

Indian Creek Newsletter

February-March, 2009

on the web at <http://www.frontiernet.net/~indiancreek>
compiled by Helen Mogill, hmogill@frontiernet.net, 728-2048

Neighborhood Morning Coffee



Nicole Hartman has extended an invitation to the Indian Creek neighborhood to meet on **Friday, February 20, 10:00am** for refreshments and good company. All Indian Creekers are welcome.

Please let Nicole know if you are planning to come: 728-2093,
colehartman@hotmail.com. The Hartmans live at 30 Candle Ridge Road.

Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast



The annual Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Towanda Elementary School **Saturday, February 14, 8:00am - 2:30pm**. This an all you can eat breakfast. Come on out and help the Scouts with their money maker. The money made will be used to support Scout activities through the year.

Country Store will have a limited supply of additional meat, etc., for sale at the breakfast beginning at 8:00am Saturday on a first come, first serve basis. To order meat in advance call Mike Potts at 728-2384 or any Scout.

Legion Fish or Shrimp Dinner

The American Legion will host a Fish or Shrimp Dinner on **Friday, February 27, 5:30pm - 7:30pm** at the Legion Hall. Cost is \$8. Carry outs will be available.



Speed

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE remember to watch your speed in Indian Creek. Excessive speed mixed in with snowy/icy roads can lead to tragic accidents! Remember that children enjoy playing outside in the winter months just as much as the summer months.



Minutes for the Annual Meeting – January 28, 2009



The Annual Meeting of the Indian Creek Water and Homeowners Association was held January 28, 2009, at 7:00pm at the Towanda Community Building. Board members and homeowners introduced themselves. Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting were read and adopted.

Jim Russell gave the Groundskeeper report. 13 volunteers for the spring work day and 8 for the fall picked up litter along the highway, painted the subdivision entry signs and stained the nature area gate. Jim and Bob Hancock repaired the mower; tractor tires were also replaced in 2008. We will hold spring and fall work days again. Some felt that the common areas that had been heavily planted with trees many years ago should be thinned.

Sue Arnold will mark the oaks, white pines, black cherry, red maple trees, and other desirable species to save; hawthorns and other undesirables will be removed. Some voiced interest in a nature trail and the thought was that this might be accomplished in stages over time.

Jayson Hines of 4 Candle Ridge is concerned about the burning of yard waste. He has offered to collect yard debris and haul it away for free once a month, beginning on Sat., March 7 and continuing the first Saturday of every month (rain or shine) through the rest of 2009. If you would like to participate, simply leave this material by the street. If you have questions, let one of the Board members know. Suggested burn guidelines will be disseminated through the subdivision website.

Our new Water Chair, Bob Hancock, provided a report. Our current pump is made up of new and old parts. Frank Cottrell does not recommend that we replace it yet. However, we do have a spare pump in safe storage in Peoria. There was a Dec. 22, 2008 electrical outage, during which time the pump was down, but this was due to a breaker only and nothing more serious. We were due to receive a water quality report in December 2008 but we've not received it yet. We do know that our readings are normal except for a high level of iron. We signed a contract with Tri-County; it now performs the "locates" for us. They have been prompt and accurate. We have received a report from the EPA and it recommends that we vent the inside of the tower.

Barbara Ulbrich is our VP/Secretary. The morning coffees at residents' homes have been fun for those who have attended! Kirbie Brittain, one of Indian Creek's teenage residents, passed away in late August 2008, and a chili supper on January 31 will be held in her memory at NCHS.

Treasurer Dave Schultes reported that the Association balance is \$31,791. This includes \$5000 reimbursement we paid for clean up in the water tower claim. Our funds are invested in 6 month CDs earning 3.2%. Expenses include several items related to the water tower and mowing (\$4500/year). Dave discussed the status of the water tower event of summer 2007. The two workers who were injured filed various insurance claims. Some of the claims have been settled. Other claims are pending in litigation.

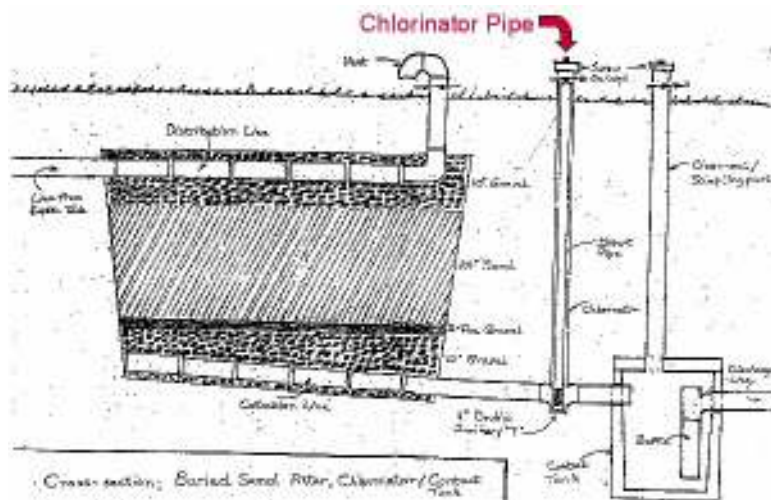
After Board reports, residents discussed that septic systems with sand filters are required to be chlorinated. We also discussed speeding and careless driving that's occurring. We're fortunate to have young children living in the subdivision and drivers must be mindful that children (and adults) enjoy the yards and roadways. We'd like drivers to slow down! It was suggested that we request Sheriff Emory bring his "You Are Driving This Speed" sign to make drivers aware how fast they are going!

