

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

January 2018

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Towanda Fire Department



TFD closed out its 2017 year on November 30th. TFD had 165 calls for the year, with 53.99% of our calls being medical calls. Members of the Towanda Fire Department participated in 113 different training opportunities. TFD firefighters logged roughly 2800 hours between fire calls and training meetings. This averages out to about 140 dedicated hours per firefighter. During 2017 TFD took possession of a new 2017 Ford F250 pickup truck. This vehicle replaces a 2003 Tahoe with over 100,000 miles on it and will be used as a second response vehicle for medicals. TFD also placed an order for a new engine, a new fire truck body will be placed on a used Spartan

chassis with less than 500 hours on it. By purchasing this used chassis, TFD saved over \$113,000.00 dollars over the purchase of a new chassis. This new engine will replace a 25 year old fire truck. The new Engine 61 is scheduled for mid-summer 2018 delivery.

Come see us on the 1st (officers meeting), 2nd (fire training), 3rd (EMS training), or 4th (fire training) Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm or join us on the last Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. (work night/business meeting) contact Chief Brett Lueschen at 309-728-2353.

Members of the Towanda Fire Department would like to thank the citizens of the fire protection district for their continued support.



4th of July Planning

July 4, 2018 – 50 year Anniversary of the Towanda Celebration!

The first planning meeting for the 50th Towanda 4th of July Celebration will be held on Monday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m., at the Towanda Community Building. This is an open invitation to attend and help where you can with this year's special event. A chairman for the parade is needed. For information about what the position entails, please attend the meeting or feel free to contact:

- 1) Gail Ann Briggs (309-728-2187 or rgbriggs@frontiernet.net) or
- 2) Deb Kinsella ([309-728-2216](tel:309-728-2216) or calendar@villageoftowanda.org)

Do you enjoy the celebration? Please let us know what you are interested in, what you can do, where you can lend a hand, or lead an event!! Committee meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month at the Community Building at 6:30 p.m. Thank you!

Towanda Busy Bees



The Towanda Busy Bees 4-H club had a busy December. The club rang bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, had a cookie exchange and held recognition night.

The club will hold its next regular meeting in January on Tuesday, January 16th, 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The program for January is pine cone art.

4-H is open to all youth ages 8-18. A Cloverbud club is also available for 5-7 year olds For more information about 4-H contact Martha Rients 309-728-2178

Home & Community Education

Towanda HCE to have "Snowman" meeting on January 8.

The Towanda HCE unit enjoyed the festive December 11 Christmas Potluck, attended by 16 members and 2 guests. We enjoyed good food, fellowship and a gift exchange game.

We will next meet Monday, January 8, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The program, **Sensory Gardening** will be presented by Sandy Whalen. Hostesses are Valerie Dotson and Bev Hornickel. Members and guests are to bring "snowman" things for a fun display. Guests are always welcome. More information: Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650.

Other January county HCE activities include: Community service Day, on Mon, Jan 15, 9-3, making eye glass cases or project of your choice, come and go as needed, bring sack lunch or go out to eat, 826-9559; A program open to the public will present "Fish Facts: on Tuesday, Jan 23, 1-3 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Auditorium (2243 Westgate Dr), Blm, free program presented by McLean County Extension Nutrition and Wellness educator, Jenna Smith, more info at 309-728-2784.



Seated (L-R) Robin Pearson Clara Lehan, Linda Conder, Valerie Dotson, Joann Steinberg.

Standing (L-R) Cindy Kelley, Jeanie Wager, Cindy Jacobs, Dorothy Brickey.



Seated (L-R) Cherry Trent, Bev Hornickel, Dorlene Williamson, Sandy Whalen, Pat Pulokas.

Standing (L-R) Lu Payton, Karen Wyant, Teresa Benjamin, Sharon Joplin



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake

It won't be long until some people will be wanting to find a new home for that pre-cut Christmas tree. One thing you could do is place it near the bird feeder for temporary shelter for the birds. Place it at least 10 feet from the feeders so the predators won't be tempted to hang around.

