



INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

February 2014

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

The Indian Creek Homeowners Annual Meeting
will be held at the Towanda Library
on Thursday March 6 at 7 p.m.

Towanda American Legion

The American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday February 2nd 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.

Come celebrate Valentine's Day at the Legion. There will be a steak/shrimp dinner on Friday February 14th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include, steak or combo, baked potato, salad, roll, drink and dessert for \$11.

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

The Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday February 20th at 7:00 at the Post. The Legion is available for rent for reunions, parties and meetings. For more information contact Mike Potts at 728-2384 or Tom Wagner at 287-7861.

Hello!

My name is Myles Smith. I live at 19 Fox Creek Road (corner of Fox Creek & Candle Ridge Rd.) I will soon be making my confirmation at St. Patrick's Church of Merna and I am currently involved in some community service projects. Starting now through Feb. 8, I am collecting donations of non-perishable foods for Clare House. They are currently in need of protein foods, baby diapers, formula, but would welcome any non-perishable foods you would like to donate.

Donations can be dropped off on our porch (there will be a large container available to put them in) or I would be happy to come pick up items if you would like to leave them on your porch.

I can be reached at (309)728-2930.

Thank you for helping me serve our community!

Myles Smith



**58th Annual
Towanda Scouting
Organization Pancake &
Sausage Breakfast
Saturday February 8th 2014**

**Towanda Grade School
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

For advance Meat orders, call 728-2384



Towanda Busy Bees



The Towanda Busy Bees will meet on February 18th at the Towanda Community Building at 6:30 pm. The program will be on Recycling. The club is hosting a used clothing drive for the month of February. Members are collecting gently used clothing to be donated to Home Sweet Home Ministries. Gently used clothing can be resold at the Mission Mart and clothing that is beyond gently used can be recycled into paper products, shop rags and sometimes even new fabrics! If you would like to help, donations will be accepted at the Community Building on the day of the meeting or by calling 728-2178.

The Schwans Cares fundraiser continues for 32 more days. Online orders may be placed through the website: <http://schwans.flipgive.com/campaigns/3584-towanda-busy-bees-4h>. Thanks to all friends and neighbors who have supported our club we are 29% of the way toward reaching our goal.

New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information about the Towanda Busy Bees please contact: Martha Rients, hrients@frontiernet.net or 728-2178.

Towanda HCE



The Towanda Home and Community Education will be meeting on Monday, Feb 10 at 7pm at the Towanda Community Building. Joyce Theobald will be giving the program, "The History of Feet". She will talk about common foot ailments at different stages of life. Bev Hornickel will present the fact find on oregano and marjoram. Joyce Theobald and Kathleen Emery are hostesses. Guests are

cordially invited to attend our meeting. Call Robin Pearson at 815-579-1650 for more information about Towanda HCE.

Our newest 2013 HCE members will be honored at the county program on Feb 8, 2-4pm for the Membership and Friendship Tea. The program will be presented by Kelly Mathy, owner of Kelly's Bakery & Café in downtown Bloomington. There will be samples and recipes shared. Please bring a special teacup for yourself and your guests and enjoy tea and cookies. Please RSVP if you can to Bette, 309-454-8442. This Valentine Membership and Friendship Tea is hosted by the Normal Unit, Night Owls Unit and Sustaining Members of Home and Community Education.

There is a Cultural Enrichment class- Feb 10, 1 - 4 pm - Chicken scratch (A simple form of embroidery) Class fees are HCE member-free if bringing your own supplies, non HCE member-\$2. If you wish to buy a kit of all supplies, HCE member-\$5, non HCE-\$7. Call Eileen for a list of supplies and to pay fees and RSVP by Feb 3 at 309-533-1135.

Other workshops that are free include Feb 11-Card Making; Feb 17- 9-12n, HCE Comfort Quilts; 1-4pm Dresses, Shorts and Pants for Children; 2-3:30pm, Read & Share the book, *Helga's Diary* by Gary Moore; Free class- Feb 24, 1-3pm, "The Assessor & You" to learn about the duties of the county assessor and how it affects individual land owners. All county workshops and programs are held at the Evergreen FS Auditorium, 402 N Hershey Rd, Bloomington.

Hope to see you in February enjoying one of the many programs that HCE is presenting.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake - McLean County Master Gardener



The seed catalogs have been arriving in the mail. Every year they add new plants. They do give a lot of information about the pretty plants. One important thing to check is the zone number. McLean County is in zone 5. Plants listed as zone 6 - 10 will not survive our cold winters. Zones 5 - 2 will survive our cold, however zone 2 & 3 might not survive our hot summer. Some catalogs will tell you how tall and wide the mature plant will be, some also say sun or shade and moist or dry area.

