

A photograph of various flowers, including pink and purple bell-shaped flowers, with green foliage in the background.

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

April 2019

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Indian Creek Water and Homeowners Association

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

Monday, March 11, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

Towanda Community Center

President: Barb Leathers

VP/Secretary: Barbara Ulbrich

Treasurer: Dave Schulthes

Water Chair: Bob Hancock, outgoing; Jim Larson, incoming

Grounds Chair: Fred Walk

Newsletter: Kathy Dumler and Ron Metz

Welcome and introductions by Barb L. Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting were read by Barbara U. with no suggested edits. Standing reports were received.

Finance Report: Dave shared that the total amount in our fund as of 12-31-18 was approximately \$145,000. We continue to add consistently at about \$15,000 per year. We take in approximately \$44,000 and spend \$25,000-\$28,000 for maintenance of water (and related items such as electricity, chemicals etc.) and grounds. We are receiving about 1.6% interest on our Certificates of Deposit now. We anticipate repainting the water tower in 2-4 years at a cost of about \$110,000.

Grounds Report: Fred announced that our next workday will be on May 4 beginning at 9 a.m. and working until noon. Tasks include honeysuckle removal, cleaning up the trails, chipping brush, cutting down dead trees near the trails, and other work related items. We had hoped to do the highway clean up during this day, but since Greg Beneze will be out of town May 4, we will probably do that two weeks in advance of May 4.

Last year, over 30 dead ash trees were cut down along the bridge road and the brush chipped up for mulch that was spread on the trails. This kind of work would've cost around \$15,000 if we had contracted it out. Ash trees get extremely brittle when they die and typically crack off during strong winds and can cause a lot of damage. Fred had a controlled burn of the brush pile in January. The brush pile is not for big logs because they'll smolder and burn. He urged residents to take the brush to the pile and not place it on the trail please. Fred also emphasized that the brush pile is for brush only and not for construction materials, grass clippings or other yard waste.

This past summer Jim Kellenberger and Fred made arrangements to replace the worn out back tires of the tractor. The old turf tires were replaced with regular tractor tires that get much better traction. If you wish to use the tractor, pay Fred for the fuel, he will then replace the diesel fuel. The fuel fee is \$5.00 per half hour of usage. Do not let the tractor run out of fuel. It is very time consuming and difficult to get it started once it runs out of fuel. The tractor is designed for only light duty type work.

Rod Hinderliter, Kathy Hinderliter and Fred built fifteen birdhouses, two owl houses, one purple martin house, and repaired many of the original birdhouses in the common ground area. The new houses were installed on fence posts, and trees along and near the trails. The Audubon Society came out and did a bird count this past spring and fall. An Illinois Wesleyan University faculty member and his students came out to Indian Creek this July and conducted a mussel count of Money Creek. Please see recent newsletters for the results of the mussel and bird counts.

Water report: Bob reported that water usage averages about 16,000 gallons per day, with usage heavier during summer months. We've had some months when we've used a million gallons and that is very stressful to our water system. Overall expenses are about the same as last year. The OmniSite warning system paid for itself in February, when the temperatures plunged below zero and our heater did not function. At that temperature, the standpipe could freeze and other equipment could fail. Frank Cottrell, our water manager, was out of town. Bob borrowed a propane heater from Rod Hinderliter. We used it for several hours, and then bought a small one for about \$100. The water chair will look into next steps on repairing or replacing our water tower heater, which is now almost 20 years old.

The water chair will begin flushing hydrants once temperatures become consistent. Flushing is always Thursday between 9 and 11.

Frank Cottrell is our water manager. He recently retired from his City of Bloomington job; but he'll continue to be our water manager.

There was a motion by Greg Beneze to elect Jim Larson as new water chair. Kay Liebenow seconded. Jim was elected by a voice vote to the Board water chair position. Frank Cottrell will continue as our water manager. Frank has also agreed to take on ICWHA's regulatory reporting duties. This will include the detailed, painstaking reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency. We had not increased Frank's pay for several years, though he has consistently provided excellent and timely service to us. An increase to \$900/month from \$600/month is warranted. We will still direct calls from subdivision residents to come to Jim, not Frank. Keith Whittum will be a backup to Jim.

