

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

June 2014

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Water to be shut off Wednesday, June 4 from 9 – 11

Please post the following announcement on your calendar, post-it note to your refrigerator, computer, iPad, smart phone, etc. that on **Wednesday, June 4 from 9 - 11** the water will be shut off for the entire Indian Creek Subdivision for some routine maintenance. It is anticipated that the outage will only be for 1/2 hour, but could last as long as 2 hours. If you have a water conditioning system that runs during the day, you should reschedule the time or disconnect the power. You may want to stockpile some water or have bottled water on hand during the outage. Also, if you know of a neighbor that does not have a computer nor keeps up on subdivision activities, you want to be a "good neighbor" and inform them of the upcoming outage.

After the water is turned back on, there will be a boil order in effect. Use of the water will be OK for cooking, cleaning or bathing, but as a precaution, please do not drink the water without boiling it first until the boil order has been lifted. If you have small children, please pay close attention to their activities. If you have a refrigerator with in-door water or ice dispenser, please do not use and discard ice after the boil order has been lifted. You should run the water for awhile before using after the suspension. Signs will be posted at each of the entrances as a reminder.

In addition, starting with the month of June, please use odd/even days (according to your street number) for any long term watering. Long term watering is defined as no more that 3 hours at a time and should be done early morning or late evening.

Separate Item – Firewood:

Any subdivision homeowner needing fire wood, there is some stacked up ready to split close to the bridge. U-Haul!

Thank you!
Bob Hancock

Towanda Route 66

Volunteers have been tending the gardens along the Route 66 trail, and they would welcome others that have an interest in making this community asset look even better. Wednesday mornings are the usual work time, and the goal is to work no longer than 1 1/2 to 2 hours on any one day. Digging out weeds is the activity attacked most often. Contact Carol Myers at 728-2749 or clmyers@frontier.com to learn more. This does *not* need to be a full-time commitment. Volunteers merely help as their personal schedules allow.



Towanda American Legion

There will be a steak/shrimp dinner on Friday June 13th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include steak, steak or combo, baked potato, salad, roll, drink and dessert for \$11.

Legion, Sons of the Legion, and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday June 19th at 7:00 at the Post. The Legion is available to rent for reunions, parties and meetings. For more information contact Mike Potts at 728-2384 or Tom Wagner at 287-7861.



The Legion is continuing to raise the needed funds to build a handicapped accessible ramp. Thank you to all for your generous support of this project.

Towanda 4-H



Our next monthly meeting is Tuesday, June 3rd at 6:30 pm at Towanda Community Building. This month our club (members only) is taking a field trip out to Dameron Cattle Farm. This trip will follow our theme of Animal Science. We will return to the community building for our talks and demonstrations.

If you are interested in 4-H, please contact Jeanie Wager at 309-728-2852 or Kathy Schultz at 309-728-2137.

End of School Year

Monday, June 2 is the last day of school in Unit 5. School begins at the regular time and is in session for 3 hours.



Towanda's 46th Annual 4th of July Celebration

"The theme of the 4th of July parade this year is 'Towanda Honors Our Families' and we are looking for LOTS of families to participate in it. A float, walking unit, or even just a couple people carrying a banner with the family name and maybe the year they came to the area or other information identifying them. This year the celebration begins with the HCE spaghetti supper and dance on the 3rd, flea market and parade on the 4th, and games and fireworks on the 5th. We invite you to come celebrate with us!" (Following is a flyer outlining the activities)

Monday, June 23, the 4th of July Planning Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Building. Anyone who would like to be a part of the parade work: registration, lineup, giving out mementoes or carrying a U.S. flag in the parade are asked to contact Gail Ann Briggs (728-2187 or rgbriggs@frontiernet.net) Parade Chair.



46th ANNUAL

Towanda 4th of JULY CELEBRATION – 2014

Towanda, Illinois 61776

Website: <http://towandajuly4.com>

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

Thursday, July 3, 2014

4:30 – 7:00 pm Spaghetti Dinner Community Building
8:00 – 11:00 pm Community Dance South Park
Music by "Sweetwater"
Food Concession by Fire Dep't

Friday, July 4, 2014

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 'Steps Off'

Saturday, July 5, 2014

6:00 pm Games (free) School Grounds
Dusk Fireworks

Thursday, 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 dance is from 8:00 – 11:00 pm with music provided by "Sweetwater" and is FREE ~ donations accepted. Fire Dep't will sell hot dogs, walking tacos, chips & drinks. Bring lawn chairs.

Friday, 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

4th of JULY PARADE ~ 2014

"Towanda Honors Our Families"

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

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

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

Local flag bearers will be able to 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, & more!

Saturday, July 5

"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.

Plan NOW to join us in Towanda for the Annual 4th of July Celebration ~ July 3, 4, and 5, 2014



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake - McLean County Master Gardener



We are seeing a lot of winter damage on Boxwood, part of the branches have turned brown. During the cold winter days, the plants go dormant. Then we have some sunny days and the plant starts taking up water. As the sun goes down, the temperature drops fast and the water in the leaf tissue freezes. The expanding ice in the plant splits and kills the cells, causing the branch to die.

