



INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

May 2020

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

IC Spring Work Day May 2nd Cancelled

Unfortunately due to the coronavirus and social distancing guidelines the May 2 workday is cancelled. I will be contacting resident individually to help work on honeysuckle removal during the next couple of weeks. This work can be done individually or by couples/family members allowing us to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Fred Walk
Grounds Chairperson

Indian Creek Food Drive

Hello Neighbors! A friend and co-worker of mine and her husband run the Ministry and More Food Pantry in town. They had been closed for a period of time due to the coronavirus but have reopened. One of their concerns is that they will not be able to meet the current need for food and other supplies within our community.

I know our family has been looking for a way to help others and we thought this may be a good opportunity to give back to others who are in less fortunate situations than ourselves, particularly during this difficult time. So we decided to have a food drive within our subdivision to help provide some of the needed food to the pantry. We will have a bin on our porch beginning Wednesday 4/29 through Sunday 5/10. We would also be willing to pick up items from porches if that is more convenient.

We will take the items to the pantry on Monday 5/11. Please consider giving; are there items in your pantry you may never use or pick up a few extra items the next time you are at the store. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Our (Sean and Hallie Harmon) address is 4 Fox Creek Road and if you have any questions please feel free to email me at bhmharmon@frontier.com or call at (309) 530-5360. Also you can check out the pantry website at <https://www.ministryandmore.org/>

Below is a list of some things that are needed:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| • canned fruits and vegetables | • syrup |
| • soups | • spaghetti sauce |
| • saltine crackers | • noodles |
| • pancake mix | • toothpaste |

Of course anything else is welcome as well

Thank you!

Adopt-A-Highway

On Earth Day, April 22, a team of residents conducted the first trash pickup of 2020 along our two-mile stretch of County Highway 29. Because of Covid-19, the call for volunteers was sent only to those who had previously completed a liability waiver required by the McLean County Highway Department. We practiced social distancing by having only one person or family unit on each side of the road.

The award for the “best piece of trash” goes to Barb Leathers, who found a Flanagan resident’s wallet. He will be very happy to get this returned since it had both his license and social security card inside.

If you are interested in participating in future trash pickups, please contact Greg Beneze (gbeneze@frontiernet.net) to arrange signing a liability waiver.

Participants pictured are: Carol Beneze, Greg Beneze, Tommie Crouthamel, Kathy Dumler, Larry Meyer, Fred Walk, Barb Leathers and Natalie Leathers (Nick Leathers had to leave early for an online class). Thanks to all who helped!



New Recycling Information

recyclecoach™



RECYCLEBN.ORG

NEW! QUICK AND EASY RECYCLING GUIDELINES

METAL



Steel & Aluminum Containers and Foil.
No spray paint cans or pesticide cans.

GLASS



Containers: Bottles & Jars Only

**NOTE: Residential & commercial customers
of Area Disposal Company—glass materials
are no longer accepted for recycling.**

YES!

Clean & Empty

PAPER

Cardboard
(flattened), Office
Paper, Newspaper,
& Magazines



PLASTIC

Containers: Bottles, Tubs, Jugs, and Jars Only. Replace lids & caps.



**HELP STOP RECYCLING CONTAMINATION. IF IT IS NOT SHOWN ABOVE
AS ACCEPTABLE, THEN IT IS NOT! IF IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!**



No Plastic Bags
No Plastic Wrap
(return bags clean to retailer)



No Big Items
(Electronics, Wood, Propane Tanks, Scrap
Metal or Styrofoam—check with Ecology
Action Center for other options)

NO!

No materials in bags*
put in loose



No Tangles (Hangers, Hoses,
Wire, Cords, Ropes or Chains)



No Clothing, Textiles or
Shoes (donate to HSHrenew.org)



No Food, Liquid, Diapers,
Batteries or Needles



No Shredded Paper
unless bagged (*exception)

These guidelines represent the common items accepted in most recycling programs in Illinois. To find out more detail, including recycling and reuse programs beyond the bin, visit RecycleBN.org or contact the Ecology Action Center at 309-454-3169.



ECOLOGY
ACTION CENTER



McLean County



Town of
Normal



7.3.2019

Towanda Fire News for May, 2020



We are now weeks into the "shelter in place" and there is still quite a bit of uncertainty as to what the near future holds. It is important to check in with yourself both mentally and physically during this quarantine. If you are feeling anxious, feel you are in a bad situation, or need someone to talk to, reach out to PATH which is the local crisis hotline by dialing 211. Physically, keeping active is important for the body to stay healthy and getting outside may help with your mental health as well. Continue to practice social distancing and figuratively "come together" to flatten the curve. For more information on COVID-19 please refer to www.cdc.gov.

