



INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

April 2015

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 Tuesday April 21 at 7 p.m.

Moneycreek Township

Secondly, Moneycreek Township Board will hold it's monthly meeting on Tues., April 14th at 7 pm. at the Township Building (corner of County Rd 29 and PJ Keller). The annual meeting for the Township Board will be held immediately following. All are welcome to attend.

Towanda American Legion

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday April 12th 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 pork chop dinner on Friday April 17th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include pork chop sandwich, au gratin potatoes, coleslaw, dessert and drink for \$9.

All dinners are open to the public. Carry outs are available. Thank you for your continued support of the Legion and our Veterans.

Garden Planning 101

Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m. Normal Public Library

206 West College - Please park in adjacent parking deck.

Gather on the 1st floor in that "café" space near the check-out counter.

Kelly Allsup of U of I Extension's Horticulture program will be presenting organic gardening tips and strategies. She will also have FREE GIFTS AND PRIZES, including ...

1. Garden seeds
2. Organic fertilizer
3. Row covers

No RSVP necessary, and no fee to attend. Bring friends! This is open to the public.

Faith in Action

Faith in Action has compiled a team of willing volunteers, but we have no seniors in need of our services from the Towanda area as of right now. Please call 827-7780 if you could use assistance to doctor appointments, grocery shopping or would like a friendly visitor.
Thank you

Doretta Herr, Director
Faith in Action of Bloomington-Normal
705 E. Lincoln St., Suite 110
Normal, IL 61761 bnfia.org
309-827-7780



Towanda Busy Bees 4H



The Towanda Busy Bees 4H club met on Tuesday March 17th for their regular meeting. All members present gave a talk or demonstration following a brief business meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 21 at 6:30 pm. The program for the evening will be on television...how much do you watch?

SAVE THE DATE: The Towanda Busy Bees will host a Blood Drive for the American Red Cross on **TUESDAY JUNE 23** from 3:00 - 7:00. You can go online and sign up to donate or contact Martha Rients 728-2178 or mrrients@frontiernet.net. Our 2014 Blood Drive was a huge success with 40 pints collected. With your help, we hope to surpass this number in 2015!

Towanda Lions Club



The Towanda Lions Club will offer its annual Ham & Bean Dinner at the Community Building from 4:30pm to 7:00 pm on Friday, April 10, 2015. Tickets are \$6 at the door, or they may be purchased for \$5 in advance from any Lions Club member. Dinner will include all-you-can-eat ham and beans, cornbread, beverage, and dessert. An alternative meal will be a hotdog, chips, beverage, and dessert. Children ages 11 and under will eat free when accompanied by an adult. Carry outs are available.

The Towanda Lions Club along with the Towanda Ladies Night Out Club will host an Easter Egg hunt for infants through 4th grade on Saturday, April 4th. Activities will start **promptly** @ 10:00 a.m. at the Towanda Community Building/Park. Be sure to come early to register your child for a chance to win a prize.





Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



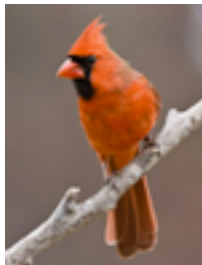
Hopefully, our cold winter is past. It is tempting to start uncovering the plants, but we can still have some cold weather, so keep the mulch handy to cover up again.

You want to prune the fruit trees, grapes, and raspberries early in the month before the buds swell. When pruning the old fashioned raspberries, remove the stem that had fruit last year. It usually is brown by now. The nice green stems that came up last year will bear fruit this year. The canes of the ever-bearing red raspberries that produced in the fall will also produce the following summer. Wait to remove the canes until after the second crop.

To control iris borer, clean up and destroy the old foliage before new growth appears.

In Ohio, they have discovered that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), has spread to the native fringe trees. The EAB usually has been spread by moving firewood from one area to another. It is illegal to move firewood out of or into McLean County and many other counties in the state. If you have any ash wood, be sure to burn it before May 1, when the larvae will hatch into an insect, and start laying eggs.

You may have noticed some bark has been peeled off of your tree branches, especially the maple trees. The squirrels have been gnawing on the branches, especially the maple trees. They are not getting enough nutrients from the bird seeds, so they are going after the rising sap.



