

# INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

February 2017

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

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

The Indian Creek Annual Meeting  
will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, March 2  
at the Towanda Community Center

## Towanda HCE to meet Monday, February 13

The Towanda HCE Unit will meet on Monday, February 13, 7pm at the Towanda Community Building. The roll call will be: "What do you do to relax?" Our program for the night will be presented by Joyce Theobald on "Coloring – It's not just for kids!" The Fact Find will be Help for every accident. Hostesses will be Jeanie Wager and Connie Carstens. Guests are always welcomed. For more information contact Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650 or [rbnprsn@outlook.com](mailto:rbnprsn@outlook.com). Come and learn about an enjoyable new way to reduce stress.

Other activities this month include:

Feb 13, 1-4pm at Extension Office: 1615 Commerce Pkwy, Blm. **Duck tape workshop**- Make a coupon and gift card holder. Call Lynda, 821-1266 for more details of cost and supplies to bring.

Feb 20, 2-3:30p at Extension Office: **Read & Share** the book 'An Invisible Thread' by Laura Schroff, free, call LaVonne for more details, 309-661-6391.

Feb 20, 9a-3p at Farm Bureau Auditorium: **Community Service Day** will be making scarves and mittens for children, free, call Karen 826-9559 for more details.

**A Friendship Membership Tea** will be held on Saturday, Feb 11 at the Mennonite Church of Normal, 805 S Cottage, Normal from 2-4p; Program, **The Udder Story** will be presented by Bev Hornickel about

the family dairy farm and dairy bottle collecting, tickets: HCE member/\$5, Guests/\$3 from Cindy, 824-4797. All activities are open to guests. Call the number provided for more information.



L-R: Linda Conder, Valerie Dotson, Cindy Kelley, Jeanie Wager, Joann Steinberg, Pat Pulokas, Bev Hornickel, Sharon Joplin

# Towanda Boy Scouts Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

The 61st Annual Towanda Boy Scouts Pancake and Sausage Dinner will be held Saturday February 11th 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.



## 2017 Advance Meat Order Towanda Scouting Organization

~Pick Up Meat Orders~

Friday, February 10th, 3-6 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building or,  
Saturday, February 11th, 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 23, 2017**

| 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.   |       |
| <b>ITALIAN SAUSAGE</b>  |        |              |       |
| ITALIAN BULK (2# increments)<br>Packaged ONLY in 2# packages. |        | \$3.50/lb.   |       |
| ITALIAN LINK<br>Packaged in 5# packages.                      |        | \$3.50/lb.   |       |
| <b>CHICKEN BREASTS</b>  |        |              |       |
| BONELESS/SKINLESS<br>Packaged in 5# packages.                 |        | \$4.00/lb.   |       |
|   |        | <b>TOTAL</b> | \$    |

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

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Paid  Not Paid

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



## Towanda Busy Bees 4-H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club will meet on the 21st of February at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The program for the evening will be LEGO Heart engineering. Towanda Busy Bees 4-H is open to all youth ages 8-18 by September 1st 2016 and new members are always welcome. For more information contact: Martha Rients, Leader at 728-2178 or hrients@frontiernet.net

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## Ecology Action Center promotes Radon Action Month

Ecology Action Center promotes Radon Action Month January is Radon Action Month. Did you know that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, resulting in over 1,100 deaths in Illinois from radon induced lung cancer each year? Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that is produced from the decay of naturally occurring uranium in the soil. Health risks occur when radon gas enters the home and is breathed in, resulting in the radioactive products damaging the lungs.

Over half of all homes have elevated radon levels above the EPA action level of 4 picocuries per liter. There is no way to determine the levels in your home based on location, age of home, or foundation type. The only way to know is to test. Radon Test Kits can be purchased online through RadonMcLean.org or in person at the Ecology Action Center located at 202 W College Ave, Normal during open hours-- Monday through Thursday, 9am to 5 pm. Test kits are \$10 (plus \$2 shipping) and require no additional laboratory fee.

