

Indian Creek Newsletter

November 2017

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Towanda HCE October News

Towanda Home and Community Education group will meet Monday, Nov13, 7 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The program "**Gifts From Your Kitchen**" will be given by Linda Conder. Hostesses are Dorothy Brickey, Cindy Jacobs and Leatha Poshard. The Fact Find will be on the **McLean County HCE: 100 Years of History-** on units past and present. Towanda HCE meets on the second Monday of the month, Sep through June. Guests are always welcome. For more information about Towanda HCE, call Cindy Kelley, 663-4797 or Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650.

Regarding our 100 years of History, McLean HCE will have a parade float in the Heyworth Christmas Parade on Nov 12, beginning at 2 p.m. Come cheer us on.

More programs open to the public includes: **Nov 13, 1-4 p.m. Manpron Workshop** - Make apron from man's shirt, Extension Office Auditorium, 1615 Commerce Parkway, BLM, supplies list/fees/RSVP by November 7/532-1961; **Nov 20, 9-3, Community Service Day**, Farm Bureau Building, 2243 Westgate, BLM, making eyeglass cases or your own projects, bring lunch or go out to eat, come and go as you are able to participate, free, 309-826-9559; **Nov 20, 2-3:30pm, Read & Share** the book *Peony In Love* by Lisa See, held at Extension Office, free, 309-661-6391; **Nov 28, 1-3 pm, program "Sensory Gardening"** held at Farm Bureau, 2243 Westgate, BLM, free, 309-728-2784. These programs are open to the public. Call number listed for more information.



Gardening Tips

by Helen Leake

Some people had noticed that their red oak trees have started losing its leaves earlier than usual. They wondered if it could be oak wilt and wanted to prune it. It is possible that it is oak wilt, but the arborist said to wait until November to prune it. Oak wilt is a serious, fast moving fungal disease... You should only prune oak trees between November and May when the beetles are not active. The beetles can transfer the disease from one tree to another. Also remember when pruning a tree that has a disease to wipe the pruners after every cut with alcohol to prevent spreading the disease.

If you have broad leaf evergreens or evergreen trees near a road or street where the snowplow throws salty snow on them, it is best to protect them with a plastic or burlap screen. You might want to put the posts into the ground before it freezes.

The spring blooming bulbs can be planted as long as the ground hasn't frozen.

You can start watering your Amaryllis bulbs now so they can be blooming in time for Christmas. Turn the container 1/4 turn every time you water, so the stem won't lean toward the light.

Now that the temperature has dropped, don't forget to protect the newly purchased plants as you take them from the store. Also don't leave them in the cold car while you finish shopping. The sudden cold air can damage the plant and cause some to drop their flowers.

If you still have large green tomatoes on the vine, you can pick them and place them in a single layer in the basement. They will ripen, the flavor won't be as good as vine ripened but it will be better than the store bought.

You can leave cool weather vegetables like Brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, and turnips in the ground for a while because they are frost hardy.

Sometimes the cold improves the flavor.

Fall is a good time to improve your soil. By adding amendments now, they will have worked their way down into the soil by next spring. The action of worms and the soil microorganisms and the freezing and thawing over the winter will help move it down into the soil.

It is also a good time to start a compost pile. You have leaves and garden waste. Put some cardboard or 8-10 layers of newspaper in a pile. Add the leaves and garden waste and vegetable scraps. Continue adding to the pile. The earth worms will soon start working on it and you can continue adding to it. It will not break down a lot in the cold, but next summer it will. In time, you will have good black soil to add to your plants.

Continue to mow, mulch, shred or compost the leaves as they fall.

Dig the sweet potatoes before a hard freeze.

The ground has cooled enough to plant the spring blooming bulbs. If you have a problem with squirrels digging them up, lay some chicken wire or hardware cloth over them. Stake it down, so they can't move it.

As you are getting your lawn and garden ready for winter, don't forget the wildlife. People have been making their lawn and garden so neat, that they are chasing the birds out. We don't hear the birds singing or see them eating insects like we used to.

