



# INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

March 2014

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

Contact us by email at [indiancreeknews@hotmail.com](mailto:indiancreeknews@hotmail.com)

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

## Ecology Action Center seeks nominations for McLean County Green Awards

The Ecology Action Center wants to know who is making a difference in McLean County. Nominations for the World of Difference Awards and the Recycling and Waste Reduction Awards are now being accepted. The recipients of these awards will be announced on April 12 at the Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo held at the Shirk Center at Illinois Wesleyan University.

These annual awards recognize outstanding projects, activities, or individuals in McLean County that promote environmental awareness or conserve natural resources. Any business, organization, school, or individual may be nominated for either award. Past recipients include WGLT's Good to Go sustainable transportation program, Jewel-Osco's zero waste practices, ISU's food scrap composting program, YouthBuild McLean County's green building training programs, and many more.

Applications are available online at [www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org) or by stopping by the Ecology Action Center at 202 W College Avenue in Normal; all submissions are due by March 17, 2014.

202 W. College Avenue  
Normal, Illinois



[www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org)  
Phone: 309-454-3169 • Fax:

## Ecology Action Center Schedules March 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 environmental professionals and other community members to meet, socialize and share ideas. The Ecology

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Action Center holds Green Drinks in Bloomington-Normal on the first Tuesday of every month.

The March Green Drinks will take place Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at Medici in Normal and feature a presentation by the Todd Abecrombie of EverGreen Home Energy Consultants on making our homes more energy efficient.

Reducing the energy usage of homes is a critical piece of reducing air pollution, use of natural resources, and our impact on climate change. What can we do to make a home energy efficient? What features should we consider? Which ones are most important? How can we address indoor air quality issues at the same time?

Todd Abercrombie works as an energy consultant in Peoria and answers these types of questions every day. He is president of EverGreen Home Energy Consultants and works with homeowners, business owners, contractors, and builders to provide diagnostics energy audits to verify the energy performance of homes. He is a certified professional from the Building Performance Institute ([www.bpi.org](http://www.bpi.org)) and credentialed by the US Green Building Council as a LEED Green Associate.

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 on Green Drinks, contact Michael Brown at the Ecology Action Center at (309) 454-3169 x.11 or [mbrown@ecologyactioncenter.org](mailto: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.*

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## Towanda HCE



Towanda Unit of McLean County HCE will meet on March 10, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be on the role of the county assessor and how it affects you, presented by Bev Hornickel. The fact find will be on the plants peppermint and spearmint, members of the mint family presented by Cindy Kelley. Guests are cordially invited to attend. Call Cindy, 309-663-4796.

HCE members and guests are invited to a "Super Saturday" event on Mar 8, 9-12 at Calvary United Methodist Church, Raab & Towanda Ave, Normal. There are 3 free classes offered: Cutting Food Costs; Exercise & Flexibility; and Container Gardening for all seasons. IAHCE president, Marilyn Daughettee will be speaking about her recent trip to India for the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) annual conference. For more information call Kathleen Emery, 309-728-2784.

Other HCE Programs and Workshops are as follows: Mar 11, 9-noon, Card Making class, free, 309-242-6187; Mar 17, 9-noon, HCE Comfort Quilts and 1-4 p.m. and Children's dresses, pants and shorts workshop, 309-533-1135. County programs are held at Evergreen FS Auditorium, 402 N. Hershey Rd, Bloomington. There will also be a Dinner & Theater Night on Mar 14, 5:15p.m.-Jacks in LeRoy and 7:15p.m.-Tri-Valley HS Play. RSVP by Mar 6 to Eileen, 309-533-1135.

Towanda HCE endorses the county organization's primary purpose: Helping people find a better way to a better life through education. Please join us for educational programming and community service offered monthly. For more information call Robin Pearson at 815-579-1650.



