



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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Indian Creek Homeowners and Water Association Annual Meeting

The Indian Creek Homeowners and Water Association annual meeting will be held Wednesday March 4th, 7 pm at the Towanda Community Center.

Please plan to attend. We will be discussing an increase to our water bills to meet our water system needs as well as an increase to our annual assessment to meet our grounds needs and other subdivision maintenance and business needs. A professional engineer from the Farnsworth Engineering Firm will be attending the meeting to provide information about the water tower and our water system.

An agenda along with additional information will be provided about two weeks prior to the meeting.

Look forward to seeing you then.

TFD News

Good news! December was a slow month for us regarding calls. We ran two fire and four medical calls. In these times it is important for us to stay on top of training and maintenance of the vehicles. We had our Christmas party at the beginning of the month to celebrate all the hard work accomplished throughout the year. If you would like to see what we do during training and calls follow us on our Facebook page "Towanda Fire Department." There are lots of pictures and informational posts about weather and the fire community.

Towanda HCE News

The Towanda Unit of McLean County HCE will be meeting on Monday, Feb 10, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be "Senior Safety", given by Jeanie Wager. The minor lesson is Italian Immigration to the US. Connie Carstens and Jeanie Wager are hostesses. Guests are always welcome to attend our informative programs. For more information about Towanda HCE, call Cindy, 309-824-4797. Another event in February is the McLean County HCE Friendship/Membership Tea on Saturday, Feb 8, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, corner of Hershey & Ft Jesse Rd, Normal. Father Dominic, "the bread monk" will be presenting a new program on "The Art of Stained Glass. All tickets are \$10. There is limited seating. RSVP by January 28, 2020 to unit presidents or Becky Toohill, 309-532-2125. Call Becky if after January 28 to see if tickets available.

Calendar

February ~ Black History Month

February ~ American Heart Month

Sunday, February 2 ~ Groundhog Day

Thursday, February 6 ~ Early Voting Begins for March 17, 2020 Primary Election

Wednesday, February 12 ~ Unit 5 1-hr Late Start

Saturday, February 8 ~ Annual Scouting Organization Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

Friday, February 14 ~ Valentine's Day

Monday, February 17 ~ Presidents Day

Monday, and Tuesday, February 17-18 – Unit 5 No School

Wednesday, February 26 ~ Ash Wednesday

Saturday, February 29 ~ Leap Year Day

Looking ahead.....

Sunday, March 8 ~ Daylight Savings Time Begins

Thursday-Saturday, April 30-May 2 ~ Towanda Area Garage Sales

Saturday, May 2 ~ Red Carpet Corridor Festival

What Are Those Marked Utility Boxes?



And why are they in my yard?

You may have noticed a number of utility boxes around the subdivision that have been marked with pink paint stripes. Some of you might remember years ago when we had Microwave Cable as a TV source. These boxes were used to run the cable along the roadways and into residents' homes. With the demise of Microwave Cable they no longer serve a purpose. USIC (this is the company that JULIE contracts with to do our markings) came out and identified all the boxes around Indian Creek (approximately 30) that are now defunct. The plan is to remove the boxes during an upcoming spring workday and take them to a recycling center. If you have any questions please contact me at fwalk@frontiernet.net or call 309-830-2188.

Towanda Library

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

Towanda Reads Book Discussion Group: Will resume on April 14 at 5pm. The Book will be *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict. 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.

Pre-School Story Time: Story Time with Miss Holly will resume in March on Wednesdays at 10:30. Advanced registration is not required.

Read to Dogs: Will resume in March.

The Library is donating a basket for the PTO Raffle held on February 8th at Towanda Elementary during the Boy Scouts Pancake and Sausage Breakfast:

Muggles and wizards of all ages will find something to enjoy in this Harry Potter-inspired basket. Valued at over \$250, items include the recently released, illustrated edition of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, an interactive PotterLight Painting Wand (compatible with free, downloadable apps), a heavy-duty Tervis tumbler, and a "Mischievous Managed" photo frame. The basket also includes a popular J.K. Rowling biography, Hedwig Funko Pop! figurine, Hogwarts coloring book, and assorted Hogsmeade candies. All of these treats come arranged in a sturdy basket (lined with Quidditch-themed fabric), and a large canvas book bag handpainted with a Hogwarts theme. Accio, basket!



