

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

February 2015

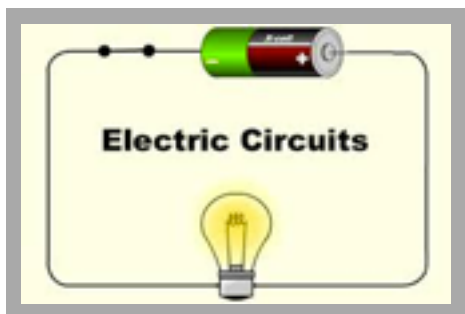
On the web at <http://www.indiancreeksubdivision.org>

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Towanda 4H

The February meeting of Towanda 4H will be Feb. 3, 2015, at the Community Building. Our topic for the month will be "How to Complete a Simple Circuit-Electricity". Our club topics for this year are Natural Resource & Environment and Technology & Engineering.

The club will be collecting items for the food pantry. 4H is open to everyone, ages 5-19. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Schultz 309-728-2137 or Jeanne Wager 309-728-2852.



Towanda Busy Bees 4H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4H Club held their January meeting on January 20th. Members were honored during the Annual Awards and Recognition Night. The members also planned for an outing to the Pepsi Ice Center for ice skating on February 1st. The next meeting will be held on February 17th at 6:30 p.m. At the Towanda Community Building.

New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information please contact: Martha Rients 728-2178



Local Calendars

February Calendar

Sat.Feb.14 – VALENTINES Day
Sat.Feb.14 – Annual Boy Scouts Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, School - 8-2
Sat.Feb.14 – PTO Basket Raffle, School – drawing at 2 pm
Mon.Feb.16 - Presidents Day - Legal Holiday
Mon.Feb.23 – 4th of July Planning Meeting – Community Building – 6:30 pm

Unit 5's February Calendar

Wed.Feb.11 – Late Start (1 hour)
Mon.Feb.16 – Presidents Day – No School
Tue.Feb.17 – School Improvement Day – No School for Students
Wed.Feb.25 – Late Start (1 hour)

Unit 5 - Upcoming in March

Tue.Mar.17 - Kindergarten Registration – 1:30-3:00 pm
- More details in March and from the school at (309) 557-4426
Mar.23-27 – Spring Break – No School



FAITH
IN ACTION
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois

*Though Towandans may be just a fraction
Meeting their needs can gain more traction
When vision grows dim
Helpful options are slim
Until you unleash Faith in Action.*

**To be part of the “unleashing” of services for seniors in the Towanda area,
Please read on...**

Faith in Action of Bloomington-Normal (FIA) is an interfaith not-for-profit ministry that provides practical services to adults age sixty and over by coordinating volunteers to meet their nonmedical needs. Driving seniors to medical appointments and grocery shopping form a major part of Faith in Action's efforts. Up to now, services have only been available to residents of Bloomington-Normal. However, efforts are now underway to expand FIA services to Towanda, including its subdivisions and rural residents.

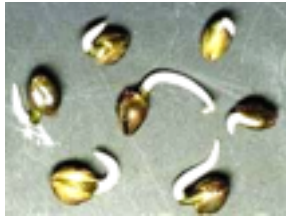
A steering committee of Towanda residents headed by Denny Redick met recently to learn more about FIA and to provide feedback to FIA staff. Members of the steering committee are Bob Hancock, Sherry Shipley, Lyle and Mary Merritt, Gail Ann Briggs, Randy and Robin Pearson, Connie Priess, Kay Liebenow, Judy Schulthes, and Debbie Kinsella. Members of the steering committee are available to answer questions and provide additional information for potential volunteers as well as seniors over age 60 who might need services through FIA. Interested persons are invited to contact a member of the steering committee or the FIA office to learn more. FIA is located in Normal and can be reached at 309-827-7780. Its website is www.bnfia.org.