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## Garden Tips

by Helen Leake - McLean County Master Gardener



After a long, cold couple of months, it is good to see the longer daylight hours. Not only do we human people enjoy it, so do the plants. During the winter, most of the house plants take time to rest. Around the middle of February, we could start to see some new growth in our house plants. Then it is time to start fertilizing them again. Now is the time to rejuvenate your plants. When you pinch back or cut back to the node (where the leaf meets the trunk), that will encourage branching and the plant will have a more tidy appearance. You can use the clippings to start a new plant.

For geraniums and most other plants, take a cutting from the top growing point of the plant. The cutting should be 4 - 6 inches long. Cut it at a 45-degree angle using a clean sharp knife. Wipe the blade with rubbing alcohol to sterilize it before cutting. Strip the leaves from the lower half of each cutting, leaving 2-4 sets of leaves. Also remove any flower or seed pod from the tip. Work quickly so the cutting won't wilt. Some people like to dip the base of the cutting into a rooting powder, however it can develop without it. Have your container of moistened potting mix ready. Use a pencil to make a hole for each cutting. Set the bottom 1/3 - 1/2 of the stem in the hole and firm the soil around it. Cover the container with a clear plastic bag to form a tent, making sure the plastic does not touch the plant. Place it in a warm indirect sun spot. It should start to form roots in 2 - 3 weeks.

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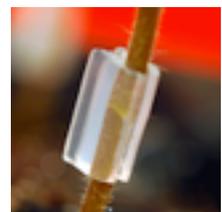
Many times we have heard that someone really likes a certain kind of apple, but they don't know what variety they are, so they plant a seed. A tree can grow, but the apples might not taste the same. The only way to be sure to get the same apple is to take a stem from their favorite apple tree and graft it to the root stock of another tree.

Grafting has expanded to other fruits, nuts and vegetables. We have seen grafted tomatoes for a couple of years. They are more expensive than a single tomato plant because the grafting has to be done by hand, but anyone can do it.



You need a plant with vigorous root growth and good disease resistance and it will be called root stock. Also choose a tomato with good flavor and color which would be called scion. [SIGH on] Using a clean, sharp razor blade, cut the top of the rootstock off at a 60-degree angle. Pot that plant in a 4 inch pot. Center the splice in a grafting clip. Cut the scion at a 60-degree angle and slip it in place so the cuts fit snugly. Close the clip to hold the cuts together. Water and place it in a dark spot. Mist the plant daily so the scion does not wilt. After 3 - 4 days, you should see a callous forming and you can move it to a brighter spot. When new leaves start to grow, you can plant it in the ground, keeping the graft an inch or 2 above the ground. Also tie the stem to a stake so roots won't form on the scion. When tomato plants get too tall before we can plant them, we say to lay them on their side so more roots can form on the stem. Be careful the new roots do not grow on

the scion, that will reduce the vigor and fruit production. You might need to stake the plant. Grafted tomatoes have been used in Asia and Europe for years, because people have limited space and they cannot rotate plants. With grafted plants you have higher yields, stronger growth, larger fruit and longer harvest season. You can also find grafted peppers and eggplants.



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## Towanda 4-H

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 4th at 5:30pm at the Towanda Community Building. We will be having workshops involving projects which many members signed up for, or could take for the 4-H fair. If you have any questions contact Kathy Schultz at (309)728-2137 or Jeanie Wager at 309-728-2852.



We hope you can make it, and look forward to seeing you!

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### Calendar:

- Sunday, March 9, – 2:00 a.m. – Daylight Savings Time begins
- Tuesday, March 18 – Primary Election, Vote: 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 19 – Unit 5 1-hour Late Start
- Tuesday, March 18 – Unit 5 Kindergarten Registration ~ Towanda Elementary: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.  
Find information and forms at: <http://www.unit5.org//site/Default.aspx?PageID=10337>
- Monday, March 24 thru Friday, March 28 – Unit 5 Spring Break / no school
- Monday, March 31 – Unit 5 School Resumes after Spring Break

ALSO – Plan now to be part of the Towanda Area Garage Sales to be held Thu-Sat, May 1-3. More information will be in the April newsletter.

