



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

Contact us by email at [indiancreeknews@hotmail.com](mailto:indiancreeknews@hotmail.com)

## HCE News

The Towanda Unit of McLean County Association for Home and Community Education group met on Monday, Sep 14 at the Shelter in the park across from the Community Building. The meeting went well and were pleased that 12 members and 1 guest attended. If all goes well, Towanda HCE will be able to meet on **Monday, October 12, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building**. The scheduled program for the night will be, "Energy Efficiency Is Smart" given by Cindy Kelley. A Minor lesson will also be given each month about Lighthouses in Illinois and in October we learn about the Chicago Harbor Lighthouse. We will also hear a minor lesson on Cuban Immigration to the United States. Hostesses are Linda Conder and Pat Pulokas. Guests are cordially invited to attend Towanda Unit and all county programs.

October county programs include: International Study of Poland, Thursday, Oct 1, 11a-1p at the Farm Bureau Building, 2242 Westgate Dr, Bloomington, 309-378-4352 (free event); Community Service Day, Monday, Oct 12, 9a-2p, Farm Bureau, to work on Operation Santa stockings, 309-533-1135; Old Rugged Barn 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration with HCE Bake Sale Booth, Saturday, Oct 17, 11s-3p; Chalk Painting workshop, Monday, Oct 19, 9a-12n at Farm Bureau, fees & info-Rosemary, 309-473-2876; and Attic Treasures & Bake Sale, Saturday, Oct 24, 8a-2p at the McLean Co Fairgrounds, Cloverleaf Hall, enter through south door and follow signs, 309-824-4797. Proceeds from the Attic Treasures & Bake Sale will benefit McLean County 4-H and the HCE Scholarship(s) programs.

The county HCE is also promoting "October is HCE MONTH" in McLean County with special emphasis on membership and getting educational ideas out in the communities. We are a continuing education group. We personally grow with the new knowledge and education opportunities and we have fun getting together once a month, September through May. We learn about interesting and timely topics that can improve our daily lives. We are also a great community service group that keep busy giving back to the community and the county and world! **Contact Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797 for more information about Towanda HCE.**

Pat Pulokas

# ICHWA Board

As the saying goes..... "the surveys are in and all agree!" Best place to live during COVID has got to be right here in Indian Creek Subdivision! With our beautiful forested common areas, wide streets, friendly neighbors, and fresh air it doesn't get better than this.

How can you participate in making IC even better? Serve on our governing Board. ICHWA Board terms are 3 years. Next opening will be that of VP/Secretary, in 2021. The Secretary keeps the Association Minutes, documents the board meetings, and participates in other duties as needed such as facilitating voting and elections. If you are interested or have questions about this role, please respond back to the subdivision inbox - indiancreeknews@hotmail.com.

Barbara Ulbrich

## Water Hydrant Flushing Schedule

This fall we will flush the six water hydrants located in Indian Creek subdivision on the dates listed below. 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 operator will flush one hydrant at a time and allow it to run for 10-15 minutes (the next in line hydrant is opened concurrently for a brief period to keep water flowing through the system). 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 dates listed below. Flushing will be done between 5:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 28

Monday, October 26

Monday, November 23

Monday, December 21

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson

## Garbage Tote Placement

Henson's drivers have asked that when putting out your garbage and recycle containers that you place them on opposite ends of your driveway with wheels facing out toward the road. Please see the attached photo. You may have noticed that they were placed this way after they were emptied. Doing this will help the drivers by not having to sort through items placed next to the recycled container to determine if they are recyclable. Please refrain from putting non recycled items in cardboard boxes and setting them next to the recycle tote. These boxes will not be picked up to be recycled. It's ok to place cardboard next to the recycle tote if you can't fit it all in the container. Doing the aforementioned will help the drivers be more efficient when collecting our garbage and recycled items.

Thanks for your cooperation,

Fred Walk  
IC Grounds Chairman







# TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY

## Autumn Updates

### Summary of Services to Date

Towanda District Library has enjoyed discovering new ways to serve our community through our phone and curbside services! The following statistics reveal a terrific level of engagement during these unprecedented times:

- Over 550 curbside deliveries have been made.
- More than 825 phone calls have been documented.
- Technology support has been provided to resolve more than 50 inquiries.
- Over 6,100 searches have been connected to our website and/or Facebook page!

### eLearning? Our eResources Can Help!

Towanda District Library cardholders have access to a variety of electronic resources, each easily located from our webpage. Some services may prompt patrons to enter their library card IDs and/or PINs. Please contact the library at (309) 728-2176 to update library card registration, reset PINs, and/or apply for a new card.

