



# INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

February 2016

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

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

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## Towanda Library

Tuesday, February 9 @ 5:00 — TOWANDA READS will discuss “Mind Change” by Susan Greenfield.

Wednesday, February 10 — 4th & 5th Grade Book Club will discuss “This Journal Belongs to Ratchet” by N. Cavanaugh

Wednesday, February 24 — 4th & 5th Grade Book Club watches the movie HUGO to compare it to the graphic novel. Parents may pick up children at 5:30.

Each Tuesday @ 5:00 to 7:00 — “Color or Crochet Group” -- Whenever it fits into your schedule, join the group for friendly discussion, craft inspiration or instruction, if you ask!

Preschool Story Hours each Wednesday morning @ 10:30 – Zoo animals, farm animals, ocean creatures, and dogs fill February’s Story Hours. Songs, crafts, snacks, and of course lots of stories provide plenty of learning of pre-literacy skills. As the friendships grow among the children, they seem to stay longer and longer after the story hour to play together. We invite you to join the fun!

Don't forget the Downton Abbey event at the library on Tuesday, January 26th @ 5:00 pm.

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The Indian Creek Annual Meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, April 5 at the Towanda Library

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## Towanda American Legion

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday February 7th from 8:00 – 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 fish dinner on Friday February 19th. Dinner will include fish, baked beans, applesauce, roll, drink and dessert 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. Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday February 18th 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.

# Towanda Boy Scouts Pancake and Sausage Dinner

The 60th Annual Towanda Boy Scouts Pancake and Sausage Dinner will be held Saturday February 13th at the Towanda Grade School serving from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. The breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, applesauce and drink. This is an all you can eat both pancakes and sausage so come hungry. The Boy Scouts work in the kitchen and Cub Scouts serve seconds. The Girl Scouts will hold a bake sale as well. Proceeds from the breakfast support scouting activities throughout the year.

For more information or to place an advance meat order, contact Mike Potts at 309-728-2384 or any Towanda Boy Scout.



## 2016 Advance Meat Order Towanda Scouting Organization

~Pick Up Meat Orders~

Friday, February 12th, 3-6 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building or,  
Saturday, February 13th, 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 25, 2016**

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

ORDER TAKEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Paid ☐ Not Paid

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



## Towanda HCE

The Towanda HCE will be meeting on Monday, February 8 at 7pm at the Towanda Community Building. Kathleen Emery will be presenting the program: History/ Mysteries of McLean County. The Fact Find will be "Time to dream and plan your garden." Hostesses will be Jeanie Wager and Connie Carstens.

Many other programs the members and public are invited to participate in are listed below.

**Cultural Enrichment Project:** *Ribbon Wreath* presented at the extension office on Feb 8, 1-4 p.m. Cost is \$2/HCE member and \$4/not HCE member. Participants should bring a 16" wire wreath frame, 10yd roll of 10-12" wide mesh wired ribbon and embellishments of your choice, matching color of chenille stems, and scissors. RSVP/Fees by Feb 2 to Edna, 662-5520.

**A free program open to the public:** *Straw Bale Gardening* presented by Kelly Allsup, extension educator on February 23, 1-3 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, corner of Hershey and Ft Jesse Roads. For more information about this program, contact Delilah Finnegan, 532-0314.

Ten members and guests of Towanda HCE attended the snowman meeting in January. There were many different kinds of snowmen represented for show and tell. We also learned from the program, "Pass the pink packet" about artificial sweeteners. Sandy Whalen presented the program and passed her own home grown stevia, a natural and very sweet plant. We were all able to taste different kinds of lemonade and cookies using different sweeteners and try to guess which one was used.