You can place a rebar stake into the ground and stand the tree on it. Or you can drive a stake or fence post into the ground and then fasten the trunk of the tree to the post with a bungee cord. That way the birds will have food and shelter all winter. It can also add interest to the back yard.

We have been having a lot of wind that can pull moisture out of the soil, trees, and newly planted shrubs. Don't forget to water them deeply. You can poke a small hole in the bottom of a 5 gallon bucket and fill it with water. The hole will let the water out slowly so it can soak into the soil.

To grow rosemary indoors, place the plant in a cool, bright spot. Do not let the soil get dry, keep it moist, but not soggy.

When purchasing de-icing material, try to get some containing calcium, magnesium, or potassium chloride listed to use on walkways, rather than sodium based. Those products are more friendly to lawn grass and other plants in the garden.

If you have branches damaged by snow and ice, you should prune them right away.

When shopping for shut-ins at home or in assisted living, Norfolk Pine trees make a small Christmas tree. Amaryllis bulbs are fun to watch grow. They grow very fast. The flowers are very attractive and last awhile. African violets make nice plants for year round beauty.

The orchids that we see in the stores now usually hold their flowers for a long time. Just give them light and keep the potting mix moist. It would also help to place the pot on a shallow dish of water with pebbles for humidity.

Watering is the key element to house plants. Over watering kills more plants than under watering. Most plants like for the top of the soil to dry before watering again. A lot of plants are resting during the short day light hours and don't use a lot of water and fertilizer. Lift the container, if it is light, water it. If it still feels heavy, the soil is still moist.

When it snows, you want to avoid burying trees and shrubs when removing snow from the sidewalk and driveway. Be careful if you use a melting agent, many of them contain salts that can damage plants, lawns and concrete.

Be sure the root zones of Azaleas and rhododendrons are thoroughly mulched. Also after the ground freezes, mulch the base of rose plants deeply to keep the soil temperature more even.

January 2018 Library News

Christmas Break @ the Library: Activities for grade-schoolers

Wednesday, December 27 and Wednesday, January 3 @ 3:00: Musical games, musical instruments, and musical movement. Guaranteed to burn lots of energy and “get the wiggles out”! Join Ms. Katelyn and your friends.

Friday, December 29 and Friday, January 5 @ 3:00: Thumbprint/Spongepaint Art. Make a group mural for the library, as well as individual projects to take home.

Slow Cooker Workshop on Tuesday, January 16 @ 5:30: Jenna Smith, University of Illinois Extension Educator, demonstrates slower cooker recipes - including stuffing. Please pre-register and pay \$3 fee for food samples by January 13th.

Preschool Story Hour every Wednesday @ 10:30: Enjoy stories, crafts, and pre-literacy activities such as finger plays, singing, educational games, and acting-out stories. Younger siblings welcome in play areas or on a lap! Yes, the group meets on December 27th!

LEGO Builders Club on January 22* @ 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! **Note date change this month due to school holiday.*

Tuesday Tunes on January 23 @ 2:30: This group meets at 2:30 on the 4th Tuesday of each month during the school year. 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!

Bulldog Book Club on January 24 @ 2:30: Each “Late Start” Wednesday of the school year youth in 4th & 5th grade discuss the Caudill nominated books. Sessions are now led by Karen Bersche. Registration is now closed and there is a waiting list.

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: 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.

Thank You to The Michael Collins Foundation for your support of the educational programming offered at our library – particularly the after-school programs. Libraries are the place for life-long learners! We hope you never lose your love of learning.

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

Calendar

Unit 5

Mon.Jan.8 ~ Teacher Institute
Tue.Jan.9 ~ School Resumes for Students
Mon.Jan.15 ~ No School (M.L.King Birthday)
Wed.Jan.24 ~ 1-Hr Late Start



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:

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.

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? 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".

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