#### **TumbleBook Library**

- A collection of over 1,100 titles for students in grades K-6, including animated/“talking” picture books, read-along chapter books, nonfiction selections, and graphic novels
- Related games, puzzles, and videos
- Free app for devices; three language options



#### **World Book Online**

- Thousands of articles, maps, and multimedia resources for pre-K to collegiate students and adults
- “Early World of Learning” features stories, games, videos, and interactive coloring pages for children
- Includes themed collections of online resources and a student-friendly citation builder



#### **Digital Media Library**

- Thousands of eBooks and audiobooks available to download, free of charge
- Includes new releases and classics for all ages
- Compatible with multiple computer platforms and mobile devices
- Also accessible through the free Libby and/or OverDrive apps



### Facility Updates

While the physical library building remains closed to the public, the Board of Trustees has recently approved the following projects to improve the overall facility:

- All overhead lightening will be converted to banks of energy efficient, LED fixtures.
- Interior painting will begin in the picture book section and continue through the Young Adult area. The Circulation Desk area and walls surrounding the adult collections will follow.

### Phone and Curbside Services to Continue through October 2020

During upcoming Board of Trustees meetings, data from local and state health departments, as well as information from area school districts, will be evaluated to consider how Towanda District Library's services might safely expand. We look forward to communicating additional details soon!

**Mondays, Wednesdays,  
Fridays, & Saturdays**

10:00 am – 2:00 pm



**Tuesdays  
& Thursdays**

2:00 – 6:00 pm

**301 S. Taylor St. Towanda, IL 61776 | (309) 728-2176 | [www.towandalibrary.org](http://www.towandalibrary.org)**



## Gardening Tips

We all enjoy a pretty flower garden and a nice vegetable garden that produces delicious produce. Research has shown that the food produced today does not have near as much nutrition as the food produced 50 years ago. The soil is not as healthy now.

Fall is the ideal time to improve the soil because there are so much organic materials available. You can add chopped leaves to lighten the soil and feed the worms. They will eat the leaves and deposit their waste deep into the soil where it will be available for the roots. That will encourage the roots to grow deeper and they will also loosen the soil as they move about. You can dig several inches of leaves into the soil or use the chopped leaves as mulch on top of the soil as a winter mulch.

Another good source of organic matter is animal manure, which also adds nutrients like nitrogen. Common manures used in the garden are from cows, horses, sheep, and chickens. Rotted manure, for about 6 months, which has no smell, and can be tilled in in the spring. It can also be added on top in the fall and worked in in the spring. Several inches of compost can be piled on top of the garden in the fall and worked into the soil in the spring.

Adding compost can enrich the soil, add nutrients, and make it easier for the soil to hold moisture. It is much easier for the roots to absorb nutrients from the organic matter than synthetic fertilizer.

The first day of fall is just around the corner and the nights are getting cooler. When the night temperature drops down into the 50's degrees, it's time to bring the house plants inside. If you planted some of your house plants into the ground, it is time to dig them up and put them into a container. If the plants are already in a container, check to see if the roots are coming out of the drain hole in the bottom of the pot. Also, check for insects before bringing them inside.

When you want to place your plant into a larger container, only go up one size. If a lot of the roots in the old pot are growing around in a circle, you can pull most of them off. Place the plant into the larger pot and add some new soil. Keep the soil down about an inch from the top of the pot, so there is room to water the plant. It is only natural for some leaves to drop off when plants are moved inside due to the change in light and humidity.

It is time to bring your Amaryllis inside for its nap. Place it in a cool, dark place, and lay it on its side to remind you not to water it. Its leaves will dry up and fall off. I place mine under a table in the basement.

Fall has arrived and it is time to start preparing our gardens for winter. For years we were told to clean off all of the leaves and the dead from the garden. But now we have found that we are destroying a lot of needed organic material. The roots will also die. They will decay, leaving behind

the more organic matter.

The butterflies, moths, and other insects are laying their eggs on the leaves and stems of the standing plants that can be winter home to about 1/3 of the native bees. The eggs will hatch about the time next spring when the mother bird is looking for protein for her young.

It has been said that insects can live without people, but people cannot live without insects. Next spring work the remaining organic matter into the soil. That will make the soil so much easier for the roots to grow deeper. It will also be much easier for the roots to absorb the nutrients from the organic matter, than from the synthetic matter.

You can pinch off the top of your tomato plants so they can concentrate their energy on ripening the fruit.

I have seen that you should cut your turf grass to two inches in the fall. When you cut it that short you are making it easier for the weed seeds to make contact with the soil and germinate. It will also be easier for the soil to dry out, and there would be less space for the grass blades to absorb the nutrients from the sun. Leave it at 3 to 3-1/2 inches.

The leaves are turning pretty colors and some are falling from the trees. Instead of raking and burning the leaves, run the mower over them to chop them up and leave them on the ground. They will break down and return nitrogen to the soil. If you have a lot of chopped leaves, you can spread them on the garden, flower beds, or the compost pile.

