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## New Indian Creek Sign



A big thanks to the IC sign committee of Linda Garbe, Mary Ann Boyd, Jim Russell, and Fred Walk for all their time spent planning and securing the new sign. Bob Hancock helped Jim Russell and Fred Walk to install the sign saving the IC Homeowners \$1,000 that it would have cost us if Prairie Sign had installed the sign.

## Towanda HCE

The Towanda HCE group will meet on Monday, January 9, 7 pm at the Towanda Community Building. This will be our snowman meeting where members and friends attending may bring any of their "snowman" items for show and tell. Valerie Dotson and Linda Conder are hostesses. The program will be given by Cindy Kelley on Super Foods and also a fact find about Pre-biotics, Probiotics and Symbiotics.

Other January county activities of interest include: **Huck Weaving workshop**, Monday, Jan 9, 1-4pm at the Culvers restaurant, 801 S. Hershey, Bloomington. Call for list of materials, Class fee and RSVP by Jan 3 to Lynda, 309-821-1266; **Local Leader Lesson, "Coloring- It's not just for kids"** on Tuesday, Jan 24 at Farm Bureau, 2243 Westgate Dr, Blm. Free and open to the public, call Delilah, 309-532-0314.

Towanda Unit is one of three units organizing the **Feb 11, 2017 McLean County Membership and Friendship Tea, 2-4 pm**. This will be held at the Mennonite Church of Normal, 805 S Cottage, Normal. Bring a favorite tea cup for you and your guest to use. New 2016 HCE members will be recognized! The program, "The Udder Story" will be presented by Bev Hornickel,. She will talk about collecting milk bottles and about the family dairy farm she grew up on. You must have a ticket to attend and seating is limited. Tickets: HCE member/\$5 and guests/\$3. Cindy Kelley has tickets and RSVP required by January 24, 2017. Contact: 824-4797 or ckek71@frontier.com. Hosted by Dale, Dry Grove, and Towanda HCE Units.

Nineteen members and friends of Towanda HCE enjoyed great food, good conversation, gift exchange and lots of fun at their Dec 12 Christmas Party.



Dec 12 Christmas meeting of Towanda HCE

Seated, Joann Steinberg, Kay Moore, Valerie Dotson, Karen Bersche, Dorothy Brickey  
Standing: Linda Conder, Bev Hornickel, Cindy Kelley, Karen Wyatt, Sandy Whalen

Seated: Cindy Jacobs, Kathleen Emery, Clara Lehan, Robin Pearson, Joyce Theobald  
Standing: Pat Pulokas, Sharon Joplin, Cherry Trent, Lu Payton.

# Gardening Tips

by Helen Leake



The most often asked question asked during the winter, is how often to water my plants. During the short day light hours of winter, most plants kind of rest. More plants are killed by over watering then under watering. It depends on several things as to how often to water.

One type of plants depends on the light exposure. If the plant is near a bright, sunny window, it will need to be watered more often than if it gets a lot less light.

Another thing that determines the amount of need to be watered is the soil. Light potting mix won't hold moisture as good as some types of potting soil. Sandy soil for cactus doesn't hold water, but the cactus doesn't like wet feet. Soil containing clay soil holds water longer..

Plants dry out faster in a warm room than in a cool room. Also low humidity in the room causes the need for more watering. Also some plants need more water than others...

One easy way to know if it is time to water, is lift the container, if it is light weight, time to water.

You can also stick your finger into the top inch or 2 and see if the soil is moist or dry.

You can also place the container in a saucer that contain pebbles, that will increase the humidity around the plant. Orchid roots draw moisture from the air. You can mist them daily. .Also, keep the bark soil moist.

Pour off excess water in the saucer under the plant to prevent root rot.

Every year, people complain about the rabbits causing problems in their yard. There are several species of rabbits and their kin hares, found across the United States, so you have a good chance of seeing at least one species in your yard. Rabbits and hares feed on herbaceous plants [die back in winter], the bark, leaves, twigs and seedlings of woody plants. That is why they get into trouble with the gardener. Some people enjoy watching the little ones playing in the yard.

You can provide a friendly environment for rabbits and still have a nice garden. You can plant more plants than you need, so you can share with both the ornamental plants and vegetables. Rabbits and hares are fond of clover, they also leave rich droppings in the yard to add rich fertilizer. The clover will provide a "decoy" food to help keep them from eating other plants.

A wide variety of predators like to eat rabbits and hares therefore the rabbits don't take wide open spaces very good. They like to be near a hiding place for protection. You can also put a 3 foot tall wire fence around the garden beds you want to protect. Sink it a few inches into the ground, so they can't dig under it. There are also some attractive plastic fences that help keep them out. When they can't find any green plants, they will turn to the young tree bark. To protect the young trees and shrubs, put plastic tree guards or hardware cloth around the trunk. You can also slit flexible plastic drainage pipe and place it around the tree trunk to protect it from rabbits and deer. Make sure the top of the protection is 2 feet higher than the expected snow.