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8 pm.

How Are You Treating Your Wastewater?

By Greg Beneze, gbeneze@frontiernet.net

Illinois Administration Code, Section 905.120 requires that wastewater effluent which is discharged to the ground surface and leaves the property, or which is discharged into a pond, lake, or stream in which swimming, water skiing, or other water contact occurs shall be disinfected with a chlorine solution.



Many of the houses in Indian Creek have a sand filtered septic system for wastewater treatment. How do you know if you have one? A sand filter septic system has three above ground components: 1) a vent filter, which is often a T shaped PVC pipe, 2) a capped PVC pipe for the chlorinator, and 3) a capped PVC pipe used for clean out and taking samples. The chlorinator pipe is usually the capped pipe between the vent and the clean-out pipe.

To treat your wastewater, you need to place a chlorine disinfectant tablet in the chlorinator pipe on a monthly basis. There are two types of chlorine tablets found on the market: calcium hypochlorite and chlorinated isocyanurates. **Calcium hypochlorite tablets should be used for wastewater treatment.** Brand names include Norweco's Blue Crystal or Bio-sanitizer tablets. These tablets are very reactive and quickly kill bacteria present in wastewater. Just as importantly, the chlorine residual dissipates rapidly so that it will not damage the receiving environment, which in our case is Money Creek.

The other type of chlorine tablet is chlorinated isocyanurates, which are commonly called swimming pool tablets or "Tri-Chlors". **DO NOT USE TRI-CHLORS.** Tri-Chlors dissolve more slowly and create a residual that does not readily dissipate. Designed to be total immersed in water, Tri-Chlor tablets that are exposed to periodic flows of a septic system begin to decompose and release an explosive gas called nitrogen trichloride. Tri-chlor tablets should not be used in your septic system as it is dangerous and violates Section 905.120 since Tri-Chlors are not labeled as suitable for wastewater treatment.

All chlorine products are hazardous and must be handled with care. Calcium hypochlorite tablets can be purchased on the Internet. Bio-sanitizer tablets are sold at the local ACE Hardware store on College Ave in Normal. A 10 pound bucket (32 tablets) is \$51.99 and a 25 pound bucket (80 tablets) is \$94.99. You might consider splitting the cost of a 25 pound bucket with a couple of your neighbors. I purchased tablets from Cary Zeschke for \$1.50 each when he pumped out my septic tank. Zeschke Septic Cleaning is at 408 S. Robinson in Bloomington (309-530-4282 or 828-3535). Cary recommended using one tablet per month for our household of 2. He cautioned me not to overload with tablets as they can "gum-up" the chlorinator pipe.

I learned at the January homeowners meeting that the McLean County Health Dept. tested one of the houses in our subdivision when it sold this summer and finding no presence of chlorine in their sand filter septic, fined the sellers.

Yard Waste Disposal

by Jim Russell

Yard Waste



Indian Creek resident Jayson Hines is offering a free yard waste disposal service to the neighborhood! On the first **Saturday** of each month starting **March 7th**, he will pick up leaves, grass, branches or other yard waste and haul it away. All you have to do is place such items in piles near the street and Jayson will take care of the rest.

Jayson made his generous offer at the January association meeting and there was general agreement by those in attendance that this is something that would benefit the neighborhood. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this free service rather than accumulating waste and then burning it which can become hazardous and an annoyance to neighbors. Refer any question to a board member or Jayson.

Towanda Library News

(on the web at <http://towandalibrary.org>)

Civil War Secrets, Wed, Feb 11, 5:00pm

Commemorate Lincoln's 200th Birthday by attending "Civil War Secrets" on Wednesday, February 11 at 5:00pm at the Towanda District Library. Susan Keeran presents a history lesson suitable for all ages using quilt patterns, fabrics, and colors from the Civil War. Who knew the secrets? The one-hour program is as much about history as it is about quilts. It is suitable for families and is free and open to the public.

