



Indian Creek Newsletter

March 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, March 8, AT 6:30 P.M.** at the Towanda Community Building. We will not be serving refreshments, but you can bring your own beverage to drink. Our major program will be "Milk: The Real Deal" given by Bev Hornickel. Our minor lessons will be on "Illinois Lighthouse Study: Taylorsport, Glencoe, IL."

For more information about Towanda HCE, contact Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797. Come join us for fun and educational programs. Guests are always welcome to Towanda HCE meetings and activities.

County HCE activities in March include Mar 15, Community Service Day, Farm Bureau at 2242 Westgate Dr, Bloomington, Eileen, 309-533-1135; March 22, 12:30 p.m., Busy Corners Restaurant, Goodfield - meet for a lunch out and friendship, Candace, 309-824-2346 for more info. HCE members, guests and friends are welcome but call for more information and/or RSVP to make sure there are accommodations available.

ICHWA Meeting

We want to let you know that the Annual Meeting for the Indian Creek Homeowners and Water Association (ICHWA), which was scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2021, has been postponed due to considerations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to have the meeting sometime during the summer months. Please watch for an announcement closer to that time. Thank you.

Barb Leathers, President, for the ICHWA Board

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H Club will have a meeting on March 2, 21 at 6:30 p.m. We will have a Master Gardener present a program. Talks and demonstrations will be given by members. April 15, 21 is the deadline to sign up for 4-h or to add any projects. For more information contact Scott Clement 309 275-5910 or Jeanie Wager 309 728-2852.



Gardening Tips

We have already turned over one page of the calendar and the daylight hours are getting longer, spring is on the way.

The house plants will soon be waking up from their winter nap, time to spruce them up. Remove all of the dead leaves and flowers. Use a moist cloth or paper towel and hold one hand under the leaf while you gently wipe the dust off of the top. Also, watch for any sign of insect damage by mealybug, scale, or spider mites. Insecticidal soap can safely be used to control them. You will need to spray the plant every 7 or 8 days in order to kill the insects that have hatched since the last spray and before those insects are mature enough to lay more eggs. Repeat or 3 or 4 times. If a plant is large, it might like a shower in the bathroom using room temperature water.

If you notice any new growth on any of the houseplants, you can give it fertilizer or you can start giving all of your house plants fertilizer around Valentines' Day. You can use full strength once a month or 1/4 strength once a week. As always, follow the directions on the container.

Now is a good time to get the lawnmower ready for spring, change the oil, sharpen the blade and install a clean air filter. While you are at it, you can also clean and sharpen your clippers and shovels. A clean and sharp tool works much easier than a dull, mud-covered one. Place your clippers in a bucket of warm soapy water to soak for a few minutes, then use a net onion or potato sack to remove the mud. Do the same with the hoe and shovels. Dry them well and wipe them off with an oily cloth to prevent rust. Don't forget the weed-eater.

Check the bulbs, tubers, etc., if they are showing any new growth, you can plant them in a container and treat them like a house plant. Once the danger of frost has passed, you can plant them outside. If you haven't emptied the last summer hanging basket, that makes a good container. Remove the old plants and put them in the compost pile. Stir up the soil and plant your bulb or tuber. Fertilize and water them. Enjoy.

February is the ideal time to prune the grapes. If you can prune them early in the month, you can prevent "sap bleed". However, it won't hurt anything if you do get sap bleed. They bear on new wood, so choose the main stem, and cut the branches leading off of it to about 6 inches. New shoots will grow from them and that will also keep the size of the plant under control.

Bramble fruit, such as raspberries, etc. can also be pruned back now. For raspberries, remove the branches that bore fruit last year. That one would have turned brown.

Now is the time to rejuvenate your shrubs, such as spirea, honeysuckle, and privet by cutting the stems down to 4-6 inches from the ground. They might not bloom as full this year, but you can get the size back in to control and it should bloom next year. When pruning back your hedge, leave the bottom wider than the top. That way the bottom and sides can get sun and have leaves making it more attractive.

For years, the farmers cleaned the manure out of the barn in the spring and spread it out onto the fields. The well-rotted manure helped build healthy soil and beneficial microorganisms for healthy roots, nutrients, and it improved the soil structure. Sometimes you can get manure from local farms cheap. You can also purchase bags of manure from the garden centers for your garden.

Manure is animal feces, urine, and bedding. As it breaks down, it produces nitrogen, carbon, phosphorus, and potassium. These are broken down so the roots can easily absorb them.

Poultry manure is dry and high in salt. It should be used with plenty of bedding because it often burns the plants. Rabbit manure should also contain a lot of bedding because it is very high in nutrients.

Never use manure from sick animals. Waste from cats, dogs, or pigs should never be used. They could contain disease organisms that could make you sick.

You should let the manure decay for about 4-6 months before using it. Too much manure may burn the plants. A good rule of thumb is no more the 20-100 pounds per 100 square feet, depending on if it is poultry, rabbit, cow, horse, or sheep.

It is best to apply manure in the fall, however, if it is well-decayed, you can apply in early spring. It should be applied every year for the best results.

Helen J. Leake
Master Gardener Alumni

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, 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



Tap, tap, tap! Splat, splat, splat! Swish, swish, swish!

