

The title is overlaid on a background image of autumn leaves in various colors like green, yellow, and brown.

Indian Creek Newsletter

November, 2018

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Towanda HCE News

The Towanda HCE will meet on Monday, November 12, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Clara Lehan will present the program on "Food and Drug Interactions." Continuing our fact finds on counties Illinois history we will hear about Clark and Prairie/Douglas Counties. Cindy Jacobs, Leatha Poshard and Dorothy Brickey are hostesses. For more information on Towanda Home and Community Education, contact Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797 or Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650. Guests are always welcome and invited to attend.

There are additional county HCE activities which includes a Community Service Day on Nov 19, 9a-2p at the Farm Bureau Auditorium. Their activities will be to make hats, scarves and mittens or an activity of your choice. Join this highly industrious group for a productive and fun time,-Eileen, 309-533-1135 for more info. Also on Nov 19 will be the HCE Read and Share to discuss the book [Before We Were Yours](#) by Lisa Wingate. This is held at the Extension Office Board Room, 1615 Commerce Parkway, Bloomington. and is free and open to the public. Contact LaVonne, 661-6391 for information. There will be a program presented on "Brain Health" to be held on Tuesday, Nov 27, 1-3 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Auditorium, 2242 Westgate Dr, Bloomington. Contact, Kathleen,309-824-2784 for more information. Guests and all members are welcome to attend all county and unit activities.



Gardening Tips

Jack Frost has already made a visit to our gardens, so it is time to prepare for winter.

Cut the tops of dahlias, caladiums, and cannas, back to about 3-4 inches. Carefully dig them not to damage to bulbs. Shake the soil off and do not wash them. Store them in the basement or another cool place. The gladiolus can be pulled, shake off the soil and store them in a brown paper bag in the basement.

You can pick your green tomatoes and place them in a warm area in a single layer and they will ripen. The flavor won't be as good as ripened on the vine, but it could be better than store bought. You can also place them in a brown paper bag with an apple to trigger ripening.

Protect your young plants and raspberry plants from rabbits' damage in the snow. Also, the young fruit trees. Place chicken wire around them. Remember after the snow falls, the rabbits can stand on their hind legs a reach high.

You can plant garlic bulbs now. Be sure to pull the cloves apart right before planting.

With the shorter daylight hours, your houseplants are starting to rest for the winter. Stop fertilizing them unless they are getting supplemental light. Because of the lower humidity with the furnace running, you could provide extra humidity by placing the container on a bed of pebbles in water. If you have a group of plants, place a short container of water among them.

If you just planted some spring bulbs, you could mark the location with colored golf tees.

Leave the ornamental grass standing so the birds can eat the seed. Also, it will give winter interest to the garden.

Pallets wired together make inexpensive compost pile enclosures.

Tomato vines can leave disease spores if not removed. They should be removed from the garden.

After a tornado or hurricane, often TV will show a picture of the root section of a large tree that had been blown over. If you will notice, the thick section of the roots had not been buried very deep into the ground. That is because the top several inches of soil contains about 15 percent oxygen, the next several inches down only has 10 percent oxygen. Trees need oxygen to breathe just like humans. I have seen dead tree stumps where the tree tried to send out roots above the root flare. Did not work and the tree died. That is why we say to have the root flare above ground.

After you plant the tree, remove the grass within a 3-foot area and pour organic mulch, such as wood chips or bark pieces 2-4 inches deep within the circle. Keep the mulch back 2-3 inches from the trunk of the tree. The bark needs to be able to breathe and stay dry, so it doesn't attract disease, If you are adding mulch to a tree planted earlier, just top it off, still no more than 4 inches.

I have seen rocks used a mulch around trees. That might look nice, but it is hard for the tree. When you use rocks as mulch, you should place black plastic down first to prevent the rocks from sinking into the soil. That will make it harder for air and water to get to the roots. Also, in time, the plastic does work its self up and doesn't look good.

Fall is the ideal time to plant most trees. After the leaves have fallen from the trees and shrubs, the trees sends its energy down into the ground and the roots will continue to grow until the ground freezes. That way, when spring arrives, the tree has the energy for it.

Be sure the trees and shrubs are well watered before the ground freezes. Especially the evergreens. they lose moisture thru the needles all winter.

The trees and shrubs are starting to put on their yearly show of pretty colors. then they will drop their leaves, telling us thank you for your good care and good night, giving us shade for cooling, protection from the hot sun and cold wind, an also helping to clean the air.

Now is the ideal time to plant more trees or replace some that have been damaged or need to be removed. We have lost a lot of trees this year, due to storms and fires. when choosing your tree, be sure to check on the mature size. You don't want it to rub on a building, block the view, or be in the way of a wire.