Residents with questions about radon or radon testing can contact the EAC's Radon Program Coordinator, Lacey Monterastelli at 309-454-3169 extension 13. More information about radon is available online at RadonMcLean.org.

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.

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## Towanda 4-H

On January 3rd, 2017, the Towanda 4-H met at the Towanda Community Building. Club leaders handed out awards to 4-H members from last year. Kate Johnson gave a talk about what to do if you are being bullied. Emma Feit demonstrated cake decorating. Devon Laible told us how to take care of ducks and brought a male and a female duck to show us. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. New members can still join 4-H until April 15. For more information, contact Malisa Kraft at 309-825-1235.



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## Towanda American Legion

The Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday February 5th 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 not be a dinner this month. We encourage you to support the Towanda Boy Scouts at the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on February 11th at the Grade School.

Thank you for your continued support of the Legion.



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# Garden Tips

by Helen Leake

The seed rakes are in the stores now. If you are looking for a certain variety of flowers or vegetables purchase them as soon as you find them, some go very fast. Keep the packets in a cool place. It is too early to start seeds now. Read the back of the seed envelope and it will tell you when to start the seeds. If you do start seeds, it is time to check to make sure you have every thing ready.

If you have saved seeds from last year, you can check them for germination. Place 10 seeds on a wet paper towel, cover it with another wet paper towel. Roll it up and place it in a plastic bag. Leave it on the counter and check the seeds in a few days. Some seeds germinate faster than others. If 5 or less seeds sprout, it is time to get new seeds, otherwise you will need to plant them thicker than usual.

You can make your own seed tape. Roll out a strip of toilet paper the length of the row or a paper towel if wanting them spread out. Mix equal parts of flour and water to make a paste. You want it thick. Place a small dab onto the paper at the correct spacing for the plants. Place 1 or 2 seeds onto each dab of paste, you might want to use tweezers. Fold the paper over and let the paste dry. After it is dry, roll it up and label. Store in a dry place until ready to use. Place it in the row and cover with soil.

Later when the boxes of plants arrive, purchase what you plan to use while they are still fresh and healthy. Plant them in a container and treat it as a house plant. After the danger of frost has passed, plant them in the ground. The longer they are in the store, the more the roots dry out.

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It is time to check the house plants. The insects seem to appear in the warm dry air with the furnace running. If you see something sticky on the leaves or on the table, you probably have some insects. Check the top and bottom of the leaves.

The mealy bugs look like a tiny piece of cotton usually found near the stem, but they can be any where on the leaf. If you have a bad infestation, they could even be on the roots, then you might as well destroy the plant.

Another common insect is scale. It is brownish with no legs and can be hard to see on the stem. Spider mites form a spider web between the stems and leaves.

The best way to get rid of these insects is to spray the top and bottom of the leaves with insecticidal soap. You will need to spray every 7-9 days for 3 weeks. You want to kill the insects that hatched after the first spraying and kill them before they are old enough to start laying eggs for another infestation. You can also kill mealy bugs by dipping a cotton ball in alcohol and dabbing it on them. Sometimes you can remove the scale by washing the leaves under running water or picking the scales off.

While you are checking for insects, you can also wipe the dust off of the leaves. Hold your hand under the leaf and gently wipe it off with a wet paper towel or cloth. Do not spray the leaves to make them shine. They will shine if they are healthy.

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If you did not get your garden tools cleaned before you put them away, now is a good time to clean and sharpen them. Good tools are not cheap, so take care of them so they will last forever. Clean sharp tools are much easier to use and you can do a better job with them.

All you need is a bucket of water, soap {dish soap will do} and a steel brush or steel wool. Gather up your trowel, shovels, hoes and hand pruners. Soak them in the water so that the dried soil will turn into mud. Now you use the steel brush to get them nice and clean. You might need an old tooth brush to get into the cracks and crevices. If there is any rust, use steel wool to remove it.

