

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

November 2016

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Please Slow Down!

Indian Creek Residents **PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!** It is getting dark earlier in the evening and staying dark longer in the morning, and kids are getting on and off the bus during these times. The bus picks up starting at 7:12 am and drops off anywhere from 4:45-5:00 pm. The bus stop is at the corner of Candle Ridge and Fox Creek. It has been observed by parents and the bus drivers that *cars are not slowing down when buses and kids are present*. Kids are kids and are often times unpredictable. **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** be aware and cautious during these times. Being conscientious will alleviate any possibility of accidents!



Towanda Home and Community Education

The Towanda Home and Community Education group will meet on Monday, Nov 14, 7pm at the Towanda Community Building. Hostesses will be Leatha Poshard, Cindy Jacobs and Dorothy Brickey. The program will be "Do you know what your HCE dues pay for" and will be given by a panel of county board officers. We welcome guests to attend for an informative view about what Home and Community Education is all about. A fact find will be presented on "The history of Christmas Candy Canes". Towanda HCE meets on 2nd Monday of the month, Sep through May. Call Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650 for more info.

There will also be county HCE activities to engage in. The Read & Share will meet on Nov 21, 2-3:30pm at the extension office on Commerce Parkway, discussing the book *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Also on Nov 21 is the Community Service Day at the Farm Bureau, 9-12, 1-4 to work on seat belt covers for cancer patients, walker bags or work on other craft projects of your choice; bring sewing machine if you have one; for sewers and non-sewers; cost is free; bring a lunch or go out for lunch; Karen, 309-826-9559 for more info.

Towanda Lions Club, Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship Recipient



Emma and Bob Hancock, member of Towanda Lions Club.

Emma Rients, daughter of Howard and Martha Rients, is the recipient of the 2016 Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship. She received \$750 and a letter of congratulations from Towanda Lions Club. Emma was quite active in community and school activities, graduating with high honors from Normal Community High School in 2016. She is currently a student at Southern Illinois University studying Animal Science with a focus in Pre-Veterinary Medicine.

This scholarship was offered in memory of Steve Liebenow, a long-time Lions Club member, educator, and community leader.

Towanda American Legion

The Towanda American Legion appreciates the overwhelming response from the community supporting our efforts to put a new roof on the Post. The roof is complete thanks to the support of the community and a lot of hard work from over a dozen volunteers.

There will be a breakfast on Sunday November 6th 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 won't be a Legion dinner this month, but please support our Towanda Fire Departments Chili Supper on Saturday November 12th at the Legion.

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H Club held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Callie Cummings from the University of Illinois Extension talked to the group about how to enroll in 4-H using the new online system.

Talks and demonstrations for the evening were done by Mackenzie Kraft on goat nutrition and Abigail Scheltens on sewing projects she took to the McLean County 4-H Fair.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. 4-H enrollment will be open for returning members through December 1, 2016 and for new members through April 15, 2017. For more information about joining Towanda 4-H, contact Malisa Kraft at 309-825-1235.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake

We have been enjoying the pretty flowers in our yard, but it won't be long until Jack Frost will put an end to them. For the dahlias, glads, elephant ears, sweet potatoes, etc., you need to dig the bulbs or tubers and store them in a cool place for the winter. The perennials can be left for the birds to eat the seeds and let the leaves and snow blow up around them like a blanket and help protect their crowns and roots. Also a good place for insects to lay their eggs and hatch next spring when the robins return and need the insects to feed their young for the protein that they can't get from seeds.

Of course, there are some tropical plants that need to be brought in, such as hibiscus, ferns, citrus trees, etc, before the night temperature drops too low. Be sure to check for insects before bringing them in. They need a winter vacation to rest with no fertilizer until mid February. They don't use it during the winter, but give them as much light as you can. In front of a sunny window is good.

For the prized varieties of annuals you can bring in a small plant to save for next spring. However, they could take up a lot of space and it is only natural for the outside leaves to dry up and fall off. They will grow new inside leaves.

For impatiens, coleus, begonias and geraniums, etc, you can take some stem cuttings, about 4-5 inches long before the first frost. These will root easily in a glass of water placed near a sunny window. Not in direct sun. Remove all the leaves that will be underwater. Be sure to change the water every 2 weeks. You can watch the roots grow and by late winter or early spring pot them to get them growing and be ready to plant in the ground when it warms up.

It is time to start putting the garden to bed for the winter. Some people prefer to remove all of the old plants and leave the soil open. Some grow a ground cover over the winter and then work it into the soil in the spring.

One thing you should always do is remove any diseased plants and destroy them. Do not put them into the compost pile, because the disease could spread. Also remove as many of the weed seeds as you can to prevent some of the weeds for next year. If there are any flowers with seeds, leave those for the birds to eat during the winter and it will also give the birds some cover. Leave the leaves that blow up around the perennials to protect their roots during the winter.

I like to leave the asparagus for the birds to eat the seeds and have shelter during the winter. You can pick the green tomatoes and place them in a flat box in the basement. Don't wrap them. Just check them often and remove any spoiled or ripe tomatoes. You could have fresh tomatoes for Thanksgiving.