One of the popular ways of getting a tree to plant, is the roots are baled and burlap. The roots have been cut back and wrapped in burlap for easy to move. Sometimes also wire is wrapped around them.

The first thing to do is pull the top of the soil back to see where the roots start to flare out. Dig the hole only deep enough so that the flare will be above the ground and 2-3 times the width of the ball.

Place the tree in the hole and remove all of the burlap and wire. You might have to lean the tree over to get all of the burlaps from the bottom. Return about 1/2 of the soil to the hole and water. Look from all 4 sides to be sure the trunk is straight. Return the rest of the soil into the hole and water deeply.

Now add 3-4 inches of organic mulch and keep it 3-4 inches back from the trunk. The mulch will help hold the moisture and help prevent weeds and grass from growing. it will also help prevent mowing damage to the trunk. If the mulch is over 4 inches, it is hard for the roots to get oxygen.

It is best not to use rock as mulch close to the tree because it prevents good air circulation. Rocks also hold the hot and cold longer than the soil.

Run the mower over the leaves to break them up and return nutrients to the soil. That is better and cheaper than using synthetic fertilizer.

Sometimes that garden hose does just what I want it to do, other times I would like to throw it away. First of all, don't yank on the hose to straighten out the kink. Instead walk back to the kink and remove it. Also, don't fold or kink the hose to stop the flow. Turn it off at the faucet.

When finished using the hose, let it warm-up from the cold water running thru it and straighten it out. After you have turned the water off at the faucet, open it at the end so the water can drain out while you coil it up. A coil 2-3 feet in diameter will let the hose relax and be less likely to kink. Never use just a nail or thin hook to hang it on, that could cause it to kink.

If you are thinking of buying or replacing a garden hose, there are a lot of kinds to consider.

The vinyl usually is one of the east expensive. It is reinforced to make it strong and durable, good for sprinklers. It is hard to coil, and it does kink.

The polyurethane is lightweight and doesn't kink as much, but it can be a little stiff. It is not great on a sprinkler because of the smaller diameter. but it is good to haul around. Precoiled polyurethane are good on the patio, garden, etc. Don't store them in a pile or the coils will tangle. Drape it over a hose hanger.

Rubber hose can take a beating and easy to coil. Kinks can be shaken out and don't usually leave a crease. They are heavy.

Polymer is light weight, flexible and it coils easy. But it does kink, but you can unkink it with a twirl.

Metal hose is more expensive, tough, lightweight and doesn't kink easy.

The expandable are usually a rubber tube and lightweight. if you get the more expensive with brass couplings and use it carefully, it is good. Turn the water on slowly while it is filling. Drain all the water out when finished. Store it out of heat, sun and freezing. 100 feet will fit in a five-gallon bucket.

The brass coupling is more durable. If you leave an aluminum coupling connected to a brass faucet too long, it could corrode and not be able to remove it.

It is the time of year that the mice will be looking for a warm place to spend the winter. Check the outside of the foundation for cracks that can let them in. Also check for openings inside; Are there any openings around the pipes where water comes in or goes out? A mouse can enter thru an opening as small as 1/4 inch. Fill those cracks with steel wool or other things. Mice can also come in thru an open door to the garage. The best way is to make sure there is no food, dog food or bird food on the floor.

The new mouse traps are much easier to set, or you can use the sticky traps. Place the traps next to the wall, because the mice usually stay close to it. Place some peanut butter in the middle of the trap to attract mice.

Another way to get rid of mice, rats, and ants is to use a bait box, easily found in stores. However, they can contain a rodenticide, which interferes with blood clotting and the rodent will bleed to death. Research has shown that they could live for 5-7 days before becoming a walking poison package. A bird, cat, dog, fox, owl, or up to mountain lions, etc. could eat the dead animal and ingest the mouse or rat poison, that can cause serious health problems and finally lead it to bleed to death.

There are rodent-exclusion companies that do not use rodenticides. A conventional pest control company will usually use a rodenticide. It is better to not use any insectile, pesticide, herbicide or rodenticide than you really need to.