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### Classified

#### For Sale:

2005 Honda Accord Hybrid, 150k miles, heated leather seats, XM radio, good condition, all maintenance records and Carfax available. Can email pictures. Asking \$5,500.

Jim Russell  
[Jmr1234@frontier.com](mailto:Jmr1234@frontier.com)  
309-830-0375

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#### Snow Shoveling and Lawn Care

Sam Cash  
Cell 309-830-6535  
17527E 2200 North Road  
Hudson, IL 61748  
[sjcwest@frontier.com](mailto:sjcwest@frontier.com)

#### 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!

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# Towanda Library

**March 4 @ 3:45 - 4:45:** Dr. Seuss Birthday Party – Celebrate by reading together as a family while enjoying a Suess-ical snack.

**March 4 @ 5:00:** Windows 8 Demonstration with Q&A. The library's tech support staff person guides you and answers your questions.

**March 6 @ 7:00:** Indian Creek Annual Meeting

**March 11 @ 5:00:** TOWANDA READS Book Discussion of *David and Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell. Open to the public.

**March 11 @ 7:00:** Building and Grounds Committee of the Library Board meets

**March 12 @ 3:45:** 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade *Bulldog Book Club* discusses award-winning *Flora and Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo. Also, a first-time-ever vote for Towanda students in the Statewide best book contest – the Caudill Book Award. Our book club students read 5 of the nominated books, so they are eligible to help select Illinois' winner. This award has been bestowed annually - since 1988.

**March 15 @ 1:00:** Windows 8 Demonstration with Q&A. The library's tech support staff person guides you and answers your questions.

**March 18 @ 7:00:** Library Board Meeting

**March 19 @ 3:45:** 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders make catapults to battle the dragon from *A Tale Dark and Grimm* with marshmallows. Parents who have not placed a permission form on file for Bull Dog Book Club, must do so before March 18.

**Week of March 24-28 all day each day:** During Spring Break we will host Thumb-Bunny loves the library week. Make your own thumb-bunny...and other colorful thumb print art for our bulletin boards.

**March Story Hours:** *Youth Art Month* activities each Wednesday at 10:30 am. Listen to stories featuring art by these famous illustrators. Then try your hand at their art forms. March 5: Ed Emberly. Cut your own shapes. March 12: Eric Carle. Overlap tissue colors. March 19: Michael Hall. Transform a perfect square. March 26: Jon J. Muth. Use water color and ink.

**Read to Dogs:** Begins March 11. Each Tuesday through May at 5:30 to 6:30. Register your child for a 15-minute reading time. Parental permission required.

**Crochet and Crafts:** Every Tuesday at 5:00.

**Money Smart Week:** Monday April 7 @ 3:30-4:30 -- Finances for Women

Make Food your Medicine, Save Money Too @ 4:45-5:45 by licensed nutritionist Julie Dostel

Saturday, April 5th @ 10:30: Money Smart Kids Program with free gift

**Volunteer Recognition Reception during National Volunteer Week:** Thursday, April 10 from 4:00 to 7:00. Drop in during these hours to enjoy appetizers and drinks. Ongoing presentation honoring those who devote countless hours to help the library during the year. Meet and greet Library Board members. Receive a small token of our appreciation.

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## Towanda Scouting Organization



The Towanda Scouting Organization would like to thank the community for their support at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. This tradition could not continue without the continued support of the community members who volunteered their time to work in the kitchen and dining room, who placed advance orders and attended the breakfast. This year we served over 1,000 people. With the support of the community, Scouting will continue to thrive in Towanda.

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## Towanda American Legion

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday March 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.



Celebrate St Patrick's Day at the Legion! There will be a dinner on Monday March 17th. Dinner will include corned beef, cabbage, carrots, new potatoes, rye bread, dessert and drink for \$10. Dinner will be served from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.

All dinners are open to the public. Carry outs are available. 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 March 20th at 7:00 at the Post. The Legion is available for rent for reunions, parties and meeting. For more information contact Mike Potts at 728-2384 or Tom Wagner at 287-7861.

