

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

December 2013

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

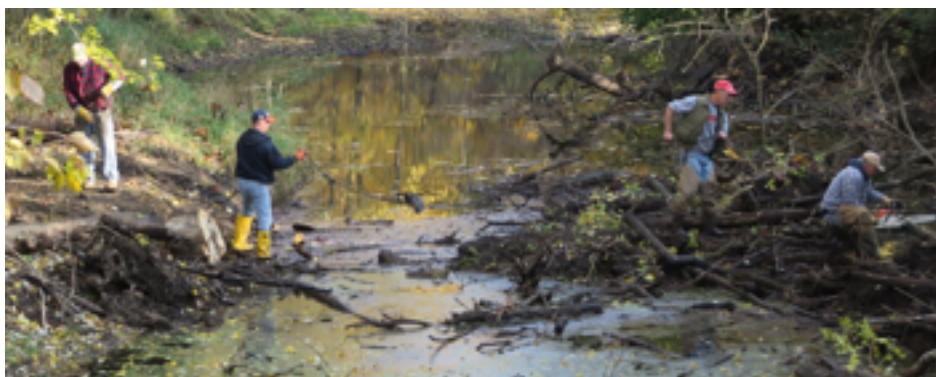
Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Indian Creek Cleanup

The annual Indian Creek Cleanup day which was organized and efficiently run by Fred Walk was a huge success thanks to the diligent efforts of resident volunteers. The creek near the bridge is now open and clear of debris, and lots of the invasive/non-native Autumn Olive was cut along the roadside edge of the woods. Extra thanks to Val Beguin for supplying a banquet of a breakfast! Volunteers for the Indian Creek cleanup were:

Barb & Eric Leathers along with their children Nick and Natalie, Jim Larson, Greg & Carol Beneze, Kathy Dumler, Andy Kaufmann along with his two boys Joe and Chet, Larry Meyer, Bob Hancock, Fred & Fran Walk, John Rosenthal, Pete & Denise Spencer, Bill Priess, Mike Emery, Rodney Brittain, Val Beguin and Dan Duback, Mike Orrick, and Jim Ferrier.

Meritorious thanks to the 'gang of five' who continued to work long past 12:00 and into the early evening hours cleaning up neglected sections of our sub-division. They were Pete Spencer, Fred Walk, Bob Hancock, Mike Orrick and Jim Ferrier. A job well done and our subdivision looks so much better for it! As a result of the cleanup, there is plenty of wood available near the bridge if you would like to come cut it up and take it away.



Important Water News

WATER TO BE TURNED OFF

Sometime during a mid-morning weekday during December (weather permitting) some routine maintenance will be performed at the water tower that will require the **WATER** to be shut off for the **ENTIRE SUBDIVISION**. Advance notification of date/time will be placed at each of the entrances to Indian Creek prior to the date of repairs so you can plan accordingly. If you have a water conditioning system that runs during the day you should alter the run time. Also, after the repairs are made a boil order will be in effect until a sample is analyzed.

The board appreciates your cooperation during this time. Thank you and happy holidays!

Towanda Busy Bees

The Towanda Busy Bees will be meeting on Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30 pm. The program will be Talks and Demos and it is Annual Awards Night.



The Towanda Busy Bees will be holding a Fundraiser through Schwans-Cares.com. now through January 15. Supporting the fundraiser is easy all you need to do is order Schwans products to be delivered to your home online through the Towanda Busy Bees link at Schwans-Cares.com. The club is trying to raise \$500 to assist with yearly dues, take field trips to local agriculture sites and to do more community service.

The Towanda Busy Bees will also be ringing bells for the Salvation Army at Kroger's on College Avenue from 6 to 8 pm on December 20th. Please be sure to drop a little something in the kettle if you're shopping that evening.