Newsletter report: Kathy and Ron take turns publishing the newsletter. If anyone lives next to a new neighbor, please ask them for their email and phone and send to the IC news email.

Other items: Louis Kraft is a Money Creek township trustee. The township's annual meeting is April 9 at 7 pm at the township building. There are no agenda items for roads or bridges.

There was a discussion about the regular shooting practice by a rural neighbor who lives outside the subdivision. Safety and noise concerns have been voiced to the neighbor as well as to the McLean County Sheriff's Department and County Board members. The Sheriff's Department has spoken to the neighbor about shooting safety. According to the Sheriff's Department, the neighbor may shoot on his property as long as he abides by current laws. Fred shared that the state of IL has noise statutes that might be utilized to deter the shooting activity if it persists.

New Bird Houses at IC

Rod Hinderliter, Kathy Hinderliter, and Fred Walk built sixteen bird houses, two owl houses, and one purple martin house this past winter for our feathered friends. The houses were installed this past February on fence posts and trees along the trails and in the common ground area.

The owl houses are located 15-20 feet off the ground and are attached to large trees. Repairs were also made on existing bird houses to make them more habitable for the birds.

The wood used to construct the the purple martin house came from old wine boxes that enabled us to recycle the wood. Next time you are walking the trails and common ground look around for our new bird houses.



Money Creek Township Annual Meeting

Money Creek Township Annual Meeting will be held April 9th at the Money Creek Township shed. At this meeting you will hear a report of the financials for the year. The date and time for next year's meeting will be set.

Towanda Busy Bees 4H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club will meet on Tuesday, April 16th, 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be a Gardening Activity. The program in March was an activity to learn about Artificial Intelligence while playing Rock, Paper, Scissors. In May the club will be holding a bake sale at the Old Rugged Barn event Saturday, May 11th. More information to come in the May newsletter! For more information about 4-H contact Martha Rients 309-728-2178 or hrients@frontiernet.net



Towanda Fire News for April



If you have old or unused towels we would appreciate any and all donations. The towels are used when washing and drying the apparatus as well as cleaning tools. If you have towels to donate please place them in a plastic bag and leave them by the office door or on the bench in front of the Fire Department.

It's that time of year again! We are hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, April 13th from 8 to 12. Skip same day registration by signing up online and picking an appointment time. There is always a critical need for donors so stop by and see us.

February was a busy month due to the extended winter weather, it ended with 8 medical calls and 10 fire calls putting our total at 51.

April News

Annual Towanda Area Spring Garage Sales will be held **Thu-Sun, May 2-5**. To be included on a list of area sales and share in the cost of advertising, please provide the following by **Wed. Apr. 24**: a) Sale location, b) Contact information (phone & email), c) Days and times of your sale (not necessary to have your sale each day), d) List of items (include as much as you like, in priority order, and depending on space available, items will be listed on the flyer and by category in the Pantagraph), and e) \$7 fee (for Pantagraph, ad flyers), checks payable to Gail Ann Briggs. Please, Email sale information to rgbriggs@frontiernet.net (preferred) or Mail to Gail Ann Briggs, 112 Hunt St, Towanda, IL 61776. Email or call (728-2187) with questions. You'll get a response by email when I have your information. Anyone with items they particularly want to sell may want to take out an individual ad as well.

Election Day – Tuesday, April 2 – VOTE 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building

Towanda HCE

The Towanda Home & Community Education (HCE) group will be meeting Monday, April 8, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Cherry Trent and Mary Lu Payton are hostesses. Sandy Whalen will be giving the program on Wills & Trusts. The Fact Find is on Macon County History while we continue studying other county histories in Illinois. Guests are cordially welcome to attend. Join us for informative programs each month. For more information, contact Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797.

County HCE Activities are also open to the public. Read and Share, April 15, 2-3:30 pm with discussion of the book: *Educated* by Tara Westover- contact Lavonne, 661-6391. Community Service Day, April 15, 9a-2p, working on fidget blankets for children and nursing home residents- non-sewers welcome, come & go as you are able, Eileen, 309-533-1135.

