



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

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

## Towanda HCE News

The Towanda HCE will meet on Monday, May 14, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Hostesses are Linda Conder, Kathleen Emery and Joyce Theobald. There will be two programs presented. Cindy Kelley will present "Living With A Hearing Loss" and Connie Carstens will present "Fairy Gardens". Guests are always invited to attend these interesting and educational programs. For more information, Cindy, 309-824-4797.

## Indian Creek Work Day

Our next Indian Creek workday will be on May 5th. Please meet at the bridge at 9:00 am. Residents, kindly email Fred Walk and let him know if you can help out. [fwalk@frontiernet.net](mailto:fwalk@frontiernet.net)



## Gardening Tips

Now that it is finally warm enough to get outside and enjoy it, the mosquitoes will be enjoying it also. There are hundreds of species, but they all have the same cycle.

The mosquitoes feed on plant nectar. Only the females bite, looking for a "blood meal" after mating to enable them to lay eggs. The life cycle can be completed in as little as 4 days and as long as a month. Late season hatched adults can hibernate over winter.

Carbon dioxide from your breath, sweat and warmth tends to draw them to you. Dark collar clothing draws them more than light colors. A single female can be responsible for more than a quarter-million new offspring in one season. An ideal place for her to lay her eggs is stagnant water that is full of algae. Good breeding ground could be large ponds down to empty pots and saucers. Also, the tarp covering your grill or car, that has folds to collect water.

Empty the bird bath at least once a week and scrub the insides with a wire brush to remove any eggs. Then add fresh water. Cover rain barrels with a lid or screen.

Moving water is hard for her to lay eggs in and the larvae have a hard time trying to breathe. Small fish like guppies, goldfish and minnows will eat the larvae. Large koi don't bother them. Mosquitoes are not strong flyers, so a breeze or fan can make it easier to sit outside.

You can put a donut-shaped cake containing Bt in your pond. It is nontoxic to humans, pets, and wildlife. Picaridin repels insects, ticks, fleas, and chiggers. It comes in sprays and wipes. It can be used on your skin and is more pleasant than some others. DEET has been around for some time. It

is absorbed through the skin, and it smells. The plant-based candles are only effective in small areas. Pyrethrin in sprays and lotion breaks down fast and will harm bees and fish. Permethrin is used to treat clothing as a repellent but will kill other insects also.

Repellents use scents to confuse a female trying to find food. Insecticides kill mosquitoes on contact.

Hope you can enjoy your garden without unwanted company.

It is the time of year that we are getting a lot of cards and ads about people wanting to care for our lawn. It is almost impossible to have a perfect lawn, just try to have yours look better than your neighbor.

If your grass just doesn't look good, have the soil tested. A lot of the problems go back to the soil. As long as the soil is cool the roots are growing. The spring rains can soak down into the soil to encourage their growth.

Around May 1, the soil temperature has usually warmed up to about 55 degrees, and you can apply fertilizer, if needed. If you leave the grass clipping on the lawn when you mow, they will return nitrogen to the soil. Labor Day is the time to apply fertilizer, if needed. Too much nitrogen can hurt the grass.

After the soil warms up, the plant stops sending its energy to the roots, and turns it to the top, so the blades will start to grow. Wait until the weeds are actively growing to apply weed killer. Don't apply it if it is going to rain soon. The blades need time to absorb it. For Creeping Charlie, the best time is when it is blooming.

When the forsythia starts to bloom is the best time to apply crab grass prevention. If you are sowing grass seed, be sure not to apply the prevention over it.

When you mow, leave the blades 3-4 inches tall. That will shade the soil to keep the roots cool and help prevent the weed seeds from getting the sun. It will also have more space for the blades to absorb the sun.

Unless you have brown patches from grubs, it is best not to apply grub control. It will also kill the good earthworms and other good stuff in the soil. Also, don't roll the lawn. That packs the ground and makes it harder for the rain to soak in.

If you see a part of a circle of much greener grass in the lawn, that is a Fairy ring. There is a root or piece of wood that is breaking down and releasing nitrogen. Just mow over it and it will disappear in time.

Usually you don't need all of the services some lawn companies offer. You do have the right to tell them no and save some money.

The more you do for the lawn, the more you need to do.

