

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

July 2013

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Water News

With the summer temperatures rising, it is important that we conserve on our water use.

Our average water use is around **500,000** gallons per month; however, last year at this time we used over **1,000,000** gallons of water. The extra running time is hard on the pump and could ultimately impact our water table level. Effective immediately, please restrict any long term watering to odd/even days based on your street number.

Long term watering is defined as watering a couple of hours at a time. Residents with automatic sprinkler systems should make sure their sprinklers are programed for the time limit/days. Exception to odd/even days would be recently planted items; however, restrict watering to morning or late evening. Running a sprinkler all day/night or watering so long that water collects in the ditches is not good for your lawn or the Indian Creek water system.

The Indian Creek board members appreciate your cooperation."

Towanda Home and Community Education (HCE)

- Pat Pulokas, reporter



Twenty-one Towanda HCE members and guests went to Pontiac, IL for their June 10 outing. They started the afternoon by eating at Delongs' Family Dining. Following a wonderful lunch we took a trolley tour of Historic Pontiac. One of the stops was the Jones House run by the Livingston Historical Society. The home is the oldest brick house in Pontiac and depicts a 1850's home with interesting displays. We finished the afternoon by touring the RT 66 museum. A good time was had by all.

Members and guests are invited to attend the McLean County HCE 95th Annual Meeting, "The Many Hats of HCE." It will be held at Calvary United Methodist Church, 9 a.m. registration on Tuesday, July 9. Cindy Kelley has tickets (\$15) which includes a program on Hats presented by Patricia Milchuck, Owner and Milliner of Simply Pat's Hats and Original Designs in Paxton. A luncheon will be catered by Country Thymes Tea Room. Contact Cindy Kelley, 663-4796 before July 2. Everyone attending is encouraged to wear a hat to this event.

Towanda HCE July 3 Spaghetti Supper

The Towanda HCE cordially invite you to attend our 20th annual July 3 spaghetti supper at the Towanda Community Building between 4:30-7 pm. Contact any Towanda HCE member for tickets. Adults: \$6, Children, ages 2-7: \$4. Meal includes: Avanti spaghetti, salad and bread; homemade desserts and drinks. Carry out will be available and WALK INS are welcomed. Call Cindy Kelley, 663-4796 or Pat Pulokas, 728-2118 for more information and to buy tickets in advance.

Towanda Lions Club Scholarship Offering

The Towanda Lions Club is pleased to announce that the scholarship amount for 2013 has been raised to \$1000.00. See guidelines below for specifics.

Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship

The Towanda Lions Club is sponsoring a **\$1000.00** scholarship for a 2013 High School graduate 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."

American Legion



There will be a pork chop dinner on Friday June 14th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include a pork chop sandwich, french fries, green beans, dessert and drink for \$9. All dinners are open to the public. Carry outs are available.

The Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday July 7th 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.

There will be a steak, shrimp or combo dinner on Friday July 12th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include steak, shrimp or shrimp/steak combo, baked potato, salad, roll, drink and dessert for \$11. Thank you for supporting our troops and Veteran's.

Subdivision Tractor

Most everyone who uses the subdivision tractor for personal use loves the convenience and functionality it provides; however, there are a few general rules that need to be followed:

1. Safety first!
2. If you have not used the tractor before, please ask someone before climbing on board. Also, no kids are allowed to use or play on the tractor.
3. You should check all fluid levels (fuel, oil, water, & even battery) before starting. This is a diesel tractor and the fuel gauge is not accurate. We have probably had to prime the system at least 4 times this summer because someone has run out of fuel. Running a diesel out of fuel is much different than your lawn mower or car. It is extremely hard on the starter to prime the system.

So we are going to try something different and see how it works? The fuel tank will always be full. After you use the tractor, fill the tractor up with fuel. There is a 5 gallon plastic diesel can available next to the storage area.

