

A close-up photograph of a cluster of small, light blue flowers with green leaves, serving as a background for the newsletter title.

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

May 2013

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Are You Considering Re-financing or Buying a New Home?

This past year many of the board members have received inquiries from homeowners, realtors, and even mortgage companies asking for "Shared Well Agreements", or "Joint Use and Maintenance Agreement for Shared Wells", or "what are the nitrate and chloroform levels in your water?" Previously, for questions about a well agreement, individuals were told that our subdivision did not have such an agreement; however, our covenants mentions that the subdivision has a commitment to a water source. We have since learned that a "Shared Well Agreement" language does **not** apply to our subdivision. Although we are on a well system, we are treated much like a municipality (i.e. Normal or Bloomington), but on a smaller scale. Fluoride and chlorine are added, monitored and samples are submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as required by law. Shared Well Agreements are between a few homeowners (2-10) that share a well, but are not subjected to strict testing or reporting guidelines. Examples of homeowners falling into this category would be people who live in the Lamplighter subdivision.

Also, if the mortgage company desires specific information about water quality and sample levels, please refer them to the following web site: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/drinking-water-watch/> Click on Drinking Water Watch and enter Water System NO., IL1135250. There is all kinds of information about our water on this site.

Source for information above was provided by Bob Hancock.



Towanda Area Spring Garage Sales

Numerous garage sales will be held at various times and locations in Lamplighter, Indian Creek and the Village of Towanda Thursday-Sunday, May 2-5. Flyers with maps available at Kick's, FS Station, Library and sale sites.

Towanda Busy Bees

The Towanda Busy Bees will meet at the Towanda Library on Saturday, May 11th at 10 am for the "Spring Spruce Up of the Library Landscape".

The regular meeting of the Towanda Busy Bees will be held May 21st at 7pm at the Towanda Community Building. Guests are always welcome! For information contact: Martha Rients 728-2178

Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship

The Towanda Lions Club is sponsoring a \$500.00 scholarship for a 2013 High School college bound senior and/or currently enrolled college student attending classes full time from the Towanda area. This is a one-time scholarship not open to renewal.

Applicants for this scholarship must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant must have a Towanda mailing residence address.
2. Average grade of C verified by a high school transcript.
3. In 250 words or less, submit a letter of application containing a brief biographical profile which includes your college plans, school activities, community service activities and work history. Indicate your plans for using the scholarship money and why you are deserving of the award.
4. Submit 2 letters of recommendation: one from a teacher, counselor or administrator, and one from a non-relative in the Towanda area.
5. Submit a copy of your fall 2013 class schedule of the college/university you will be attending.
6. Letter of application, recommendations, transcript, and class schedule must be received by the Scholarship Committee Chairman by September 15, 2013.

Mail to:

Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship
c/o Mr. Robert Hancock
7 Bent Tree Lane
Towanda, Illinois 61776

The Towanda Lions Club committee will review all applications and select one scholarship winner. All applicants will be notified by mail of the committee's choice. This scholarship is offered in memory of Steve Liebenow, a long-time Lions Club member, educator, and community leader.

Route 66 Gardens



The "Wednesday Weeders" spend about 1 hour each Wednesday tending to the gardens along old Route 66. If you have an hour per week to give back to your community, your help would be greatly appreciated because, "Many hands make quick work!" No gardening experience is required, and you need not commit to working every week. Start times vary with the weather and we do not work in the rain!

The Route 66 corridor has many visitors and we want them to leave Towanda with pleasant memories.

Local Graduation Commencements

Unit 5 High School Commencements at the Coliseum, Saturday, May 18, 2013 ~ NCHS will be held at 2:00 p.m. and NCWHS will be held at 6:00 p.m.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake - McLean County Master Gardener



April and May is the time for the yellow-bellied sapsucker, a wood pecker, to be passing thru Illinois. They over-winter in Central America and spend the summer in Canada.. They will return during September and October.

