



Indian Creek Newsletter

February, 2021

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 **Monday, February 8, AT 6:30 P.M.** We will not be serving refreshments, but you can bring your own beverage to drink. Our major programs will include "Have You Had Your Cup of Java Today?" given by Sandy Whalen and also "Understanding the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences" given by Pat Pulokas. Our minor lessons will be on Illinois Lighthouse Study: Four Mile Crib, Grosse Point, and Port Clinton Fort.

County HCE activities in February include Feb 8, 9a-12N, Farm Bureau Auditorium "Pot holder/Jar Opener Cultural Enrichment workshop, Joyce Schneider, 309-825-1628 for more information. On Feb 15, Read & Share-The Golden Boy by Tara Sullivan book will be discussed, meeting at the Farm Bureau, 2-3:30 p.m., LaVonne-309-825-6558. On Feb 23, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Farm Bureau Auditorium, a local leader lesson will be presented: "Milk: The Real Deal", 309-728-2852.

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

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H Club is still having zoom meetings for a couple more months. Out Feb 2, 21 meeting will be on Household Fire Safety presented by Frank and Lucas Radek. We will also be able to meet for our Mini-workshop Feb 16,21 at the Towanda Community Building. Further information will be sent to members about this workshop. For more information about joining 4-H contact Scott Clement at 275-5910 or Jeanie Wager at 728-2852. 4-H is open to boys and girls between 5 and 18 years of age.

Girl Scout Troop 1153 News

Hello Indian Creek neighborhood! My name is Violet Hoskins, residing at 8 Fox Creek Rd. I am choosing to not knock on your door this year to sell our yummy Girl Scout cookies, in an effort to keep us all safe and healthy. But I would still love your business! I will be hosting a drive-thru (or walk up) booth service at my house on Saturday, February 6 from 12-2pm. You could also preorder anytime by texting or calling my mom at 217-417-4649. Cookies are \$5 per box. And if you cannot make it to my booth on Feb 6, delivery by me will be available too. Get them while you can:)

FYI, Cash and check will be accepted and also credit cards through this link:

<https://app.abcsmartcookies.com/#/social-link-landing/05b99c3b-50e2-40dc-a2d9-f80a3644f2c2>

Have a great day!

Violet Hoskins

4th grader at Towanda Elementary

Junior in Troop 1153





Gardening Tips

If you have planted an ornamental tree or a fruit tree in the last couple of years, you might need to wrap the trunk. In January, sometimes when the sun is nice and warm and the tree starts to wake up from its winter nap, it will send some fluid up thru the trunk, thinking it is spring. When the sun goes down in the late afternoon, the temperature drops fast, and the fluid could freeze. If that happens, the bark could crack on the south side of the trunk. As the tree grows, the crack could also grow and leave an ugly, bad scar. You can get paper or plastic tree trunk wrap at most garden centers. Be sure to remove it in the summer so that insects can't make a home under it. It could also hold too much moisture around the trunk, causing a disease.

The recent snow and ice storm did make the landscape pretty, but it was sad to lose so many trees and branches. In the process of cleaning up the mess. If you left a stub when you cut a branch off, you should go back and make the cut back to the trunk or original branch. If you leave a stub, it can not heal and it will leave the door open for insects and disease. The proper cut will heal over.

The loss of trees and branches could open up an area in your yard that will no longer be all shade. The garden catalogs have been coming in the mail. They are fun to look thru at all the pretty pictures. They give you a lot more information. Along with the sun or shade, they include symbols telling if the plant can be planted in containers; if it is good for cut flowers, is it deer resistant, butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees like, etc. Some also have an N, which means it is native to our area. Those plants and trees and shrubs usually are easier to grow in our area.

It is time to get your seed starting area ready for planting. You want to have clean containers, starting soil, and good light. To clean your used containers, wash them in 1 part bleach and 9 parts water. The new containers should be OK. You can purchase seed starting soil.

For your table, you can buy special grow lights but, simple shop lights work just as well and are much cheaper. You can attach them with a chain so that you can raise and lower them as needed as the plants grow.

You can start seeds for pansies, begonias, and geraniums now. You will need to keep the soil moist at all times, so check them daily. If you brought in patients, coleus, or geraniums in last fall, now is the time to take slips from them to start new plants to use when planting time comes.