It won't be long until the pretty song birds will be returning for the summer. We should do some spring house cleaning for them now. An easy way to clean the bird house is to use a spray bottle to wet the inside. Let it soak for a few minutes and then just scrape out the old nesting materials. Sometimes birds have used the house for shelter during the winter and they did not clean up after themselves.

The birds will need a drink of water, plus a place to bathe. Sprinkle a little sand in the bird bath and scrub it with a clean brush. The grit helps to grind away the residue. It will also need to be cleaned often during the summer so they can always have clean water to drink. You might place a small piece of wood in it so the bees and butterflies can land on it and safely get a drink of water. The bird feeder should be cleaned every season. Use 1 part bleach to 10 parts of water and give it a good scrubbing. Do not use the bleach water to clean the hummingbird feeder. You can place some dry rice or beans with water and gently shake it to reach the hard places.

After a rain, sometimes the bird seeds get wet. Even after it gets dry, the seed could be moldy. Empty it out onto the ground, clean it, and give them fresh food. If we take good care of the birds, we can enjoy watching them, hearing them sing, and best of all they will eat the insects and we won't need to spray any chemicals.



We keep telling people not to use pesticides and insecticides in the garden. Instead, here are some things you might do. Pests usually prey on weak plants, so try to buy healthy plants. The best way to keep them healthy is to start with good soil. Load it with as much compost or organic matter as you can. By doing that, you can eliminate insects and disease in the garden and the healthy soil will have beneficial microbes and contain a balance of minerals. The organic mulch will provide a place for the beneficial predators like beetles, centipedes and spiders to live. Also, choose plants that are disease resistant, native to the area, and will fit into your growing conditions.

Less than one percent of the pest population in the garden are considered pests. Most of them are beneficial and ready to take on the bad bugs. We need the pollinators to fertilize female flowers, so fruit and seed can develop. The bugs, such as ladybugs, ants, beetles, spiders, and many others, are beneficial and feed on the garden pests.

To encourage the helpful insects to visit your garden, you have to stop using pesticides. They kill the good bugs as well as the bad ones. Also we need a variety of different size and color of plants. Also, don't be too tidy with your garden design. A natural garden will provide shelter and nesting place for the birds and other beneficial insects. Allow some plants to go to seed. Leave some debris under the shrubs and perennials. Robins and other birds need insects to feed their babies and a lot of birds need the protein from the insects. The birds also need nesting material from our



It is so good to see and feel the nice warm sun, and it is tempting to get started in the garden. Right now, the soil is too cold for seeds to germinate. If the soil is too cold and wet, they will just sit there and rot. If you are anxious to get started planting, you can plant your Caladium, Dahlia, elephant Ear, and begonias now in a container, and then plant them later in the soil when it warms up. Place the container in a warm, sunny spot.

Remember that if you are planning to dig and plant trees or shrubs, call Julie, 811 before you dig. It is a law. They can tell you if there are any utility wires, cables or pipes in the area. It could also save you time and money.

If you have ordered any new perennials or woody plants, they are usually shipped around the time they should be planted. If the soil is too wet or cold, just repot them into a larger pot and put them in a sheltered location, so they can adjust before planting. Plant them at the same depth as they are in the pot. It is best to plant on a cloudy day or in the early or late part of the day. Avoid planting in the heat of the day. Check the root mass. Any girdling roots should be loosened or scored with a knife to promote new feeder root growth.

Water deeply and infrequently to encourage strong root growth.

Dog Walkers

A friendly reminder for dog walkers to pick up after their pooches, particularly on Eastwood back by the soccer field. The snow has melted and kids will be out playing.