Most wood peckers rely on insects and sap as their main food, most of them are found under the bark of dead tree limbs. However the yellow-bellied sapsucker relies on the sap of trees for over half of their food, with the balance of their diet being insects, berries, and fruits. The most commonly attacked trees are pines, spruces, birch and fruit trees that they attack year after year.

The damage consists of rows of evenly spaced horizontal or vertical holes in the tree trunk and branches. Rarely does it kill the tree, but it could weaken the tree, making it more susceptible to disease and insect problems.

To reduce the damage you can hang pie tins or other objects in the tree. If your tree has been previously damaged, you can wrap burlap around the tree during April and May and again in September and October to prevent further damage. Do not leave the wrap on the tree during the summer, because moisture can accumulate and encourage disease to develop.

The Migratory Bird Act protects most birds. It is unlawful to kill or harm woodpeckers.



The turf grass is finally starting to grow. Hope you have changed the oil in the lawnmower and sharpened the blades by now. If you used the mower to mulch the leaves last fall, the blades should be sharpened to make a neater cut.

Now is the time to put down a pre-emergent to try to prevent the crab-grass. Be careful not to apply it where you want new grass or flower seed to come up. Crab grass needs 5 days in a row above 55 degrees to germinate.

You need to wait until the weeds are actively growing to apply synthetic weed killers. For Creeping Charlie, wait until it is blooming and use something that has dicamba listed as an ingredient. You will probably need to spray it more than once.

Once the temperature is above 55 degrees, you can apply fertilizer, or better yet, spread some organic compost to nourish the soil. Also, leaving 1/2 inch of thatch is good, because it will help shade the soil to keep the roots cooler and hold some moisture. Also the thatch helps prevent the weed seeds from reaching the soil to germinate. If you mow high, about 3 inches, that will also help shade the soil and prevent the weed seeds from getting to the soil.

Instead of applying synthetic weed killer to the whole yard, only spray the troubled areas. That will save you money and it is better for the environment. Don't spray if it is going to rain soon, the plants need time to absorb the chemicals before the rain washes them down the storm sewer,.

Helen J. Leake

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H will meet on Tuesday, May 7th, at 6:30pm at the Towanda community building. We will be collecting boxes of pudding and boxes of muffin mix to donate to the food pantry.

We took a field trip to the WBNQ/WJBC Radio Station on Friday, April 27th. Then we met at Artful Design to work on Ceramic projects while enjoying pizza!

The Towanda 4-H is open to boys and girls from 8-18 by September 1st. Clover Buds are for kids ages 5-7. For more information, contact Kathy Schultz at 728-2137 or Jeanie Wager at 728-2852.

Towanda American Legion



In conjunction with the Red Carpet Corridor, the Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday May 5th from 7:30 – 11:00. Breakfast includes eggs, egg casserole, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, French toast, fresh fruit, biscuits and gravy, juice, milk and coffee for \$8.

The Legion will have a steak, shrimp or combo dinner on Friday May 10th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include steak, shrimp or shrimp/steak combo, baked potato, salad, roll, drink and dessert for \$11.

We continue to collect items for our service men and women. Thank you for your continued support of the Legion and our Veteran's.

Towanda HCE

The Towanda Unit of McLean County Association for Home and Community Education will meet on Monday, May 13, at 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Two programs will be presented: Points of Interest in Illinois by Pat Pulokas; and Electronic Devices and Social Media by Sandy Whalen. Hostesses will be Kathleen Emery and Joyce Theobald who will also present the Fact Find on Anise and Anise Seed. Please call Cindy Kelley, 309 663-4796 or Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650 for more information about Towanda HCE or this meeting. Guests are cordially welcome to all HCE events.