If you have any questions about Towanda Busy Bees 4H club. Please contact: Martha Rients 728-2178 or hrients@frontiernet.net

Towanda Home and Community Education

The Towanda Home and Community Education group will meet for their Christmas Party Potluck on Monday, December 9, at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. Attendees should bring a dish to pass and a \$10 gift exchange if you wish to participate. You may also make a donation to the Brotherhood Tree. Meat, drinks and table service will be provided. Christmas Bingo will be played. For more information or to RSVP **by Dec 7** to hostess chairman Robin Pearson, call 815-579-1650 or email at rbtnprsn@mchsi.com. She will be assisted by Clara Lehan, Bev Hornickel and Sharon Joplin. Come for a festive time!

Towanda HCE is on the committee for the County HCE Holiday Party which takes place on Saturday, Dec 14 at the Ozark House, 704 McGregor St, Bloomington. A "Madrigal" Morning will begin with make it, take it workshops at 9:30 am and the entertainment of U-High Madrigals at 10:30 am. A hot lunch buffet will follow. \$15 tickets for members and their guests should RSVP by Dec 9 to Cindy Kelley, 309-663-4796. Join us for this "Madrigal" morning!



Towanda Library

Tag – You're It! Supplies and instructions for making 6 holiday gift tags and one card will be provided by Corinne Aberling of Stampin' Up!. Cost is \$5. Please pre-register at library by Friday, December 6th. Go home with colorful tags complete and ready for gifts.

Board Vacancy: There is currently a vacancy on the Towanda District Library Board. If you are interested in applying for the position, please draft a letter and submit it to Library Director, Karen Bersche at 301 South Taylor Street in Towanda.

Committee of the Whole Meeting of Towanda Library Board on Tuesday, December 10 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Discussion Topic: Long-Range Planning.

Story Hours - Favorite Author's Free-for-All: December 3: Jan Thomas; December 10: Mo Willems; December 17: David Shannon. December 24 and 31 the library is closed.

Library Closings: The library is closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as well as New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The library may occasionally close for inclement weather. Watch the library website.

Story Hours - Favorite Author's Free-for-All: December 4: Jan Thomas; December 11: Mo Willems; December 18: David Shannon. December 25 the library is closed.

Also:

Online Orders Arriving Faster

Starting Monday, November 4th Towanda District Library began 3-day-per-week delivery of your Inter-library Loan items requested via RSACat - the online catalog of RAILS Library System.

If you order online via RSACat, you can now expect a phone call or text on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday -- announcing that your item is ready for pick-up at our library. The goal is 2-day turn-around time of your requests.

Inter-library Loan traffic at our library has increased significantly -- warranting more delivery dates per week for you - our valued customers.

Note: RSACat includes collections from 200+ surrounding libraries. Normal Public Library participates in this cooperative online arrangement - Bloomington Public Library does not.

Towanda 4-H



The Towanda 4-H annual Christmas party/meeting is being held Friday, December 6th 2013 at 5:30pm at the Towanda Community Building. We will be having a pizza party gathering following caroling at Mercy Creek Nursing home in Normal, IL. The Towanda 4-H is open to boys and girls from ages 8-18 by September 1st. Clover Buds are for kids ages 5-7. For more information, contact Kathy Schultz at 309-728-2137 or Jeanie Wager at 309-728-2852.

Local Information

Unit 5 Superintendent Search Information

An Online Survey will be available on www.unit5.org from November 25 to December 6, 2013 to gather information about the characteristics the public would like to see in the new Superintendent. Please participate.

NCHS Madrigal performance information - <http://blogs.unit5.org/nchs-choir/>

One-Hour Late Starts in Unit 5: Wed.Dec.11, Wed.Jan.15, Wed.Jan.29

No School in Unit 5: Dec.21-Jan.5 - winter break inclusive

Mon.Jan.20 – Martin Luther King's birthday observance

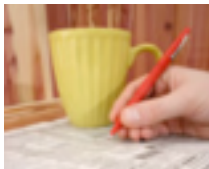
4th of July Planning Group

The group will meet in the Board Room at the Community Building on Mon.Jan.27 at 7:00 p.m. to begin making plans for the July 4, 2014 event in Towanda. People are needed to help with publicity, fundraising, the parade and flea market. Please come with ideas about how you can help make the 46th Annual Celebration an event to remember.