Snowshoe hares found in Canada and Northern United States, enjoy dust baths, leave a bare patch of dry soil for the rabbits, hares and birds.

It looks and feels like winter has arrived. It is time to protect some trees and shrubs for the winter. Be sure the root area of the azaleas and rhododendrons are thoroughly covered with 2-4 inches of mulch to protect them from the freezing and thawing temperatures.

The snow is a good form of insulation but do not pile snow on shrubs when removing it from the sidewalk and drive way. Also by walking on the snow, you can pack it and suffocate the plants. Also be careful when using melting agents. The salts can damage the grass, plants and concrete.

Protect your multi-stemmed conifer, such as arborvitae, juniper, and yews from winter storm damage by tying the trunks together with old nylons or twine. That way the heavy snow or ice won't bend them over and break the branches. When removing heavy snow from the branch, use a broom or rake and gently lift the branch up. If you try to brush it off it could add enough weight to break the branch.

Keep your poinsettias and Christmas cactus near a bright window and out of drafts. Your hibiscus and geranium should be near a bright window also. They will drop the outdoor leaves and soon grow indoor leaves. Keep the hibiscus soil moist, but let the geranium top soil dry between watering, they do not like wet feet.

Don't fertilize until mid-February. The plants are resting and not using the fertilizer.

Helen J. Leake

## Towanda Library

### January 2017 Library News

**LEGO Club:** On Wednesday, January 11th @ 2:30. Enrollment is at capacity for this very popular after-school activity.

**Bulldog Book Club:** Each "Late Start" Wednesday of the school year @ 2:30. Enrollment is at capacity for this very popular after-school activity. January 25<sup>th</sup> is this month's meeting date.

**Story Hours:** every Wednesday @ 10:30 a.m. Open enrollment allows children to join any time during the year – when they turn 3. Actually many younger siblings sometimes join the fun games, songs, crafts, snacks, and stories. Families often remain after the Story Hour to visit, as the children play with the giant LEGOS, Duplos, puzzles, educational games, puppets, kitchen, dress-up clothes, beanbags, or doll house.

**Crochet Group:** every Tuesday @ 5:00 to 6:30. This group began several years ago – with a simple request from a community member. Do you have an idea for a group that you would like to see meet regularly as a part of library programming? Perhaps there are programs or classes you would like to see the library offer?

**Senior Financial Assistance** presented by Department on Aging: third Monday of each month from noon to 2:00. The January date is the 16<sup>th</sup>. Save money as they help you apply for Homestead Tax Exemptions, license plate discounts, etc.

**Towanda Reads Adult Book Discussions:** second Tuesday of even-numbered months @ 5:00. Discussion on February 14 is “The Lilac Girls” by Martha Kelley and/or “The Nightingale” by Kristin Hannah.

**Library Board Meetings:** The next regularly scheduled board meeting is January 17, 2017

**Tuesday Tunes:** Since there is no school the first Tuesday of January, the next Tuesday Tunes is on February 7, 2017 @ 2:30.

**Brownie Scouts meet at the library @ 2:30 on the second Thursday of each month** - for the remainder of the school year.

**Read to Dogs:** Will return in the spring.

Karen Stott Bersche, Director

Towanda District Library

301 S. Taylor St

Towanda, IL 61776-7582

Phone: (309) 728-2176 Fax: (309) 728-2139

<http://www.towandalibrary.org>

Email: [director@towandalibrary.org](mailto:director@towandalibrary.org)

## Towanda 4H

The Towanda 4-H Club held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. at 6:00 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. During the meeting we sang Christmas carols, made dog beds, decorated Christmas cookies and made cards and goodie bags for Senior Citizens. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. 4-H enrollment will be open for new members through April 15, 2017. For more information about joining Towanda 4-H, contact Malisa Kraft at 309-825-1235.

Submitted by:

Caleb Vogel, Reporter  
(309) 825-6248

## Calendar

Tue.Jan.10 – school resumes for Unit 5 students

Mon.Jan.16 – no school / Martin Luther King observance

Wed.Jan25 – 1-hr late start in Unit 5

# Legion News

The American Legion will have a pork chop dinner on Friday January 13th from 5-7. Dinner will include a pork chop sandwich, fries, green beans, dessert and drink for \$9.

There will not be a breakfast in January. All dinners are open to the public. Carry outs are available. Thank you for your continued support of the Legion and our Veterans.

## 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

Call Home - 728-2990

Text or call- 309-242-1802

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

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

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



### For Hire:

Winter is headed our way. When the snow falls, call Avery Hartman to help with snow removal. 728-2093.

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).

Pampered Chef features cooking shows, catalog parties, freezer meal workshops, bridal showers & fundraisers! Contact your local Indian Creek consultant for these events.

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.

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

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".

Are 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.