

# INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

October 2015

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

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

## Towanda Home and Community Education



The Towanda Unit of the McLean County Home and Community Education group will meet on Monday, October 12 at 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Clara Lehan will give the program on "The ABC's of GMO's" and also the fact find about "Putting your garden to bed."

Towanda HCE meets on the second Monday night of the month, September through June, usually at the Towanda Community Building. Since we educate ourselves on the latest information about numerous topics, people have identified us being like an adult 4-H club. We encourage you to join us at one of our meetings to see if you're interested in the programs we learn about and the community service we perform throughout the community and county and the world through our county organization or McLean County HCE.

Cultural enrichment workshop: "Santa Towel" held Monday, Oct 19, McLean Co Extension Auditorium at 1615 Commerce Parkway, Bloomington. RSVP/Fees to Edna, 662-5520 to make a cute Santa towel for display. Supplies to bring: plain red hand or bath towel (Dollar Tree has \$1 red hand towel), scissors, pins, and a sewing machine if you have one. Fees: HCE member/\$2; Not HCE member/\$4.

International Study of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia which will be held on Thursday, Oct 15, 6-9 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, corner of Ft. Jesse and Hershey Rd, Normal. To provide adequate materials, please RSVP by Oct 10 to Karen Crull, 309-828-5465. Free and open to public.

Special Program, "Making your money stretch," presented by Pam Atkinson, U of I extension educator will be held Tuesday, Oct 27, 1-3 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, Normal. Free and open to the public.

October is HCE month in McLean County and Towanda HCE unit will be bringing cookies to the Towanda FS grain elevator for the farmers bringing in their crops. There will also be a display at the Towanda District Library regarding all the programs and information that will be held during the 2015-2016 HCE year. Come in to check out all that Towanda HCE has to offer you and your family of up to date information we receive during our monthly meetings.

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor,  
summer an oil painting, and autumn a  
mosaic of them all."  
~Stanley Horowitz



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## Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



We see a lot of wasps, and don't really pay a lot of attention to them. People are beginning to see some of the Scoliid wasp family. They are considered to be larger wasps; one of the species has red spots on its black abdomen, another has markings that look like eyes, and the other has orange on its back.

Wasps are considered beneficial, because as they feed on the nectar, they gather pollen on their hairy body and leave some on the next plant they visit. Gardeners should not be afraid when you see them, because they are harmless unless you try to grab one or scare it away.

They are beneficial because they look for the Green June Beetle and the Japanese Beetle larva. The female will find a grub larva in the ground, dig around it and lay an egg beside it. When the egg hatches, the young wasp has food already available and eats it. Welcome these to your garden to help control the pest beetles.

With the hot, dry weather, be sure the new plants, shrubs, and trees are well watered. Water deeply to encourage the roots to grow deeply, especially those planted in the last-5 years.



The leaves will soon be changing color and then fall off. Some have already started to fall. The best and easiest thing to do with them is to run the lawn mower over them. That will break the leaves into smaller pieces and the earth worms and grubs can eat them and deposit their waste back into the soil to feed the plant roots. Yes, the grubs are good bugs. Only about 10 percent of the insects are bad ones. The canopy of leaves collect nutrients from the sun all summer and store them in the leaves and in the fall the leaves can return it to the soil.

About the same time the leaves are falling, the garden is winding down. If you used animal fencing for the tomato cages, pull up the tomato vines and fill the cages with shredded leaves mixed with coffee grounds, filter included, and wet the leaves as you go. In the spring, remove the cage, the leaves will be partly broken down. Place the leaf mold on your garden or place it around flowers or vegetables. You can also place leaves in with your kitchen waste and yard waste. It will just take longer to break down.

Research has shown that using organic matter as fertilizer instead of commercial fertilizer, we get more nutrition in our produce, plus better flavor. Keep a covered container near the sink to collect coffee grounds and fruit/vegetable peelings to add to your compost pile. Do not add meat because that will attract wildlife.



For years, we could see a large flock of birds in our yard. They were busy eating insects, in the yard and on the trees. Now we see fewer birds every year. We need to protect the birds, not only for our enjoyment of seeing and hearing, but they are very important for a healthy ecosystem.

One important way to protect the birds is by using less pesticides and herbicides; that will help keep birds, pets and family more healthy. When we use "Merit", a systemic product, it makes the whole plant sickening to birds and insects. Also follow the directions on the container and use it only on the plants

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listed to be safe.

Birds also need water to drink and bathe in. Keep the bird bath clean and change the water 3 times a week when mosquitoes are breeding.

The native plants, such as bee balm, cone flower, daisy, blacked Susan, etc. have healthy seeds for the birds and they also draw insects that the birds like, leave them standing during the winter, so the birds can eat the seeds. The non native invasive plants don't draw the good insects that the birds like to eat, so plant more native plants.

Let your yard get a little messy. When the leaves collect under the shrubs and perennials, leave them there. The decaying will draw the insects to eat and give the birds shelter during bad weather.