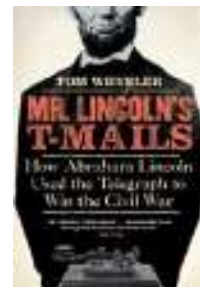


Friends of the Library, Wed, Feb 11, 6:00pm

Friends of Towanda District Library meet at the library on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:00pm. The group will make plans for National Library Week (April 13-18) and the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the library building; determine spending/fund-raising goals; and finalize plans for a train trip to the Lincoln Museum in May. Now is a great time to join the Friends!

Towanda Reads, Thur, March 10, 7:00pm

Towanda READS will participate in the Lincoln Bicentennial by reading *Mr. Lincoln's T- Mails: How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War*. The book's author, Tom Wheeler, has been CEO of multiple high-tech companies. Wheeler views Lincoln as an eager student of technology. The book shows a great leader adapting to a new medium - the telegraph. There are definitely contemporary parallels. All are welcome to join the book discussion group at the library on Thursday, March 12 at 7:00pm.



Great Backyard Bird Count

February 13 - 16

Sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.



It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, **February 13–16, 2009**. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in other locations on that day.
2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time.
3. When you're finished, enter your results through the GBBC web page (<http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/input>). You'll see a button marked "Enter Your Checklists!" on the website beginning on the first day of the count (February 13, 2009). It will remain active until the deadline for data submission on March 1, 2009.

NatureScaping Talk



Angela Smith, Director of Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funks Grove, will give a talk on "NatureScaping" on **Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 pm** at Illinois Wesleyan University, Room C101 of the Center for Natural Sciences building, 201 Beecher St. Landscaping with nature in mind is becoming increasingly popular. Reducing maintenance and increasing property values are benefits beyond the pleasure you will receive from welcoming wildlife to your nature haven. Program participants will receive a wealth of helpful resources and an opportunity to win a bird house. This program is sponsored by the John Wesley Powell Audubon Society, and is free to the public. Angela's "NatureScaping" talk was a big hit at our neighborhood Garden Club a couple of years ago, so here's your chance to see it again.

Classifieds

Services

Lena Orrick (7 Timber Creek Ct) is now accepting new clients at Kings Full Hair Salon in Normal. Services include Haircuts, styling and coloring. 309-827-9734

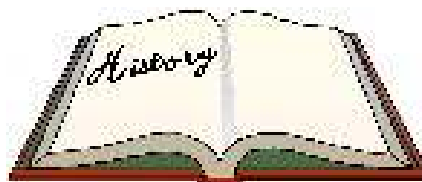
Grace Rients, 12 years old, American Red Cross Certified Babysitter 728-2178



Towanda Area Historical Society

Our regular meeting **Tuesday, February 24, 7:00pm** at the Community Building will focus on establishing committees to work on aspects of updating our History Book:

- 1) Core Committee to oversee the project;
- 2) Content Committee: review what is on file, identify what is needed, then research and secure it;
- 3) Publishing Committee: research and identify publisher, assist with layout; and
- 4) Fundraising Committee (available funds - \$7,300): develop a plan and secure the necessary funds for publishing the book.



It has been four years since community members interested in our history met for the first time. Since then we have increased awareness of our community's history through the Veterans Project and the successful State Library grant that allowed us to establish our website <http://www.towandahistory.org>. We have held fundraisers, worked with the Sullivan's to showcase Duncan Manor and participated in the Barn Keepers annual tour. We've presented programs, displayed artifacts at various events (May Red Carpet Corridor, 4th July) and in collaboration with the Towanda Library, established a 'history corner' so many of our artifacts and research materials can be available to the public. Now is the time to turn our energy to producing our book, which was the impetus for organizing in the first place.

THCE Program

by Pat Pulokas, 728-2118; palp@mchsi.com, <http://www.mcleanhce.org>



The next meeting of the Towanda HCE will be on **Monday, February 9, 7:00pm** at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be "Living Single In a Couples World". The Fact Find will be "If the Shoe Fits Wear It" and members are asked to wear their favorite pair shoes to the meeting. If interested in more information, contact Cindy Kelley, 663-4796.

A county workshop to make a denim angel will be held at the Extension Auditorium at 402 N. Hershey Road on **Friday, February 20, 9:00am - 3:00pm**. Bring the following supplies: Old jeans (child size makes it easier); 1 old, clean, white sock; Stuffing; Sewing thread and needle; Scissors; Bits of lace for decoration. Bring a sack lunch. A small fee will be charged. Call Carmen at 379-3141 to register and get more info.

The HCE Read & Share will be held at the Extension office on **Monday, February 16, 6:30pm - 8:00pm**. **The Last Lecture** by Randy Pausch will be discussed. Call LaVonne C. at 723-6558 for more information.

Route 66 Corridor Events Planning



The Red Corridor Route 66 meeting will be held **Thursday, February 5, 7:00pm** at the Community Building in the Board Room. Please send a representative from your Club. We need all the help we can get.