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## **Towanda HCE News**

The Towanda HCE Unit will be meeting on Monday, October 14, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Our theme for this year is “Celebrating Around the World” and we will learn about Chinese Immigration to the United States for our minor lesson. The major program will be given by Bev Hornickel on “What’s New in the Kitchen.”

Towanda HCE members will be providing snacks at the Towanda grain elevator during October. We will also have displays at the Towanda, Hudson, and Lexington Libraries regarding “October is HCE Month in McLean County” and showcasing all the great programs HCE offers. Our organization has wonderful “lessons” that promote life-long learning on interesting and important topics. The people we meet through HCE activities offer everyone friendship and connection with others as we provide a way to exchange ideas and information.

Towanda Unit meets on the second Tuesday of the month, September through May and in June for a special outing. For more information, contact Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797.

## **TFD News**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. One in eight women are diagnosed with an invasive form of breast cancer in their lifetime. Early detection of breast cancer includes scheduling early mammograms. Make a point of talking to your doctor about your risk this month. Harvest is upon us, watch out for slow moving farm equipment as they travel to and from the fields. Allow for extra room on the roadway if possible to ensure everyone makes it home. October also means Halloween is around the corner. Be on the lookout for Utility 63 as it drives around town providing a light show and some sweet treats. We had a busy August running an impressive 22 medical calls and three fire calls putting our total at 144.

## Towanda Lions Club October Candy Day Sales Canceled

For more years than I can remember the Towanda Lions Club has gone door to door selling Nestle/Beich candy bars (100,000 Grand, Carmel, & Almond) in mid-October of each year. However, we just learned that the supplier we have used for years no longer sells candy bars and there are no other vendors that sell these type of bars. So, candy day sales have been canceled for this year.

Our candy sales are a little unique in that we sold candy bars for \$1.00 around the Towanda area which were a novelty, you might say. It wasn't like buying a Hershey's bar or other candy bars that are readily available over the counter at many stores. There is no incentive to buy a candy bar that's not novelty.

I know many of the Indian Creek homeowners will be disappointed especially those that routinely bought a dozen candy bars at a time. We will continue to research candy vendors or alternatives for next year.

The Towanda Lions Club appreciates your past and present support.



### Gardening Tips

Labor Day is the beginning of the lawn care year. Now is the time for the most important application of turfgrass fertilizer. If you leave the grass clippings on the lawn when you mow, you are returning enough nitrogen to the soil. An application of fertilizer now should be the only time you need to do it. You could also have the soil tested to see what it might need.

Now is also the ideal time to reseed the bare spots in the lawn. If you have a lot of traffic on your lawn, you could also aerate your lawn to help reduce soil compaction and you can rent a machine to do that.

You can check out the garden centers for bargains. Just the ideal time to plant trees and shrubs. When planting the trees, don't plant them too deep. Check for the root flare, leave the flare above ground.

It is time to start watering trees and shrubs, especially the evergreens. You want them to be well hydrated for winter.

We are seeing chrysanthemums everywhere. If you can find one that all of the buds aren't open, it will last longer. The ideal time to plant mums is in the spring.

Harvest the gourds when the shells become hard or turn brown.

The spring-flowering bulbs are in the stores now. If you find the one you are looking for, buy it now. However, the soil is too warm now and if you planted it now, it could start to grow. Place the

bulbs in a cool place or in the refrigerator until late October, after the soil has time to cool. Do not place them near apples, the gas they release could cause them to start to grow.

It is time to bring your poinsettias inside. Fertilize and water them. Place them close to a bright, sunny window. Also, it is time to bring the amaryllis in. Place it in a cool, dark place, such as the basement. Do not water. Let it go dormant. Early December bring it into the house and start watering it. You can also fertilize it.

The pine trees naturally drop many of the interior needles this time of year.

If you have some leftover seed or are saving some seed from a special plant, a prescription container is a handy place to store it. Store the air-tight container in the refrigerator.

Fall is just around the corner and that is the best time to plant trees. Trees are very important in helping control climate change. They absorb carbon and other pollution out of the air and return oxygen and moisture to the air. They also give us shade to cool the air and help control the wind. With the cooler nights and the shorter daylight hours, the trees aren't using as much energy in the above-ground portion: When the soil temperature drops down to the mid-'50s, the trees will continue growing their feeder roots and continue until the ground freezes.