Towanda HCE members are asked to make some cookies for the May 4 Disaster Preparedness Event at the Interstate Center. Please leave cookies at the Extension Office by 12noon on May 3. Attendance to this event is Free to any resident. There will be activities and booths and displays to interest all ages. The event will run 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The main speaker, Eddy Weiss of www.Chasing4Life.org will present a program at 11:15 a.m. Brad McCollum of the Bloomington Fire Department will give a fire extinguisher program at 10:15 and a puppet show at 1 p.m. For questions or more information about this program, contact Kathleen Emery, 309-728-2784 or ksemery@frontiernet.net.

Other May HCE activities and their contact numbers include: May 1, 12 noon-Barn Quilts of McLean County Tour, 309-473-2844; May 13- 9am New Products in Home Improvement, Alexander Lumber, 1707 E Hamilton Rd, Bloomington, Barb Erdman, 309-242-6187; 3pm Kids Sewing Club, 242-6187; May 20- 9am-Quilt for Kids, Eileen Norin, 309-533-1135; 1pm-Little Dresses for Africa, 309-533-1135. Unless stated otherwise, these programs are held at McLean County Extension at FS Building, 402 N Hershey, Bloomington.

McLean County Association for Home & Community Education Presents

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Are **YOU** ready?



Chasing4Life.org photo

www.Chasing4Life.org

Eddy Weiss is a disaster preparedness expert and educator. He is the founder of Chasing4Life, an internationally known organization involved in training, teaching and disaster response.

Saturday, May 4, 2013

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

INTERSTATE CENTER

McLean County Fair Site
1106 Interstate Drive
Bloomington, IL

FREE ADMISSION

Speaker: Eddy Weiss

11:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

Eddy's dynamic, no-nonsense presentation will help prepare you for **EIGHT** important seconds of your life.

LEARN ABOUT:

- What is happening around the country
- How your family can be better prepared
- What should be in a home disaster kit
- Listen to stories from a storm chaser

FIRE EXTINGUISHER PROGRAM 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.

PUPPET SHOW 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.

(Both Presented by Captain Brad McCollum of Bloomington Fire Department)

SEE and EXPERIENCE:

American Red Cross Vehicles ~ Helicopter ~ Storm Chaser Vehicle ~
Ambulance ~ Police Car ~ Command Post ~ Survive Alive House ~ Medical Tent
~ Fire Truck ~ State Farm Catastrophe Response Vehicle
Local Responder Booths and Displays ~ Information booths
Children's Games & Activities ~ Door Prizes

LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Questions: Kathleen-309-728-2784 or ksemery@frontiernet.net



Local Organizations Work to Reduce Student Move-Out Waste

The end of ISU's semester will soon be here, and that means thousands of students will be leaving Normal. However, they won't be taking all of their belongings with them. Each spring, thousands of pounds of perfectly usable household items, clothes, shoes and non-perishable food are discarded in the wake of this exodus. Most of these items end up in the landfill, where they will remain forever. What can be done about this waste?

Staff members from the ISU Office of Sustainability, the Town of Normal, and local nonprofit organizations the Ecology Action Center, Habitat for Humanity, Home Sweet Home Ministries and Recycling Furniture for Families have formulated a plan and set up a hotline for students.

The Ecology Action Center helps citizens solve environmental challenges year-round. While the EAC does not actually accept any materials directly, staff members routinely advise people about how to dispose of everything from electronics to paint. EAC staff will handle the hotline, and dispatch representatives from the local non-profits who actually accept donations of the materials. The hotline (309-454-3169) is now open and taking reservations for pick up beginning May 2.

The Habitat for Humanity of McLean County operates the ReStore, which accepts many different items for reuse. Home Sweet Home Ministries provides resources for homeless and hungry people in our community, and operates the Mission Mart. Recycling Furniture for Families works with a network of social service agencies to help people break out of homelessness by providing furniture and other household items.

