

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

December 2014

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Indian Creek Workday

The following Indian Creek residents helped out during the workday on November 15:

Jim Larson, Greg and Carol Beneze, Barb & Mark Ulbrich, Howard Rients and daughter Grace, Barb & Eric Leathers and their two children Nick and Natalie, Pete Spencer, Ben Daily, Louie Blank, Rodney Britain, Jonathan Rosenthal, Larry Lynn, Mike Emery, Craig Doubet, Larry Meyer, Fred & Fran Walk, and Dan & Val Duback provided lots of food and drinks!

It was a great day and a great deal was accomplished. Another snag in the creek by the bridge was removed, a lot of brush was cleaned up, and more invasive species were removed. Once again, thanks to the diligent work of our residents, the subdivision remains a beautiful and cared for place to live!



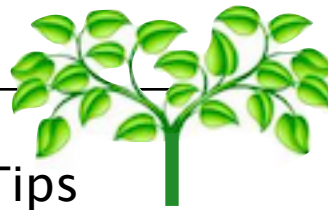
Local Calendar

Wed.Dec.10 – Unit 5 - 1-hr late start for students

Fri.Dec.19 – Unit 5 – last day of school before winter break

(Mon.Jan.5 – Unit 5 – Teacher Institute Day; no school for students)

(Tue.Jan.6 – Unit 5 – Students return to school)



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake

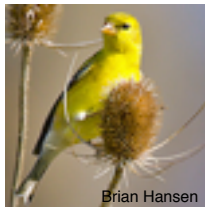


The weather usually heads down hill in November, so we need to prepare our gardens for winter. After the frost, the annuals have said good bye. They can go into the compost pile, or left for the birds to eat the seeds, also the snow covering them sometimes adds beauty to the garden. The tomato vines should be pulled and put in the garbage.

Any newly planted broad leaf evergreen, such as azaleas, boxwood, or hollies, will benefit from a burlap or plastic screen for protection from the drying winter winds. Set the stakes before the ground freezes. Also while the temperatures are above freezing, you can apply anti-desiccants to them and other evergreens. An anti-desiccant is a clear coating that is sprayed on evergreens to prevent the winter winds from drying out the leaves and needles.

Also if you have evergreens near a street or road, you might want to put up a plastic fence to protect them from salty snow being blown onto them when the snow plow goes by. You will need to put the stakes in before the ground freezes.

Be sure all trees and shrubs that have been planted within the last 4 or 5 years are well watered before the ground freezes. The roots can not draw water from frozen soil.



As we are cleaning up our yard, we need to remember that the birds will need a place to protect themselves from the severe winter. The Audubon has suggested some things to make our yard more bird-friendly.

We don't want to bring any new invasive plants into our yard because they don't provide as much good food or habitat as the natives do and they can threaten our healthy ecosystems. We need to have trees and shrubs that produce berries for them to eat during the winter. Also leave your perennials that have seed for them to eat.

We need to let our yard get a little messy. Create a brush pile by stacking some downed branches that could be in the back corner of the yard where it isn't visible from the street. Leave the leaves that collected under the shrubs for insects to collect and the birds can scratch and eat them. The birds need a source of cover during bad weather. The leaves have fallen off the shrubs, so they don't have as much protection there. I don't cut off my asparagus until spring so the wild life have some protection. Sometimes the birds can crowd into a bird house to get out of the cold.

Some birds use constellations to guide them on their annual migrations and the bright lights from windows and skylights can disrupt their steering senses. Just turning off the bright outside lights that are not being used can help them find their way.

They do need water to drink and bathe in, but it is hard to keep fresh water in the winter. In the summer, change that water 3 times a week when mosquitoes are breeding.

We need our birds. They are pretty and entertaining to watch. It is good to hear them singing and best of all, they eat a lot of unwanted insects.



You can plant your newly purchased amaryllis bulbs, and the one you saved from last year, now. Start watering them and they should bloom in time for the holidays. If you are planting a new bulb, they like to be crowded in the pot. Use about a 6 inch container and leave the top 1/3 of the bulb uncovered.

It is time to put your garden tools and garden furniture away so they won't be damaged by the cold, wet weather. Be sure to water any newly planted (up to 4th-5th year) trees or shrubs, so their roots can continue growing until the ground freezes.

Store your mulch in the garage, so it doesn't freeze. If you leave it outside in a pile, it will freeze solid. Wait until the ground freezes before you add your winter mulch.

You can plant garlic cloves indoors.. As the leaves grow, you can snip them off for seasoning your food.

It is time to start your snow thrower to make sure it is ready for that first big snow.

Store your pumpkins and winter squash in the basement at 50-55 degrees.

If you are planning on having a live, balled tree for Christmas, dig the hole now. Cover the hole with a board and store the soil in a warm place. You don't want the soil to be frozen when you try to fill in around the newly planted tree.



It is time to winterize and put the riding lawn mower to bed for the winter. After you finish mowing and mulching the leaves, clean all the debris off of the deck and underneath. It is easy to clean it off using an air compressor. Also clean the motor off and give the whole mower a good cleaning.

If you just have a small amount of gas left in the gas tank, let the motor run until it runs out of gas. If you have a lot of gas left, you can add a fuel stabilizer, such as Sta-Bil, to the gas tank. Run the motor for at least 5 minutes to mix it with the gas and get it to treat the whole system.

After you have cleaned the motor off good and taken care of the gas, it's time for the battery. Clean the top of the battery, posts and cables. If it is in a heated building, you can disconnect the battery cables. Some old timers remove the battery and store it in the basement to guard against severe cold. Also some say not to store a battery on a concrete floor.