Volunteer efforts are coordinated through an online database of needs that maximizes volunteer autonomy and flexibility. As soon as five Towanda volunteers are ready to serve, Faith in Action will begin accepting applications from Towanda seniors who need services. There is no cost and services are provided regardless of the senior's financial circumstances. An orientation for new volunteers will take place at the Towanda Community Building at a date and time to be announced soon. For additional information or to register for volunteer orientation, please contact Faith in Action's Volunteer Coordinator, Carolyn Wetzel at 309-827-7780 or carolynw@bnfia.org.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



The holidays are over and it is too cold to work outside in the yard. While you are sitting by the fireside and relaxing, think about how your 2014 yard looked.

Did a tree or shrub grow and what used to be sun, is now shade? That could be why the "full sun" plants didn't do so good. Or maybe a branch broke off of the tree, or worse, the whole tree had to be removed. Now, what used to be shade, is now full sun. That is really hard on a lot of plants. Make a list of what will need to be moved and where you can put them.

If you saved some seeds from last year, this is a good time to check and see if they are still good. Wet a paper towel and spread 10 seeds on it. Cover that with another wet paper towel and roll it up. Place the roll in a plastic bag and leave it on the counter, out of the sun. In about 4-5 days, open it to see if any of the seeds are starting to grow. Some seeds take longer to germinate than others, so you will have to check again.

If you had 7-8 seeds germinate, just plant the seeds a little thicker than usual. If you only had 5 or less to germinate, time for new seeds.



For years, all of our flower pots were brown, clay pots. Then because plastic pots were cheaper, lighter, and easier to handle, plants are sold in plastic pots. The clay pots, now called terra cotta, are still used by a lot of people.

After the clay pots have been used for awhile, we notice a white crust or film built up on the pots. That shows a build up of soluble salts, which comes from the fertilizer you are using or from the water. Especially if it is hard water. The clay is porous, so water seeps thru it. That is why plants dry out faster in clay containers than plastic containers. The water evaporates, but the salts remain on the side of the pot.

To remove the white markings, mix one part bleach with nine parts of water. Take the plant out of the pot, and scrub the inside and out using the solution. Rinse the pot thoroughly with plain water and let it dry completely and then return the plant to the pot. Another way would be to make a paste of baking soda and water, use that to scrub off the salts. Salts on the outside of the pot will not hurt the plant. However a build up of salts in the soil can damage the plant.

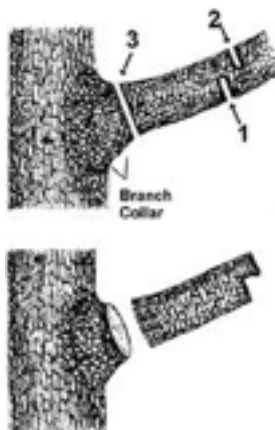
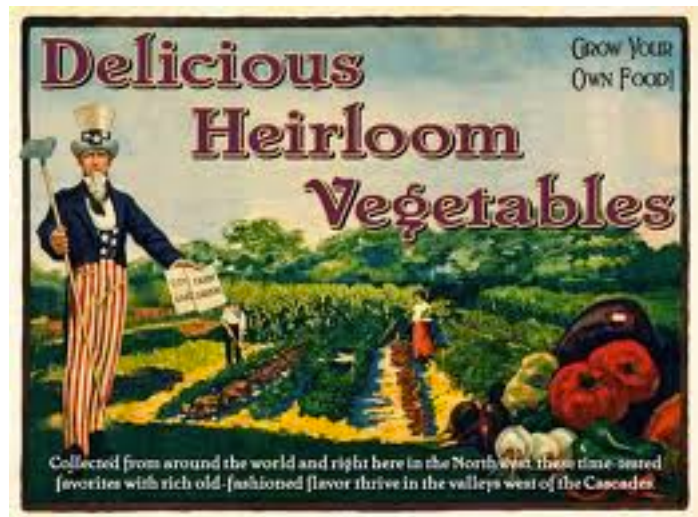
To prevent the build up, every few months leach the salts out of the soil by flushing it with a large amount of water. Sit the pot in the sink and let water run out of the bottom of the pot for a few minutes.