Attract hummingbirds with sugar water, no honey or artificial sweeteners. Clean the feeders once a week. Some birds use the stars to guide them at night on their annual migrations. Bright outside lights can disrupt the steering sense. Global warming is also making flowers out of synch with hummingbird migration. Hummingbirds can fly a thousand miles without food or rest. They can also remember every single flower they visit. Enjoy the birds.



If you are thinking about putting sod down, be sure to prepare the soil first. Often it is laid down on compacted subsoil, if so, it could take years for the grass roots to penetrate the soil and develop good, deep roots. In order to have a healthy lawn, you need to have healthy soil. Healthy soil is alive with earthworms and beetles as well as microorganisms that improve the soil structure. A well balanced soil is rich in beneficial microbes that helps reduce plant stress and disease. Using pesticides can dramatically upset this balance.

Before you lay your sod or seed, work in organic matter as deep as possible. Good organic matter includes compost, aged manure, and grass clippings. High quality compost tea is also a good option to encourage beneficial organisms. Some lawn companies do offer this service. You can apply a thin layer of screened compost over your existing lawn [1/2 inch or less]. Compost has more bacteria and fungi than most commercial fertilizers.

We are seeing a lot of attractive pumpkins in the stores now. When you pick one up, use both hands. Do not pick it up by the stem. If the stem breaks off, the pumpkin will spoil quicker. In your decoration, try to keep the pumpkin out of full sun. It is too early to carve the pumpkin, but you can paint a face or any decoration on it now, using a permanent marker. If you purchase your pumpkin now, while the choice is good, store it in a cool, shady place.

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## Indian Creek Recruiting

Are you interested in planning social events for our subdivision? Or maybe you'd like to participate more, possibly even serve on a board or other role, such as assisting with the newsletter. If so, please let Kathy Dumler (newsletter) or any of the board members know!

Barbara Ulbrich – [btulbrich@yahoo.com](mailto:btulbrich@yahoo.com) – 728 2932

Dave Schulthes – [dston@frontier.com](mailto:dston@frontier.com) – 728-2927

Fred Walk – [fwalk@frontiernet.net](mailto:fwalk@frontiernet.net) – 728 2188

Bob Hancock – [oldcars@frontiernet.net](mailto:oldcars@frontiernet.net) – 728 2990



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202 W. College Avenue  
Normal, Illinois 61761-2552



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

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Fundraising for Household Hazardous Waste On Track – Ecology Action Center schedules October HHW collection for McLean County residents. The Ecology Action Center's public-private partnership for an upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event is making great progress. With 81% of the \$180,000 goal met, the EAC decided to move forward with an October HHW event for McLean County residents.

**The event will be held on Saturday, October 17 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at Mitsubishi Motors North America, located at 100 N. Mitsubishi Motorway in Normal. Participation will be limited to McLean County residents. Illinois regulations mandate that only residential HHW may be collected—no business or commercially generated wastes can be accepted.

In the past, state-sponsored HHW collections were a legal, safe, and reliable way of disposing of HHW in Illinois, but budget cuts resulted in the loss of state funding for five years. In 2012, the EAC decided that the community needed to take matters into its own hands. They developed a public-private partnership to cover the costs of holding a one-day collection. The unprecedented turnout at that event led local government partners to increase support for the 2015 collection. HHW collections are expensive; this year's will cost \$180,000. The City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, and McLean County have provided \$140,000. Private donations and sponsorships have contributed an additional \$5,000. Current sponsors and event partners include Home Sweet Home Ministries, Midwest Fiber, WGLT, McLean County Health Department, and McLean County Regional Planning Commission.

The Ecology Action Center needs support from private individuals to make this a success. Donations to the McLean County HHW Fund may be made online at [HHWmclean.org](http://HHWmclean.org) or by sending a check to the Ecology Action Center at 202 W College Avenue, Normal, IL 61761. The EAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; contributions and sponsorships are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Fundraising efforts will continue through the date of the HHW collection.

More details including what materials can and cannot be accepted at this event are available at [HHWmclean.org](http://HHWmclean.org). Volunteers are needed to help with traffic control at the event; sign-up is also available online.

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.

### Toxic.Free.Home.



**Participate In Your Local Household Hazardous Waste Roundups**

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# Towanda Library

## October 2015 Library News

**Wednesday Morning Pre-School Story Hours:** October 7 – Firefighters Visit; October 14 - Counting Fall Things; October 21 – Pumpkin Fun! October 28 – Happy Halloween!...come dressed in costume.

**The Very Ready Reader Program** is a comprehensive early literacy curriculum used by our library. Children between the ages of three and five need to interact with their peers to learn social skills. Adults need to provide guidance and should always model appropriate social graces. Story characters also provide “windows” to view adaptive problem solving and interaction skills. True reading comprehension is based solidly upon human relationship understanding rather than just upon letter sound decoding.

**Bulldog Book Club for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders** meets right after school on September 30 and October 14 & 28. September 30<sup>th</sup> the activity relates to *Chomp* by Carl Hiaasen. October 14<sup>th</sup> *Chomp* is discussed. October 28 the activity relates to *Rump* by Liesl Shurtliff. November 18<sup>th</sup> *Rump* is discussed.