After they have completely dried, use a file to sharpen them. They work better with a sharp edge. Once they are cleaned and sharpened, they should be covered with a fine layer of oil to prevent rust. A rag soaked with WD-40 does a good job. If some of the tool handles blend in with the grass and are hard to see, you can paint the handles with a bright color. Also check the handles. For most wood handles, you can use fine sand paper to get rid of potential splinters. Then use a rag soaked with linseed oil to coat the handle. On the fiberglass handles, you can use superfine steel wool to smooth them. You do not need to use linseed oil on them. Also make sure your hand tools, saws and loppers are cleaned, sharpened and oiled.

Now when the right weather gets here, you are ready to go.

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It won't be long until the robins will be out looking for worms to eat. Earthworms and night crawlers are the best known of the worm species, but there are more than 200 species in North America. Worms are very important parts of the ecosystem and food chain. Many birds rely on them as food for themselves and their young.

Worms aren't just a food source, they play a much more important role in our garden and lawn. They dig and tunnel through the soil, which tills and aerates the soil for better water filtration. They also add nutrients to the soil as they digest and recycle plant material that they feed on. By doing so, they add urea to the soil, which breaks down into nitrogen needed for good plant growth. It also helps neutralize the soil pH. We would not have a successful and fertile yard and garden if it wasn't for the worms.

Worms have no legs, but they do have well-developed nervous systems, circulatory, digestive, muscular and reproductive systems. They look smooth, but they have short hairs to grip the sides of their burrows to help them move. They are long crawling creatures and usually stay below the soil surface in their tunnel and do come up during rains. Not to escape the water soaked ground, but to mate and lay eggs during rainy weather. Each worm produces 10-15 offspring per year.

Worms have glands that secrete mucus to keep them moist at all times. If they dry out, they will suffocate and die, that is why you don't see them above ground. When you spray the yard for grubs, you could also be killing the worms.

Aristotle once called worms "the intestines of the earth".

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**Happy Valentines Day!**

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# Library News

**LEGO Club:** On Wednesday, February 1st @ 2:30. Enrollment is at capacity for this very popular after-school activity.

**Tuesday Tunes:** The next Tuesday Tunes is on February 7, 2017 @ 2:30.

**Bulldog Book Club:** Each "Late Start" Wednesday of the school year @ 2:30. Enrollment is at capacity for this very popular after-school activity. February 8th is this month's meeting date. (Please note: for the remainder of the school year, there is only one Late Start per month.)

**Story Hours:** every Wednesday @ 10:30 a.m. Open enrollment allows children to join any time during the year – when they turn 3. Younger siblings sometimes join the fun games, songs, crafts, snacks, and stories. Families are invited to 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.

**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. Both of these are noteworthy historical fiction about the World War II era.

**Senior Financial Assistance presented by Department on Aging:** third Monday of each month from noon to 2:00. The February date is the 20th. Save money as they help you apply for Homestead Tax Exemptions, license plate discounts, or answer your questions on Social Security matters.

**Library Board Meetings:** The next regularly scheduled board meeting is February 21, 2017. The regular meeting time is being moved to 6:00 with a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to immediately follow. The topic of the committee meeting is discussions with the architect on schematic drawings.

**Crochet Group:** Every Tuesday @ 5:00 to 6:30.

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

**March is Youth Art Month:** Watch for an announcement of dates for Parent/Child art sessions in late afternoons on Mondays. The art work of renowned children's book illustrators will be used as examples to spark your own art project.

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## Calendar

### Unit 5:

- Wed.Feb.8 1-hr late start
- Fri.Feb.17 (SIP) and Mon.Feb.20 (President's Day – no school)
- Sat.Feb.25 – 1-4 p.m. at Evans JHS – FREE family fun event celebrating Beyond the Books Educational Foundation 25th Anniversary in 2017. Featured will be BTBEF grant winners' projects and special participation activities including: Rock Climbing, Miller Park Zoo animals, games, magician, music, crafts, and more. For additional information see Facebook and website: [BeyondtheBooksbn.com](http://BeyondtheBooksbn.com) (this is NOT a fundraiser – it's just FUN).

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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:

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).

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.

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.

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".