As you go thru the catalog, make a list of plants or seeds you would like to have. List the catalog name, page number, plant and price. After you have completed all of your lists, compare the prices and see if you can order all from one place and save on shipping cost. Also check to see if you can get them at a local nursery. The seed packets should soon be in the stores. If you find what you want, buy it before everyone else gets it first. Also don't forget to check the local nursery and then you can see the plant and help the local economy.



For years, we thought the pretty orchids were an expensive and hard to grow plant. Now we are seeing the pretty Phalaenopsis {Fal-en-OP-sis} for sale in many stores and at a reasonable price. There are many groups of orchids, but the Phalaenopsis is about the easiest to grow. The flower makes up for the lack of beauty of the plant. You can place something in front to hide the roots or they can be a work of art. A house that is healthy enough for you, is healthy enough for orchids.

Orchids can drink the same water that you drink. Orchids are called an air plant, because they absorb food from the air. They use carbon dioxide more efficiently than most plants; they return oxygen back into the air. They prefer to grow in porous, free draining medium, such as fir bark. That allows more air around their roots. They don't like wet feet. Water once a month or when the pot feels light when you lift it up. They do like the morning dew, so you can mist them in the morning. They also like humidity, more than other plants. You can sit the container on a tray of marbles in the water to keep the pot above water, or place a container of water nearby. It is very common to see the roots growing on the outside of the container, absorbing more air.

The Phalaenopsis orchid has attractive thick, glossy green leaves with an arching spray of many flowers that will continue to bloom for months. They usually bloom during fall and winter. Do not cut the stem off after the flowers fall, because new buds will form on it. After the last frost, they like to be outside in the shade. I put mine on the north side of the house. Too much sun will burn their leaves. Bring them inside when the night temperature falls to about 40 degrees. The best time to transplant them is in the spring or early summer. They need to have at least 4 leaves to bloom and will not bloom if they do not have enough light.

While we are waiting for the very cold air to stay up in Canada where it belongs, we can look back over last year's garden to see what we wanted to change. Also, it won't be long until it will be time to start some cool season plants. Check to make sure the containers are clean and the lights are ready. Simple shop lights with fluorescent bulbs hung over a table work well. If you haven't purchased or ordered your seeds, do so now while there is a good supply to choose from. It is time to start the lawn mower to see if it needs to visit the shop. Don't wait until the grass needs to be

mowed and the shop is very busy. It is time to sharpen the blades, change the oil and spark plug. Also it's time to clean your garden hand tools; soak the mower blades in soapy water and use a brush to clean them off. After they have dried, spray with WD-40 to prevent rust. Sharpen the blades, hoe, and shovels also. A clean, sharp garden tool makes gardening much easier. Keep a mesh potato or onion bag handy to clean off the trowel, hoe and shovel after each use. Wouldn't hurt to wipe them with an oil cloth also to keep them in good shape. If you have stored your dahlias, cannas, and gladiolus for the winter, you should check to see if they are drying out or rotting. If they are too dry, sprinkle with a little water.



For years, we knew spring was on the way when we could hear the geese honking, and look up to see the lopsided V of geese flying south. The two adults almost always have 5 babies, there will be 7 geese in a small group and multiples of 7 in a larger group. Young geese must fly with their parents their first year to learn the route. The leader changes often because it is the hardest position to maintain. The others in the V get a lift of the air currents off the wings from the one ahead.

Now we see geese everywhere almost all year; as long as they can find some open water they will stay. If the ponds we see everywhere freeze over, the geese will go to a river. Since zoning laws require new sub-divisions to have detention ponds, the geese will have water and grass to eat. That is why we are seeing so many geese in town. In the wild, natural predators, such as fox, coyotes and raccoons keep them under control by eating the eggs and goslings. In the winter the eagles and large hawks prey on the week adult geese. In the towns, the coyotes and raccoons tend to level off the geese population. If you have a pond, one way to discourage the geese from coming up into your yard would be to plant ornamental grass or shrubs close to the water. The geese don't like going through the tall plants where predators could be. The more tall, dense plants, the more they dislike going thru, and less often they will go into your yard. Visual and noisy methods of trying to get rid of them are not particularly effective. It is illegal to harm the birds or their eggs under current laws.

