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Indian Creek Water and Homeowners Association Minutes for the Annual Meeting – April 5, 2016

The annual meeting of the Indian Creek Water and Homeowners Association was held Tuesday April 5 at 7 pm at the Towanda Library. President Barb Leathers welcomed the group. Other board members introduced themselves: Barbara Ulbrich/VP-Secretary; David Schulthes/Treasurer; Bob Hancock/Water Chair; Fred Walk/Grounds Chair. Homeowners introduced themselves, too. Many new residents attended.

The Minutes of the 2015 annual meeting were read by VP/Secretary Barb Ulbrich and adopted. Treasurer Dave Schulthes provided the Treasurer's Report. The last time the water tower was painted was in 2007. The interest rate environment is still very low; we receive only .5% interest. Our expenses are: 1) water tower maintenance including chemical (fluoride and chlorine); maintenance by water operator Frank Cottrell who checks the tower 6/7 days; and electricity. 2) electricity; 3) insurance; and 4) mowing of grounds.

Water Chair Bob Hancock provided the water report. We average 16,000 gallons water/per day in winter. In summer, this number reaches 25,000-30,000 gallons per day; this can stress our pump. Bob shared that he will again begin flushing on Thursdays from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

We will need to repaint the tower in about 2023. The north side of tower has some exterior green mildew; this is normal. The inside of tower will require some minor painting this spring (valves/pipes). We anticipate the cost of future painting to be about \$100,000. However, to ensure we have sufficient funds, Bob will obtain an estimate from an area painter.

We have an electronic device to monitor the power. If we have an outage, Bob gets a cell call, then email. If he doesn't answer, then the calls go to Board members. The device costs \$144 per year. We do need to review the electrical set up at the wellhead.

In the summer we need to go to a watering schedule when it is hot/dry. Any watering should be done in early a.m. or evening for only a couple of hours at a time on odd/even days. We have an odd/even system – odd-numbered lots go on odd days and even numbered lots on even days. We are to only water gardens and new plantings, but not grass as the grass here will quickly recover.

One of the new residents asked if we had considered putting an antenna on the water tower, to improve communications. Residents discussed the very poor reception and service by Frontier. If service goes completely down, Tommie Crouthamel reminded the group that Towanda Library has Mediacom and is available.

Fred Walk gave the Grounds report. Our grounds need fairly constant maintenance. We had a successful fall workday – 25 neighbors came out. We tackled invasive species including honeysuckle.

Our trails require constant maintenance because the fairly regular flooding wreaks havoc on the trails. April 30 is the spring work day. We have a tractor for the subdivision. Homeowners may use it but must replace the diesel fuel (or cost of fuel). If the tractor is allowed to run out, it is very difficult to restart. We put up split rail fence at entry to common area leading to well. Some grounds volunteers put up a picnic table by the bridge. It almost floated away, so it made sense to chain it to a tree. Indian Creek subdivision adopted 2 mile stretch of main road extending from our subdivision to I-55 that we clean up. We'll do this on the 30th.

Barb Ulbrich gave a short Secretary report. Thank you to Kathy Dumler and Ron Metz for doing the newsletter. We had a well attended fall picnic and we are looking for spring event, perhaps a group walk.

We discussed burning guidelines. There had been an issue with a smoldering burn pile in the common area. There was dumping of construction items such as shingles and other objects in the common area beyond the well road. Constructing the split rail fence near the bridge and putting up signs helped remind folks that dumping is not allowed. Some residents voiced concern over burning because it causes issues: 1) smoke inhalation/health/asthma concerns; 2) noxious smell in air; 3) possibility of uncontained fire. We have no hydrants in case of fire. There was a long discussion about the problem. We discussed "Huglekultur" - it encourages tree decomposition. We also discussed chipping and not burning. If we allow brush/grass clippings to be spread around the common area, a flood could then carry them away and accumulate and clog areas. If we allow dumping on the common area, we as a subdivision need to manage it. One burn per year would be preferable in the common area. If residents burn on their lots, we need to keep in mind the conditions and not let leaves smolder; be mindful of neighbors w/health issues. Smoke doesn't go away, it goes somewhere and it could go into your neighbors' homes.

We discussed replacing the subdivision sign at the south entrance and possibly having a sign made for the north entrance. A Sign Committee has looked into this. We need to replace the subdivision sign because it's rotting. Cost estimate is \$2500. If we add a north entrance sign, this will cost another \$2000 (approx). There was general support for a second sign and no one spoke against a second sign. Some wondered why we don't already have a second sign!

There was some short general discussion about the subdivision covenants; they do need to be reviewed and the bylaws aligned with the covenants. There was discussion about trailers; some residents are not abiding by the covenants, which require the housing of trailers within a garage space. This is a concern. There was a question as to the viability of a park or playground for the children of the subdivision and also as a gathering point for people to meet one another. Unfortunately the common areas flood and equipment floats away. Residents were reminded to pick up dog debris.

