

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

January 2019

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

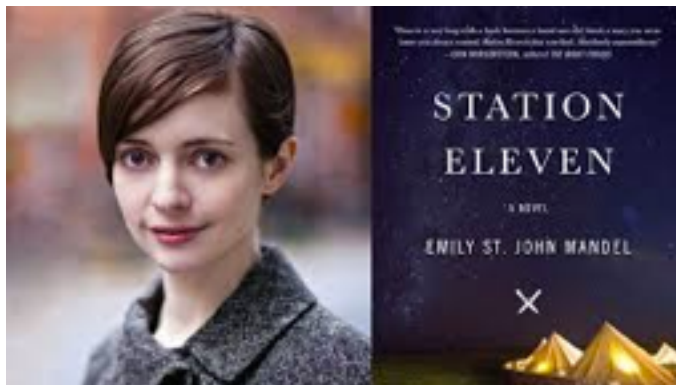
Towanda Library

We are enjoying a very busy and joyous season at the library. Several of you have stopped in to see the new improvements. Our new shelving is here and we are excited to spread out. We will be painting, construct new furniture, and shift books around the library to utilize our new space. Our goal is to make the library as inclusive, inviting, comfortable, educational, informational, and cutting edge as possible. We are a work in progress, so please pardon our mess. We will be ready to hit the ground running this spring. We have big things in store to celebrate the 30th Anniversary for the library at the 301 S. Taylor Street location.

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 in early 2019. 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 Station 11 by Emily St. John Mandel. Copies are available at the library. All are welcome to join us to discuss this title at 5pm on January 8th.



Here is a Review of Station 11 from the Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/sep/25/station-eleven-review-emily-st-john-mandel>

December and January Holiday Hours: Closed (12/24, 12/25) Open: 1-5 (12/26, 12/27/, 12/28)
Closed (12/31, 1/1) Open 1-5 (1/2, 1/3, 1/4)

Indian Creek Leaf and Brush Disposal

If you are removing leaves from your yard and disposing of them on our common ground, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Spread the leaves in the common ground area at least 100 feet from any road or trail.
- Spread the leaves around and refrain from piling them up.
- Do not dump leaves on the trails, roads, or near the side of any road or trail.

If you are removing brush from your yard and bringing it to the brush pile please adhere to the following guidelines:

- ''' Throw the brush up on the pile, do not just dump it along the side of the pile.
- ''' Do not dump the brush near the well or next to the well road, put it on the brush pile
- ''' Do not throw brush in the common ground area, use the brush pile.
- ''' Make sure to close the gate to the well road after coming back from the brush pile.
- ''' Do not bring logs or large limbs to the brush pile.
- ''' The brush pile is for brush only. Do not bring household waste to the brush pile.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have questions please contact me at fwalk@frontiernet.net or 309-830-2188

Sincerely,

Fred Walk
Grounds Chairman

Indian Creek Fall Bird Count

Checklist by Ben Murphy for Indian Creek nature trail from Saturday, Dec 15, 2018 10:00 am

<u>13 Species Total</u>	2 Tufted Titmouse
2 Mallard	1 Red-breasted Nuthatch
1 Belted Kingfisher	12 White-breasted Nuthatch (Eastern)
5 Red-bellied Woodpecker	3 Brown Creeper
6 Downy Woodpecker (Eastern)	1 Carolina Wren
4 Blue Jay	4 Golden-crowned Kinglet
12 Black-capped Chickadee	3 Northern Cardinal

Indian Creek Woods Cleanup



On December 17, 18, and 19 Neal Eimer, Craig Doubet, Larry Meyer, Jim Larson, Keith and Connie Whittum, Rod Hinderliter, and Fred Walk cut down 22 dead ash, mulberry, and honey locust trees near the bridge along the road. The wood was cut up in fireplace burning logs and the brush was collected and burnt. Please help yourself to the wood that is along the road and near the bridge. A big thanks to the aforementioned individuals for all their work to enhance our common ground area and beautiful trails.

Happy Holidays.

Fred Walk
Indian Creek Grounds Chairman

Towanda Fire News for December



We have made it through another fiscal year! We rounded out the year with 157 calls. There were 78 medical, 38 mutual aid calls, 25 motor vehicle accidents, 9 miscellaneous calls, and 7 fire calls. Starting out the "new" year for us we have 20 firefighters on the roster, we will continue to train and practice our skills to provide the best services to the community as the year progresses. If you are interested in joining the department contact Chief Brett Lueschen. Just as a reminder as we head into the new year cold temperatures, ice, and snow are still a reality for central Illinois. Practice safe driving while commuting in and out of town. From all of us at the fire department we hope you had a Merry Christmas and look forward to a Happy New Year!

