

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

April 2020

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Indian Creek Homeowners and Water Association Annual Meeting Wednesday, March 4, 2020 – 7 p.m. Towanda Community Center

President: Barb Leathers
VP/Secretary: Barbara Ulbrich
Treasurer: Dave Schulthes
Water Chair: Jim Larson
Grounds Chair: Fred Walk
Newsletter: Kathy Dumler and Ron Metz

- I. **Call to Order - Barb**
- II. **Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting were read by Barbara with no suggested changes.**
- III. **Standing Reports**

A. Covenants and Bylaws - Barbara

The “Annual Assessment” covers specified items – maintenance for grounds, insurance, taxes, mailing/postage and water as it pertains to the common area and common elements. The Annual Assessment can be raised by a vote of the Board. Changes to the water bill and water system require a vote of the homeowners.

B. Finance Report – Dave.

The Association has approximately \$163,000, invested in Certificates of Deposit. We take in about \$45,000 plus about \$3,000 in interest each year. Our expenses are approximately \$29,000 each year. Dave expects we could see a decrease in the amount of interest we receive.

C. Water report – Jim.

Jim introduced Frank Cottrell, the ICHWA water system operator, and Joe Mikulecky, Engineer Manager for the Farnsworth Group. Joe conducted the recent inspection of our water tower and developed recommendations for the water system. Frank provided background on our water system and water quality. Jim discussed the “Indian Creek Water System Assessment Resolution” document provided to all residences by email with the Annual Meeting Agenda. This document was also provided at the Annual Meeting and mailed to residences who have not yet voted on the assessment increase. The document includes background on past water tower maintenance (refurbishing was last done in 2008), descriptions of refurbishing/replacement options considered in the Farnsworth inspection report and information supporting the necessity of increasing the annual assessment.

Based on the information provided through the Farnsworth inspection, the Board will pursue refurbishing the water tower at an estimated cost of \$300,000 and constructing a building to house the

chemical processing now done in the tower base at an estimated cost of \$75,000. The chemical processing creates a caustic environment in the tower which could reduce the life of the tower. The chemical building is planned to be constructed in 2020 and the refurbishing is planned for 2021. The other water tower options considered were replacing the tower with a new or used tower, replacing the tower with a ground based pressurized system or connecting with a Bloomington water source either through Hudson or Towanda. The options that were not selected were all considerably more expensive than the refurbishing / chemical building option selected. Refurbishing the tower is estimated to last for 20 years. The water tower is about 58 years old and has an expected additional useful life of 40-60 years with proper maintenance.

The planned refurbishing cost is significantly higher than past refurbishing costs because the four layers of paint from previous refurbishing work will need to be stripped in order to prevent likely overcoat paint failure. This will require a containment structure to cover the tower during the stripping/repainting. Stricter EPA standards as to how this work is completed have also contributed to the increased cost. A temporary pressurized water tank will provide water service during the refurbishing.

The Board's recommendation to increase the quarterly water assessment from \$115 to \$200 was discussed. ICHWA currently has \$163,000. The Board considered a number of options regarding how to fund the refurbishing and chemical building. An option considered was a one-time assessment of approximately \$2,000 per residence. This option was considered to be too much of a burden on residents. The current plan to increase the assessment and borrow about \$200,000 is recommended in order to minimize the burden on residents while providing sufficient funds for the needed work. A more detailed capital budgeting plan will be developed when refurbishing costs, financing options and other information is finalized.

Jim stressed it is critical the Board's recommendation to increase the water assessment is approved by a majority of our residences so the necessary refurbishing work can be completed in order to properly maintain our water system and for our homeowners' association to continue to be financially sound.

Other business – One resident discussed experiencing discolored water and clogged filters on a newly installed in-house water system. Frank Cottrell said the primary challenge with water quality is the presence of iron and organic matter that accumulates especially during winter months when water usage is low and we are unable to flush the system due to freezing issues. Other residents provided information about available in-house water treatment options. Information is available in the water section of the ICHWA website regarding treatment options. Residents will be informed about the flushing schedule when flushing resumes during the warm weather months along with instructions and warnings regarding water usage during scheduled flushing times. Our water operator, engineering firm and the EPA all regard flushing during the warm weather months as an important tool in maintaining our water quality.