Accepted items:

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE	HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES MISSION MART	RECYCLING FURNITURE FOR FAMILIES
Appliances	Food – non perishable	Household furniture
Furniture	Clothing and textiles (in usable condition or NOT) –sheets, towels, etc.	Kitchenware – dishes, pots, pans, etc.
Building Materials	Shoes (in usable condition or NOT)	Linens – towels, bedding, etc.
Electronics (working or NOT)	Electronics (working or NOT)	Working electronics
Electronic media (working or NOT) - VHS, DVD, CD, games,etc.	Electronic media (working or NOT) - VHS, DVD, CD, games,etc.	Working small appliances
Small household appliances (working or NOT) – toasters, microwaves, etc.	Small household appliances (working or NOT) – toasters, microwaves, etc.	



Items donated by students will help these organizations fulfill their missions and keep items out of the landfill at the same time. Representatives from these organizations will be available to pick up items from student residences from May 2-11.

ON CAMPUS OPTIONS

Students living in ISU residence halls will find collection containers in their buildings for clothing, shoes and non-perishable food. This "Pass It On" program is facilitated by ISU

ROTC, University Housing Services and the Bloomington Housing Authority. Residents with other items to donate can call the hotline number or use the drop boxes which will be near the dumpsters by most residence halls.

OFF CAMPUS OPTIONS

Students living in off-campus apartments who have furniture, small appliances, clothing, shoes, electronics, linens, kitchen/household items or non-perishable food to donate should call the EAC at 309-454-3169 and provide name, phone number and address, as well as the items to donate. Someone from the EAC will return the call with instructions for pick up. Students may also print out the "Move-Out Donation" sign from the EAC website (www.ecologyactioncenter.org), attach it to items and leave by the curb for removal. Several campus area apartment complexes will also have drop boxes, clearly marked and located near the dumpsters. A list of locations may be found on the EAC website.

RECYCLING

In addition to donating items to non-profits, students should also remember regular recycling during move out time. Recycling receptacles for paper, cardboard, metal, glass and plastic are abundant on the ISU campus. Town of Normal roll-off bins for these materials are located near the ISU campus at Chiddix Junior High (near Anderson Pool), ISU parking lot at 100 N University, Normal Tax Assessor's Office (304 E Mulberry), and University Center (1101 N Main).

In addition to just being the right thing to do, keeping materials out of the landfill is also the law in some cases. As of January 1, 2012, it became illegal to dispose of most consumer electronic devices in an Illinois landfill. Electronic devices, including cell phones, computers, televisions, game systems and ALL the peripheral equipment and accessories must be recycled through a licensed company. Students can be sure that items donated to organizations through this initiative will be handled properly.

Organizers hope students will embrace this opportunity to dispose of their possessions in a responsible manner, divert thousands of pounds of waste from the landfill, and assist local charitable organizations all by making one phone call. The ISU Move-Out/EAC Hotline number is (309) 454-3169.

The Ecology Action Center is a not-for-profit walk-in information and environmental education center with a mission to inspire and assist residents of McLean County in creating, strengthening, and preserving a healthy environment.



Ecology Action Center to hold Rain Barrel Workshops



The Ecology Action Center is excited to announce additional dates for the ever-popular hands-on workshop where individuals build their own water saving rainwater collection and storage container. Commercially available rainwater collection and storage systems range in price from \$80-\$200 but the Ecology Action Center is offering this workshop at a cost of \$42 or only \$32 for EAC members. Rain Barrels are an ancient technology undergoing a great resurgence as they not only help conserve water but also reduce storm water runoff contamination of water supplies.

The Ecology Action Center will hold rain barrel workshops on May 2, 4, and 9. In addition, a new

workshop for construction of a large volume "Mega Rain Harvester" is scheduled for May 7 at a cost of cost of \$105 or only \$90 for EAC members. Space is limited and pre-registration is required; online registration is available at www.ecologyactioncenter.org.

The Ecology Action Center is a central resource for environmental education, information, and outreach in McLean County. The EAC educates for environmental action at a walk-in information center and through educational programs on a variety of environmental topics.