IAHCE Annual Conference(March 12-14) in Effingham: McLean County HCE members who attended (two from Towanda Unit)



Seated L-R: Anna Marie Chrisman, Fran Burns, Pat Pulokas

Standing L-R: Kathleen Emery, Becky Toohill, Jane Wood, Eileen Norin, Donna LaMar, Anita Ogden, Ruth Hood, Karen Crull, Kathryn McNeely, Nancy O'Neill. Not pictured is Jenna Smith

Towanda Lions Club Upcoming Events

Lions Ham & Bean Dinner

Friday, April 12, 2019
Towanda Community Building
4:30 pm – 7:00 pm

\$6 per person for Ham & Beans / Hot Dog & Chips, Dessert & Drink at door (\$5 in advance)
11 and under – free (when accompanied by a paying adult)

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Easter Egg Hunt

Held Saturday morning, April 20th, the day before Easter Sunday in the park across from the Community Building. Age groups: Infants-Age 3, Ages 3-7, Ages 8-11. Register at the Community Building for door prizes before 10:00 A.M. Easter Egg Hunt starts promptly at 10:00.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



It won't be long until it will be dry enough that we can safely clean up our yard. We don't want to work in the mud.

We have seeds in our bird feeders to attract more birds to our yards, but they also need a lot of insects to feed their young. A pair of robins will need 100-350 insects a day to feed its family. Each baby robin will eat its weight in insects, worms, and berries a day. I am sure other birds need about the same amount. No wonder the babies grow so fast.

One way to increase the number of insects for them is to not disturb all of the leaves and small twigs under the shrubs. Last fall the insects laid their eggs on the leaves and when the temperature warms enough, they will hatch. By that time the birds should be looking for food for their family. Do not spray chemicals around them. If a bird carries the dead insect to its young, it will also kill the young. Leave an area a little messy for the birds. Once the leaves come out on the shrubs, you won't see the "mess".

If you find spider webs in the yard, leave them alone. The hummingbird will use them to hold their tiny nest together. They also allow the nest to stretch as the little ones grow.

You also might leave your crushed eggshells out so the birds can get more calcium and make their egg shells stronger. Many different bird species eat crushed eggshells both for the calcium they provide to nesting females and for use as an aid in food-digestion.



It is great to see the longer daylight hours. We are seeing and hearing more birds. It is time to clean out the birdhouses, so they can build a fresh nest for the new family. It would also help the birds if you emptied the old birdseed out of the feeder, washed it and put fresh seed in it.

The raccoons, opossums, and skunks are looking for a good place to raise their new family. Often they think that under your porch or corner of a shed is ideal. No, they do not ask for permission. One easy way to discourage them is to soak some cotton balls in ammonia and throw them under the porch. They don't like the strong smell. I have also just poured some on the ground in a corner where they chose to spend the night.



It is good to see the grass again, even if it is still not green. It won't be long until we will be thinking about our container flowers. Hopefully, you have not emptied the soil from last years containers, including the hanging baskets. For years, the growers used top soil in the containers. Today, a bag of top soil is not cheap. Most of the growers will combine peat moss and perlite. Some are also using coir, which is ground coconut shell.

If you purchased an Amaryllis kit last winter, it contained a disc of coir that you were to place in warm water and watch it turn into soil. Today you can purchase a brick of coir and place it in a 2-gallon bucket of warm water and have some soil.

If you still have last year's soil in your containers, remove the top few inches of soil and mix compost with it. That will help feed the roots and keep the soil looser.

Place your plants in the container and replace the mixture of soil around them. Leave the top inch of soil down at least an inch to allow water space before it soaks in.

The moth orchids [Phalaenopsis] will stay in flower for months if given moderately bright light and semi-frequent feeding.



Spring has finally arrived. Good to have sunshine and hear the birds singing. It is also warmer. The ground is still wet, so the best thing you can do now is pick up the sticks and branches and other debris. You can also remove the leaves covering the spring blooming flowers. It is tempting to rake out all of the leaves, but there is still more cold temperatures to come. Don't want the late frost to get those more tender plants.