Sometimes we get busy and forget to water a plant. If the soil gets too dry, the plant roots can suffer. Also, sometimes when we water the plant, the water goes right out of the bottom of the container. For years, we could buy potting soil, which was a mixture of topsoil, peat moss, and vermiculite. If you can find that now, it is very expensive. Most of the potting mix now is mostly peat moss, coir, cocoa hulls, etc. Peat moss and coir, which is ground coconut shells, are slow to absorb water. If that dries out, the water will just run over it and out the bottom of the container. You will need to place the container in the sink with water, or pour a little water in the container, let it soak, then add some more water or put water in the saucer under the container and let it soak it up. If you pick up the container and it is lightweight, that means the plant needs a drink. This is also true for the hanging baskets and containers in the summer.

Helen J. Leake
Master Gardener Alumni

Bird Count

This past December 19 the local chapter of the National Audubon Society conducted a bird count while walking the trails of our common grounds. Below are their findings and it is encouraging to see that our natural habitat provides a welcoming environment for the many bird species.

Fred Walk
IC Grounds Chairman

13 Species observed, 31 Individuals

- 1 Great Blue Heron
- 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker
- 3 Downy Woodpecker (Eastern)
- 1 Hairy Woodpecker (Eastern)
- 2 Blue Jay
- 2 Black-capped Chickadee
- 6 Tufted Titmouse
- 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch
- 2 White-breasted Nuthatch (Eastern)
- 2 Brown Creeper
- 1 European Starling
- 1 House Sparrow
- 8 House Finch

Ice Storm Pics

Several pix from the ice storm. - Jim Ferrier





2021 Water Hydrant Flushing

The six water hydrants located in Indian Creek subdivision will be flushed on the dates listed below. Water hydrants are flushed in order to reduce the build-up of sediments in our water system. This is an important process 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. 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. weather permitting. Hydrants will not be flushed in freezing conditions or other inclement weather.

Monday, February 22	Monday, August 23
Monday, March 22	Wednesday, September 22
Monday, April 26	Saturday, October 23
Monday, May 24	No flushing in November
Monday, June 28	Wednesday, December 22
Monday, July 26	

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson

Towanda Library

— TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY —

Winter 2021 Updates



Let's Chat!

Towanda District Library's staff is ready to help you find your next great book, movie, magazine, and more! Simply call us at (309) 728-2176 and we can track down resources by topic/genre, author, and/or format. If the item isn't part of Towanda's collection, we can access over 190 libraries across Illinois for delivery via interlibrary loan.



24/7 Browsing & Placing Holds for Pick-Up

Browse Towanda's shelves from your smartphone or tablet by downloading the free "RSACat Mobile" app from your device's store. Next, sign into the app with your Towanda District Library card and PIN. Finally, place items on "hold" for curbside service. When prompted, choose Towanda District Library as your pickup location.



Here to Help

New to Towanda? Can't find your library card? Forgotten your PIN? Towanda District Library's staff is ready to assist you with all of these concerns! Although we are physically-distanced from our patrons, Towanda District Library's staff is here to help **you**.



In response to local and state recommendations, as well as community data provided by the Illinois Public Health Department, Towanda District Library will continue to provide phone and curbside service to its patrons. The building remains closed to the public and the number of staff present during hours of operations is currently reduced. The library's operational plan is regularly evaluated by the Board of Trustees in conjunction with the latest pandemic data, and the next meeting is February 16, 2021.

Towanda District Library
continues to offer
phone and curbside services!



Phone & Curbside Services

Winter Hours

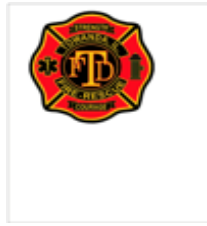
M: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
T: 1:00 – 5:00 pm
W: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
R: 1:00 – 5:00 pm
F: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
S: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Closed Sundays



(309) 728-2176 • www.towandalibrary.org • Explore. Share. Read. Discover.

Towanda Fire Dept.



Safe Winter Driving Tips from the Towanda Fire Department



Tips for Driving in the Snow

1. Stay home. Only go out if necessary. ...
2. **Drive** slowly. ...
3. Accelerate and decelerate slowly. ...
4. Increase your following distance to five to six seconds. ...
5. Know your brakes. ...
6. Don't stop if you can avoid it. ...
7. Don't power up hills. ...
8. Don't stop going up a hill.

If you have any questions regarding the Towanda Fire Department or would like some information in becoming a firefighter, please contact Chief Lueschen at 309.728.2353 or email: towandachief@gmail.com

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

Pinterest Recipes - 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.