Discussion circled back to the poor internet connection. A few residents will form an ad hoc committee to explore options and come to board if action is needed. This will be announced in the newsletter. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Towanda HCE



The Towanda Home and Community Education group will meet on Monday, May 9, 2016, 7 pm at the Towanda Community Building. Hostesses are Karen Bersche and Robin Pearson. Two programs will be presented. Cindy Kelley will present "Grains." Jeanie Wager will present "Save \$\$ Recycle, Repurpose your Garden. Plans will be discussed for the June Outing and the July 3 Spaghetti Supper at the community building.

For more information about the Towanda HCE group, contact Cindy Kelley, 309-663-4796 or Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650. The public is cordially welcome to attend these interesting programs.

May Library News

May Story Hours @ 10:30 each Wednesday morning: May 4 – It's Good to Be Me! May 11 – Friendship; May 18 – Creativity! May 25 – The Beach.

FRIENDS and Book Club Planning Meeting @ 4:00 on Tuesday, May 10th: Planning session for Summer Reading support, followed by selection of a year's-worth of Book Club fare.

Bulldog Book Club on May 11th right after school: Discuss "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeline L'Engle. "Jeopardy Game" with prizes for answering questions about the books read during the year.

Read to Dogs @ 5:30 to 6:30 each Tuesday in May: Reluctant young readers blossom when they have a lovable dog listening to them! Therapy dogs love the child's attention, too! Register for an appointment time by calling the library at 728-2176.

Towanda READS Book Club is reading "Cane River" by Lalita Tademy to discuss on June 14th at 5:00 pm at the library.

Crochet and Craft Group meets each Tuesday from 5:00 to 7:00: Did we mention that there is also plenty of conversation? This group welcomes new members or people who wish to stop by to ask for one-time help on a project.

Youth Summer Reading @ 10:30 on Wednesdays and 4:30 on Mondays from June 13 through July 27: This summer's theme is "Read for the Win." Each week focuses on a characteristic of "winners." Plenty of prizes thanks to the support of many community businesses and organizations! Adults read for prizes, too! Pick up an Adult Reading Bingo card after June 1st at the library.

Flight Simulation Classes @ 2:00 to 4:00 on Fridays June 17th and 24th: Seeking Middle School/High School-Aged Pilots to join our Quad Squad. Crew size is limited...apply now at library! Must attend both sessions – one teaches you the basics of flying and then next provides quad-copters for you to fly! Adult mentors also sought to help with class.

ROVER Classes Presented by McLean County Museum of Art @ 3:30 to 6:30 on Tuesday, June 7th: Ages 12 to 19 participate in a Plaster Life Casting Class. Register online at McLean County Arts Center www.mcac/Education/ROVERRegistration

Children's Book Week is May 9 to 15: Children visiting the library during the week will sign up to win free books.

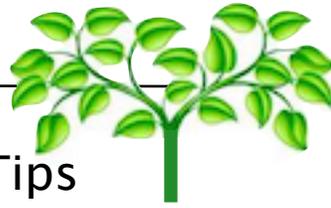
Robotics Classes: Coming in August.

Towanda American Legion

In conjunction with the Red Carpet Corridor, the Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday May 8th 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 ribeye steak dinner on Friday May 20th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include rib eye steak, baked potato, salad, roll, drink and dessert for \$12.

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 May 19th 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.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake

The grass is growing and it looks so good to see the nice, green lawn again. If you applied fertilizer last fall and left the clippings on the lawn, when you mow, you don't need to apply synthetic fertilizer again. If the grass just doesn't look good, have the soil tested. You might also find it doesn't need any fertilizer.

The weed seeds need light to germinate. If you spread some compost such as dried cow manure, that will feed the soil and help shade the weed seeds. It is also good to mow high and leave the clippings to return nutrients to the soil.

Lawns mowed at 3 1/2 - 4 inches are more likely to be weed free. The taller grass blades are, the better for photosynthesis to absorb the sun and develop healthier blades and roots. The roots will be able to go deeper and prevent the grass from going dormant with the hot sun and lack of rain in the summer and resist the weeds.

Frequent watering leads to shallow roots. Therefore water deeply, and not so often, if at all.

Dandelions bloom early to feed the pollinators. Let them bloom, and then pull off the spent flower before it goes to seed. They also develop deep roots that will help loosen the soil. The hummingbirds like to line their nest with the soft seeds.

We keep talking about protecting the honey bees as pollinators but the insects also help pollinate. They crawl and fly from one flower to another. We have good bugs and bad bugs. Only about 10 percent of the insects are bad ones.

The Carolina chickadees require more than 9,000 yes, nine thousand, moth and butterfly larvae to successfully raise a single clutch of 4-6 offspring. What's more they only go about 150 feet from their nest to find food. I am sure most of the other birds use about that many also. Some catch the insects while flying thru the air. The next time you start to spray insecticide or pesticide, stop to think if you are ruining someone's dinner.