Gardening Tips

After you have checked the top part of the tree for damaged branches, check the trunk at the ground level. You don't want the mulch touching the trunk. The mulch should be back about 2-4 inches from the trunk. When the mulch is wet and touches the trunk, the dampness can damage the trunk. Also, voles that are small as a mouse, can live under the mulch and then chew on the tree bark.

The best kind of mulch for trees is organic, such as wood chips or bark. If you use rocks or pebbles, you should put down a liner, like black plastic to prevent the rocks from sinking into the soil. In a couple of years, the liner will start to work itself up and show. Also, the liner slows the absorption of rainwater. Also, the rocks hold the heat in the summer and the cold in the winter longer.

After you plant a tree, cover the open soil with 2-4 inches of mulch, leaving a ring around the outer edge to hold the water in place as it soaks in. Be sure the mulch is 2-4 inches back from the trunk. After a couple of years, remove the ring and only put about two inches of mulch around the tree. Leaving an open space next to the tree. Sometimes you just need to "top off" the two inches of mulch, because it does tend to break down into the soil. Also, sometimes something will start to grow in the mulch after a wet season. Just use a rake and stir up the mulch so it can dry.

If weed or grass start to grow near the trunk, pull them out or carefully dig them out. You do not want to damage the roots. If you must use a weed killer, use a gentle one like Weed be gone. Do not use Round-Up. It can build up in the soil and in time kill the tree.

Now that the leaves have fallen from the trees, it is a good time to take a good look and see if any of the branches have broken or are crossing each other. Be sure to look from all sides. If two branches continue rubbing together they can form a wound that might not heal. You might want to mark that branch with a dab of spray paint. Then, when the weather is better you can remove the problem.

If the branch is not cut off properly and leaves a stub, the wound will not heal and it will leave the door open to insects and disease. In a few years, the tree could die.

If you are removing a big branch, it is safer to use the 1-2-3 cut. Make the first cut out a couple of feet, cutting from the bottom up for about an inch in. That way if the branch would fall, it would not tear the bark off below and really damage the tree. The second cut should be made out about six feet from the trunk to remove the weight of the branch. The third, and the most important cut is at the collar near the trunk. Next to the trunk where the branch starts out is a wrinkled looking area. that is called the collar. If you cut in that area, close to the trunk, the wound will heal on its own. You do not need to paint over it with anything. If you are just removing a small branch, be sure to cut it at the collar, so the wound can heal.

The seed catalogs are arriving in the mail and it won't be long until the racks of seeds will be popping up. It is time to get out your list that you made last fall of plants that you need to replace or fill in.

You can also check your seed left from last year. To check for germination, place ten seeds on a damp paper towel. Cover it with another damp paper towel; roll it up and place it in a plastic bag and place it on the counter. Be sure to mark what seed is in each roll of seeds.

After several days, check to see how many seeds have germinated. Remember all seeds germinate at different times. So, you will need to check it several times. If only six or fewer seeds germinate it is time to replace them.

As you look through the seed catalogs, circle the plants that you like. Be sure to check the zone that the plant is hardy in. McLean County is in zone 5 or 5B. The zone numbers are based on the average minimum temperature for each zone. Lower numbers indicate the most northerly area the plants will survive the winter. Plants for zone 3-5 should survive McLean County winters.

Another important number to check is the mature size for height and width. Trees and shrubs will continue growing for years. You don't want them to end up being too close to a building or utility wire. You should also check width and height for perennials. You don't want a really tall one when you were looking for something short.

If you haven't made your New Years' resolution by now, you could make a resolution to work with the environment and help to slow the climate change. The "big businesses" are slowly trying, but there are little things that people can do that could be a big help.

For one thing, trees can play a big part in helping to slow it down. Trees do more than add beauty to our garden. They can cut your heating cost by 20-50% and the cooling by 30%, by providing shade and slowing down the wind. On a 90 degree day, the temperature in the shade is ten degrees cooler. They also help prevent erosion. Trees absorb pollution from the air, such as the carbon dioxide from the cars and trucks, the benzene from plastic and other pollution from the chemicals that are sprayed and return oxygen to the air for us to breathe. An acre of trees absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and produces six tons of oxygen. That is enough fresh air to sustain 18 people for a year.