You can prune out the dead parts of the plant. Be sure to sanitize the clippers between making the cuts to prevent possibility of spreading disease. Some branches might need to be cut to the ground, depending on how severe the damage is, and some might just need to be cut back a little. The plant can recover, but it might take more than 1 year.



The rabbits are cute as they run around and play in the yard. They like to eat the clover in the lawn and they also fertilize the lawn with their droppings. However, when they get in the garden, it is a whole different story. We like to share our produce, but we would rather it be our 2 legged friends, not the 4 legged ones. About the only way to keep them out is to put up a fence, usually chicken wire is tall enough. Just be sure the bottom is low enough that they can't get under it. You might need to bury it a little so they can not dig under it.

Another animal that does damage in our yard, but we seldom see, is the opossum. The night roaming mammal about the size of a cat, has grayish fur and a long thin tail. They carry their young in a pouch like a kangaroo. They like fruits, nuts, plants, insects, mice and rats. They look frightening, but they would rather freeze or run away, than attack. They are as afraid of us as we are afraid of them. They might hiss and show their pointy teeth if they feel threatened. They rarely carry rabies. They will eat bugs that damage our plants. They might even make their home in shrubbery and garden sheds.



If your plants are being damaged, you can set up wire fencing or cages. You can also try a popular home remedy because of their keen sense of smell. Take an empty coffee container and poke holes in it. Add rags that have been dipped in ammonia into the coffee container and secure the lid. Use as many around the yard as needed. Opossums will not like the odor, and they will move away. Chili powder sprinkled around the yard has also been used.

It is time to fertilize the zoysia grass lawn, after it has greened up. Zoysia is a warm season grass that turns brown in the fall when it turns cool. It looks dead all winter and then turns green when the temperature gets warmer in the late spring. It is grown mostly in the south. It is slow growing, so you don't need to mow it as often. I have seen some people spray green paint and some have burned it off. It also spreads fast.

Watch for the eastern tent caterpillars and pine sawfly. Spray them with seven.

When the common lilacs are in bloom, it is time to spray the white barked birches, if necessary, to prevent borers.

After the spring flowering shrubs have finished blooming, it is time to prune them. For the lilacs you should at least cut off the old flowers. The spireas and forsythia can be cut back and shaped. In about 6 weeks, these shrubs will start to develop next year's flowers. If you prune them in the late summer or later, you will cut off next year's flowers.

Let the spring flowering bulb foliage turn yellow before you remove it. It needs to absorb the sunshine and store the nutrients to produce next year's flowers.

Over wintered tropicals, such as hibiscus, gardenia, mandevillas, and geranium can be pruned, cleaned up and fertilized before placing them outside.

Grass clippings should be left on the lawn to return their nutrients to the soil and add organic matter. Mowing your lawn once a week, or as needed, will insure that the clippings will decompose quickly.

Towanda Library



McLean County Art Center ROVER Art Workshops: June 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, & 13 @ 2:30 to 4:30. Two sessions each for 2-D, 3-D, and fiber arts. Creative art projects for 10 to 18-year-olds. Your work will be displayed at the McLean County Art Center and you will be invited to a Grand Opening of the ROVER exhibit in August - after the ROVER program travels to each McLean County community to work with young artists.

Towanda District Library Youth Summer Reading Program – Paws to Read! **Wednesday Mornings at 10:30 am / Monday Evenings at 5:00 pm**

June 9 & 11: Paws to Read Kick-off! Talk about how caring for books and pets is similar! Carnival Games!

June 16 & 18: Paws to Read Carnival: Stuffed Animal Parade. Stuffed Animal Sleep Over. Fold origami pets!

June 23 & 25: Ferocious Wild Beasts! Learn about the different types of mammals in Illinois. You can even touch their pelts and skulls!

June 30 & July 2: Petting Zoo & Scavenger Hunt: Pet adorable animals. Find out why some animals have paws and some animals have claws.

July 7 & 9: Earth's Best Friend: The Ecology Action Center presentation - Fighting the Garbage Monster. Make pet toys out of items you find around your house!

July 14 & 16: Wolves: Howling at the Moon: Aaaaahh Ooooooh! Local artist, Aaron Yount, talks about his wolf art and about wolves' lives in the wild.

July 21 & 23: Paws to Read Pizza Party: Eat a little pizza while you prove what you learned about taking care of pets and books in a jeopardy game! Learn how to make shadow puppets. Play Animal Cracker Charades!



Listen to Outstanding Read-Alouds at Each Weekly Program and enter your pet's photo in the Pet Photo Contest

Tuesday Evenings 5:00-6:30: Read to Dogs

Towanda District Library Adult Summer Reading Program - Pause to Read!

So You Think You Want a Pet: Monday, June 9 @ 5:00 & Wednesday, June 11 @ 10:30:

Discover if you are ready to own a pet through a presentation by the organizer of McLean County's Read to Dogs program.