While the library has long since been a quiet place, these are just a few sounds that now echo throughout the building. Like businesses across the nation, Towanda District Library is leveraging our facility's temporary closure to complete significant and extensive renovations.



NAILED IT!

maximizing time; maintaining services

Library staff and contracted professionals are being scheduled in shifts to ensure safety, as well as to guarantee all library materials remain available to the community. Books and other items are being carefully inventoried and moved to accommodate the renovations and repairs happening in each area of the library. Renovations make approximately 50% of the building accessible, which constricts library staff to occupying the remaining 50%. Towanda District Library is committed to continuing phone and curbside services in the midst of these projects. **We appreciate your patience and support!**




LEVELING

with our community

When will the library reopen for browsing?

While the sounds of workmanship throughout the library are exciting, it doesn't replace how much we miss interacting with members of our community. We are looking forward to the day when the library's doors can be reopened for our friends and family, as well as the new residents of Towanda and surrounding areas we have merely "met" by phone. The Board of Trustees and Library Director, Mr. Jason Shirley, continue to monitor local/state COVID-19 data, as well as renovation schedules and projects. The installation of new carpeting throughout the library, which involves moving over 30,000 items, is estimated to continue through winter and into spring. **Towanda District Library is dedicated to minimizing disruptions in phone and curbside services during the renovation process.** We will continue to communicate updates as they become available!



MEASURING UP:

contact-free services

With the RSAcat App


- ✓ Download the free app from your device's store.
- ✓ Browse/place holds anytime, from anywhere.
- ✓ Use your library card/PIN to log in; please call the library if you need assistance!

By Phone

- ✓ Call the library at (309) 728-2176, and we can help you locate items by title and/or topic! Please allow a minimum of 15 minutes prior to pick-up.
- ✓ Some requests might require additional time to access during renovations.

At Curbside

- ✓ Note the parking spot number when you arrive; call the library.
- ✓ A staff member will soon deliver your items to your designated hook; please "wait for the wave" to pick-up your bag. Thank you!



Winter Hours:

Phone and Curbside Services

WORK IT

Mondays
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Tuesdays
1:00 – 5:00 pm

Wednesdays
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thursdays
1:00 – 5:00 pm

Fridays
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Saturdays
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Closed Sundays

Towanda District Library | 301 S. Taylor St. Towanda, IL 61776 | (309) 728-2176 | www.towandalibrary.org

Towanda Historical Brick Walkway

- Take the opportunity **now** to become part of Towanda's visual History and order a brick(s) for the Towanda Village Walkway (*located along the old Route 66 Roadway*).
- Purchase a brick(s) for yourself, a family member, friend, someone you would like to honor, or make a donation to help purchase a brick as a memorial to someone.
- **Don't be left out!** – The initial order will be placed around **March 1, 2021**. Future orders won't be placed until a dozen more orders are received.
- Work on the walk is expected to begin as soon as the frost is gone.

Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Information on the 4" x 8" Brick: Choose **ONE, TWO** or **THREE** lines of text.

Maximum of 16 letters / punctuations / spaces – on each line (*only **one** character or space*)

Amount Enclosed: #_____ of Bricks @ \$50.00 each brick: \$_____

Donation for Memorial Bricks \$_____

TOTAL Amount Enclosed \$_____

Send Order Forms and Checks payable to Troop 56 to:

- Virginia Lowery, Treasurer, 101 Miriam Way, Towanda IL 61776
VLowery1@hotmail.com (309) 825-6341

Sponsored by Towanda BSA Troop 56

Thank you!!

Towanda's Historical Brick Walkway – To recognize the strong scouting organization in Towanda, about eight years ago a Burr Oak and a boulder engraved with the BSA emblem and “In Memory of Towanda Scouters” was ‘planted’ along the Rte 66 roadway near Boyd Wesley Park. Plans for a brick walkway are underway at the same location to recognize both Scouters and Towanda area residents (past, present and future). It will extend in both directions from the center that features the boulder and tree. The work will begin this spring and as a dozen more bricks are sold the walkway will expand. To be included in the initial portion of the walkway. the order form and payment should be sent to Virginia Lowery, Troop 56 Treasurer, 101 Miriam, Towanda, 61776 before **March 1, 2021**.

Kindergarten Registration 2021 - Kindergarten registration for the 2021-2022 school year will be held virtually in early March. If you have a kindergarten age student (must be 5 years of age on or before September 1st, 2021). Please call the Towanda office at 557-4426 for information on the registration process; or check the Unit 5 website www.unit5.org

Towanda Area's ANNUAL SPRING Garage Sales – Are planned for Thursday-Saturday, April 29, 30 and May 1. Watch for details in the April newsletter (next month)

Nope you are staying warm and safe!!
Gail



Smoke Alarms at Home



Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month.
Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound.

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

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



Jerrod Ingram
Real Estate Agent - eXp Realty

- Thinking about selling your house?
- Considering buying a house?
- Contact me today!
 - Cell - (309) 360-9020
 - Email - jerrod.ingram@exprealty.com
 - Website - jerrodingram.exprealty.com

exp
REALTY

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.