Towanda 4H



Our next meeting will be held on February 4th at 6:30 at the Towanda Community Building. There will be a special guest: a K-9 police dog, along with a policeman to teach us about animals helping the police workforce, following our theme this year of animal science. We will have talks and demonstrations following our speakers. Talks by: David Salegna, John Richard, Jasmine Dotson, and Lauren Iskra. Demonstrations by: Harris Dorgan and Abby Feit.

We are accepting donations for CISAR rescue for animals (food or toys).

We look forward to seeing you! If you have any further questions, contact Kathy Schultz at 309-728-2137 or Jeanie Wager at 309-728-2852.

Area Photos



Jim Ferrier recorded some of our winter scenes and has shared them for us all to see the beauty that surrounds us.



Calendar:

Unit 5

Mon.Feb.17 – No school (Presidents Day)

Tue.Feb.18 – No School for Students (SIP)

Wed.Feb.26 – Late Start (1 hour)

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Sat.Feb.8 – Towanda Scouts Pancake and Sausage Breakfast, serving 8-2, at Towanda School
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Mon.Feb.24 – 4th July Planning, 7pm, at the Community Building.

Classified

Home for sale:

23 Candle Ridge Rd., Towanda, IL 61776 (Indian Creek)

• Finished sq.ft. 4,029, unfinished sq.ft 1,291. • 1 acre wooded lot • 4 bedrooms (2 Master), 3 ½ baths, formal dining room • 2x6 outer walls • Low utility bills, avg. 2013 = \$155 gas/elec per month
• Great room with breathtaking view • Lots of deer, private back yard • Separate screened decks off kitchen and upper Master bedroom • Custom ceramic tile throughout.

Improvements in last 5 years:

• Complete water system \$10K • New furnace/AC system \$12K • New retaining wall \$8K
• Landscaping \$9K

Asking price: \$349,900 • 309-728-2033 • Nate or Cindy



Wanted:

We are interested in purchasing a used Hoveround power wheelchair. If you know of anyone who would be interested in selling one please contact us either by phone 309-728-2927 or email kindredspirits@frontiernet.net

Thank you.
Dave & Judy Schulthes

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!

Towanda Library

February Story Hour Theme – Clothes and Colors:



February 5 = Mittens and Boots: Create colorful mittens

February 12 = Hats: Make Miss Honey's Hat

February 19 = Shoes: Make Pete the Cat and choose the color of his shoes

February 26 = Pajamas: Make a Llama, Llama puppet

Story Hours are every Wednesday during the school year at 10:30. Preschoolers hear three stories, join finger plays, and create crafts. Younger brothers and sisters enjoy the play areas. Everyone has a snack.

Saturday, February 1: National Take Your Child to the Library Day – make a fingerprint bookmark with your child! Enjoy family books together.

Monday, February 10 from 3:30 to 6:30: **Make a Valentine** session....for children of all ages. Romance books and DVD's on display for parents.

Monday, February 17 at 4:15: **4th & 5th Graders Guy's** make catapults to battle the dragon from *A Tale Dark and Grimm* with marshmallows. Parents must phone library to register your child by February 15th.

Tuesday, February 25 from 1:30 to 3:30: **S.N.A.P.** - Talk to a rep from Peoria Area Food Bank who will assist with SNAP (Food Stamp) applications and answered questions about the program.

Wednesday, February 26 right after school: **Bulldog Book Club** discusses *Breaking Stalin's Nose* by Eugene Yelchin. Children must have signed parent permission form on file at library to participate.

Every Tuesday evening at 5:00 – Crochet Group: This group is growing and enjoys sharing projects.

202 W. College Avenue
Normal, Illinois 61761-2552



www.ecologyactioncenter.org
Phone: 309-454-3169 • Fax: 309-454-7508

Ecology Action Center Schedules February Green Drinks Environmental Networking Event



Green Drinks is an informal, social networking group for people working on or interested in environmental issues. Green Drinks groups meet in over 500 cities across the globe. The groups have no political affiliation and generally no agenda. They serve as a forum for green professionals and other interested community members to meet, socialize and share ideas. The Ecology Action Center holds Green Drinks in Bloomington-Normal on the first Tuesday of every month.

The January Green Drinks will take place Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at Medici in Normal and feature a presentation by the Bike BloNo. Founders and directors of Bike BloNo, Bloomington-Normal's bike advocacy organization, will speak on upcoming bike lane additions in the twin cities, social bike events planned for the next year, steps they are taking to educate and inform commuters on the road, and ways they (and you) can further bikeability in the community.

The public is invited to attend Green Drinks, taking place in the small private room of Medici to the left of the front entrance.

For more information, contact the Ecology Action Center at (309) 454-3169 x.11 or mbrown@ecologyactioncenter.org.

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.