



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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

HCE News

The Towanda Unit of the McLean County Home & Community Education group will meet on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, AT 6:30 P.M.** Due to a building schedule conflict, we will meet at a different time and day of the week. We will not be serving refreshments, but you can bring your own beverage to drink. Our major programs will include “Bees & Pollinators” given by Kathleen Emery and Jeanie Wager and also “Mason Jars Décor through the year” given by Candace Thedens. Our minor lesson will be on Chicago Harbor Lighthouse in Chicago.

County HCE activities in November include Nov 9, 9a-12N, Farm Bureau Auditorium No-Bake Cookie/Candy Exchange, Ruth-815-945-7126 for more information. On Nov 16, Read & Share-*The Gown* by Jennifer Robson book will be discussed, meeting at the Farm Bureau, 2-3:30 p.m., LaVonne-309-825-6558. On Nov 24, 1-3 p.m., Farm Bureau Auditorium, a local leader lesson will be presented: “Have you had your cup of Java today?”- 309-728-2852.

For more information about Towanda HCE, contact Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797. Come join us for fun and educational programs.

Brush Pile and Yard Waste Disposal

Please do not bring yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and bush clippings to the **BRUSH** pile. These items do not burn and end up smoldering especially after they get wet. The brush pile is for brush such as small tree limbs and cuttings from larger bushes. Leaves can be disposed by **spreading** them out in the wooded common ground areas away from the trails and roads. **Do not dump leaves on the trails or the well road.** Please be considerate of your neighbors if you burn leaves and remember that smoke travels lengthy distances.

Please contact me with any questions.

Fred Walk
IC Grounds Chairman
fwalk@frontiernet.net

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, November 23

Monday, December 21

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson



Gardening Tips

It is time to bring your mandavilas, hibiscus, and geranium in. It will be an adjustment for them by going from the cool, moist air outside to the dry warm air inside. and they will drop some leaves. That is the only natural. They drop and replace leaves all summer outside, and that will continue inside.

Place the hibiscus near a bright, sunny window and it might continue to bloom for a while. Cut back the long stems on the mandavila, stop fertilizing and let the soil get a little dry between watering. For the geranium, you can enjoy it as a house plant and next late winter take slips for new plants.

It is time to stop fertilizing your houseplants, so they can have a winter nap. You should provide extra humidity by placing the container in a shallow dish with pebbles. Keep the dish filled with water. Or you could place small containers between the plants. I use the plastic containers that Crisco sticks come in. They fit good between the flowerpots.

It is time to give your poinsettias 14 hours of uninterrupted darkness and ten hours of bright indirect light to induce flowering. Some people just place the plant near a sunny window and it flowers.

We have had a couple of light frosts warning us that more cold weather is on its way. It is time to dig your dahlias, gladiolus, cannas. etc. now to store them for next year's enjoyment.

For your glad bulbs, dig the bulbs and place the bulbs and leaves in a paper bag. In time the leaves will dry and fall off so you can put them in the compost pile. Place the bag in a cool dark place.

For the dahlias and other summer blooming bulbs, cut them back to about 5-6 inches. Dig up the bulbs and shake the soil off. Do not wash them. Some people place the plant with the roots attached to it in an open bag, and some place the tubers in a container of peat moss. Store them in a cool dark place.

Before a killing frost, you can pick the nice green tomatoes and place them in a container and place it in the basement. They will ripen, but they will not have the good vine ripened flavor. You can also slice them and enjoy fried green tomatoes. Cut the vines off and put them in the compost pile. Leave the roots in the ground to feed the insects in the soil.

We have had a couple of frosts and a freeze, so it is time to remove any plants that have been diseased, including the tomato plants. Leave the faded perennial growth in place and clean it up in the spring. The stems will collect leaves that will help protect the roots and crowns of the plant during the cold winter. The stems will also help collect the snow that will help insulate the crowns and also provide water when it melts.

Continue to water the newly planter perennials before the ground freezes.

Be sure the evergreen trees have plenty of water before the ground freezes. They lose moisture thru the needles during the windy winter. There is a spray that you can use on them to help them hold the moisture.