Towanda Busy Bees 4-H

The Towanda Busy Bees January Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15th at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The club will have a chili supper provided by the Miller Carlson family with tomatoes grown and preserved for the 4-H fair. They will also do a fun science experiment involving foam. The club focus for the year is STEAM - Science, Technology, 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 Riens 728-2178 or hrients@frontiernet.net





Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



People enjoy watching and hearing birds in the warm weather. Birds are also fun to watch in the winter. Birds are also important in the chain of life. Therefore, we need to help them survive the cold weather. Some move to warmer climates, but a lot stay around all winter. During the cold, birds need more high-fat food, like black sunflower seeds and suet. You can buy both or you can make your own suet. They also will store some food when they can or change their normal diet during the winter. Birds grow extra feathers for winter and try to add extra weight. Most birds will eat from the feeder, but some prefer eating from the ground. When it snows, clear a place so they can find the food on the ground.

Leave the spring nesting boxes up so they can huddle in there to be out of the cold wind. Also leave some brush piles so they can have protection from the wind and enemies. The boxes and brush pile will also give them additional roosting areas. Wait until spring to prune plants that the birds like to eat their seeds. There could also be some insect eggs on the plant that would be good food when they hatch next spring.

Some birds will grow their brains in late summer and fall to improve their memory. The extra brain power helps them to remember where they hid their food. Some also go into a "semi torpor" at night. They drop their body temperature and heart rate to save energy and heat. Some also add puffing plumage so they can hold the heat closer to their bodies.

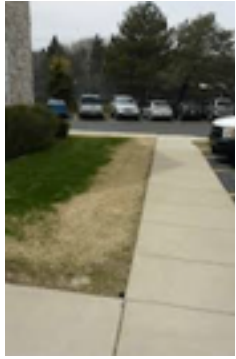
To make your own suet, add equal parts of nutritious treats. Melt lard and regular peanut butter. You can use creamy or crunchy. Mix well. Add quick oats, bird seed, raisins and unsalted, shelled peanuts. You could also add cranberries, apples, or other dried fruit. Mix well and pour into a pan to harden. Cut into squares and place in a holder. You will be providing much needed fat and protein.



In spring, the big, pretty red geranium is probably the most "I have to have" plant. We see the big plant with a large flower that is called Zonal Geraniums. Then we see a smaller and cheaper plant called seed geranium. They are both good plants. The zonal geraniums have been started from cuttings. You can bring your geranium inside in the fall. You can place it in front of a sunny window. It might continue to bloom if it can get enough sun. If not, the leaves are attractive without the flowers. It won't look as healthy as it did outside, but that is okay. Grandmas used to dig it in the fall and shake off the soil. They would remove the dead and diseased leaves and place it in a paper bag. Some hung it upside down, but you can also lay it on its side. Place it in a cool place. Next spring pull the plant out, remove the dead leaves and cut the stems back to where they are green, then pot it up. That same plant, with care, could last for years.

Researchers have found that when Japanese beetles eat on zonal geranium petals, that within 30 minutes the beetles become paralyzed. They will fall onto the leaves or on the ground. The birds and chickens can eat them or you can dispose of them. However, within 24 hours, they usually recover. You could plant some geraniums near other vulnerable plants.

If the wind has blown the leaves up around the shrubs and perennials, leave them there to help insulate the roots. Don't forget to water evergreens good before the ground freezes.



Winter is here and we have already had some slick sidewalks and driveways. I am sure there will be many more. For years we just had rock salt to use on the walkway. Rock salt will kill the grass and plants when the ice and snow melt and drain off into the grass. If enough salt builds up into the soil nothing will grow in that area. Rock salt should not be used on new concrete. It is better to use products that are calcium- or potassium-based on the ice and packed snow. Don't over apply the product. Apply it in a single layer so the product can touch the ice in order to do its job. Also when you apply it too thick, there could be more damage to the concrete and plants.

Now with the colder weather, the birds need more food to keep them warm. The suet cakes do contain more fat that helps them.

You can grow rosemary indoors. It likes a cool bright spot. Do not let the soil get too dry. It also helps to clip some of it once in awhile.

Sunflower hulls can keep grass and plants from growing. If they build up under the feeder, rake them back and spread them over the lawn or put them in the compost pile.

Towanda American Legion

The Towanda American Legion will not have a breakfast in January.

There will be a pork chop dinner on Friday January 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.

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H Club will be meeting Tuesday, January 8, 2019 starting at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. We will be recognizing the club members accomplishments for the previous 4-H year. Members are to bring canned food or cleaning supply, which will be given to the Home Sweet Home mission.



Towanda 4-H is open to boys and girls ages 8-18 by September 1, and Cloverbuds is for boys and girls ages 5-7 by September 1, 2018. For more information contact : Scott Clement, 309-275-5910 or Jeanie Wager, 309-728-2852.

Illinois Workers Prepare for Solar Careers



The Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA), passed in late 2016 requires that Illinois procure 25 percent of its power from renewable energy sources by 2025. This legislative mandate, paired with historically low solar installation costs are expected to spark a 43% increase in solar industry jobs in Illinois. As demand ramps up, Illinois solar contractors are already struggling to fill solar job openings for solar installation, project design and sales. Worker skill levels can range from material handlers to sales experience to electricians and professional engineers. Successful candidates for solar job openings often pursue additional solar technical training to complement their existing skill sets.