**TOWANDA READS** offers a book discussion that is open to the public on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. “*A Man Called Ove*” by Frederick Bachman is a funny crowd-pleaser that serves up laughs to accompany a thoughtful reflection on loss and love. The book received starred reviews from several sources.

**October 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline for November 7<sup>th</sup> Artist/Vendor Holiday Sale:** The FRIENDS of Towanda Library will meet at 4:00 pm on October 6<sup>th</sup> to determine which artists and vendors will participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Artist/Vendor Holiday Sale to benefit the library. Only those who have paid their registration fee by October 1<sup>st</sup> will be considered. Duncan Manor will have a special item at this year’s sale.

**Read to Dogs each Tuesday evening** in September and October. Children whose parents have given written permission may schedule a 15-minute appointment with a canine friend from 5:30 to 6:30.

**Needlework Group** meets at the library every Tuesday night throughout the year from 5:00 to 7:00. Some crochet, some knit, some felt. Everyone enjoys themselves by dropping in whenever they are able.

**Watch for Ancestry.com** – coming to your library for you to use free-of-charge within the library – beginning January 1, 2016.

**Tumblebooks** and World Book Encyclopedia are available online for you to use from home 24/7... thanks to the subscriptions paid by your Towanda Library. All you need is a Towanda Library card.

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## Towanda Busy Bees 4H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4H Club will kick off the new year with a meeting at the Towanda Community Building on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The Towanda Busy Bees 4H club welcomes new members between the ages of 8 and 18 and meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Children ages 5 -7 are welcome to join the Cloverbuds who meet at the same time but with activities geared more toward their age level. For further information, contact leader, Martha Rients at [rients@frontiernet.net](mailto:rients@frontiernet.net) or 728-2178.

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## Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H had their annual cookout on Sunday, September 20th at Boyd-Wesley Park. We will have our first meeting for the 2015/2016 4-H year at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, October 6th at the Towanda Community Building. An election will be held to determine the officers for the new year. We will also discuss plans for the new year.

4-H is open to boys and girls ages 8 to 18 by September 1 and Cloverbuds are for boys and girls ages 5 to 7 by September 1. If you have questions, please contact Jeanie Wager at 309-728-2852, Malisa Kraft at 309-825-1235 or Scott Clement at 309-275-5910.

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## Towanda American Legion

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday October 4th from 7:30 – 11:00. Breakfast includes eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, French toast, fresh fruit, biscuits and gravy, juice, milk and coffee for \$9.

There will be a steak/shrimp dinner on Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include rib eye steak, shrimp or steak/shrimp combo, baked potato, salad, roll, drink and dessert for \$13. 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 October 15th 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.

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## Local Dates

### No School

Mon.Oct.12 – Columbus Day

Fri.Oct.23 – PT Conferences

### Late Starts (1-hr)

Wed. Oct 14 & 28

### Tue.Oct.20 – Unit 5 District-wide Strategic Planning Meeting

“Superintendent Mark Daniel is inviting the public to learn more about Unit 5 during the initial strategic planning meeting from 7-9 p.m. on Tue.Oct.20 at Chiddix Junior High School, 300 S. Walnut St., Normal. All members of the Unit 5 community - students, parents, staff members, and community members - are invited to be a part of the meeting. Please work with us as we guide Unit 5 into the future and work to achieve our mission to "educate each student to achieve personal excellence”.



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# Classified

## Businesses:

Plan to attend a FREEZER MEAL WORKSHOP:

Friday, **October 9** from 1-3pm and Sunday, **October 18** from 2-4pm

We will prepare 6 meals for your freezer featuring fall recipes using pork, apples, soups, and chili.

Contact me this week to reserve a spot for you.

Visit my Pampered Chef booth on Saturday, October 3 at Fitness Connexion across from Avanti's on Route 9 for their "Join the MOVEment" event from 2-5pm. There will be lots of vendors, appetizers, & door prizes. Come see the new fall products & pickup a new catalog.

Annette Hancock

Call Home - 728-2990

Text or call- 242-1802

Email - [oldcars@frontiernet.net](mailto:oldcars@frontiernet.net)

Website - [www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock](http://www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock)

Pinterest - [www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935](http://www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935)



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Contact info: Janette Jones (309)838-2994 call or text

4 Candle Ridge Rd

[www.WrapCrzy.com](http://www.WrapCrzy.com)

[doublej08@live.com](mailto:doublej08@live.com)

## For Hire:

Do you need a babysitter? Do you need your house cleaned? Or, just an extra set of hands to help out around the house? Anna Kraft is willing to help! She is a sophomore at NCHS and can be contacted at 728-8088 (home) or (309) 830-7721 (cell).

Need help mowing your lawn or weed-wacking? Even if you just want someone to mow for a week while you're on vacation, give Joe Kaufmann a call. Joe's cell # 824-1027

Jairon and Justin Schwamberger (Senior/Sophomore at NCHS) are available for mowing/lawn care or other outside labor. Will be willing to take on summer long jobs, help with special projects, or mow while you're on vacation. Contact information: 728-2857, 830-9544.

Lauren and Myles Smith, will provide child care and pet care - call 728-2930