D. Grounds Report – Fred.

The Annual Assessment (formerly known as "Grounds" fees) needs to be increased from \$10/quarter to \$25/quarter to keep pace with increasing insurance costs and other expenses. Indian Creek homeowners may be able to find much lower-cost garbage and recycling collection. The Village of Towanda administers the collection of the Village's garbage fees. To be eligible for the Village's "preferred customer" rate with garbage vendors Indian Creek would need to partner with the Village. The cost may be as low as \$16-\$19/month, including recycling. Garbage pickup would be weekly; recycling would be monthly. Fred also shared that our spring work day will be May 2nd.

IV. Other items.

A. Newsletter report. Kathy.

V. Action Items.

A. Annual Assessment.

Motion to increase the Annual Assessment from \$10/quarter to \$25/quarter was made and passed unanimously by the Board.

B. Water System Assessment.

Proxy materials were provided so that Homeowners could vote immediately, or by mail, no later than March 16.

VI. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned, but continued to March 16, when the Water System Assessment vote will be taken.

Water Hydrant Flushing

We will begin flushing the six water hydrants located throughout Indian Creek subdivision on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month during April through October between 8:00 a.m. and noon. Water hydrants are flushed during warm weather months in order to reduce the build-up of sediments in our water system and are an important tool for improving water quality. Our water operators will open one hydrant at a time and allow it to run for 10-15 minutes. Water pressure in our system's lines is maintained by the 35,000 gallons of water in our tower, however, pressure in home lines will be reduced during flushing much like when multiple faucets are opened in your homes particularly if you are near the hydrant being flushed. Flushing the hydrants will also stir up sediments so please follow the procedures listed below:

Do not run water during the flushing time period. Following flushing, run water through faucets until clear. We recommend this be done by-passing any treatment/filtering system in your home because of the increased sediment stirred up during the flushing process.

Please mark your calendars with the following dates when flushing is planned:

April 9, 23	August 13, 27
May 14, 28	September 10, 24
June 11, 25	October 8, 22
July 9, 23	



IC Spring Work Day May 2nd

Meet at the bridge at 9:00 and please bring what you can of the following: loppers, pointed shovels, handsaws, garden rakes, and gloves. We have honeysuckle to remove, mulch to spread on the trails, additional trail maintenance, and microwave boxes to remove.

Towanda Fire News for April, 2020



These are trying times amidst the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. Although many places are closing their doors per the Governors orders, rest assured our doors are still open. There are some extra steps that 911 dispatchers will go through if you call during this time. It is important to be honest about signs and symptoms so we can properly respond. If for some reason you call, please know if you are sick we will be taking precautions per McLean County's protocols. This will include a mask, gown, glasses, and gloves. Do not be alarmed if you see us in the community wearing this personal protective equipment (PPE). It is for our safety and the safety of those we come into contact with.

For the most accurate and up to date information regarding this virus, visit the CDC website. If you have questions regarding our response, please contact Chief Brett Lueschen. Until further notice we will be suspending our Wednesday evening training's to follow the social distancing guidelines of no gatherings larger than 10 people. Stay home as much as possible and stay healthy!

In February, we ran 4 fire and 7 medical calls putting our total at 31 calls.

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. The main common area is used to play soccer, baseball, frisbee throwing, etc.

Also, leaving the 'deposit' in a plastic bag on the ground is still unsanitary and unpleasant. A clean place to play and walk is beneficial to all!

Thank you!

Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



Spring has arrived. I saw a lawn company spraying a lawn the other day. It is too early to spray for weeds, they must be actively growing to be able to absorb any chemicals. You can apply pre-emergence herbicide for crabgrass now. Just be sure you do not get any of it on an area that you want grass or flowers to come up.

You can gradually pull the mulch back from the perennials that are coming up. Just be sure to leave the mulch that has collected under the shrubs. That will help prevent sudden changes in temperature. It will also help prevent the grass and weeds from coming up.

If you are going to place your poinsettia outside, cut it back to about 6 inches. After the danger of frost has passed, place it outside in the full sun. You can place it in the ground or leave it in the container. It will set on new leaves and make a more attractive plant.

The daffodils and tulips that are blooming in the stores can be planted in the ground in full sun after the soil dries. The daffodil leaves will dry up and break down. Once the tulip leaves turn brown, you can cut them off. They might not be able to store enough energy from the sun to bloom next year, but they should the following year. Plant them at the same depth as they are in the container.

