Krommes, will be used as examples to spark your own art project. Art educator, Joe Hooten, teaches the sessions. Pre-registration required to determine art supplies needed.

LEGO Club: On Wednesday, March 1st @ 2:30. Enrollment is at capacity for this very popular after-school activity. Refreshments are served.

Tuesday Tunes: The next Tuesday Tunes is on March 7th, 2017 @ 2:30.

Bulldog Book Club: Each "Late Start" Wednesday of the school year @ 2:30. Enrollment is at capacity for this very popular after-school activity. March 8th is this month's meeting date. (Please note: for the remainder of the school year, there is only one Late Start per month.)

Story Hours: every Wednesday @ 10:30 a.m. Open enrollment allows children to join any time during the year – when they turn 3. Younger siblings sometimes join the fun games, songs, crafts, snacks, and stories. Families are invited to remain after the Story Hour to visit, as the children play with the giant LEGOS, Duplos, educational games, magnetic building blocks, beanbags, or doll house.

Read to Dogs: Individual one-on-one, 15-minute reading sessions are held every Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 6:30. [This spring's first session is March 14th.](#) Call the library to make an appointment for your child to read to one of the therapy dogs. Pre-registration required.

Towanda Reads Adult Book Discussions: second Tuesday of even-numbered months @ 5:00. Discussion on April 11th is of "Ordinary Grace" by William Kruger.

Senior Financial Assistance presented by Department on Aging: third Monday of each month from noon to 2:00. The March date is the 20th. Save money as they help you apply for Homestead Tax Exemptions, license plate discounts, or answer your questions on Social Security matters.

Crochet Group: every Tuesday @ 5:00 to 6:30.

Brownie Scouts meet at the library @ 2:30 on the second Thursday of each month - for the remainder of the school year.

Summer Reading Programs: As you plan your summer schedules, be sure to include Mondays @ 4:30 pm and/or Wednesdays @ 10:30 am for STEAM activities and stories at our library. The 2017 Summer Reading theme is "Read by Design." This year's activities will be geared toward upper-elementary students, as well as younger children. The July 19th Final Party is a "Maker Fair" with lots of prizes for well-executed design projects. Learn the project methods at the weekly Summer Reading sessions – then make your best effort to design a winning entry!

American Legion

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

Celebrate St Patrick's Day at the Legion. There will be a dinner on Friday March 17th. 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.

Towanda Boy Scouts

The Towanda Scouting Organization would like to thank the community for their support at the 61st 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 1,100 people. With the support of the community, Scouting will continue to thrive in Towanda.

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:

Winter is headed our way. When the snow falls, call Avery Hartman to help with snow removal. 728-2093.

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 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.

Are you 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.

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".

For Sale:

Used copy machine: The library will accept the best offer for a working copy/fax machine. Call (309) 728-2176.

Free:

Giving away 400 paving bricks. Suitable for edging, landscaping etc. 728-2343