



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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

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.
- Do not dump unwanted plant, flower, or shrub material on or in any of our common areas. (It's not a dumping ground.)

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



Recycling Not in “Crisis” According to Local Recycling Companies

On an almost daily basis, more reports are appearing in the news about the a perceived recycling crisis related to the Chinese “Green Fence” ban on imports of many types of waste materials that went into effect in China at the beginning of 2018. Even worse, rumors are spreading that recyclers are secretly landfilling the materials they collect for a lack of markets.

Recyclers in Bloomington-Normal say that’s not the case—they would lose more money if they were to do that. Collecting and transporting recyclables to their sorting facilities only to turn around and pay to have them landfilled simply doesn’t make economic sense. But what is true is that weak markets and high contamination rates are real challenges that have real impacts.

According to local recyclers such as Midwest Fiber and Area Disposal Service Inc., increased rates of contamination are making recycling more difficult and more expensive. The more contaminants mixed in with recyclables that enter a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), the more work it takes to sort the recyclables, removing the bad from the good. Increased contamination requires more people on the sorting lines and the conveyors to move slower, so processing costs per ton go up.

Local recycler Area Disposal Service Inc. is even currently phasing out glass as an “acceptable” material for recycling due to high direct and indirect costs for processing and recycling glass, including wear and tear on sorting equipment. Current and new residential and commercial customers of Area Disposal will be notified to no longer include glass in their recycling carts.

The Ecology Action Center, working with local recyclers and as part of a statewide anti-contamination initiative launched last year, has completely changed their recycling messaging to help reduce contamination. “It’s really simplified at this point—there are no gray areas,” says Michael Brown, Executive Director of the EAC. “The new messaging clearly illustrates what materials are acceptable in curbside recycling programs. Anything that is not shown as acceptable is now unacceptable—we need to err on the side of caution to reduce the contamination rates sufficiently.”

The EAC’s new recycling flyer is available for download as a pdf file at recyclebn.org/#newrecyclingguidelines or is available for free by stopping by the Ecology Action Center during regular business hours or the City of Bloomington Public Works Department or the Town of Normal Public Works Department.



Towanda Busy Bees 4H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club will meet on Tuesday, May 21st, 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be a Talks and Demonstrations.

In June the club will be holding its Annual American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 18th. Scheduling of appointments will begin soon! For more information about 4-H contact Martha Rients 309-728-2178 or hrients@frontiernet.net

Towanda Fire News for April



May is right around the corner and along with it warm spring weather. Be mindful when working in the yard. Make sure to always monitor outside fires and do not burn if it is windy.

May is also national Mental Health Month. This is designed to break the stigma of talking about mental health issues. Over 18.5% of Americans suffer from some type of mental health disorder. Take time to check in with yourself and those around you. If needed please reach out to any number of online resources including national hotlines.

In March we had 8 fire calls and 9 medical calls putting our total at 68 for the year.

Towanda American Legion

The American Legion will have a pork chop dinner on Friday, May 17th from 5:00 to 7:00.

Dinner will include pork chop sandwich, french fries, green beans, applesauce, 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 to rent for reunions, parties and meetings. For more information contact Mike Potts at 728-2384 or Tom Wagner at 287-7861.

Spring Indian Creek workday

The spring Indian Creek workday will be held on **Saturday, May 4**. We will meet at the Money Creek Bridge at **9:00 am**. Tasks include removing the invasive plant honeysuckle, spraying multiflora rose, spreading mulch on the trails, and cleaning up the trails by removing downed trees and brush. Many hands are needed to complete these jobs and to maintain our common ground.

Please email Fred Walk at fwalk@frontiernet.net by Wednesday, **May 1** if you are available to help out. Fred will communicate with you the work teams and the tools you need to bring for completing the tasks.

Towanda HCE

Towanda HCE will meet on Monday, May 13, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Two programs will be presented. Jeanie Wager will present Modern Food Trends and Cindy Kelley will present Container Gardening with Edible Plants. The fact find is on Macon County History which continues the study of the counties within IAHCE District 5. Hostesses are Cherry Trent and Lu Payton. Guests are cordially invited to attend. Call Cindy Kelley for more information at 309-824-4797.