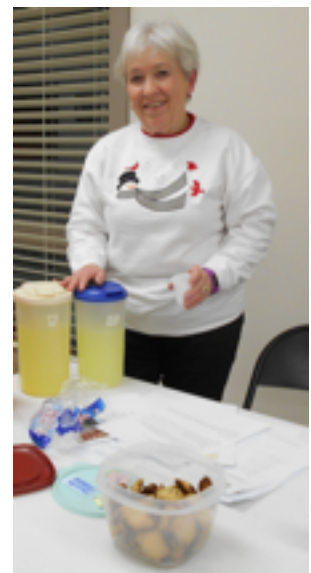
Join us to learn interesting topics by attending our monthly meetings, September through May. Call for more information from Cindy Kelley, 663-4796 or Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650.



Linda Conder compares the cookies we tasted.



Some members showed the "snowmen" they brought. L-R Jeanie Wager, Cindy Kelley, Bev Hornickel, Sharon Joplin and Pat Pulokas



Sandy Whalen gave us varieties of lemonade and cookies and stevia plant leaves to taste



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# Garden Tips

by Helen Leake

Mother nature wasn't very kind to the trees when she went thru. Any limbs that were broken need to be cut back to the collar where it can heal itself. If you leave a stub, it will not heal over and it will leave the door open for disease and insects. If a large branch has fallen and stripped a lot of the bark off, that tree will probably die, and next spring there will be a lot of space that used to be shade; that will now be sun.

When removing the brush, try not to use a lot of heavy equipment under the canopy, the tree leaves, because it will pack the soil. Most of the tree roots are in the top 10-12 inches of the soil, that is where the roots get most of the nutrients and oxygen. The tree roots can go out as far as 2-3 times the width of the canopy. A lot of people focus on the health of the above ground part of the tree. The key functions of the roots are anchorage, to absorb water and nutrients, and to store food and organic compounds.

The drip line defines the critical root zone, where any damage to the roots can cause long term health and structure instability. The closer to the root that you disturb will cause lasting harm to the tree. Therefore you must be very careful planting flowers under the tree and not damage the roots.

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The seed catalogs have been coming in the mail. They have a lot of pretty pictures, it is hard to decide what plants you want. It is too cold to work outside in the yard, just pull up a chair by the fire and imagine that you are looking at the flowers, trees and shrubs out in the garden.

The catalogs have a lot of information about the plants to help you decide if that is the one for your spot. When choosing a plant, always look at the mature size, how tall and wide it will be. Will it fit in the spot later? Does it need sun or shade, does it want dry or moist soil. When looking thru the catalogs, make a list of plants you like. Write the company name, plant name, and page number, and any other information you like. Sometimes you can also get more information, if needed, on-line with that company. After you have made all of your lists, underline the "maybe" and circle the "want" and highlight the "need". Then check to see if you can purchase locally to help the economy. Also if getting plants, you can actually see what condition the plant is in and you can purchase it when you are ready to plant it. Sometimes, the only place to get what you want is thru the catalog, then order early, before they run out. Also if ordering a plant, be sure it will live in our zone, 5 or 5b.

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After you have cut the old flower stem off of your Amaryllis, place the plant in front of a sunny window so the leaves can fully develop. Keep the soil evenly moist, but not soggy. After the danger of frost has passed, you can put it outside.

With the longer daylight hours, we get anxious to get out and think garden. Check the garden tiller and mower to make sure they will start or maybe they need repair. If repair is needed, now is a good time to take them to the shop. Also, the lawn mower blades should be sharpened before the lawn needs to be mowed.

If you didn't clean your garden tools before you put them away, it's a good time to do it now. "A clean sharp tool works much better than a dirty one. Use a bucket of warm soapy water and a brush to get all the dried mud and rust off of them. Sharpen the shovels, hoe and pruners. When you have them all



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clean and sharp, wipe them with an oily cloth, so they don't rust. Some people keep their hand trowels in a can of oily sand. The oil prevents rust and the sand cleans the soil off.

Tuberous begonias are slow to start, so you can plant them now.

The racks of garden seeds are out now. If you are looking for a certain variety, get it as soon as you find it. If you start your own seeds, now is the time to clean the containers. Use 1 part bleach and 9 parts water. You can also clean your clay pots the same way.