A Special Invitation

Indian Creek residents are invited to a meet and greet with Jon Sandage, candidate for McLean Co. sheriff in the upcoming Mar. 2014 primary election. The event will take place Sat. Dec. 7th, 1-3 pm, at Jane Foster's farm, 18869 N 2150 East Rd, just south of Towanda.

Classified



For Hire:

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!



Keith Frantz in Indian Creek submitted this photo for all to enjoy.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake - McLean County Master Gardener



We put bird feeders out in the summer and feed the birds. It is enjoyable and relaxing watching the birds, and there are things we can do now to encourage some of the birds to stay longer and get a jump on spring migration season. Birds do eat a lot of insects.

Birds need trees and shrubs near their feeder for safety and protection. If you have planted any in the last 3 - 4 years, you will want to protect the trees from bark gnawing mice and rabbits with a plastic wrap. Also put a 3 foot high fence around shrubs to keep the hungry rabbits away.

Birds like to bathe and drink from open water no matter how cold the weather is. You can get plastic bird baths with electric heaters. Also, bird baths on pedestals are ideal to protect the birds from predators such as cats. Clean the birdbaths as needed with a stiff brush. Refill often as water evaporates quickly in dry winter air.

You should clean out the nest boxes in the fall to remove the bird and mouse nests, some birds will use those boxes as winter night roosts. Clean them again in the spring for the coming nesting season.

Birds need year round plants of varied heights that offer a mixture of food, cover, nesting and singing perches. They like berry producing shrubs and trees that have an abundance of fruit. Also many insects feed on the leaves, providing protein rich food.

You can leave the leaves that fall and blow under shrubs, they will protect natural ground-feeding areas for birds. Birds prefer leaf mulch to wood-chip and bark mulch. Earthworms, pillbugs, insects and spiders - songbird delicacies - will thrive as the mulch decomposes.

Rake up soggy seed from under the feeder and destroy to prevent growth of bird-toxic mold. Scrub and clean the hummingbird feeder so they will be ready for spring. About a billion birds die

It is not too late to plant your spring blooming bulbs. They can be planted as long as the ground has not frozen. Plant the bulbs with the pointed side up. Some bulbs are hard to tell which side is up, so plant them on their side. You can mark the spot by using some colored golf tees, you don't want to forget and dig them up to plant another flower. It is time to bring your amaryllis bulb out of dormancy. Keep the upper one third of the bulb above the soil line. Those bulbs likes to be crowded. Water it and place it in a bright location.

Unless your perennials have some kind of disease, you can leave the faded perennial growth in place and clean it up in the spring. The birds can eat the seeds and the stems will collect leaves and snow to protect the crowns and roots over the winter. Tomato vines should be removed so they don't leave disease spores behind.

Continue to water newly planted trees and shrubs so they will have enough moisture before the ground freezes.

Remove any rotten fruit and debris from around the fruit trees to prevent a carry over of disease and insects.

The winter cold, dry winds can cause the evergreen needles and leaves to loose moisture. There are anti-transpirant sprays that put a waxy film on the trees and shrubs that will help keep the moisture in. It will also help extend the life of your Christmas wreath. Look for it at the local garden centers.

In early spring, we hear people talking about applying fertilizer to the lawn. Thanksgiving is the ideal time to apply fertilizer, which is called winterizer fertilizer. You won't see anything this winter, except some of the granules, but the granules will break down with the late fall and winter rains and snow. During the winter the slow release granules will break down and feed the grass roots that are growing as long as the ground is not frozen. Then next spring, when the air temperature warms up, it is ready to use for shoot growth and green color. A thick stand of turf grass means less reliance on crabgrass preventers since crabgrass problems are minimized by a lush, thick turf. It is the time of year when we could have slick sidewalks. Salt causes damage to plants along the driveway and sidewalks and can also damage the concrete. Something containing calcium chloride is a safer alternative, but it is more expensive than salt.