Local Events and News

Vote on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 ~ Consolidated Election

Election of Towanda Village Officials, Unit 5 School Board Members, Towanda Library Trustees, and more. See McLean County website for a sample ballot. <http://www.mcleancountyil.gov/index.aspx?NID=191>

Annual Spring Towanda Area Garage Sales

Want to share advertising cost (and benefit from a 'built-in' crowd)? Plan to hold your sale during the Rte 66 Red Carpet Corridor Event. This year's dates are April 30- May 3 (Thursday-Sunday)

To be included on the list of area sales, please provide ~ by Wednesday, April 22:

- Sale location
- Contact information (phone & email)
- Days and times of your sale (you do not need to have your sale each day)
- List of items (include as much as you like, in priority order, and depending on space available, they will be listed on the flyer and by category in the Pantagraph ad)
- \$7 fee (for flyers, Pantagraph ads), checks payable to Gail Ann Briggs



Email sale information to rgbriggs@frontiernet.net (preferred) or send to 112 Hunt St; Towanda IL 61776

Call (728-2187) with questions. Anyone with items they particularly want to sell may want to take

Bonnie Lou (born Mary Jane Kath)

Planning will begin soon about events to honor this local celebrity's life. The Towanda Area Historical Society is looking for ANY information about Mary Jane Kath also known by radio, TV and recording names 'Sally Carson' and 'Bonnie Lou', and called the 'Yodeling Sweetheart, Mary Jo'. She graduated from BHS, was married to Glenn Ewins (Carlock) and then Milt Okum (OH). Bonnie Lou became a popular Country Music and Rock & Roll vocalist during 1950-1970. Please be in touch with Gail Ann Briggs 309-728-2187, rgbriggs@frontiernet.net or Pat Pulokas 309-728-2118, palp@mchsi.com

New Law Regarding Immunization Requirements

Beginning with the 2015 –2016 school year, Illinois law requires that all students entering 6th and 12th grade MUST have a meningococcal vaccine(MCV).

Unit 5 students in 6th and 12th grades WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO START SCHOOL WITHOUT THIS IMMUNIZATION!

6th graders must receive one dose on or after the 11th birthday

12th graders must receive two doses, the second dose must be after the 16th birthday. If the first dose is received at 16 years of age or older, only 1 dose is required.

Contact your health provider to see if your child has received a meningococcal vaccine or to schedule an appointment. Please provide your school with proof of the immunization once it is completed.

Questions? Contact your school nurse or the District Office 309-557-4400. For a full list of required immunizations go to: http://www.isbe.net/pdf/school_health/immunization-requirements.pdf

Towanda HCE



The Towanda unit of the McLean County Association for Home and Community Education will meet for their monthly meeting on Monday, April 13, 7pm at the Towanda Community Building. The major lesson, "What's in your wallet?" will be given by Sandy Whalen. The fact find will be on the ginger root. The roll call will be "What is in your freezer?" Hostesses are Cindy Jacobs and Leatha Poshard.

Guests are cordially welcome. For more information contact Cindy Kelley, 309-663-4796, ckek71@frontier.com or Robin Pearson, rbnprsn@mchsi.com.

Towanda HCE sent six of their members to IAHCCE 91st Annual Conference, March 17-19 in Decatur IL. McLean County HCE won the County of the year award plus many other education awards. It was a fun and educational experience for all 21 McLean County HCE members who attended.

Towanda HCE is planning their 23rd annual spaghetti supper on Friday, July 3, 2015. Members will have tickets to sell by June 1.

Other McLean county free HCE activities include: Apr 14, 9-12n, card making class, Miller Park Pavilion, Bloomington, Barb-309-242-6187. Apr 20: 9-12n, comfort quilts, Eileen, 309-533-1135; 1-4p, children's dresses, pants, and shorts, Barb, 309-242-6187. These classes are held at Christ Lutheran Church, corner of Ft Jesse and Hershey Rd, Normal in the Activities Building in the southwest corner of the parking lot. Apr 20, 2-3:30 pm, Read & Share the book-Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline at Extension Office, 1615 Commerce Blvd, Bloomington - LaVonne, 309-661-6391. The public is welcome at all meetings. Come visit the Towanda HCE meeting and learn with us!

CALENDAR



Fri.Apr.3 – Unit 5 ~ No School (Good Friday)

Sun.Apr.5 – Easter Sunday

Tue.Apr.7 – VOTE (Towanda Village Officials, Unit 5 School Board Members, Towanda Library Trustees)

Wed.Apr.15 – Unit 5 ~ 1 hour Late Start

Wed.Apr.22 – Garage Sale Information DUE

Fri.Apr.24 – Unit 5 ~ No School for Students (Teacher Workshops)

Mon.Apr.27 – 4th July Planning Meeting ~ Community Building, 6:30 p.m.