The soil is dry enough to work when you gather a hand full and squeeze it into a ball, let go of it and if it falls apart, you can work the soil. If it stays in a ball, let it dry for a few more days.

They say that we are losing billions of birds every year, and we are also losing about half of the pollinators a year. Birds, butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, moth, and bats are all among the most valuable pollinators. Over 90 percent of our food must be pollinated in order to produce the food. Seventy five percent of our flowers must be pollinated to produce seed. There are some food plants that only a certain pollinator can pollinate. So, our pollinators are very important to us. There are some foods that only a certain insect can reach to pollinate it.

A lot of the pollinators emerge about the same time that the plants are flowering. However, with climate change that doesn't always happen. Insecticides, parasites, and disease also contribute to the problem.

Some simple things that we can do to help the pollinators are to tolerate a few dandelions. They bloom early when the honey bees first come out to feed. Just walk out in the evening to get some fresh air and pull off the spent flower. Leave a few to go to seed so the hummingbirds can have some to line their nest with. Also, leave some spider webs for the hummingbirds to use the web to wrap around their nests to hold it together.

See how everything has a job in the ecosystem. Leave a place in the yard a little messy and plant some native flowers so Mother Nature can do its job. You might be surprised at how many birds it will attract.

Now is the time to cut Russian Sage and the butterfly bush back to about 6 inches.

There has been a lot of questions and talk about the use of glyphosate, better known as Round-Up. It depends on what group you talk to if it is safe, a risk, a potential hazard, or a probable human carcinogen.

When glyphosate first came out, it was made in Germany. Two years after it went on the market, the use and sale of it were banned in all of Germany. Five years after going on the market, the use and sale were banned in all of Europe. EPA in the USA is still studying it.

Before you use it, be sure to read and follow the directions on the container. That includes wearing a mask, long pants and long sleeves. If you should spill any of the concentrates on your clothes, burn them. You cannot get it all washed out. Wash the clothes that you wear when using it alone.

If you use glyphosate or any chemical on your lawn, keep children and pets off for at least 24 hours. Some companies say to stay off until it dries. The plant needs to have time to absorb the chemical. Do not spray if it is going to rain within the next 24 hours. That would just wash it off. We

are seeing an increase in children and pet cancer. You could stay off of the lawn until it has been mowed once because the dry chemical could rub off onto the hands and feet.

Glyphosate can build up in the soil and enter into the food growing in it. If you see a notice on the food containers that say NonGMO, that means that glyphosate was not used in the field the ingredients were grown in. It has been found that some people could not tolerate the gluten found in some grains, it wasn't gluten, but it was glyphosate.

There are fewer toxic chemicals out here that you could try before using the strong glyphosate. For more information, you can contact the National Pesticide Information Center.

If you had tent caterpillars in the past, now is the time to inspect the trees. Look for some dark brown or gray egg masses that encircle the twig. You can destroy them by either pruning or scratching them off with your thumbnail.

Cut back your ornamental grass to within a few inches from the ground. If you have a large clump, it might be easier to tie a rope around it and use a chain saw. Also, the old dry grass that you cut off could be used as mulch on the garden.

Prune your fruit tree, grapes, raspberries, and blackberries early in the month before the buds swell. If you have a problem with peach leaf curl, now is the time to spray with copper fungicide or Bourdeaux mix. As always, follow the directions on the container.

Be sure to leave the leaves that have collected under and around your shrubs. Last fall the insects laid eggs on them and the eggs should hatch about the same time that the birds would be needing insects to feed their young. Also, as the earthworms are eating the leaves, they are depositing fertilizer down in the soil near the roots. The leaves will also help prevent the weed seed from germinating. Once the leaves come out on the shrubs, they will hide the dead leaves.

Prune your red-twig dogwoods in early spring for more colorful stems. You can cut it back to about 6-8 inches.

Spring Garage Sales

Annual Towanda Area Spring Garage Sales will **POTENTIALLY** be held **Thu-Sat, Apr.30-May 2.** **This schedule depends on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.** If not held at this time, a later date will be announced if there is sufficient interest. The annual fall sales are tentatively scheduled for Thu-Sat, September 10-12.

To be included on a list of area sales and share in the cost of advertising, please provide the following by **Sat. Apr. 25:** 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 rbriggs@frontiernet.net (preferred) or Mail to Gail Ann Briggs, 112 Hunt St, Towanda, IL 61776. Email or call (824-1649) 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.