Helen J. Leake

Money Creek Mussel Survey

Here are our preliminary findings for our survey of Money Creek on 7/18/18:

- * The stream had a range of mussel habitats from restricted (no mussels) to low quality to moderate quality.
- * We found 3 living species and 1 extant species identified from dead shells. The living species were fatmucket (*Lampsilis siliquoidea*), lilliput (*Toxolasma parvum*) and ellipse (*Venustaconcha ellipsiformis*). The extant species was Wabash pigtoe (*Fusconaia flava*).
- * All species found were known to historically inhabit Money Creek.
- * All species are common, except the Ellipse which is a Species of Greatest Conservation Concern.
- * During an INHS survey upstream of Indian Creek in 2010, they did not find lilliput or fatmucket at all and only located ellipse through dead shells. They found 2 species that we did not.
- * We found 10 ellipse, 3 fatmucket and 1 lilliput, making this a low abundance site. However, it is a moderately abundant site for ellipse.
- * We found evidence of reproduction for the ellipse and lilliput.

Overall, the stretch we sampled appears to have a good population of a relatively rare species, the ellipse. The other species, such as the Wabash pigtoe and fatmucket may be hanging in there from earlier populations and seem to mostly be older individuals. However, the population of ellipse, a species intolerant of disturbance, is very exciting

Hope that is of interest to you, let me know if you have any other questions.

Sincerely, Aaron

The Mussels of Money Creek

Backyard Biodiversity: The Mussels of Money Creek
By Amanda Best and Aaron Wilson

Illinois Wesleyan Environmental Studies professor Aaron Wilson and students Maria Wipfler and Amanda Best visited Money Creek within the Indian Creek Subdivision on July 18th to conduct part of a summer-long field study, which looked for freshwater mussels in the Mackinaw River system.

The main purpose of this study was to see if type of sediment (the mud and sand and rocks in the stream bed) in a length of stream relates to the type and amount of mussels found there. In this study, freshwater mussels were collected, identified, counted and released. At the same time, sediment from the creek bottom was collected and brought back to the lab to be chemically and physically analyzed.

Although many people aren't familiar with freshwater mussels, most have heard of oysters and clams, which are mussels' more well-known saltwater cousins. Freshwater mussels are aquatic animals with soft tissue and protective hinged shells. These features make mussels, oysters, clams, scallops and others "bivalves." Hidden at the bottom of rivers, freshwater mussels have a large impact on water quality.

Mussels are filter feeders, meaning that they feed on tiny particles of matter floating in the water. Filter feeding improves water clarity, which improves stream habitat for fish species that hunt by sight, such as trout. Mussel shells also improve stream habitat for insects living at the bottom of streams by providing a solid habitat for the insects to cling to. Insects, in turn, provide food for fish.

Freshwater mussels can be found in many U.S. streams and rivers. In fact, the United States is the global center for freshwater mussel biodiversity. Illinois by itself is home to 46 known native species, which is similar to the mussel biodiversity found in the Amazon. Other states such as Alabama and Tennessee have even higher diversity!

Unfortunately, around 50% of species once found in Illinois are threatened, endangered or extinct within the state. Many stresses, such as pollution, climate change, habitat damage and the historic overharvesting for pearl culture and shell buttons have all contributed to declines in mussel populations across the country.

So, what was found in Money Creek? One surprising find was a moderate abundance of the mussel species *Venustaconcha ellipsiformis*, commonly known as the ellipse. The ellipse is an intolerant species, meaning it usually only thrives in healthy streams. Illinois considers the ellipse a "Species of Greatest Conservation Concern." This means that this species should be monitored to make sure that it does not become threatened or endangered. Not only were adult ellipses found in Money Creek, but also a juvenile. This tells us that the ellipse population is reproducing, a good indication of a strong population. Three other common species of mussels were also found in Money Creek.

By conducting these kinds of studies, scientists hope to learn more about where mussels can be found and what factors are important in creating a quality habitat. Even a stream such as Money Creek that winds through a residential neighborhood can play an important role in preserving the biological heritage of central Illinois for future generations.



Ecology Action Center Press Release

October 15, 2018

Contact: Larissa Armstrong Phone: (309) 454-3169 x 15

Contact: Peter Murphy Phone: (414) 988-7963

Solar Bloomington-Normal 2.0 reaches final milestone; Final Presentation Tuesday 10/16

October 15, 2018 - [Solar Bloomington-Normal 2.0](#) achieved its final milestone, further reducing costs for solar power. The group-purchasing program has built-in rebates for program participants at kilowatt milestones. Solar Bloomington-Normal recently surpassed the final milestone, 350 kilowatts (kW), which earns all participants the maximum offered rebate on their purchase price.

25 households and businesses in McLean County have committed to adding 376 kW of solar to their properties, and 10 households already have their solar arrays installed. The program's success is bolstered in part by some commercial solar installations, such as the 75 kW solar array planned at the brand new Illini Elite Volleyball facility opening this fall on Valley View Drive in Bloomington, owned by club director Andy Erins.