Accredited organizations like the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) have been providing solar-technical training throughout the Midwest since 1990. The MREA maintains Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) accreditation for its solar courses, and in 2018 over 1,100 students participated in MREA training programs.

Beginning January 19th, MREA will be offering its 48-hour Solar Training Academy at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. Alex Jarvis, owner of Solar Systems of Indiana, will lead six days of training over three weekends. The Academy includes a progression of solar courses including Basic Photovoltaics (PV), PV Site Assessment, and PV System Design. The program wraps up with PV Labs and Design Scenarios and a day of review. Academy graduates qualify to sit for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) PV Associate Exam, an increasingly sought-after solar industry credential.

The Academy is open to workers of all skill levels, with no prerequisites or prior solar training required. Weekend sessions are designed to fit the busy schedules of working students. Jim Northey, School of Business and Economics teacher at Michigan Technological University (MTU), and MREA alum, describes MREA's Solar Training Academy as "...an incredible educational value. Anyone interested in an energy independent future and a shift into a rewarding career should enroll in this program."

Patrick Laughlin received multiple job offers after completing the 2017 Solar Training Academy in Normal, IL. Patrick accepted a job with Namaste' Solar, and says "For the first time in my life, I am doing something rewarding, and it feels great. [Everything] we learned during the course I have seen implemented, and the knowledge has given me a leg up on really applying myself to the job."

Bloomington, IL Solar Training Academy Location:

Illinois Wesleyan University - State Farm Hall 1402 Park Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

Instructor: Alex Jarvis, Solar Systems of Indiana, Inc.

Dates: 1/19/19 thru 1/20/19, 2/16/19 thru 2/17/19, 3/9/19 thru 3/10/19, and 3/16/19 for the NABCEP PV Associate Exam

To register or find more information about MREA's Solar Training Academies, visit midwestrenew.org/sta, or contact jennyh@midwestrenew.org, or call 715-592-6595.

The Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization. Founded in 1990, the MREA promotes renewable energy and sustainable living through education and demonstration and hosts The Energy Fair.

To learn more, call 715-592-6595 or visit www.midwestrenew.org

Towanda HCE

The Towanda Home and Community Education group met in December for their Christmas Potluck Supper meeting where seventeen members attended for good food, Christmas Bingo, great fellowship and a gift exchange.



Robin Pearson, Bev Hornickel,
Clara Lehan



Robin Pearson, Lu Payton, Kathleen Emery,
Jeanie Wager - Standing: Sandy Whalen,
Dorothy Brickey, Clara Lehan, Connie
Carstens, Ruth Stewart, Barb Wager



Seated: Cindy Kelley, Cherry Trent, Bev
Hornickel, Pat Pulokas
Standing: Sharon Joplin, Cindy Jacobs,
Linda Conder

Towanda HCE next meets on Monday, January 14, 7:00 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building for their Snowman Meeting. Members should bring any "snowman" related items they wish to share for show and tell. This can be jewelry, stuffed snowmen, and other items depicting snowmen. Those attending are also welcome to bring left over cookies or candies for refreshments. The program will be given by Linda Conder on *Brain Health*. We will also receive a fact find on Edgar County in Illinois. For more information about Towanda HCE, contact Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650 or Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797. Bring your "snowmen" and leftover Christmas cookies or candy and have a great time.

Towanda Area Historical Society

Directors of the Towanda Area Historical Society (TAHS), President Gail Ann Briggs, Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Pulokas and Mary Merritt, are soliciting options about the future of the organization; former Directors Dale Messer and Dale Sutter are deceased. Established in the spring of 2005, TAHS is a State of IL Not For Profit Corporation.

The initial goal of the group was to update and expand the first history book "Towanda, McLean County Illinois 1826-1976". In the fall of 2006 TAHS and the Towanda District Library (TDL) partnered to apply for an LSTA Digital Imaging Grant from the Illinois State Library (ILS) in Springfield. The successful \$19,141 grant allowed TAHS-TDL, with the help of a hundred volunteers, to develop a website with images uploaded to the ISL Digital Archive (<http://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/search/collection/tldl/searchterm/Towanda%20Area%20Historical%20Society/order/title>).

Some of the money that was raised was meant to help carry out the goal of developing a book; however, interest and energy has dwindled and the Directors need to know your thoughts about the direction that should be taken regarding the organization, the book project, and the remaining funds. Please provide input to Briggs (rgbriggs@frontiernet.net – or – mail to 112 Hunt St) and/or to Pulokas (palp@mchsi.com – or – mail to 111 Miriam Way), Towanda, IL 61776.

We appreciate your help!!! Thank you.

Classified

Businesses:

**John Hermann**

Financial Professional Associate
Greater Illinois Financial Group

Prudential Advisors

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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 Sale:

Snow blower - Craftsman 30", electric start. Like new - asking \$725.
Treadmill- 585 preform personal trainer - asking \$100.
Call Mary Leins at 728-2904

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 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? 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".

Happy New Year!
2019