Thu-Sun – Apr.30-May.3 – Towanda Area Garage Sales

Towanda Library

Tuesday, April 7 @ 5:30 – READ to the DOGS – Open House kicks off 6 weeks of individualized reading sessions for young readers. Meet all the dogs and their owners at the Open House. They are pleased to listen to otherwise reluctant readers practice their skill. Specially-trained dogs pair with youth for 15-minute reading sessions.

Tuesday, April 7 @ 5:00 – TOWANDA READS Book Discussion – The public is welcome to join the discussion of *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. The author presents two intricate stories, both of which take place during World War II; late in the novel, inevitably, they intersect.... Doerr captures the sights and sounds of wartime and focuses, refreshingly, on the innate goodness of his major characters.

Wednesday, April 8 @ 3:30 -- Bulldog Book Club discusses *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein. This will be fun! Parent permission form required.

April 12 through 18 --- National Library Week – Teams of FRIENDS will be at the library for the Annual Membership Drive. Stop to chat and have refreshments.

National Library Week -- Hershey kiss for each child that visits the library during the week.

Saturday, April 18 @ 10 am – Money Smart Week Class for Kids – Listen to stories, play with money, and have a treat. The first 15 children also get a free book courtesy of Country Financial.

Monday, April 20 @ 3:30 -- Money Smart Week Class -- Comparative Shopping: Grocery store shopping offers opportunities to save - if you know how to compare apples to apples. Taste food samples then compare quality, quantity, and cost. Instructor Charlotte Talkington
Monday, April 20 @ 4:45 -- Money Smart Week Class – Decoding Supermarket Marketing Strategies: Cut your food costs by learning how to decode the tempting numbers offered in supermarket sale ads. Instructor Charlotte Talkington

Tuesday, April 21 @ 6:30 – Indian Creek Homeowners Association Annual Meeting.

Each Wednesday @ 10:30 am -- Story Hours – April 1 is all about Bunnies; April 8 highlights books by Mo Willems; April 15 stories are by Eric Carle with seed planting; April 22 is about Art with fingerpainting; and April 29 uses loud and quiet sounds in books.

Every Tuesday Evening @ 5:00 -- Crochet-Knit-Felt Group meets to swap ideas and craft. New members are always welcome.

Summer Reading Program: Theme is *Read to the Rhythm*. We are seeking musical performers and instructors to demonstrate styles of music at Summer Reading sessions.

Classified

For Sale:

Pontoon Boat for sale !! If you're looking for (or know someone who is) a Pontoon boat, in really good condition, Mary and I are selling ours, including the trailer and all the stuff that goes with owning a boat. Email us or call us for all the details, if you or someone you know has an interest. Ben Daily - ben.daily1948@gmail.com or 309-826-6973

PS - some really nice improvements are being made at the Lake Bloomington "Mucky Duck" Marina this year.

Businesses:

The April Host Special features the Executive and Stainless Cookware. Also, there are three special Mother's Day Gift Sets available in April. Contact Annette Hancock to schedule a show or place an order.



Call Home - 728-2990

Text or call cell - 309-242-1802

Email - oldcars@frontiernet.net

Website - <http://new.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock>

It's time to get ready for summer! Have you ever tried those crazy wrap things? They tighten, tone and firm your body in as little as 45 minutes! Call me for details. I am available for one on one consultations or can walk you through how to wrap on your own in the privacy of your home. Janette Jones, (309) 838-2994

Contact info: Janette Jones (309)838-2994

4 Candle Ridge Rd

www.WrapCrzy.com

doublej08@live.com



Martha Rients will be hosting a Spring Coffee and Arbonne Open House on Thursday, April 9th at 9 am. Racheal Winsor, Arbonne Consultant, will be providing facials and foot soaks using Arbonne products. Arbonne products are personal care products that are all plant based. They are 100% vegan. They contain no parabens or animal by-products. Please stop in enjoy some coffee, a sweet and a refreshing facial or foot soak.

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!