County activities include Community Service Day on Monday, May 12, 9a-2p at the McLean County Farm Bureau, 2242 Westgate Drive, Bloomington. The projects worked on will be eyeglass cases or a project you may want to bring to work on with very industrious people. You don't need to be a sewer to attend and join in the fun.

Also planned is a Spring Pot Party at Niepagens on Monday, May 19, 9am. More details can be received by contacting Eileen Norin, 309-533-1135 for expenses, supplies to bring, and RSVP by May 16.

County board meetings have been changed to Tuesday, May 21 at 8:30 and 10:00 am

McLean County Adopt-a-Highway/IC Cleanup

Thank you to Barb Leathers, Natalie Leathers, Mary Ann Boyd, Fred Walk, Carol Beneze, Kathy Dumler and Irena Dumler for helping with the April 20 trash pickup day/McLean County Adopt-A-Highway. The trash pickup crew braved strong and chilling winds to pick up 8 bags of trash along the County Road 29.

The next trash pickup will be at **9 AM on June 22**. If you are interested in helping, please contact Greg Beneze at gbeneze@frontiernet.net. It takes between 60-90 minutes and requires walking about 1 mile. Garbage bags and safety vests are provided - you only need to have gloves and good walking shoes.





Garden Tips

by Helen Leake

It won't be long until the mail order companies will be shipping the bare root plants. They go by your zip code as to what zone you are in. Sometimes we receive them before we can plant them for one reason or another. These plants have been harvested in the fall, their roots washed off to remove the soil and stored in a refrigerated area to keep them dormant. In the late winter, the roots are wrapped with water-conserving material and the plant is placed in a plastic bag ready for shipping.

If you receive your bare root plant before it can be planted, store it in an unheated garage or a cool place. If there is new growth showing and you can't plant it in the ground, plant it in a container. New sprouts need sunlight. Keep it in a cool, bright spot.

When you are ready to plant the bare root plant, soak it in water for 2 hours. Dig the hole only as deep as the plant had been and the hole wide enough to spread the whole root system out. Place the plant in the hole and spread the roots out. Make sure the tree will be standing straight. Check it from all sides. Replace 2/3 of the soil and add water. After the water has drained away, fill in the rest of the soil up to the original soil level. Cover the area with 2-3 inches of mulch, not rocks, to hold the moisture and slow the weed growth.

After the long cold, winter, the warm sunshine makes you want to get those flowers and seeds in the ground. Not to mention just being outside in the warm sunshine.

As I am writing this, the soil is too cold and wet to work in. One way to know if the soil is dry enough is to pick up a handful of soil, squeeze it into a ball, open your hand and if it stays in a ball, it is too wet. If it quickly falls apart, you can get to work. If you work the soil when it is too wet, you could damage its structure, making it like baked mud. The freezing and thawing during the winter has made it more mellow. A lot of walking and rolling when it is too wet can also pack it.

If you are planning to dig in your yard, Illinois has a state law that requires anyone planning to dig an outdoor project must call JULIE at least 2 business days before putting the shovel in the ground. This service is free and the call center, 811, is available 24 hours a day. After you call, the utility companies will come out and mark their own lines and place flags to locate them.

JULIE was started as a mission to safeguard the underground utility lines when construction or planting trees is planned. JULIE stands for Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators. JULIE is now 45 years old.

If your ground covers such as ivies, are showing their winter wear, you can mow them off. Raise the mower to its highest level. After mowing, fertilize and water well to promote new growth.

When Forsythia is in bloom, it is time to apply pre-emergence for crabgrass. Do not reseed your grass at the same time. Wait until the broadleaf weeds, including Creeping Charlie, are actively growing to apply post-emergent. Rather than spraying the whole yard, do spot treatment. You could use less herbicide and also get a good look at the lawn.

When the magnolias and spirea are in bloom, it is a good time to check for insects on trees and shrubs. It is much easier to kill most insects when they are young and out feeding.

Enjoy the pretty Easter Lilly. If you carefully pinch off the pollen stems, you can prevent getting the pollen on your table cloth and clothes. It can stain them. Also, remove each flower after it has been spent.

There is a plea out that we need to plant more trees. We have lost millions of trees in the last few years to hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. Also, cutting coffee trees so they can farm the land. Years ago the Dutch Elm disease killed a lot of trees and just recently the Emerald Ash borer killed millions of nice trees.