"I have been interested in pursuing solar power for my home for environmental and economic reasons, so I attended one of the Solar Bloomington-Normal informational power hour presentations," said Erins. "By the end of the presentation, I was excited about the potential to include solar power in our new facility project. Illini Elite Volleyball would not have been able to take advantage of all of the environmental and economic benefits of solar power without the Solar Bloomington-Normal 2.0 program."

Solar Bloomington-Normal is administered by the [Ecology Action Center](#) and [Midwest Renewable Energy Association](#) (MREA), and provides McLean County homeowners, renters, businesses, and non-profits the opportunity to attend Solar Power Hours to learn about and access affordable solar energy. Interested persons have one remaining opportunity to attend an educational event: Tuesday, October 16 at 6:00 pm at the Ecology Action Center, 202 W. College Ave, Normal, IL.

The MREA was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit shortly after the first [Energy Fair](#) in 1990. MREA's mission is to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration. To learn more, call 715-592-6595 or visit www.midwestrenew.org.

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202 W College Avenue, Normal, Illinois 61761

309-454-3169

TFD News

Cold weather is around the corner! It is important to get your furnace as well as other gas-powered appliances like fire places serviced by a qualified technician. Be sure to keep combustibles away from your furnace to prevent any fire hazards. With furnace use rising as cold weather sets in, avoid the dangers of carbon monoxide by changing the batteries and making sure your CO detectors are in working order. In other news, Engine 66, Rescue 64, and Utility 63 made an appearance in the annual Del Thomas Firetruck Parade. Several members from the department assisted Towanda Elementary in their Code Red Drill as well as attending the Children's Home and Aid Fall Safety Fair. Lastly, we would like to congratulate Brian Poland and Jason Welborn who were both promoted to lieutenant. [It was officially announced at our regularly scheduled fire meeting on September 26th.](#) We are excited to see where these gentlemen take these positions! We ran 8 medical calls and 3 fire calls in the month of September putting the total number of calls at 108 so far this year.

Towanda Library

Library Announcements and Program updates:

As we look toward the holiday season, we continue to make improvements throughout the building, as well as within the collection. Please contact the library or email me directly; director@towandalibrary.org if there is a particular book, movie, music cd, or audio book that you would like us to acquire. In between projects we are hoping to plan a few special events. We will keep you posted through the Indian Creek Newsletter, our website, and Facebook page. We will be launching a new website later this fall. While we anticipate it to be visually pleasing, it will also be highly functional and much more user friendly for our patrons. We will hold programs to navigate the new site once it goes live. We will also offer programs in 2019 that will explore our new digital services and offerings.

Knitters and Crochet Group: We are happy to welcome Knitters and Crochet group every Tuesday at 5pm. Come join us!

Towanda Reads Book Discussion Group: We are reading *Library at the Edge of the World* by Felicity Hayes McCoy. Copies are available at the library. All are welcome to join us to discuss this title at 5pm on November 13th.

Here is a review of **Library at the Edge of the World:** <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/felicity-hayes-mccoy/the-library-at-the-edge-of-the-world/>

November Holiday Closures: The library will be closed Thursday November 22nd and Friday November 23rd.

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club's October meeting was highlighted with a program on Making Motions. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 20th at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The Program will be making a Gratitude Journal. Additionally, it will be Member Recognition Night. The club focus for the year is STEAM- Science, Engineering, Art and Math. 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

November Calendar Items:

Sunday, November 4 – 2:00 a.m. ~ return to CST (turn clocks back 1-hr and 'sleep in')

Tuesday, November 6 – 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. – **VOTE** – (if you haven't voted early)

Sunday, November 11 – Veterans Day

Monday, November 12 – Federal Holiday ~ no mail delivery ~ Unit 5 **IS** in session

Wednesday, November 14 – Unit 5 1-hr late start

Wednesday, November 21 – Unit 5 No School

Thursday, November 22 – Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 23 – Unit 5 No School

CLASSIFIED

13 Bent Tree has some items to sell and/or go to a good home:

Ping pong table (free)

Delta Table Saw (\$75 or best offer)

Antique treadle New Home sewing machine (\$50 or best offer)

Antique chest of drawers (\$75 or best offer)

Call Lisa Rosenthal 309-287-6626

Thanks.

Businesses:



John Hermann

Financial Professional Associate

Greater Illinois Financial Group

Prudential Advisors

1907 Jumer Drive, Suite D, Bloomington, IL 61704

Tel 309 808-5212 Fax 309 808-5230 Cell 309 287-5972

john.hermann@prudential.com

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

Website - www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock

Pinterest Recipes - 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".