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Dust collects on furniture, we see it and wipe it off. The dust also collects on the leaves of our plants, but we don't see it as much. It is time to clean the plants and give them a good check up. To clean the plants leaves, wet a paper towel or cloth. Hold one hand under the leaf and wipe it. For fuzzy leaves, like African Violet, just gently brush it off. The plants absorb air and light thru their leaves.

While you are cleaning the plants, check to see if there are any insects. If you see a sticky substance on the leaves or table, you have a problem. For mealy bugs, you will see 1/2 inch long white waxy strands that look like a small ball of cotton. You can dab them with a ball of cotton soaked in alcohol, or spray with insecticidal soap. Aphids are small insect, usually green, that feed on new growth. You can hose them off or use insecticidal soap. Scale is round and brownish without legs and looks like a scab. Usually found on the stem, use insecticidal soap weekly for 9-12 weeks. Spider mites are tiny specks on the underside of the leaves. They will leave fine webbing in the leaf axils and between the leaves. Use insecticidal soap. White flies can be seen when you brush against the plant. Use insecticidal soap and let the tops of the soil dry out.

Spray with insecticidal soap every week, so that you can kill the insects that hatch after the first spray. You also want to spray weekly to kill the insects before they get old enough to lay eggs. The mealy bugs can also get down into the soil and feed on the roots. Then you should remove the plant.

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## Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H group met on Tuesday, January 5th. The Section 9 FFA Officers attended our meeting and talked about Parliamentary Procedure and shared a fun game with the group. Thank you to the Officers!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 2nd at 6:30pm at the Towanda Community Building. We will have a speaker on the importance of hobbies.

Cloverbuds is open to kids 5 to 7 by September 1st and 4-H is open to kids from ages 8 to 18 by September 1st. If you have any questions about enrollment or more ways to get involved in 4-H, please contact Jeanie Wager at 309-728-2852, Scott Clements at 309-275-5913 or Malisa Kraft at 309-825-1235.

## Towanda Busy Bees 4 H Club

The Towanda Busy Bees 4 H Club will be meeting on Tuesday February 16 at 6:30 at the Towanda Community Building.

The program for February is woodworking. All in attendance will have the opportunity to complete a simple woodworking project.

The club will also be going ice skating at the Pepsi Ice Center on February 27th. For more information about 4H please contact Martha Rients 728-2178

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## February Calendar

Tue.Feb.2 – Groundhog Day  
Wed.Feb.10 – 1-hr Late Start in Unit 5  
Fri.Feb.12 – Lincoln's Birthday – Unit 5 – students are in school  
Sat.Feb.13 – BSA Pancake & Sausage Breakfast  
Sun.Feb.14 – Valentine's Day  
Mon.Feb.14 – Presidents Day – No School  
Tue.Feb.16 – No School for Students – SIP Day  
Mon.Feb.22 – 6:30 p.m. – 4<sup>th</sup> July Planning Group, Community Building  
Wed.Feb.24 – 1-hr Late Start in Unit 5  
Mon.Feb.29 – Leap Year Day



### Other News:

Parents of children that will be 2016 - 17 kindergarteners in Unit 5 ~ Registration will be held at the elementary school the student will attend. More information will be available next month on the Unit 5 website [www.unit5.org](http://www.unit5.org) and in the March newsletter.

Towanda Area Garage Sales are planned for Thu-Sat – May 7-8 (in conjunction with the Red Carpet Corridor Festival which is a little later this year).

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## Classified

### Businesses:

Pampered Chef features Cooking Shows, Catalog Parties, Freezer Meal Workshops, Bridal Showers & Fundraisers!

Contact your local Indian Creek consultant for these events.

Annette Hancock  
7 Bent Tree Lane  
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)



### 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).

The Schwamberger boys, Jairon 17 and Justin 15, are available for snow removal services or as maintenance helpers. Call 728-2857.

If you need help with snow removal on your driveway or sidewalk, call Joe and Chet Kaufmann at 309-728-8095.

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