Trees do much more for us than provide shade and beauty. An acre of trees can absorb 6 tons of carbon dioxide and produce 4 tons of oxygen a year. That is why it is relaxing taking a walk thru the trees. It can reduce stress hormones, lower blood pressure and boost the immune system.

Trees can cut your heating costs 20-50 percent and cooling cost 30 percent by blocking the wind and providing shade. That also saves energy and reduces power plant emissions and cuts your fuel bill. Trees cool the air by casting shade and releasing water vapor. On a hot summer day, a willow tree can lose up to 5,000 gallons of water through its leaves.

Trees not only help humans, but they also provide food and shelter for birds and wildlife. Their roots help prevent erosion and they help filter the water.

Remember, every time that you plant trees, or shrub, you are helping the environment.

If you are planning to do your own container, just a few reminders for you. After you have decided if it is going to be in sun or shade, then you can choose the plants you like. For years, we had a spike for the thriller, geraniums for the filler and ivy for the spiller. The thriller, filler, and spiller is still a good plan. Just be sure all of the plants have the same requirements for soil, moisture, and sun.

We are seeing more mixtures of perennials, herbs, vegetables, and tropicals, which is fine. Sometimes, if you have the right containers, you can leave the plants in their own container, and in the fall, save them. Just be sure that when you water, you get all of them watered. Sometimes you need to deadhead the petunias and sweet potato vine often.

It is time to plant trees and shrubs. When you purchase them, check to see where they were grown. It is best to try to get them from a place that is in the same zone as where you live. McLean County is in zone 5 or 5b. Plants grown in zone 5 or farther north are adjusted to our cold winters. For example, a rose bush grown in Texas, will not be able to live when we get our zero or below temperatures if left in the ground.

When you plant trees, don't forget to leave the root flare above ground. Also, do not stake it unless it is in a windy spot or where children might pull on the trunk. The tree needs the movement with some wind to develop strong roots and trunk.

Library Announcements

Bulldog Book Club: Late Start Wednesday afternoons from 2:30-3:30 for registered 4th and 5th grade students. **May Date: 8th**

Preschool Story Time: Held every Wednesday morning at 10:30 am through May 22nd for toddlers and their caregivers. Advanced registration is not required.

Towanda Knitters and Crochet Group: We welcome this wonderful group at the library every Tuesday at 3pm.

Towanda Reads Book Discussion Group: The May selection is Little Bee by Chris Cleave. All are welcome to join us Tuesday, May 14th at 5pm. If you are unable to join us, but would like to participate, please check out our Facebook page for our Towanda Reads Book Discussion Group. You will be able to post questions and comments that will only be seen by other members.

Looking ahead to June: Summer Reading Registration starts on June 5th. This year's theme is "Showtime at Your Library!"



May Calendar

Wed. May 1 – May Day

Thu-Sun / May 2-6 ~ Towanda Area Garage Sales (look for signs)

Sat. May 25 – Unit 5 Commencements ~ NCHS @ 2p, NCWHS @ 6p (Grossinger Motors Arena)

Mon. May 27 – Memorial Day

Fri. May 31 – Last Day of School in Unit 5

Pet Patrol

Reminder to clean up after your pet whether you walk it in one of the common areas, along the trail, or along the road. Many people take family walks as the days grow longer and children can pick up the *strangest* things. Also, the main common area is also used to play soccer, baseball, frisbee throwing, etc. A clean place to play is beneficial to all! Thank you!

Classified

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
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 someone to take care of your pet while you are away, call Bailee Harmon at (309) 530-5360. I have experience with animals at the Humane Society and have been petting sitting for two years. References provided upon request.

Brenna Schwamberger is available for babysitting. She will be a sophomore next year at NCHS and has completed her Red Cross Babysitting class. You can contact her at 728-2857 (h) or (309) 824-1410 (c).

For Free:

We have a Baldwin piano from the 1970's we would like to give away. Donating to a church or personal use is fine. Contact-309-660-1680.

Also-we have a fish tank with cabinet to give away for free. We have a plecostomus (algae eating fish) in it as well. If someone already has a fish tank, we are trying to find a home for the fish. 309-660-1680