After you have pulled the tomato plants, leave the cages standing. After you rake the fallen leaves, dump them into the tomato cages and wet them down. You could add some coffee grounds to speed up the break down, continue until the cage is full. The leaves will break down faster if you run the mower over them to break them into smaller pieces. Next spring, remove the cages and spread the mulch over the garden before you work it up for some good rich soil.

When the night temperature drops to the 50's, it is time to bring the house plants in. Except the Christmas cactus and orchids like to wait until it drops to the 40's to set the buds. Be sure to check the plants and containers, so you do not bring any insects in. They like to hide under the rim of the pot and on the bottom.

When you bring your plants in, you can fertilize them and then don't fertilize again until Valentines day. The plants go into a dormant stage during the short, dark days and do not absorb the fertilizer. Save your time and money. When you water the plants, turn the container a quarter turn so the plant doesn't lean toward the light from the windows.

While the weather is nice and the ground isn't frozen, you can erect cages of chicken wire or hardware cloth around young trees and shrubs to protect them from rabbit and deer damage. You know how heart-breaking it was when they ate the flowers and vegetable plants. It will be worse when they eat or prune the trees, shrubs, and berries. The cage should be 18-24 inches higher than the expected snow line.

Place a net over the water garden to make it easier to remove the fallen leaves from the water. It is also time to remove the plants from the water.

The daylight hours are getting shorter and the trees, shrubs and perennials are preparing for winter. The leaves are turning colors, telling us they will soon be falling. Now is a good time to plant new trees, shrubs, and perennials.

A lot of the new plants have spent the summer in containers. During that time the roots were growing and had to go around the inside of the container and are getting root bound. When you remove them from the container you might see a lot of roots growing in a circle and not a lot of soil.

Dig the hole no deeper than the container and 2-3 times wider than the container. Remove the plant from the container and try to untangle the roots so that when they get into the ground, they can spread out. Place your thumbs on the top of the ball and your fingers on the bottom. Pull the bottom of the root ball out a little to open the root mass. Place the plant in the hole and spread the roots out so they will grow out in all directions. Fill the hole with soil and water well. If planting a tree, be sure the root flair is above ground. Give it about 1 inch of water a week. After the ground freezes, place 3-4 inches of mulch on top to prevent changes in temperature. If leaves and snow blow in around it, that is good, it helps to protect them.

Towanda Library

Tuesday Tunes: first Tuesday of month @ 2:30.

LEGO Cub: first Wednesday of month @ 2:30.

Bulldog Book Club: each Late Start Wednesday of the school year @ 2:30

Story Hours: every Wednesday @ 10:30 a.m.

Crochet Group: every Tuesday @ 5:00 to 6:30

Read to Dogs: every Tuesday @ 5:30 to 6:30

Senior Financial Assistance presented by Department on Aging: 3rd Monday of each month from noon to 2:00

Towanda Reads Adult Book Discussions: second Tuesday of even-numbered months @ 5:00

November Library Board Meetings:

November 1 @ 6:00 p.m., November 9 @ 9:15 a.m. and November 15 @ 7:00 p.m.

Nomination packets available at library for April 2017 Library Trustee Election. Four trustee positions will be on the ballot.

Towanda Busy Bees



Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club's October meeting included a Drone Discovery activity. Members also shared what they learned about engineering and physics with the community with an event at the Towanda District Library on October 22, 2016.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15th at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The Program will be on WOBBLEBOTS. 4-H is open to all youth ages 8-18 and new members are always welcome. For more information contact: Martha Rients 728-2178 or hrients@frontiernet.net.

Calendar

Daylight Savings Time ENDS

Sun. Nov. 6 ~ 2:00 a.m.

Veterans Day – November 11

Fri. Nov. 11 ~ 1:00 p.m. program at Towanda School (rsvp by 11/4 to the school ~ 557-4426)

Towanda Fire Department Chili Supper Fundraiser

Towanda Legion Building, Sat. Nov. 12 ~ 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Donations of desserts would be appreciated

Tickets are \$8.00/adult, \$5.00 for kids ages 11-15, and under 10 are free.

American Education Week

November 14-19, 2016

Unit 5 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Wed. Nov. 23 – Fri. Nov. 25 ~ No School

Unit 5 ~ 1-hour Late Starts

Weds. Nov. 9 & Nov. 30

Dignified Retirement of Worn American and State Flags ~ leave them at the Normal Fire Department building, Raab Rd (next door to Prairieland Elementary).

“Halloween Trick & Treats” hours in Lamplighter will be on Mon. Oct. 31 ~ 5:00-8:00 p.m. (where porch lights are on).

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 junior at NCHS and can be contacted at 728-8088 (home) or (309) 830-7721 (cell).

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

Need help taking care of your pet while your away, call Bailee Harmon at (309) 530-5360. "I love animals and have been volunteering at the Humane Society for almost six months. I would love to help take care of your animals".

"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."

Lauren Smith will provide pet care - call 728-2930.

Are you looking for someone to watch your pets when you are gone or walk them while you are at work? If so, call Sami Hartman (30 Candle Ridge Road). I am responsible and LOVE pets. I have experience and references. My number is 728-2093.