It is a good idea to give it a tune up every year, so it can serve you for a long time. And always remember *safety first*. If you are unsure on how to care for your mower, check your owners manual.

Don't forget to change the oil and filter as needed. Also you will need to sharpen the blades before using it next spring.

If you have a push lawn mower, you need to do the same with the gas. A good cleaning also makes the mower last longer and does not invite the mice to make a home in it. Using a good quality fuel is important.

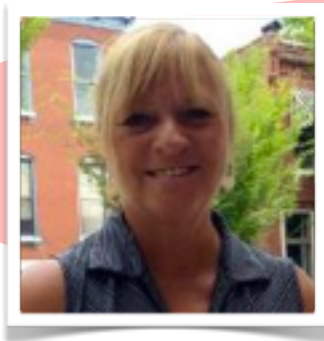
Thanks to the folks at Martin-Sullivan for all the good advice and reminders.

Towanda 4-H



The December meeting of Towanda 4-H will be held on 12-2-14 at 6:00pm. We will meet at Towanda Community Building for County Awards and to practice the carols we'll be singing at Mercy Creek. We will travel to Mercy Creek, where we will sing Christmas Carols for the residents, then back to the Community Center for cocoa and cookies.

Towanda 4H is open to anyone ages 5-19. If you are interested, please join us or contact Kathy Schultz at 309-728-2137 or Jeannie Wager at 309-728-2852.



CaringBridge Site for Marilyn Blank

Marilyn Blank is undergoing treatment for acute leukemia and thoughts and prayers of support are welcomed at her CaringBridge site. Also at that site, updates are posted almost daily. The site can be found by clicking on: [Visit Marilyn's site](#)

Towanda Home and Community Education



The Towanda Home and Community Education group will meet on Monday, December 8, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building for their Christmas Party Potluck. Meat, bread, drink & table service will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

If you wish to participate, bring a \$10 gift exchange or you may make a donation to the Brotherhood tree. We will play Christmas Bingo. Come for a festive time of food and fellowship. Hostesses are Joann Steinberg, Clara Lehan, Robin Pearson and Bev Hornickel. RSVP by Saturday, Dec 6 to Robin at 815-579-1650 or rbtnprsn@mchsi.com.

Towanda members are also attending the McLean County HCE Holiday Brunch and Party on Saturday, Dec 6 at 1st Christian Church, 401 W Jefferson St, Bloomington. Enter the north door by the parking lot and go to the basement meeting room. We will have brunch, make-it/take-its workshops and our entertainment will be Charline Watts sharing her special nativities. You are invited to bring your nativity to display. RSVP to Cindy Kelley as she has \$7 tickets if you'd like a ticket (309-663-4796).

Towanda American Legion

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday December 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 not be a dinner in December due to the busy holiday season.



Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday December 18th 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.

Thank you for your continued support of the Legion and our Veterans. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

202 W. College Avenue
Normal, Illinois 61761-2552



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

Green Drinks Environmental Networking Event on ParkLands Foundation Watershed Progress December 2



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 week of every month.

The November Green Drinks will take place Tuesday, December 2 at 5:30 p.m. at Medici and will feature a presentation by Jason Shoemaker of the ParkLands Foundation. Jason, the Land Steward for ParkLands Foundation, has been involved in a number of conservation and preservation projects in the middle and upper Mackinaw Valley watershed. ParkLands Foundation protects and restores natural lands in the Mackinaw River valley of McLean and Woodford counties. Its goal is to create a network of conservation lands corridors along the Mackinaw River and its tributaries.

The public is invited to attend Green Drinks; the group meets at Medici in Uptown Normal, in the small private room to the left of 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.

Towanda Busy Bees 4H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4H Club will meet on Tuesday December 16th at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The club is supporting the McLean County Extension Mitten Drive. All members are reminded to bring mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. The club will hold Recognition and Honors night. There will also be a special Cloverbud activity. Refreshments will be provided by the Miller family.



4H is open to all youth aged 8 through 18 by September 1 2014. Cloverbud members are ages 5 through 7 by September 2014. New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information contact: Martha Rients (309)728-2178.

Towanda Library

Preschool Story Hours: December 3 - Dressing for Cold Weather; December 10 - Snow; December 17 - Animals in Winter.

Food for Fines: During December fines will be forgiven with each donation of food brought to the library for Clare House. Each donated item equals \$1 toward your fines.

75th Anniversary of Library: What an amazing turnout for the celebration! Thanks to all who participated. View the day's presentation on the Towanda Library's You Tube channel. A donation from Hank Thomassen's children made the celebration possible.

Crochet, Knit, or Felt Group: This group continues to grow. Join them at 5:00 each Tuesday evening at the library. Informal come & go - with lots of conversation and sharing of projects.

World Book Encyclopedia Online: Are you using your library card to tap into the library's online encyclopedia subscription - right from your home? It's great for last-minute homework assignments! Find the World Book icon on TDL's website and use it's resources for FREE. Many educational games for youth are also on the World Book site. Another feature is a craft encyclopedia for Sunday School teachers or youth group leaders. (subscription cost = \$700)

Tumble Books: Find the Tumble Book icon on the TDL website. Young children can listen to stories being read to them. Beginning readers will see each word "light up" as it is read....so they can follow along and learn. (subscription cost - \$300)

Classified

Business:

Still need to order holiday gifts for family and friends?
Contact Annette Hancock to place an order in time for Christmas delivery.

Visit her booth at Lexington's Christmas on the Prairie show on
December 6 from 9 am to 2pm at the Lexington High School.

Call Home - 728-2990
Text or call cell - 309-242-1802
Email - oldcars@frontiernet.net
Website - <http://new.pamperedchef.com/pws/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!