We will be hosting a Blood Drive on May 30th from 8-12, it will be best to book an appointment ahead of time to limit your time in the station. Follow our Facebook page for any last minute changes to the event. March was a slow month for us only running 4 medical calls and 3 fire calls putting our total at 38 calls. Stay Safe and Stay Home.

Towanda Home & Community Education

As of this writing, circumstances do not look favorable to having our HCE meeting on our regular meeting date of May 11, 7 pm at the Towanda Community Building.

For up to date information, contact president, Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797. Lessons are available to members & friends when requested. Three programs are available if you are not able to attend monthly meetings: 1)Energy Efficiency is Smart; 2) Bees & Pollinators; 3) Mason Jars – Decorating through the year. Also available are the minor lessons which are on immigration to the U.S. of the following countries: Scotland, Sweden, Cuba.

These are challenging times and we cannot meet as we usually do, due to the promoted guidelines of social distancing and remaining in place. For a fun tip and to give you a little information from our previous lesson on "Eggs from Farm to Fork" (whole lesson information is available on this lesson), please see answer to the following question: "How long should I keep eggs?" Answer: Raw eggs in their shell in their original carton and **NOT** stored on the refrigerator door- 4-5+ weeks past their date on carton. The eggs should remain in their original carton until being used and stored in the interior of the refrigerator. Eggs should NOT be left at room temperature for more than 2 hours.

An Uncommon Sighting



Jill Doubet took this amazing photo of a Prothonotary Warbler. In southeastern swamps in summer, this bright golden warbler sings from high in the trees. It is unique among eastern warblers in its habit of nesting in holes in trees, rather than in the open; it will sometimes nest in birdhouses placed close to the water. The name "Prothonotary" originally referred to a group of official scribes in the Catholic Church who wore bright yellow hoods, as this bird appears to do.

The Audubon folks will be coming back out on May 9 to conduct a spring bird count.

Towanda Library

Although the doors to the physical library remain closed, our hearts and minds continue to be open to ways we can best serve our community in the coming weeks and months. All programs and events tentatively scheduled for May 2020 have been cancelled, but we are excited to share some of the creative services and unique resources we are safely able to provide. Towanda District Library recently adopted the tagline, "Explore. Share. Read. Discover," and this slogan translates to how we are supporting YOU and your family during these unprecedented times:



- **EXPLORE**

Although Mrs. Oberts (Youth Librarian) is unable to meet with 4th- and 5th-grade Bulldog Book Club members at the library, she is looking forward to hosting Zoom meetings to finish the semester. We thank the Board of Trustees for investing in this service, and we are exploring other ways it can be used with our patrons.

- **SHARE**

Have you recently read a terrific book or shared a wonderful story as a family? We're collecting photos of Towanda community members "caught reading." You're invited to send a message and/or photo to director@towandalibrary.org. Let's share how **#TowandaReads!**



- **READ**

Towanda District Library cardholders can download ebooks and audiobooks for FREE by visiting our webpage (www.towandalibrary.org). Click the "Digital Media Library" link (located along the right margin) or visit <https://alliance.overdrive.com/> to browse thousands of titles, including new releases and classics. Having trouble accessing your account or remembering your library card number/PIN? Please leave a message at (309) 728-2176, and we will gladly assist you.

- **DISCOVER**

The Board of Trustees and Towanda District Library staff are dedicated to discovering how we can best serve our community safely. Although our services might be adapted and modified in the coming weeks, our commitment to you remains steadfast. As a reminder, here are the procedures and policies we're currently following to keep our community safe:

- ✓ Please keep all items currently borrowed from the library at your residence. We kindly ask that you refrain from returning items to the library's drop boxes.
- ✓ At this time, the library is unable to accept donated items (including books, DVDs, etc.) When we reopen, we will communicate the safest and most efficient ways to return borrowed materials, as well as donated items.
- ✓ The due dates for all items currently loaned to patrons have automatically been extended. It is not necessary to call the library to request a renewal. Overdue fines will not be applied during the closure.
- ✓ RAILS (Reaching Across Illinois Library System) has suspended interlibrary loans. This means patrons are currently unable to place "holds" on items from libraries. Items are neither being delivered to the library, nor sent out from the library.