Insects make up about 70 percent of the animal kingdom. I know insects can be a pest, but most of them are good bugs, by eating smaller, and sometimes larger, bugs. The insects usually lay their eggs on leaves on the ground. Find a place in your yard that you can leave a little messy and the wildlife will use it for shelter from the cold, Next spring, the birds will need the insects to feed their young for their protein. Frogs and toads also eat a wide variety of insects.

If you have bird houses in your yard, clean them out now and maybe put a little straw or dried grass in them, so the birds can have a place to get warm during the cold winter.

Before the ground freezes, place a fence around shrubs, raspberries, and newly planted trees so the rabbits can't chew on them when the ground is covered with snow. Be sure to stake the fence so the wind won't blow it away. Also make it tall enough that the rabbits can't reach over it when standing on their hind legs on top of the snow.

Avoid using chemical laden fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides that can be harmful not only to wildlife, but also to children and pets. We are seeing more illness in them that could be caused from the chemicals.

Continue watering trees, especially evergreens, if the soil is dry and not frozen. The wind continues pulling the moisture out from the leaves and pine needles during the cold winter.

People have a nice warm house to spend the winter. People that have livestock, see that they have shelter for the winter. Skunks, opossum, raccoons, and rats have to look for their shelter. Often they will dig out a place so they can crawl under a porch or shed. Not always welcomed by the homeowner. A simple way to let them know they are not welcome is to get some cheap tennis balls. Soak them overnight in a container of ammonia. The next day, wearing rubber gloves, toss them into the skunks home.

If the cats like to use your flower bed for a restroom, throw some moth balls among the flowers. Don't be surprised if the black birds pick up the moth balls. They use them to rub across their feathers to get rid of the mites.

A lot of the perennials are telling use it is time to take a rest for the winter. If they don't have a disease, don't cut them off. The birds and squirrels like to eat the seeds. Also the birds like to land on them and they add winter beauty when the snow falls on them. Mother Nature blows the leaves up around the bottom of them to help protect the roots from the fluctuating winter cold. Saves you from trying to put mulch around them

When you find that perfect pumpkin, don't carry it by the stem. If you break the stem off, the pumpkin will spoil sooner. Try to use both hands to pick it up and carry it.

Last week I wrote about watering drought damaged trees, but I left out how to tell if it is drought damage. It could take several years for a large tree to succumb, but it doesn't hurt to water a tree if the ground is dry, because a tree releases a lot of moisture into the air daily.

Long term drought stresses trees, weakening them and making them prime targets for insects and disease problems. If the trees show any wilting, curling, burning or browning of the leaves. Also premature drop of leaves or dried out needles. Young trees, mid-mature trees and large mature trees can all be affected.

Because we had several days of high temperatures and little, if any, rain, it wouldn't hurt to give the trees a good, couple of deep, drinks of water before the ground freezes. Evergreens need to be watered deeply before the ground freezes because they lose moisture all winter thru their needles due to the wind.

It is time to bring in any tropical house plants, because of the cold nights. Be sure to check to see if any insects are on them. It would not hurt to spray the plant and top of soil with insecticide soap to make sure you don't bring insects in. You could spray again in a week to kill any eggs that

hatch. Do not use dish soap, because it contains degreaser and that will remove the covering on the leaves.

Also check the bottom of the container and under the rims. Spiders like to live in those places. Leave your Christmas cactus, kalanchoe and potted azaleas and orchids out until night temperature in the low 40's.

Also stop fertilizing your house plants now. It is an adjustment to change in light, humidity, and heat. Therefore some will drop leaves, but then in time they will put out new ones. Most house plants take a rest period during the winter.