Research has shown that the nutrient value in our food today has declined over the past 50 years, significantly. Wheat grown 100 years ago had twice as much protein as modern varieties. The nutrient value in our fruits and vegetables is also declining. Scientists believe that the high rates of synthetic fertilizers and irrigations bring higher yields, but they lower the nutrient value. Also the developing of "improved" varieties could also have inadvertently caused the lower nutrient value. Look at the newer varieties of roses, they don't smell as good as the older varieties. Some

people prefer the heirloom tomatoes for flavor but they are not as disease resistant. Therefore you need to plant a few extra plants.

Years ago, just about every farmer raised cows, pigs, chickens, and horses. In the spring, they cleaned the manure out of the barn and spread it on the fields. The earthworms, bacteria, insects and fungi would break that down and return the nutrients to the soil. That was their fertilizer.

Today you can buy bags of cow manure and compost to spread on your lawn and garden. You can also have your own compost pile to continue adding to it. It does not contain the salts that synthetic fertilizers do, so it is better for the soil. It could also raise the nutrient and flavor value of the food.



Now is a good time to take a good look at your trees while you can see the bare branches. If any of the branches are dead, they should be removed before they fall and hurt something. If any of the branches are rubbing on each other, one of them should be removed. Maybe the tree has some branches that are too low and you bump your head on it. Remove that one also. When cutting a branch, use the 1-2-3 cut. Go out about 3 feet from the trunk, make the first cut by cutting from the bottom of the branch up about 1 inch, that is so when the branch falls, it will not tear the bark down the side of the tree. Number 2 cut will be to cut from the top of the branch and cut the branch off. Before you cut, make sure everyone is out of the way of the branch falling and the branch will not fall on something. Number 3 cut, now you have the weight of the branch removed, you cut from the top at the collar of the branch. The collar is the wrinkled part where the branch connects to the trunk, to leave a smooth cut.

You do not need to cover the wound.. It will heal better if left open so the air can get to it. Now stand back and see how the tree looks and see if you should trim some more.

You can also prune grapes now. They produce on new wood, so don't be afraid to cut back.

Do not prune the roses until you see new growth in the warmer weather.

Towanda Post Office

Beginning Sat.Feb.7 – New Towanda Post Office RETAIL Hours

Monday-Friday ~ 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. AND 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. (Closed 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)
Saturday ~ 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Sunday ~ Closed



Towanda HCE will meet at Feb 9, 7pm at the Towanda Community Building to study "the silent killer of teeth" presented by Kathleen Emery. The fact finds on Plantains and star fruit will be given by Cindy Kelley. Hostesses are Jeanie Wager and Connie Carstens.

Members and guests are welcome to attend our special February 14 HCE Friendship and Membership Tea held 2 p.m. at the McLean County Extension Auditorium, 1615 Commerce Parkway, Bloomington. This is a free event if you RSVP by Feb 6, 309-830-0224. A program by The Olive Bin will inform us about varieties and uses of olive oil. Bring a favorite cup and saucer if you like. Contact 309-830-0224 for questions.

Other programs and workshops- Feb 9, 1-4p, 309-662-5520 for fees, supplies; Feb 10, 9-12n, card making class, 309-242-6187; Feb 16: 9-12n, comfort quilts, 309-533-1135; 1-4p, children's dresses, pants, and shorts, 309-242-6187; 2-3:30p, Read & Share-*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, 309-661-6391; Feb 23, 1-3p, Dr. Kathryn Bohn will present program, "What every woman should know about varicose veins," 309-310-9205. These free programs and classes will be held in the McLean County Extension Auditorium at 1615 Commerce Parkway, Bloomington. The public is welcome at all meetings.

Guests are cordially welcome to attend all Towanda and county HCE programs and workshops. Call Jeanie Wager, 728-2852 for more information.

Indian Creek residents meet in Florida



From left to right: Ben and Mary Daily, Ron and Ruth Parsons, Jim and Faith Russell, Kay Liebenow, and former neighbors Dennis Maze and Sue Arnold. They were all vacationing on Sanibel island Florida.