4. This is a light weight tractor, so if you are using the front end loader the bucket is intended to move mulch and other lighter loads. If you are moving dirt or rock, please do not fill the bucket to the max.
5. If you are mowing, you should be in low and use 2nd or 3rd gear depending on the height of the grass. If the grass is tall, use 2nd gear! Mower RPM should be no more than 1800. Also, the three-point hitch level/draft effort (two levers to the right of the seat) should be set so they are just pulling the mower and not pushing down on the mower. Watch how the mower attachment follows the tractor. Usually numbers 2-3 for both levers is about right.
6. If you remove the mower and replace with another attachment, make sure when you put the mower back on that the three-point hitch is back in its original position; otherwise, you could damage the PTO Shaft.
7. Finally, if you break something, either fix it or tell one of the board members.

Also, the hydraulics are leaking; however, we will wait until fall to fix them. The board members appreciate your cooperation in following the rules.

This notice will be placed next to the tractor as a reminder.

Towanda Busy Bees

The Towanda Busy Bees hosted a very successful blood drive on June 11th and wish to thank everyone from the community who took time to support the blood drive. The next meeting of the Towanda Busy Bees will take place on July 9th. The Busy Bees will meet at Artful Designs to paint ceramics. If you would be interested in joining the group please

contact Martha Rients
at 728-2178 or
hrients@frontiernet.net.



Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H will meet again at 6:30pm on Thursday, July 18th, at the Towanda Community Building. We will share our projects for the McLean County 4-H Fair which is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31st through Sunday, August 4th.

At our last meeting we had a speaker on photography. We learned that different angles can give provide you with a different view of your subject. We also learned that it doesn't matter what type of camera you use, the person using the camera is what makes the difference.



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.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake - McLean County Master Gardener



Martha Smith, a University of Illinois horticulture educator, reminds us that the gardening season comes with attacks by pests. We must decide if we should spray or try an alternative. Only about 5 percent of the insects are bad. That means 95 percent are good bugs.

Most pest problems start out small, that is why we should take a walk thru the lawn and garden often. Sometimes removing a branch or a plant can help, or we could simply hand pick the critter off of the plant. That would save time, energy, money, chemicals, and the environment.

The pest could be a fungus, insect, bacteria, rabbit or even a squirrel. Check to see what is causing the problem before you spray a chemical. If it is aphids, just a strong blast of water will knock them off.

If the chemical option is selected, first read the label to be sure that it is the product you need and that it's the best time to use it. The right time in the life span of the insect is also important. Less chemical is needed when the insect is small. In June, the bagworms are small and out eating, by fall, they are in the bag and no amount of chemicals can reach them.

Caterpillars look a lot like a sawfly larva, but the product and control for them is different. Also caterpillars are big eaters, but the majority turn into beautiful butterflies. If you see a green tomato worm with white things on top, those white things are parasitic wasp larvae, which are killing the tomato hornworm. Good bugs killing the bad bugs.

Mix chemicals as directed. Using higher concentrations can harm the plant and the environment. Spray when the weather is calm, the drift of chemicals can be carried and cause damage to good plants. Some pesticides can burn the plant if temperatures are too high, such as over 85°F. Spraying before rain will reduce the effectiveness by washing it off and can lead to groundwater contamination.

Remember to read the directions on the label and avoid spraying when bees and hummingbirds are active.



As we drive around enjoying the scenery, we notice some of the trees look pretty yellow instead of the dark green. When plants don't get enough iron from the soil, the condition is called iron chlorosis. Iron is needed to make chlorophyll to keep the leaves green and to produce food. If the iron is unavailable, the leaves begin to yellow.

Iron is taken up from the soil when the soil PH is between 5.0 and 6.5. The lack of available iron is often aggravated by plants under stress from poor root aeration or soil drainage and restricted root growth.

The plants most commonly affected include blueberry, azalea, hydrangea, silver and sugar maple, pin oak, and rhododendron. There are a lot more, but these are the most common.

The lack of iron can produce several symptoms on trees and shrubs from partial or complete yellowing to poor growth or death of the plant. It could be death of the leaves, premature leaf drop, a stunting and dieback of twigs and branches and failure of the ornamentals to produce flowers or

fruit. Sometimes, only part of the plant will show signs.