Classified



For Hire:

Lauren Smith, age 13 and Myles Smith, age 14 will provide child care and pet care - call 728-2930

Grace Rients and Emma Rients will babysit for you! Both would be willing to babysit while you run errands, mow the lawn or have a date night. Both are certified by the Red Cross and have CPR training too! Grace and Emma

Rients are also experienced pet caretakers. Please call them at 728-2178. In addition to dogs, we have experience with hermit crabs, hamsters and rabbits too!

For sale:

2000 Toyota Solara. - \$5850, 166k miles, One owner, Excellent Condition, very reliable. Newer tires, all maintenance up to date. Many extras including remote start.

Email laneoc@aol.com or call 309-838-6377.



Red Carpet Corridor Festival May 4 – 5, 2013

**Flea Market, Area Garage Sales, Crafts, Antiques, Food, 50/50 Drawing,
Cake Walk and Entertainment.**

Saturday: All day events at North Park from 8:00 am–5:00 pm

Radio Flyer Wagon vehicle on display
Cake walk at 1:00pm
Wildstyle Design face painting-free from 12:00 pm-3:00 pm
Unique Balloons from 12:00pm-4:00pm

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Sunday: All day events at North Park from 8:00am–4:00pm

WildStyle Design face painting- free from 1:00pm-3:00pm
Cattle Bandits Band to play in North Park at 1:00pm.
Car Show on Route 66: Registration: 8:00am-12:00pm
For Information on the car show, Call: 815-579-6452

Route 66 T-Shirts, hats, sunglasses, magnets, key chains and jewelry for sale in North Park.
Pick up the trading cards for Towanda and collect all 13 cards from Towanda to Joliet.
We're proud to announce that our committee has purchased and will be installing the "Dead Man's Curve" sign on the Jackson Street Route 66 curve.
If anyone would like to donate cakes or cupcakes for our cake walk, we would definitely appreciate it.
Hope to see you at the festival and car show!
Festival information: Sharon@ 728-2169 or Susie @ 728-2195.

Library News

TOWANDA READS Book Discussions are held on the 2nd Tuesday of alternating months from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Towanda District Library. On May 14th the group will discuss [Fall of Giants: Book One of the Century Trilogy](#) by Ken Follett. Members of the discussion group vary at each session – according to interest in the selection. Feel free to join the discussion whenever the title peaks your interest. We will send you the questions in advance if you e-mail: director@towandalibrary.org.

Elementary School Assembly for Summer Reading Program Promotion: Storyteller, Brian Fox Ellis, performs *Fun with Fables from Around the World* on May 13, 2013 at 2:00 pm. The Towanda library staff introduces the summer reading theme –*Have Book, Will Travel*.

Appy Hour: Every Monday evening 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. We have new apps! They greatly improve the ease of using our e-books. We will show you in less than 20 minutes how to download books from our free e-book collection onto your favorite mobile device.

Knitting/Crocheting/Felting Group: Tuesday evenings at 5:00. Bring your questions or your current project or just come to listen and learn.

Read 2 Dogs: Every Tuesday evening 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please phone 728-2176 to pre-register your child for this.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Food Stamp Program: Are you eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Food Stamp Program? You may sign up at the Towanda Public Library from 1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M. on May 21, 2013. If you have any questions, please contact Wonea Garrett at 309-573-9455.

Library Closed: Wednesday, May 22 – The staff is attending e-book training and a Technology Petting Zoo in East Peoria. The recent upgrades to Overdrive make e-book borrowing simpler and less cumbersome.

May Story Hours:

May 1 . Mother Goose and Simple Songs
May 8 Skippyjon Jones
May 15 Kites

Story hour resumes again on the Wednesday following Labor Day. Join us at Summer Reading in the meantime!



The bluebells are blooming! If you have mud proof boots or shoes, it's worth a walk on our lovely trail to see these beauties!