Don't cut your perennials down now. Leave them intact so they can add winter interest to the garden, provide seeds for next year's flowers and the birds. They will also help hold the blowing leaves that will help protect the crowns from the ever-changing temperatures. They will also help hold the snow for insulation and also provide moisture when it melts next spring.

Helen J. Leake  
Master Gardener Alumni



# Community Recess

We will continue to have community recess in the open field through the month of October weather permitting. We gather from 11:10 until 11:50 on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays. Kids have enjoyed running around the field together, playing volleyball, hot potato, and just getting out to socialize with each other. We would love for you to join us. Since the elementary kids will be returning to school Monday, 10/26 we will evaluate whether or not we will continue and if so what day. If you have any questions please contact Hallie Harmon at 309-530-5360 or Lori Hoskins at 217-417-4649.





**PRESS RELEASE:** For immediate release September 14, 2020

**Contact:** Larissa Armstrong 309-454-3169 x.15

#### **Four local nonprofit organizations benefit from Illinois Solar For All**

The Ecology Action Center announced Monday that four Bloomington-Normal nonprofit agencies are among the first in McLean County selected for solar projects through the Illinois Solar for All program. The solar projects were selected on Wednesday, September 9, and are subject to the approval of the Illinois Commerce Commission in the coming weeks. If approved, the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, the Wayman AME Church, the Normal Township Activity and Recreation Center, and the Christ Church PCA will all receive solar installations that will significantly reduce their overall energy costs for years to come. Local solar installer StraightUp Solar is working with all four organizations on their solar installations. The Ecology Action Center is a grassroots educator for Illinois Solar for All and works to promote and educate the local community on the program.

Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) is a key outcome of the 2016 Future Energy Jobs Act and is designed to increase access to solar energy for low-income and environmental justice communities. ILSFA works by increasing incentives (solar renewable energy credits or SRECs) for income qualifying projects. The solar developers and contractors (called Approved Vendors) who complete projects in ILSFA receive these increased incentives and are then able to offer installations with no upfront costs for income qualifying residents and low or no upfront costs for qualifying nonprofits and public facilities. Approved Vendors are not allowed to charge participants more than 50% of the value of the energy produced by the solar systems. This enables ILSFA participants to reap the energy-saving benefits of solar without having to overcome the obstacle of financing a solar installation all at once.

The Ecology Action Center (EAC) just started its second year serving as a grassroots educator for ILSFA. EAC worked directly with several of the nonprofits selected to receive solar through the program to both educate those organizations about the benefits of ILSFA and to reach residents those organizations serve. ILSFA is a multi-year program, and there are still opportunities for McLean County residents to participate. Larissa Armstrong, EAC Assistant Director said, "We are really excited to see local organizations benefit from the ILSFA program, and are hopeful even more residents and organizations in our community will get to do the same."

On-site solar installations are available for single-family homes that meet the income eligibility requirement, and for multi-family properties where half the residents meet these income requirements. Community solar is available for any household in Ameren territory that meets the income eligibility requirement. Check the EAC's energy program site at [bnenergybright.org/illinois-solar-for-all](http://bnenergybright.org/illinois-solar-for-all) for details on income eligibility.

The Ecology Action Center's role is to educate residents and organizations on how they can benefit from this program, either providing information directly to individuals, or offering brief online overview presentations to organizations and community groups. The EAC helps eligible residents and organizations access the ILSFA program and the benefits of solar. Contact Larissa Armstrong, at [larstrong@ecologyactioncenter.org](mailto:larstrong@ecologyactioncenter.org) or 309-454-3169 x.15 to learn more or schedule a group presentation.



# CLASSIFIED

## Businesses:



**John Hermann**

Financial Advisor

The Greater Illinois Financial Group

**Prudential Advisors**

1907 Jumer Dr, Suite D, Bloomington, IL 61704

T 309 808-5212 F 309 808-5230 C 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](http://www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock)

Pinterest Recipes - [www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935](http://www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935)



## For Hire:

Bailee Harmon is available to pet sit, babysit, and to do other household chores such as water plants/flowers and cleaning. Please contact Bailee at (309) 530-8279 or her mom, Hallie Harmon at (309)530-5360

Brenna Schwamberger will be a junior at NCHS in the fall. She is available to babysit this summer if you're looking for a night out once in a while or you need someone full-time. She has taken Child Development at NCHS and completed the Red Cross Babysitting and Child Care course. If interested, call or text Brenna at 309-824-1410. Also, available to watch pets or water plants if you're out of town.

Aubrey Thomas is available for childcare 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.

Jenacys Masters, 16, a Junior at NCHS is interested in doing any odd jobs to earn money for a car. Preferably in the Towanda area. She is offering dog walking/pet sitting, babysitting, running errands, or any other “teenager” type jobs. Please contact her at 813-943-2085. Cherish Pedraza  
13 Bent Tree Ln.