You can also use sand, small gravel or cinders. They will give you traction, but they will not melt the ice.. Kitty litter is sometimes used for traction, but can be very messy, especially if tracked into the house.

Avoid piling snow containing salt around your plants. If unavoidable, irrigate the area in the spring to dilute the salt build up around the plants.



It is the time for the pretty Poinsettias. Most of them are bright red, but they can also be pink or white. When you see the other colors, such as blue, etc, they have been dyed. You can take a white flower and add food color to the water and the flower will absorb it. When you choose your plant, be sure it looks healthy and the flowers are only partly open, a sign it is fresh. The flowers are the little yellow nubby part in the center of the bracts. The bracts are the colored leaves at the top of the plant.

When you take any plant out of the store, be sure it is covered good to protect it from the cold. Do not leave it in the car while you finish your shopping. Just a few seconds in the cold car can damage the plant. At home, it will like bright light away from the heat register.

Poinsettias are a native of Mexico, so they don't like wet feet. Let the top of the soil dry before you water again.

In mid March, you can cut it back by 1/3 and it will branch out, and then place it outside when the weather is warm enough. You can put the clippings in loose soil to start a new plant. Also you can cut off a stem at least 4 inches long to use in a floral arrangement. Because the stem will release a milky sap, you must seal it immediately, dip it in boiling water for 5 -10 seconds or hold the cut end over a candle for 15 seconds. Discard the stem when it starts to wilt. If you keep an open jug of water under the sink, the fluoride will evaporate and the water will be room temperature for when you need to water the plants again.

American Legion

The American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday December 1st 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 dinner on Friday December 13th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include steak, baked potato, salad, roll, drink and dessert for \$11.

Thank you for your continued support of the Legion and our Veterans.

Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday December 19 at 7:00 at the Post. The Legion is available for rent for reunions, parties and meeting. For more information contact Mike Potts at 7258-2384 or Tom Wagner at 287-7861.



Second McLean County Hazardous Waste Collection in Two Years: Great Turnout, Shorter Wait Times

The Ecology Action Center's October 2013 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection took in significant volumes of hazardous materials with considerably shorter wait times. The 2103 event saw marked improvement over the 2012 collection which saw wait times in excess of 2 hours due to unprecedented turnout. At this year's event, with wait times ranging from 45 minutes at the peak of the event in the morning to less than 10 minutes for much of the afternoon, residents were able to dispose of their hazardous materials quickly and safely.

A total of 20,693 gallons of hazardous materials were collected from 1,829 households during the event, including 1,155 gallons of oil paints, 4,439 gallons of pesticides, 1,615 gallons of aerosol paints, and 5,652 gallons of combustible substances among other materials. These volumes of materials reflect a slight decline from the 2012 HHW collection. That event was the first in five years due to a lack of traditional funding from the Illinois EPA; EAC's year-long fund-raising effort provided 100% local funding for the 2012 collection.

After 6 years on the waiting list, EAC's application for a state sponsored HHW collection was granted, making the October 5, 2013 HHW collection possible. Multiple other community partners also provided critical support including Mitsubishi Motors North America, who provided their parking lots for the collection. McLean County, the Town of Normal, and City of Bloomington all provided assistance for the event while Home Sweet Home Ministries provided e-waste collection services.

According to the US EPA, the average household generates about 30 pounds of household hazardous wastes a year. Locally, one-day hazardous waste collection events can cost between \$110,000 and \$165,000. While these events are often the most convenient means of safe disposal, the most cost effective and safest strategy for their management is source reduction - consciously avoiding generation and use of these hazardous materials wherever possible.

The Ecology Action Center is a not-for-profit environmental agency with a mission to inspire and assist residents of McLean County in creating, strengthening and preserving a healthy environment. The EAC acts as a central resource for environmental education, information, outreach, and technical assistance in McLean County.



Happy
Holidays!