The migrating song birds are returning and will be getting ready to start their family. Before the climate change, the birds would arrive about the same time as the insects were emerging, so they had plenty of food. Now some birds arrive too early, and some too late for the abundance of insects and larvae. They need the protein and fat that seeds don't have.

We have found out that the insecticides, etc., are contributing to the loss of honey bees and monarchs. Laboratory studies of some sparrows show they become disoriented and have lost about 17 percent of their weight after eating just 4 seeds a day that have been treated with one of the chemicals. Farmers are planting the seeds about the time the birds are stopping in the fields to refuel on their journey.

The Carolina Chickadees, for example, require about 9,000 caterpillars to feed a single clutch of 4-6 offspring from birth until they leave the nest. It would take about 200 aphids to equal a single medium sized caterpillar.

Be a lazy gardener and leave an area of the garden for the birds and insects for their food and shelter. Instead of using chemicals, use a strong gush of water from the garden hose or insecticidal soap to remove the insects from your plants.

At night, turn off unnecessary lights, so the moths can do their job of pollenating.

The skunks, opossums, and raccoons will be looking for a place to raise their family. If under your porch or deck has been their ideal place, soak some cotton balls in ammonia, vinegar, or bleach over night. In the morning throw the cotton balls in their favorite place. They won't like the smell and then go look for another place.

The Temperature when I got up this morning was 29 degrees, and then dropped to 28 just before sun-rise. Way too cold for any annual plants to be in the ground. The rhubarb looks OK. I usually wait until more new leaves come up to use them. Never pull more than 1/3 of the plant at one time.

Several years ago, parts of Europe banned the use of glyphosate, and ingredient in Round-Up. Now it is reported that the European Union has banned the use of pesticides that harm bees and other crop pollinators, effective the end of the year.

Research in the United States has shown that some pesticides do contribute to the decline in most pollinators. Pollinators are needed to convert the flowers on fruits, vegetables, and nuts into food. Growers are seeing a big decline in production.

The use of pesticides also causes a decline in butterflies, insects, and birds that eat insects. We are seeing and hearing fewer birds.

You can trim the grass and weeds in the side walk cracks and then our boiling water from the tea kettle too kill the roots.

Helen J. Leake

## **Towanda 4H**

Towanda 4H club's April meeting was at the Towanda Community Building on Tuesday, April 3. The club filled out NEW record sheets for the upcoming 2018 4H fair. Sign up for becoming an officer for the 2018-2019 4H year was also available. If you were not able to attend April's meeting and did not receive the new record sheets, please contact one of the leaders below.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 1 at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. It is expected that we will be painting bird houses. Anyone with questions or wanting information about Towanda 4H may contact Melissa Kraft (309-825-1235) or Jeanie Wager (309-728-2852).

## **Towanda Busy Bees**

Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club's April meeting highlights included talks presented by Hailey Carlson on Sewing and Kimberly Novy on Latch hook. The members are getting ready for the club's Bake/Garage Sale being held May 3-5<sup>th</sup> at 36 Candle Ridge Rd, a community service project at the Towanda District Library and the American Red Cross Blood Drive on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Signups are currently available for the blood drive online at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Towanda District Library. The members will do their "Annual

Spring Spruce up of the library landscape. 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

## **Towanda American Legion**

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday May 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 will be a pork chop dinner on Friday May 18th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include a pork chop sandwich, French fries, green beans, dessert and drink 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.

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.

The American Legion will have a pork chop dinner on Friday June 15th from 5:00 to 7:00.

Dinner will include pork chop sandwich, French fries, baked beans, applesauce, dessert and drink for \$9.

## **From a Concerned Resident**

Neighborhood Visitor:

A yellow cat has been stalking bird feeders and the turkeys on Bent Tree Lane. If this is a wild cat, please refrain from feeding it and maybe it won't roam the neighborhood. Thanks.

## **May TFD News**

We had to cancel our regularly scheduled EMS night for April in order to perform a "weather permitting" training. To make up for the missed meeting we will be doubling the EMS night this month for four continuing education hours. Stay up to date by visiting our website to see the latest photos from training at [www.tcfpd.org](http://www.tcfpd.org). In March we ran six medical and six fire calls putting our total at 38 calls for the year so far.