Helen J. Leake

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club met on Tuesday, October 17th. The club focus this year is Visual Arts. The members made Sharpie Coasters and learned about Color. The Next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 21st at the Towanda Community Building. 4-H is open to all youth ages 8-18 by September 1st. Cloverbuds is available for youth ages 5-7 by September 1st. New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information contact: Martha Rients 728-2178 or hrients@frontiernet.net

4th of July Celebration in Towanda – 50 years in 2018

Please join your neighbors and community in planning for July 4, 2018 - Towanda's 50th 4th of July Annual Celebration – and come to a meeting **Monday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Community Building. Find out about what happens behind the scenes of the parade and how you can/might be able to help. Bring your ideas about things to change and to keep so the new leadership can begin organizing for next year and bring a friend with you. If unable to attend and want information please contact Gail Ann Briggs at 728-2187 or rgbriggs@frontiernet.net.

October Calendar:

- 6 – NCHS Homecoming
- 9 – Columbus Day – No School in Unit 5
- 18 – 1-hr Late Start in Unit 5
- 31 – Halloween / Trick & Treat

Looking ahead – Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 5 at 2:00 a.m.

Gail Ann Briggs

Towanda Library

November 2017 Library News

“Watch the Evening Sky” on November 7th @ 6:00: Members of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers will visit our library – along with Lee Green, the gentleman who taught the eclipse workshop at the library in August. They will host an observing session where you can view a variety of celestial objects. Starting with a laser guided tour of the constellations; you will see the wonders of the autumn sky through binoculars and telescopes. Bring your family, your questions, and your enthusiasm. The end of daylight time brings you more time to enjoy the evening skies! (Rain date: November 14th)

Preschool Story Hour every Wednesday @ 10:30: Stories to build character, new friends to build social skills, crafts to train dexterity needed for pre-writing fine motor control, and pre-literacy activities such as finger plays, singing, educational games, and acting-out stories. Snacks also. Younger siblings welcome in play areas or on a lap!

Bulldog Book Club on November 1 @ 2:30: Each “Late Start” Wednesday of the school year youth in 4th & 5th grade discuss the Caudill nominated books. Sessions are led by Karen Bersche. Registration is now closed and there is a waiting list.

LEGO Builders Club on November 20 @ 2:30: Third Monday of each month during the school year youth in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade take on literacy-based LEGO challenges taught by April Fisher. Pre-register today at the library! This group can accept 2 more students.

Tuesday Tunes on November 28 @ 2:30. Kindergarten, First, and Second graders sing, dance, play musical instruments, and enjoy other toe-tapping activities taught by Developing Melodies. Pre-register today at library! This group can accept 2 more students.

Read to Dogs every Tuesday @ 5:30 to 6:30 until November 14: Register your child for a 15-minute appointment with a certified canine friend. Call to register for any or all of the weeks.

Crochet/Knit/Fibers Group: Every Tuesday @ 5:00 to 6:30. New members are always welcome. Questions are cheerfully answered.

Towanda Reads Adult Book Discussions: “Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans” by Don Brown and “Rain, Reign” by Ann Martin will be discussed on December 12th at 5:00 pm. Join the book discussion whenever a title interests you. Newcomers are always welcome! The group meets the second Tuesday of even-numbered months. Future selections are on the library website.

See all library news at: www.towandalibrary.org and on the library Facebook page

Immediate Opening for Library Clerk with Youth Focus

Towanda District Library is seeking a library clerk who enjoys working with children and helping them find reading materials for their academic and recreational needs.

Primary responsibilities: Story Hours, Book Club, Outreach, such as School Visits, and Summer Reading

Bachelor's degree is desirable, as is previous library and work experience with children. An elementary education degree or experience as a Children's Librarian is preferred.

Hours: 12 to 18 weekly – including two Saturdays/month **Salary Range:** \$10.00 to \$11.00/hr Applications available at library. EOE

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

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Lost & Found:

I found a pair of women's eye glasses on the road along Bent Tree Lane. They are animal print with fancy dots on sides. If you are missing some stop by anytime. Thanks! Ann Kellenberger

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:

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".

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.

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

Justin Schwamberger, 17 years old, is available for helping with lawn care, snow removal, and help around the home. Call 728-2857.