The native trees and shrubs support 13 times more caterpillar species than the ones not historically found in the area. The non-native trees and shrubs are very pretty, so continue using them. Just don't forget the birds need the native oak, black cherry, plum and many others that have been around for years. Sometime this spring, a database will be released so you can search for native plants by zip code. The native plants will be ranked in order by the number of caterpillars they host. All birds need a lot of insects and larvae to feed protein to their young. This will also be very useful in drawing the birds. It is entertaining and relaxing to hear the birds singing. The birds that have been eating insects that received insect spray, also die or leave the area.

The birds need shrubs and flowers for shelter and then they eat the seeds for nutrition. They also like milkweed, cattails and dandelions for the fluffy nest building material. One plant to avoid is burdock, the multiple burrs can entangle the small birds.

The birds also use the small twigs from trees and shrubs to build a nest. Sometimes we need to let our garden be a little messy for the wildlife

The weather is warmer and the soil is getting drier, a good time to plant a tree. If you have chosen a tree that is balled & burlap {B&B} or in a container, remove it from the container or carefully remove the burlap. Pull the soil back from the top to see where the root flare is, trying not to damage the root ball. If you look at older trees, they have a flare at the ground. If a tree looks like a telephone pole, it was planted too deep and cannot get the oxygen from the upper soil. You want the root flare above the ground, so only dig the hole as deep as the remaining root ball but 3 times the width of it.

If you are using a bare root plant, again check for root flare, dig deep enough so the flare is above ground and wide enough so you can carefully spread roots out. Place the root ball into the hole. Check from all sides to be sure you have the trunk straight. Place about half the soil in and water to press out any air pockets. Fill with the remaining soil and water again. Do not pat down the soil. If it is in a windy area or where children might grab it, carefully stake it. If the tree trunk can move in the wind, it will develop a stronger trunk, and also develop better roots.

The first year, the tree will "sleep", while growing more roots. The second year, it will "creep" while growing top and roots. The third year it will "leap" and by the fifth year the bare root tree will be about the same size as if it was a B&B tree to begin with.

Be sure to keep the soil moist deep down to encourage good root growth. On a hot windy day, it won't hurt to spray the leaves with water to prevent them from drying out. A tree puts a lot of moisture into the air thru its leaves.

The garden centers are full of the pretty, colorful annual flower plants, and they will add color to your garden. Choose a container of plants that look healthy. Work up the soil where you plan to plant them.

When you plant the annuals, if you will pinch the top off to just above a leaf stem, that will encourage new growth and a fuller plant. Also the plant will put more energy into growing a stronger plant and it will soon produce blooms.

Sometimes when you remove the plant from the container, you will see a lot of roots, like the plant was root-bound. Pull the excess roots off and gently pull the soil apart a little. That will loosen the soil and encourage the roots to grow out into the soil for more nutrients. You will notice in a round container, the roots are forming a circle, they could continue the circle, and not go out from the plant if you don't adjust them.

Plant them the same depth and water them. It is best to plant them in the early morning or evening, planting them mid-day in the hot sun will put a lot of stress on them.

It is best not to put plants that the bees like near the front door or mail box. Also it is best not to have thorns that can scratch you or catch your clothing near the door or mail box.

Towanda Busy Bees 4H Club

Towanda Busy Bees 4H Club will be holding a multi family garage and bake sale at 36 Candle Ridge Rd to benefit the 4H club activities during Towanda area garage sales May 6 - 7. Donations are being accepted for the sale. Contact Martha Rients for more information. 728-2178.

The club will also be holding its annual American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday June 21st from 2:30 until 6:30. Appointments for donations can be made online through the Red Cross website or by calling Martha Rients at 728-2178 or Pat Pulokas 728-2118.

May News

Garage Sales

Thursday, May 5 through Sunday, May 8, the Towanda Area Garage Sales will be held at various locations and times in Indian Creek and Lamplighter Subdivisions, the Village of Towanda, and nearby rural sites. Some of the items for sale will be listed on the flyer along with the address and a map. These will be available at the Library, Kick's, FS station and the village office by Tuesday, May 3.

Calendar



Sunday, May 1 – May Day
Thu-Sun, May 5-8 – Garage Sales
Fri-Sun, May 6-8 – Duncan Manor (1002 Towanda Barnes Rd) Fundraiser
Sat-Sun, May 7-8 – Red Carpet Corridor Festival – 10th Annual Celebration
Sunday, May 8 – Mother's Day
Monday, May 23 – 4th of July Celebration Planning Meeting – 6:30 p.m., Community Building
Tuesday, May 24 – Last ½ day of school for Unit 5 Students
Saturday, May 28 – Unit 5 Commencements, Coliseum
Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day

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
Website - www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock
Pinterest - 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).

Justin (16) and Jairon (17) Schwamberger are available to help with yard work or other maintenance jobs. Call 728-2857.

Need help mowing and trimming your lawn this summer? Joe Kaufmann (4 Eastwood Ct) would be glad to mow for you! Prices vary depending on lawn size and use of your equipment or his. Call 309-824-1027 (Joe's cell) or 309-728-8095 house phone

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

"Looking for someone to help you with yard work? Need help taking care of your pet while you are away or while you are at work? Call Avery Hartman, 728-2093. I have experience and references."