One thing we can do now is to be sure that the trees have enough water to survive the cold winter. If the tree has been in the ground for less than five years, it needs to be watered deeply. Its roots will still be growing as long as the soil hasn't frozen. If it is an evergreen tree, it needs a lot of water, because it will be losing moisture through the needles all winter.

Spring is the ideal time to plant fruit trees. You can plant flower seeds and get the true plant, but tree fruit seeds do not reproduce a true product when planted. Commercial nurseries will sell grafted fruit trees. They take live buds or branches from the desired tree and graft to a live rootstock.

You can get bare-root, balled and burlapped or potted trees. If you order from a nursery, you will probably get a bare-root tree which will have all of the soil removed. The roots will be in a ball of material to keep them moist. The tree will be shipped to you when it is time to plant it. It will also be much lighter in weight than a balled and burlap.

When you receive your tree, it should be planted as soon as possible. If your soil is too wet from the snow melting or rain, place the package in a cool place out of the sun until the soil dries. Remove the packing material and place the roots in a bucket of room temperature water. Let it stand overnight so the roots can absorb water to replace what is lost in moving.

Check to see where the root collar is. That marks where the tree trunk meets the roots. It could be a change of color or slight swelling of the stem. Dig your hole just deep enough that the collar will be at the soil level and wide enough so that you can spread the roots out. If any roots are above the collar remove them. Cover with soil and mulch.

Wait at least a full year before you fertilize. Trees don't need much fertilizer once they are established. If you must fertilize, use a slow-release fertilizer.

Helen J. Leake

Boy Scout Troop #56



BE A SCOUT



Invites You to Their 64th Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Saturday, February 8th

From 8:00 2:00 p.m.

Towanda Grade School

Adults \$6 in Advance / \$8 at Door

Kindergarten - 11 Years \$4 Advance / \$5 at Door

Under Kindergarten FREE

Carry Out and Dine In Available

Purchase your tickets in advance from any Scout member, Reads Sporting Goods, or call // below.

**Advance Meal Orders Available
by calling 309 838-1202**

2020 Advance Meat Order
Towanda Scouting Organization

~Pick Up Meat Orders~

Friday, February 7th, 3-6 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building -OR-
 Saturday, February 8th, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Towanda Grade School.

PLEASE BRING YELLOW COPY WHEN PICKING UP YOUR ORDER!

To Order Call Kevin Dicken (309) 838-1202

Country Store will have a limited supply of additional meat
 beginning at 8:00 a.m. Saturday on a first come, first serve basis.

Place Your Order Today - The Deadline is JANUARY 27, 2020

| WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE | Package Size | # Packages | Package Price | Total | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----|
| BULK SAUSAGE (\$3.50/lb) | 2 pounds | | \$ 7.00 | \$ | |
| LINK SAUSAGE (\$3.50/lb) | 5 pounds | | \$17.50 | \$ | |
| BACK RIBS (\$3.50/lb) | 5 pounds | | \$17.50 | \$ | |
| COUNTRY STYLE BACON | 1 round | | \$ 7.00 | \$ | |
| ITALIAN SAUSAGE | | | | | |
| ITALIAN BULK (\$3.50/lb) | 2 pounds | | \$ 7.00 | \$ | |
| ITALIAN LINK (\$3.50/lb) | 5 pounds | | \$17.50 | \$ | |
| CHICKEN BREASTS | | | | | |
| BONELESS / SKINLESS (\$5.00/lb) | 5 pounds | | \$25.00 | \$ | |
| ___ Adult Tekts ___ Youth Tekts | | Pick Up @ Door | Adult: \$6 Age 5-12: \$4 | | |
| | | | | TOTAL | \$ |

ORDER TAKEN BY: _____

PHONE: _____

Paid Not Paid

NAME: _____

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
Call Home - 728-2990
Text or call- 242-1802
Website - www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock
Pinterest Recipes - www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935



The Lost and Found

A black grill cover blew into our yard at 13 Fox Creek Rd. Call 309-830-0861 to retrieve it.

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 Lydia Lueschen is available for babysitting. She is 14 years old and has completed a babysitting course along with being CPR certified. Please call or text her mom - Dallas Lueschen at 309-826-1868.