When you decide to plant a tree, choose a place that the tree will not grow into the utility wires or too close to a building. Check to see the mature size of the tree, both the height and width. Be sure that it will live in our zone 5. If you get a tree for zone 6 or above it might not survive our cold winter.

Before you dig, call Julie, to be sure there are no buried utility lines you could damage. Also, pull the soil back to see where the root flare is. Dig the hole only deep enough so the root flare can be above ground.

Place the tree into the hole. Hold on to the trunk of the tree and remove all of the burlap and wire. The burlap used to be made of cotton and it would break down. Now it contains some plastic and the roots cannot grow thru it. If you left the wire on the roots could continue to grow around in a circle and soon die. Check from all four sides to be sure the tree is straight up. Fill the hole half full with soil. Water it good. After the water goes down, fill the hole with soil. Be sure the flare is above ground.

Place about 2 inches of mulch around the tree, leaving it back 3-4 inches back from the trunk. The bark needs to be able to breathe. The mulch will help hold the moisture, regulate the soil temperature, and prevent weeds from growing. After the ground freezes, you can add two more inches of mulch.

Helen J. Leake

# Towanda Library

I hope you all are enjoying our tiptoe into fall. We look forward to seeing you before it gets too cold.

Please contact the library or email me directly; [director@towandalibrary.org](mailto:director@towandalibrary.org) if there is a particular book, movie, music cd, or audio book that you would like us to acquire. We will keep you posted through the Indian Creek Newsletter, our website, and Facebook page. We will be launching a new website in late 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 early 2020 that will explore our new digital services and offerings. We have some exciting programming coming up this fall. Stay tuned for dates and times.

**Knitters and Crochet Group:** We are happy to welcome Knitters and Crochet group every Tuesday afternoon at 3pm. Come join us!

**Pre-School Story Time:** Story Time with Miss Holly is on Wednesdays at 10:30. This year's theme will be following the Very Ready Reader Curriculum. Come join in on the fun!



**Read to Dogs:** Read to Dogs is on Tuesdays at 5:30. The remaining fall program dates are October 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>. Please call the library to schedule your child's 15 minute "Reading Reservation" 309-728-2176.

**Towanda Reads Book Discussion Group:** We will be making our book selections for the 2019-2020 reading season this month at the library! Please join us on Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm to help us select what will be reading over the coming year. Please bring one or two titles to suggest to the group. We ask that you have the author, title, brief description, why you would think the group would enjoy it, and last but not least, we ask that you have read the title you are proposing. 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.

**Simmer Up to Soup:** A bowl of homemade soup can be a comforting meal on a crisp autumn day. Learn how to make a variety of soups, while exploring ways to control the sodium. Jenna Smith from the Illinois Extension office will join us on Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 for a delightful cooking and tasting event.

# Read Dogs

Towanda District Library is pleased to offer opportunities for children to read to certified canine friends!

Reading a book aloud to an encouraging dog is a wonderful opportunity for your child! Each child is paired with a trained dog of his/her choice for an individualized, 15-minute appointment. Each session is free of charge and is open to any elementary-aged child in Towanda and surrounding communities, including Bloomington and Normal!

Parents/Guardians are invited to call Towanda District Library at (309) 728-2176 to make "reading reservations" for upcoming Tuesday evenings throughout the Fall 2019 semester. Children must be registered in advance to participate, and up to 3 reservations can be scheduled at a time.

**Call today to schedule your child's 15-minute appointment!**



Tuesday Evenings: 5:30 — 6:30 pm

September 17, 24 1 October 1, 8, 15, 22 1 November 5, 12, 19

Children do not have to be able to attend every session, but regular participation is encouraged.

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Pampered Chef features Cooking Shows, Catalog Parties, Freezer Meal Workshops, Bridal Showers & Fundraisers!

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Annette Hancock

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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 someone to take care of your pet while your away, call Bailee Harmon at (309) 530-5360. I have experience with animals at the Humane Society and have been pet 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).

Are you looking for someone to take care of your pets or children? Do you need someone to do housework or cleaning so weekends can be spent relaxing? Call me, Aubrey Thomas, and I will help you out! I will be a freshman at NCHS in the fall. I love animals of all kinds. I have completed the Safe Sitter course and will make sure I watch your children carefully. Mother makes sure I get plenty of opportunities to practice my cleaning skills. I can be reached at 309-728-2246 (home) or 309-532-7522(cell). Reasonable rates.