## **CALENDAR**

- Tues. May 1 – May Day
- Thur. - Sat. May 3-5 – Towanda Area Garage Sales (Indian Creek, Village, Lamplighter)
- Sat. May 5 – Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Event - Towanda to Pontiac  
<http://www.wilroute66redcarpetcorridor.com/events.html>

· Sat May 5 - Rt 66 car show and DJ, noon-4pm., Pinup contest 2pm., vendor market along old 66 from 8am-5pm. Tour the Historic Duncan Manor and enjoy local vendors, live music, food and a cash bar 9am-4pm. Commemorative giveaway will be available at the RCC booth on Rt. 66, pickup at Kicks on 66 Bar & Grill after the festival. More info contact: 309-340-4491

- Sun. May 13 – Mother's Day
- Sat. May 19 – Armed Forces Day
- Sun. May 20 – University HS Graduation @ 2pm
- Wed. May 23 – Last Day of School (3-hrs), Unit 5
- Sat. May 26 – Commencements, NCWHS @ 2pm, NCHS @ 6pm, Unit 5
- Mon. May 29 – Memorial Day

## Towanda Library

### May 2018 Library News

**Summer Reading Programs for Youth:** Register during the week of June 4<sup>th</sup> at the library. Programs for all ages run from June 11 through July 25 with events on Mondays @ 4:30 and Wednesdays @ 10:30. Reading incentives and prizes provided by our wonderful sponsors!

**Adult Summer Reading Programs:** Registration begins on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Details provided at time of registration. Yes, there are prizes for adults, as well.

**Preschool Story Hour every Wednesday @ 10:30:** Enjoy stories, crafts, and pre-literacy activities such as finger plays, singing, educational games, and acting-out stories. Younger siblings welcome in play areas or on a lap! May 23 is the final Story Hour - until we resume on September 5, 2018.

**Bulldog Book Club on May 9 @ 2:30:** Each "Late Start" Wednesday of the school year youth in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade discuss award-winning books. Amy Oberts, our Youth Librarian, is planning a fantastic Final Party complete with mini-ice cream sundaes and a game show related to the year's book selections.

**Tuesday Tunes on May 15 @ 2:30:** This group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month during the school year with the exception of March and May. Kindergarten, First, and Second graders sing, dance, play musical instruments, and enjoy other toe-tapping activities taught by Developing Melodies. Pre-register today at library!

**LEGO Builders Club on May 21 @ 2:30:** Third Monday of each month during the school year. Youth in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade take on literacy-based LEGO challenges taught by April Fisher. Pre-register today at the library!

**Read to Dogs Tuesdays in May from 5:30 to 6:30:** Children read aloud to certified canine friends during 15-minute pre-registered appointments. See photos on the library Facebook page. The final session is May 22 this year.

**Towanda Reads Adult Book Discussion @ 5:00 on June 12:** The group meets to discuss "Beneath a Scarlet Sky" by Mark Sullivan. The public is welcome to join the discussion whenever a title interests you. The group meets the second Tuesday of even-numbered months.

**Crochet/Knit/Fibers Group:** Every Tuesday @ 5:00 to 6:30. New members are always welcome. Questions are cheerfully answered.

**See all library news at:** [www.towandalibrary.org](http://www.towandalibrary.org). See photos of library programs on the library's Facebook page.

# CLASSIFIED

## For Sale

Large Solid Cherry Dining Room Set, table is 66 x 43 and has one large leaf, I think it is 12" wide. It also has 6 large chairs with cushion seats and a custom-fit table pad for all of the table. If interested please call Kathleen Emery, 309-728-2784 and I will make arrangements for you to see it. Asking \$3000.00.

## 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:

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".

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.

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

Justin Schwamberger, 17 years old, is available for helping with lawn care and help around the home. Call 728-2857.

## Avery Hartman's Yard Service



I cut lawns, rake leaves, pick up sticks, water plants and more!

Call: **309-728-2093** for information  
or text: **1-920-946-8759**

\$20 to use my lawnmower  
\$15 to use your lawnmower

Need help with you yard this spring and summer? Cal Avery Hartman, 920-946-8759. I can help with mowing, raking or basic yard clean up.