Towanda Library

4th & 5th Grade Book Club: A middle school prankster lands in the “gifted” class – thanks to a major mix-up. *Ungifted* by Gordon Korman is a funny story proving that the underdog can come out on top! Join the Bulldog Book Club to discuss this book on Wednesday, February 11 – right after school. Parent reminder: You can read to your child a-chapter-a-night --- so they can join the club, if reading the entire book alone is too daunting. Reading together is a very calming bonding activity.

CSI: Crime Scene Investigator, Nicole Fundell, shares tricks-of-the-trade with school-aged children @ 3:30 on Wednesday, February 25th. Adults can enjoy a CSI program at 5:00 that same afternoon.

Wednesday Morning Story Hours:

February 4: Hearts, the letter H, and Love Bug Headbands.

February 11: Valentine’s Day and the letter V.

February 18: Bedtime, Stars, and the letter S.

February 25: Star shapes and Letter review with picture BINGO.

Affordable Care Act: Questions about your new health insurance options? Wondering how the Affordable Care Act affects you? Beat the mid-February deadline. In-Person Counselors from the McLean County Health Department will be available to answer questions and assist with enrollments on February 6th, 2015 from 3pm to 5pm.

Missing Valentines: Linda Garbe will present the details of the “Missing Valentine” project at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, February 17. You are invited to attend and also to become a part of the project. Your writing may appear in a book, anthology, or another work of art.

Crochet, Knitting, and Felting Group: Every Tuesday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 join this group for craft ideas and socializing.

American Legion

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday February 8th 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 \$9.



There will be a Fish Fry at the Legion on Friday February 20th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include fish, baked beans, coleslaw, roll, drink and dessert for \$9. *Note the dinner is a week later due to the Boy Scouts 59th Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Saturday February 14th at the Grade School from 8-2.* To place an advance meat order call 728-2384.

The Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday February 19th 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.

Towanda Boy Scouts

The Towanda Boy Scouts 59th Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast will be Saturday February 14th from 8-2. To place an advance meat order call 728-2384 or contact any Cub Scout or Boy Scout.

2015 Advance Meat Order Towanda Scouting Organization

~Pick Up Meat Orders~

Friday, February 13th, 3-6 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building or,
Saturday, February 14th, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Towanda Grade School.

PLEASE BRING YELLOW COPY WHEN PICKING UP YOUR ORDER!

Questions? Call Mike & Linda Potts 728-2384

Country Store will have a limited supply of additional meat, etc.,
beginning at 8:00 a.m. Saturday on a first come, first serve basis.

Place Your Order Today ~ The Deadline is JANUARY 26, 2015

WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE	Pounds	Price	Total
BULK SAUSAGE (2# increments) Packaged ONLY in 2# packages.		\$3.50/lb.	\$
LINK SAUSAGE Packaged in 5# packages.		\$3.50/lb.	
BACK RIBS Packaged in 5# packages.		\$3.50/lb.	
COUNTRY STYLE BACON Packaged in 1# packages.		\$5.00/lb.	
ITALIAN SAUSAGE			
ITALIAN BULK (2# increments) Packaged ONLY in 2# packages.		\$3.50/lb.	
ITALIAN LINK Packaged in 5# packages.		\$3.50/lb.	
CHICKEN BREASTS			
BONELESS/SKINLESS Packaged in 5# packages.		\$4.00/lb.	
		TOTAL	\$

ORDER TAKEN BY: _____

DATE _____

PHONE: _____

☐ Paid

☐ Not Paid

NAME: _____

Classified

Business:

February brings new Spring Pampered Chef products and catalogs. Contact Annette Hancock to schedule your Spring Party!

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!



Bloomington Extension hosts Illinois First Detectors Training Invasive Pest Workshop

Illinois First Detector Invasive Pest Workshop University of Illinois Extension offers an invaluable program called the "Illinois First Detector Invasive Pest Workshop" in an effort to educate the community on invasive threats to our Illinois landscape. Invasive threats like the Emerald Ash Borer have drastically reduced the number of Ash trees. Another common threat is garlic mustard whose invasive qualities cause it to dominate the forest floor by choking out desired native plants. The ...

Read full post at http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lmw/eb255/entry_9430