Messages left on the library's answering machine at (309) 728-2176 will be checked daily. Please continue to check our website (www.towandalibrary.org) or Facebook page for additional announcements and resources.

Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



If your ground cover looks bad from the winter weather, you can raise the mower blade to its highest level and mow it. Fertilize and water it and it will regrow and look much better.

If you are planting a new tree or shrubs, only remove the damaged branches and let the plant settle in for at least a year before you do any formative pruning. Plants need all the branches and leaves they have when trying to get settled. It is a big shock to them when being transplanted. Trees do not need to be staked unless they are in a very windy area or a chance of children grabbing the trunk. The movement caused by the wind makes the tree develop stronger roots and trunk.

If you have problems with deer eating the tender ends of tree branches, you can use a wire to create a new branch, take a short piece of soft wire and loosely wrap it onto the end of the branch and let it stick out past the end of the branch a few inches. It will look like the end of the branch, but there won't be anything to eat.

You can remove the mulch from the roses. Prune out the deadwood. Look for green canes and a swelling bud, and make a diagonal cut just beyond this point.

Check your trellises for rot. Dry rot will be spongy when you press it with a screwdriver. Also, check to see if the hooks need repairs. It is much easier to repair before the plants are there. Also, check the hooks for hanging baskets. The baskets can be heavy right after you water them and the plants have grown.

The perennials are coming up and now is a good time to move, share, or divide them, except the iris or peonies. The plants are small, so it shouldn't be such a big shock to them. Do it in the evening, a cloudy day or early in the morning to avoid the hot sun.

If the soil is dry, you could water it the day before you intend to divide the plant. You want the soil to cling to the roots. Using a spade or garden fork, place it about 2-4 inches out from the crown of the plant. Slowly pull it up out of the ground. You can gently pull the plants and roots apart, be sure to leave at least 2-3 shoots and some healthy roots in a clump. Plant the new divisions at the same depth as they were in the ground and water well. You can also add some compost to the area.

If you are sharing a division of the plant and don't have a container, place it in a plastic bag. that you get from the grocery store. Be sure to mark the name of the plant and if it needs sun or shade.

Last week was Earth Day, a time for us to take a good look at the environment. It is never too late to do that, with climate change, we need to do everything that we can. At one time the school children would receive a small tree to plant. Trees do much more than giving us beauty and shade. I received some information from American Forest that I would like to share:

A single front-yard tree can intercept 760 gallons of rainwater in its crown, reducing runoff and flooding damage in your property.

More than half of the county's drinking water originates in forests. Roughly 180 million Americans depend on forests for their drinking water.

Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air-conditioning needs by 30 percent and save 20-50 percent in energy used for heating.

An acre of forest can consume all of the pollution produced by a car driven 26,000 miles a year. Trees help clean the air. A Chicago forest (more than 3.5 million trees) removes about 888 tons of pollution from the air every year.

We need our forest as much as our forest needs us. We can't fight climate change without trees, they clean 1/4 of all the climate busting carbon pollution.

Plant a tree if you can, it will help slow the wind and give us more shade. Be sure to call Julie before you dig.

And you thought that tree was just standing there.

Towanda Lions Club Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship



Mackenzie Kraft

The Towanda Lions Club has awarded the 2020 Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship to Mackenzie Kraft. Mackenzie is a freshman at Iowa State University majoring in Animal Science. Throughout her life she has been very active in 4-H and other organizations and activities benefitting the Towanda community. Upon college graduation, Mackenzie plans to return to the Towanda area and focus on animal nutrition at her family's farm.

This scholarship is presented annually by the Towanda Lions in memory of Steve Liebenow, a valued Lions Club member and educator in the Unit 5 School District. The scholarship in Steve's name is a means of recognizing and contributing to the success of the youth of Towanda.

Jerry Bersche, Scholarship Committee Co-Chairman
Towanda Lions Club

Outdoor Lighting

In addition to Earth Day held on April 22, 2020, did you also know last week was [International Dark Sky Week](#) (April 19-26, 2020)? The International Dark-Sky Association advocates for night sky protection and works to identify and publicize negative impacts of artificial light at night on human health, wildlife and climate change. In honor of Dark Sky Week, we hope you find these [home lighting considerations](#) interesting and useful.

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).

Aubrey Thomas is available for child care and pet care. She has taken the Safe Sitter course and is experienced with taking care of several animals. Aubrey will be a Sophomore at NCHS in the fall. Please call or text her at 309-532-7522.

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.