Chlorosis is shown by the leaf tissues turning yellow and the network of the veins remains green. If it is severe enough the leaves could be smaller or have brown spots between the veins. Those leaves may curl, wither and drop prematurely. Trees under stress may have stunted or dead twigs and branches while the rest of the tree appears normal.

Iron chlorosis can be controlled when plants are given available iron. The iron can be sprayed on foliage, injected into the trunk or added to the soil. Treating the soil gives a more lasting results.



Most lawns in Illinois contain Kentucky Bluegrass, which is a cool-season grass. Cool-season grasses grow more actively in the cool time of the year, such as spring and fall. That is why the grass grows so fast in the spring with the rains.

Cool-season grass naturally goes dormant when it gets hot in the summer. Some people think their grass is dying and water it often. If you give it 1 inch of water in one week, you will use 27,000 gallon of water for 1 acre of lawn. It's cheaper to let Mother Nature give it a drink when she thinks it needs it, and the grass will turn green again when the weather cools off. Watering the grass frequently when it is dormant can be detrimental to the grass.

Because the grass is not growing when it is dormant in the summer, you should not apply fertilizer. Doing that can harm the grass and encourage the weeds to grow. Save the money, time and energy.

Mowing the grass too short leads to stress, shallow roots, increased weeds and over all poor grass health. Grass should be mowed to about three inches which will help shade the soil to keep the roots cooler and encourage the roots to grow deeper. It also makes it difficult for the weed seeds to reach the soil and germinate.

The lawn care season begins in September, which is the time to reseed and core aerate, if needed. If you have left the grass clippings on the lawn all summer, you don't need to fertilize.

You do need to keep the mower blades sharp at all times. A sharp cut on the blade of grass is better than a dull blade tearing it.

The more you do to your turf grass, the more you have to do.

Now is the time to prune back the chrysanthemums and sedum to encourage bushiness and delay flowering until the proper time in the fall. Prune again around July 1, but not after July 4. You will remove some buds, but new ones will form on the new growth.

Remove the dead flowers from your plants. Deadheading will encourage more flowering and keep the display looking tidy.

Within 6 weeks after the spring blooming shrubs have finished blooming, such as spirea, lilacs, etc. they should be pruned. You can remove up to 1/3 of the shrub. Also a good idea is to remove 1/3 of the old canes out of the center. Cut them to the ground, that will encourage more bushiness. If you do that every year, you can control the size and shape of the shrub easier.

Remove the foliage of spring flowering bulbs as it yellows and dies for both looks and sanitation. If they need to be thinned this fall, mark the spot with a popsicle stick or golf tee.

Prune evergreen shrubs early in the month, so they have time to recover and send out new growth before fall.

When you prune your hedge, use an "A" shape. If you leave the bottom wider than the top it can get more light and produce leaves down to the ground, making it more attractive.

With all of the rain we have been having, don't leave water standing in containers, including the saucer under your plant. Mosquitoes like to breed in standing water.

Library News

Special Session Library Board Meetings: July 11, 18, and 25 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm at the library with Building Consultant from University of Illinois.

Summer Reading Program for Pre-school through 6th Grade

July 8 & 10 - Spain and Mexico!

Make paper mache piñatas and watch a presentation on Spanish Culture.

July 15 & 17- Japan!

Learn about Japanese culture. Try your hand at origami.

July 22 & 24 - USA!

The Ecology Action Center will talk about the journey of our packaged food. How do chips travel before it ends up in your home?



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July 29 - SUMMER READING FINALE & PRIZES!

Play games from around the world, break open your paper mache piñata and locate countries on a map with a squirt gun race.

Adult Reading Program

Enter weekly prize drawings from June 10 through August 24. Pick up your Reading Bingo Card today!

Thank You Summer Reading Sponsors: LIONS Club, Towanda Ladies Night Out, Towanda Elementary PTO, McLean County Retired Teachers, Towanda HCE, R-EZ Storage, Ed Anderson Trucking, Avanti's, Cornbelters Baseball, Meatheads, First Farmers State Bank, Towanda Fast Stop, Serenity Med Spa, Tastefully Simple, Crovhet by Dawn, Usbourne Books, Denise Cappis - Lia Sophia, and Library FRIENDS.