Transplant trees and shrubs while they are dormant.

You can sow winter rye in the garden as a winter cover crop after everything has been harvested.

We need to continue to mow over the leaves to break them up. The rain and foot traffic will push them down into the soil. They will not cause thatch. We need to feed the life in the soil. Also, do not apply any more chemicals to the lawn than you need to. If you do not have a grub problem, don't apply grub control just because it is time to do it. We need a few grubs in the soil.

If you want to build a compost pile enclosure, just wire 3 or 4 pallets together. Just be sure to leave one side so that you can open it up when it is time to get the good soil out.

Now is a good time to make a list of changes you want to do in the flower beds and the vegetable garden. If you need to mark some spots, you could use colored golf tees.

Helen J. Leake
Master Gardener Alumni

Towanda 4H

The Towanda 4-H Club will have a Zoom meeting Nov 3, 2020 at 6:30. Information will be given on our Mini Workshop on Photograph Nov 17, 2020 at the Towanda Community Building at 6:30 for members interested in this project. There will be a limit as to how many can attend. We will be studying Foods and Nutrition as our club project this year. Cloverbuds will be starting at a later date. For more information contact Scott Clement at 309 275-5910 or Jeanie Wager at 309 728-2852

Insect Nest



What do you think this object is up in the tree? If you're thinking it is a hornet's nest you are correct! (Not to be confused with the killer Asian Hornets) This nest is located along the trail south of the well road next to Money Creek. A colony of hornets typically last one year and each nest is built from scratch each year. The previous year's nest cannot be reused and it disintegrates quickly in the winds and rain occurring in late fall.

Kathy Dumler

Radiant Pawpaw Trees on IC Trail



Photo courtesy Kathy Dumler

Troop #56 – Annual P&S Breakfast Update

2021 Advance Meat Order Towanda Scouting Organization

NOTE: Due to Covid-19, THERE IS NO MEAL @ Towanda Elementary

~Pick Up Meat Orders @ Towanda Community Building~

Friday, February 12th, 3-7 p.m. Saturday, February 13th, 9-11 a.m.

PLEASE BRING YELLOW COPY WHEN PICKING UP YOUR ORDER!

To Order, Call Kevin Dieken (309) 838-1202

Country Store will have a limited supply of meat on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Place Your Order Today ~ The Deadline is January 31, 2021

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 pound		\$ 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	\$
TOTAL				\$

ORDER TAKEN BY: _____

PHONE: _____

Paid

Not Paid

EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____

Please share as much as possible!

We need to increase our Advance Orders for sausage from Bittner's Locker.

We will be unable to have our annual Breakfast, but the Scouts will be selling the sausage.
The prices are the SAME as last year.

Please help us support the scouting activities for the coming year!
Hopefully we will get to have "normal" events in the year to come!

Thanks in advance for helping us get the word out~

We have meat for sale, but no BREAKFAST!!!

THANKS,
Virginia Lowery
825-6341
vlowery1@hotmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: October 26, 2020

Contact: Michael Brown, (309) 454-3169 x.11



Protect our local water supplies with proper leaf management

For many Bloomington-Normal residents, leaf-raking efforts are already underway. While raking leaves isn't rocket science, some leaf-raking practices can be harmful. Raking leaves into the street clogs storm drains, causing street flooding; if they don't clog but rather wash down into the storm drains they become a storm water pollutant. The additional nutrients from the massive amounts of leaves decomposing in creeks, streams, or lakes removes oxygen from the water, suffocating plants and wildlife, and causing algae blooms that can result in bad odors and unpleasant tastes in drinking water.