The weeds need to be actively growing before any weed killer can work on them. If you apply it too early, the spring rains could wash it off and send it out to the river. Wait until the weeds are growing so the herbicide can do its job.

If you leave the grass clippings on the ground when you mow, they could return enough nitrogen to the soil. Have the soil tested, it could save you money and work. According to the Environmental Protection Agency{EPA}, this country sprays more than 90 million pounds of insecticides and herbicides a year. The mowers and weederers put out about 27 million tons of air pollutants a year. Then people in the United States apply 9 billion gallons of water outdoors each day, mostly for landscape irrigation.

Let us try to use more native plants so we can reduce those figures. It would also save money on pesticides and fertilizers. Not to mention the time and labor.

Calendar

Tue.Apr.2 – Election Day

Wed.Apr.10 – Unit 5 1-hr late start

Saturday, April 13 – Towanda Fire Dept. Red Cross Blood Drive from 8 to 12.

Fri.Apr.11 – Lions Club Ham & Bean Supper (4-7:30, CB)

Sun.April 14 – Palm Sunday

Thu.Apr.18 – No school for students (teacher institute)

Fri.Apr.19 – No school (Board holiday)

Sat.Apr.20 – Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt

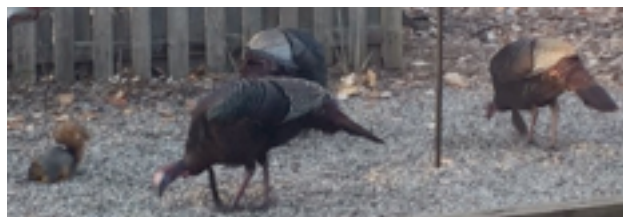
Sun.Apr.21 – Easter Sunday

Wed.Apr.24 – Garage Sale information due

Pictures from IC



Fred Walk captured resident fowl and a squirrel co-existing as they dined.



Library Announcements

Ah, the promise of spring is upon us. Several of you have stopped in to see the new improvements. Our new shelving is here and we have more on the way. As you can see, we are excited to spread out. We will be painting, constructing new furniture, and shifting 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 later this summer.

This April, we will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary 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 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 offer programs in 2019 that will explore our new digital services and offerings.

Bulldog Book Club: Late Start Wednesday afternoons from 2:30-3:30 for registered 4th and 5th grade students. **April Date: 13th**

Preschool Story Time: Held every Wednesday morning at 10:30 am through May for toddlers and their caregivers. Advanced registration is not required. **There will not be Story Time 3/27 in observance of Unit 5's Spring Break.**

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

Read to Dogs: Read to Dogs is Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30. Pre-registration is required for your child's 15 minute individualized appointment. Please call the library at (309) 728-2176 to make a "Reading Reservation" for your child. Our Spring Dates: 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14.

Towanda Reads Book Discussion Group: We are reading "Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah. Copies are available at the library. All are welcome to join us to discuss this title at 5pm on Tuesday April 9th.

National Library Week: In keeping with this year's theme, we are excited to show that Libraries = Strong Communities by sharing the creative and adventurous talents of our residents. Come and celebrate the library April 6th through April 12th.

Queen Bee Handmade Market: Saturday April 6th 10:00-2:00 - We are Kicking off National Library Week with local artists showcasing handcrafted jewelry, beach art, needle felting, and other handmade goodness.



APRIL 6 • 10 AM - 2 PM

Towanda Public Library

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HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY
BEACH ART • NEEDLE FELTING
*...and other handmade goodness
by area artists.* 

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Cash appreciated. PayPal/Venmo/CC available with select vendors.

Explore Mt. Kilimanjaro with Fred and Allison Walk Thursday April 11th 5:30-6:30: Fred and his daughter Allison will share their experiences climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro.

30th Anniversary at 301 S. Taylor St: On April 16th, the library celebrates 30 years at its current location. We will have events planned throughout 2019/2020.



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

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H Club will meet on April 2, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Towanda Grade School. The program will be on flag etiquette presented by the Boys Scouts. Talks and demonstrations will be given by a few members. If you want to add or drop a project, that needs to be done by April 15. For more information contact Scott Clement at 275-59109 or Jeanie Wager at 728-2852.



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 Hire:

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".