TOWANDA READS Book Discussion at 6:00 p.m. on July 9th at the library. Winter of the World: Book Two of the Century Trilogy by Ken Follett

Watch Stuffed Animal Sleepover Video on the library website. Children entrusted our library staff with their favorite lovable animals on the shortest night of the year - June 21. See the sleepover antics!

Classified



For Hire:

Are you going on vacation this summer? Joe Kaufmann would be happy to mow your lawn while you're gone. A great job for a great price! Call him at 728-8095

Lauren and Myles Smith, 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!



45th ANNUAL



Towanda 4th of JULY CELEBRATION – 2013

Towanda, Illinois 61776

Website: <http://towandajuly4.com>

(Exit 171 - on I-55; 7 miles North-East of Bloomington)

Wednesday, July 3, 2013

4:30 – 7:00 pm Spaghetti Dinner *Community Building*
8:00 – 11:00 pm Community Dance *South Park*
Music by *New Prairie Ramblers*

Thursday, July 4, 2013

All Day Flea Market *North & South Parks*
All Day Food Concessions *Community Bldg
And Parks*
8:45-9:30 am Parade Lineup *School*
10:00 am Parade Begins
6:00 pm Games *School Grounds*
Dusk Fireworks

4th of JULY PARADE ~ 2013

"Proud of Our Route (66)"

8:45 am Registration and line up at Towanda School
9:45 am Grand Marshal Award presented to the float
that best represents the parade theme.
10:00 am Parade 'steps off' from the school

Parade Route: Adams and East St go West; Jefferson turn
North; Washington go East; Madison turn South; Monroe
go East; at Taylor go South; exit at Hely and the school
playground.

Participants: Grand Marshal Fred Walk; Tin Lizzies;
Community Band; Calliope; elected dignitaries and
candidates; floats; Towanda's volunteer firemen; antique
cars, tractors and other vehicles, bicyclers and walkers.

Special Parade Unit: Local flag bearers will carry the
U.S. flags in the parade! Plan to be a part of this
spectacular and breathtaking unit!

Older youth and adults are urged to **call to sign
up** (the route is hilly and about 1 mile long) ~ only
50 flags are available for carrying in the parade.

Speed Check-in and FLAGS for those who are pre-
registered. No fee to participate; but **donations** are
appreciated. Gail Ann Briggs ~ 728-2187

FOOD CONCESSIONS

Towanda Scouts ~ pork chop and BBQ sandwiches, hot
dogs, chips, desserts, and drinks, at the Community Bldg.
Other items ~ will be available from vendors in both
parks: fried vegetables, ribbon potatoes, tenderloins,
corn dogs, elephant ears, shake-ups, Kettle Corn...

"OLDE TYME" GAMES

FREE games especially for children, will be supervised by
Towanda's Volunteer Firemen, beginning about 6:00 pm
at the school grounds.

FIREWORKS ~ at Dusk !!

The fireworks will be set off from the Towanda Township
Building about .8 miles East of Towanda on 1900 North
Road. The display will be clearly visible from town.

Wednesday, July 3

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Serving spaghetti, salad, and bread prepared by Avanti's
with homemade dessert and beverage at the Community
Building ~ 4:30 – 7:00 pm. Carry Outs are available.
Tickets are \$6/adult; 4/child 9 & younger (both advance
& at the door); available from members - or call
Pat Pulokas ~ 728-2118, Cindy Kelley ~ 663-4796

COMMUNITY DANCE

The community dance is from 8:00 – 11:00 pm with music
provided by the *New Prairie Ramblers*. The dance is FREE
~ donations will be accepted. Bring lawn chairs.

Thursday, July 4

FLEA MARKET

The Flea Market will be held all day in North and South
Parks. Furniture, primitives, bottles, coins, art glass,
china, pressed and cut glass, jewelry, brass and copper,
handcrafted items, books, clocks, antiques, collectibles;
many booths will have LOTS of items for sale.

Free admission; dealer space reserved @ \$40/space.
Linda Potts ~ 728-2384

Plan NOW to join us in Towanda on the 4th of July