The Ecology Action Center urges residents to help keep our local waters clean by using by using the following leaf management practices:

- **Let leaves lie!** Leaving your leaves where they fall is beneficial for your lawn; many residents choose to use a mower to break them into smaller pieces. Leaves are decomposed by earthworms and other microorganisms and turned into plant-usable organic matter. Leaves also make great mulch to protect flower beds from harsh winter weather.
- **Compost your leaves!** Leaves are a great source of nitrogen and an important dry component to a healthy compost pile. Start a compost pile and reduce your waste, keep waterways clean, and generate free fertilizer for your lawn and garden. Find helpful instructions to start your compost pile at CompostBN.org.
- **Don't break the cycle!** The above two options keep your organic material on-site, rejuvenating your soil with valuable nutrients just like the nutrient cycle occurring in nature. Removing your leaves each year can gradually deplete your soil, leaving your lawn, your trees, and your garden hungry for nutrients. As well, keep these materials on-site helps reduce demand for collection by Public Works crews, conserving financial resources for other municipal services.
- **Curb your leaves!** If you do choose to rake your leaves for curbside pick up, the municipalities require that you rake them to the curb, but **NOT into the street**.

Information on protecting our local watersheds is available at mCLEANwater.org, a clearinghouse of local resources about our water and efforts to protect it.

The Ecology Action Center is a not-for-profit environmental agency with a mission to inspire and assist residents of McLean County 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.

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Towanda Library

Thank you for your patience as we navigate changing our phone system. We understand how frustrating it is when our lines are down and we apologize for any inconvenience that this has caused. We have had a few setbacks recently; however, we hope to migrate to a new provider before the end of the year.

We have started our facility updates by having new lighting installed. This was completed in conjunction with Ameren and will save the library a considerable amount on materials and energy cost on an annual basis. The new light fixtures do not require bulbs or ballasts and will cut our energy expenditures by 40%.

We are featuring the 2021 Award Nominees in our November collection update. The awards featured are Monarch Award Nominees (Kindergarten - Grade 3); Bluestem Nominees (Grades 3 - 5); Caudill Nominees (Grades 4-8); Lincoln Nominees (Grades 9-12); Illinois Reads titles (6 age group; birth - adult). These are great titles for those of you that are homeschooling during this time or for class assignments. Please place your holds online or call the library and we will be happy to put these quality titles on hold for you.



In the summer of 2002, several past presidents of ISLMA discussed the need for a K-3 children's book award. The ISLMA Board established a work group to investigate creation of such an award. In April 2003, ISLMA approved the establishment and support of The Monarch Award: Illinois' K-3 Readers' Choice Award.

The name Monarch was chosen because of its familiarity to K-3 children and to symbolize the growth, change and freedom that becoming a reader brings. The Monarch is designed to encourage children to read critically and become familiar with children's books, authors and illustrators. The program is open to all K-3 age children in Illinois.



In the spring of 2008, the ISLMA board approved establishing a committee to explore the possibility of a new book award that would fit between the Monarch and Rebecca Caudill Awards. Interested library media specialists met in June, and an outline of the proposed new award was presented to the board in August. In September, a survey about the new award was conducted, and 92% of

respondents favored the creation of a new award. The ISLMA board approved the new award at their October meeting.

The award is designed for students in grades 3-5 who are ready for longer titles than found on the Monarch list, but not quite ready for the sophistication of some of the Rebecca Caudill titles. Named in honor of Big Bluestem which is the state prairie grass, the award may include both timeless classics and current titles, as well as books that have appeared on Monarch and Rebecca Caudill lists.



The Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award is an annual award given to the author of the book voted most outstanding by students in grades four through eight in participating Illinois schools.

The award is named in honor of Rebecca Caudill who lived and wrote in Urbana, Illinois, for nearly 50 years. The award is given in recognition for her literary talent and the universal appeal of her books which have touched the hearts of many children and young adults.

Any school in Illinois with students enrolled in any of the grades four through eight and agreeing to meet the requirements may participate in the program.



The Lincoln Award is given to the book from that year's master list that earns the highest number of student votes. For a book to reach the master list, adult and young adult fiction and nonfiction titles must be nominated by teachers or librarians and vetted by the nominations committee. While the popularity of a particular title is important, the overall quality of the work is of primary importance. Each year, a panel of high school librarians, teachers, public librarians and students determines the final master list of twenty titles. This program encourages teens to read for pleasure and to become lifelong readers. Named after former President Abraham Lincoln, an avid reader and noted author.

The November library news was due prior to the November Library Board Meeting. We will post any announcements about approved upgrades, enhancements and future plans for the library on our website and Facebook page.

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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.