Towanda Home & Community Education

Towanda Home & Community Education will NOT meet in April due to recent health restrictions. We hope we will be able to meet on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7pm at the Towanda Community Building. We will be putting in more information in the May newsletter. The minor lesson on Scottish Immigration will be postponed until the May 11 HCE Towanda meeting. If unable to meet in April, we will present the April Program in May along with the other program planned.

McLean County Home and Community Education had 10 members attend the IAHCCE Annual Conference in Effingham, IL, March 10-12. McLean Co HCE received County of the Year (of 76 or more members) Award. McLean HCE also received three Grand Awards: Cultural Enrichment, Public Relations and Membership Special Activities. Attendees enjoyed the annual meeting, workshops and 'make it - take it' classes, played games and also networked with HCE members from all over the state. Rosemary Martin of the Night Owls HCE Unit won the Best of Show Peoples Award for her basketry entry in the Cultural Enrichment Fine Arts & Crafts Show.

If interested in more information, contact president, Cindy Kelley at 309-824-4797.



McLean County HCE Attendees County of the Year Standing L-R: Pat Pulokas, Kathryn McNeely, Eileen Norin, Karen Crull, Kathleen Emery
Sitting L-R: Fran Burns, Becky Toohill
Not Pictured: Anita Ogden, Sharon Roggy, Paula Miller



Pat Pulokas at String Art Card Making class, Eileen Norin, teacher

Towanda Lions Club

The Towanda Lions Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for April 11th at 10:00 and the Ham & Bean dinner scheduled for April 24th has been canceled for precautionary reasons due to the Coronavirus outbreak. We may revisit scheduling the Ham & Bean dinner at some future time.

Thanks for all who have participated in the past and supported our efforts.





Ecology Action Center takes COVID-19 Precautions

As a preventive measure, the Ecology Action Center (EAC) is taking steps to reduce public interactions consistent with CDC “social distancing” recommendations. As the local environmental sustainability agency, group interactions through public education and outreach are frequent and a regular part of EAC’s services. To avoid contributing to the spread of COVID-19, the EAC is postponing public events and some service appointments, modifying the format for presentations and educational programs, and reducing office hours for staff and doing most work functions remotely instead.

- All April events celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day are postponed until further notice.
- Education programs and workshops are being modified for remote presentations and webinar-type education. Teachers and other groups with programs scheduled will be contacted to discuss alternate arrangements.
- Appointments for energy audit services are being postponed for a month.
- Limited office hours will be in effect—visitors should call ahead to make sure staff is on site.

EAC staff are still available to provide most functions, but in a modified format to reduce public interactions. Residents are encouraged to continue to rely on the EAC for up to date information and resources on waste and recycling, composting, hazardous wastes, energy efficiency, climate change, solar energy, air quality, clean water protection, rain barrels, and more. Existing communication channels are operating as normal. Residents may contact EAC staff by email, phone, social media, or utilize extensive online resources through ecologycenter.org, BNenergybright.org, mCLEANwater.org, RecycleBN.org, Yardsmart.org, or HHWmclean.org.

The mission of the Ecology Action Center is to inspire and assist our community in creating, strengthening, and preserving a healthy environment. The EAC acts as a central resource for environmental education, information, outreach, and technical assistance in McLean County.

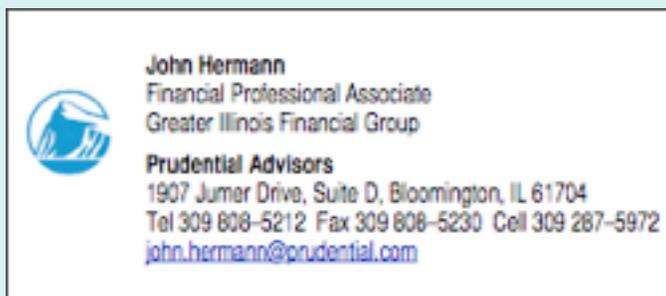
Dates to Note

Wednesday, April 1 – April Fools’ Day
Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday
Friday, April 10 – Good Friday
Sunday, April 12 – Easter
Wednesday, April 22 – Earth Day



Classified

Businesses:



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 - annettehancock1953@gmail.com
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).

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) 532-7466. Reasonable rates.

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.