Make Your Own Pet Treats: Tuesday, June 17 @ 5:00 pm: Make non-bake treats for your favorite fuzzy creature.

Animal Trivia: Tuesday, June 24 @ 5:00 pm: Get a group of friends together, come to the library to create animal trivia questions and compete! We provide the game-show buzz-in system!

Ecology Action Center: Monday, July 7 @ 5:30 pm & Wednesday, July 9 @ 11:00 am: Learn more about living green and the environment!

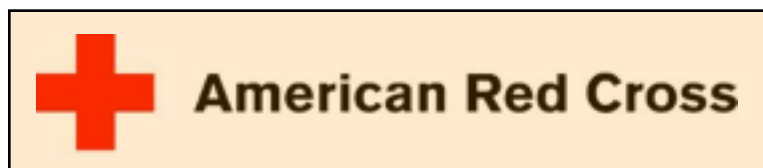
Aaron Yount: Monday, July 14 @ 5:30 pm & Wednesday, July 16 @ 11:00 am: Local artist speaks about his time in a wolf habitat. Displays of his art/photos.

Pet Open Mike Night: Tuesday, July 22 @ 5:00 pm: Share your favorite pet stories with your neighbors!

Adult BINGO READING CARDS available June 1st. Win tickets weekly for chance @ Grand Prize of KINDLE Fire or Tastefully Simple.

Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 10 @ 7 pm

Towanda Busy Bees 4-H



**Towanda Busy Bees 4-H & Towanda HCE will sponsor
a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 24
3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Towanda Community Building**

**Schedule your BLOOD DONATION by calling: Pat Pulokas 309-728-2118,
Martha Riets 309-728-2178, Clara Lehan 728-2374, or
e-mail Pat at palp@mchsi.com or
visit www.redcrossblood.org**

The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Please save this date on your calendar and if possible call for an appointment. We also welcome walk-in donors.

Classified

New Business!

Annette Hancock is now an independent consultant for The Pampered Chef. Call her at 728-2990 if you would like a catalog or would like to place an order. June is also a great time to host a party with DOUBLE Free Product Value! SHOP ONLINE ANYTIME at www.pamperedchef.biz/annettehancock



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!

Beneficial Insects: Your Garden's Most Powerful Allies

Many common insects are actually good for your garden

Taken from <http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/beneficial-insects-your-garden-s-most-powerful-allies>

Our insect allies far outnumber the insect pests in our yards and gardens. Bees, flies, and many moths help gardeners by pollinating flowers; predatory insects eat pest insects; parasitic insects lay their eggs inside pests, and the larvae that hatch then weaken or kill the pests; dung beetles, flies, and others break down decaying material, which helps build good soil.

Bees and Wasps

Honeybees are called the "spark plugs" of agriculture because of their importance in pollinating crops, but other wild bees and wasps are also important pollinators and natural pest-control agents.

Bees: All bees gather and feed on nectar and pollen, which distinguishes them from wasps and hornets. As they forage for food, bees transfer stray grains of pollen from flower to flower and pollinate the blooms. Bees are vital as pollinators of cultivated crops as well as to wild plants. Pesticide use, loss of habitat, and pest problems such as mites have vastly reduced wild and domestic bee populations. Most recently, a phenomenon called Colony Collapse Disorder is decimating populations of honeybees in the United States. It's not known for sure what is causing this problem, in which worker bees suddenly die out, leaving behind the queen bee, the nurse bees, and the unborn brood (which in turn die without the support of the worker bees). Possibilities include diseases or parasites, or damaging effects of chemical pesticides on bees' nervous systems or immune systems.

The good news is that native bees ranging from bumblebees to tiny "sweat bees" are still hard at work pollinating crops and gardens. The best way to encourage native bees is to tend a flower garden with as long a bloom season as possible. Leave some bare ground available for the bees to tunnel in to make nests, and provide a shallow water source where they can drink.

Yellow jackets: Most people fear yellow jackets and hornets, but these insects are excellent pest predators. They dive into foliage and carry off flies, caterpillars, and other larvae to feed to their brood. So don't destroy the gray paper nests of these insects unless they are in a place frequented by people or pets, or if a family member is allergic to insect stings.

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

The June Green Drinks will take place Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott and feature a presentation by Green Top Grocery: What is a food co-op and why should I care?

Food co-ops are sprouting up across the country! Learn more about what a co-cooperatively owned grocery is, and how it benefits the environment, your family, and the local economy. Green Top Grocery Representatives will shed light on these issues and will happily answer your questions.

Green Top Grocery is a new cooperative grocery store being organized in Bloomington-Normal. In many ways, a co-op grocery store is just like any other grocery store—it carries all of the products and offers all of the services found in the typical grocery store. However, there is one big difference: community ownership. This co-op grocery store will be voluntarily owned and controlled by the people who use it: the owners, who purchase equity shares in the co-op. It will be operated for the benefit of the owners, to meet their mutual needs and values.

The public is invited to attend Green Drinks, taking place in at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott, on the second floor, right above the lobby. For more information on Green Drinks, contact Michael Brown at 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.