

A close-up photograph of several light blue, bell-shaped flowers hanging from a vine, with green leaves in the background.

# INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

May 2021

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

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

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## Water Tower Rehabilitation Project Update

The Illinois EPA has granted approval of Indian Creek's water tower rehabilitation plan. This is a very important step in the application process for a loan from the Illinois EPA which is needed to be able to complete the necessary water tower rehabilitation work. The project plan submission was a very complex filing which took several months to complete by our engineering firm (the Farnsworth Group) and Indian Creek Board members. The loan application will now proceed to the state funding process. We are optimistic we will receive funding approval late this summer. Plans are to request bids for the rehabilitation work in October, approve a contractor early in 2022 and have the work completed in late spring or summer of 2022.

The March 2020 Annual Homeowners Association meeting minutes available on the Indian Creek website provide information regarding the needed rehabilitation work. Financing was not available through banks or other business lenders so a loan is being sought through the Illinois EPA. Loan terms available through the Illinois EPA are very favorable compared to bank loans.

### Water Hydrant Flushing Schedule – 2021

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, May 24 Saturday, October 23  
Monday, June 28 No flushing in November  
Monday, July 26 Wednesday, December 22

Monday, August 23  
Wednesday, September 22

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson



## Fourth of July!



COVID prevented this event from taking place last year but, we hope you will celebrate with us this year!

Will you be able to join us on July 4, 2021  
at 10:00 a.m. for our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade?

Check-in is at Towanda Elementary at 9:00 a.m. We hope you will join us to carry a flag in honor of the birth of our country.

Maybe you know a friend, family member, or veteran who would be interested in walking. We are encouraging our walkers to invite someone new this year, to walk with a flag, too.

We will be following Governor Pritzkers COVID guidelines and will keep you posted on that, closer to the event.

If you are able to join us, reply to Amy only, **with your name, cell phone, and email, to Amy Witzig ([amy.witzig@gmail.com](mailto:amy.witzig@gmail.com))**, confirming your availability. We will provide the flags. Once you have replied, we will email you, closer to the date, with line up details.

Unable to walk the route, no problem. We have a Trolley pulled by a truck. You can sit and ride the route. There are a limited number of seats so if you need to ride, respond soon.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and dedication. Let's celebrate America!

Amy Witzig and Virginia Lowery, parade organizers

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## Towanda HCE

The Towanda Unit of the McLean County Home & Community Education group will meet on **Monday, May 10, AT 6:30 P.M.** at the Towanda Community Building. Bring your own beverage to drink. Our major program will be "Modern Trends and Textiles in Clothing" given by Candace Thedens. Our minor lessons will be on "Illinois Lighthouse Study: William E Dever Crib," Chicago. In 2021 our International Country of Study is Canada. We'll receive lots of information at our monthly meetings in the coming year.

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 May include May 10, 9a-2p, Community Service Day, Farm Bureau at 2242 Westgate Dr, Bloomington, Eileen, 309-533-1135; May 13, 10a-5p, Spring Day Trip to Decatur, IL to eat lunch at the Beach House Restaurant (Dutch Treat), tour the Staley Museum and sightsee at the beach front property-Info/RSVP/Fees by May 6 to Jane, 309-808-0740; May 17, 9-10 am, Succulent Flower Pot Party, Farm Bureau, Bloomington, Rosemary, 309-473-2876 for more information on RSVP, Fees, Details by May 7. HCE members, guests and friends are welcome but you must be registered as class size is limited.

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# Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



The forsythia is in bloom now so, you need to apply pre-emergence crabgrass control now if needed. Do not reseed your lawn at the same time because the pre-emergence will prevent the lawn seed from germinating.

The turfgrass is growing and places need to be mowed. Don't remove more than 1/3 of the blade at once. You can raise the blade to mow and then lower the blade and mow again in a couple of days. The grass blade will have more space to absorb nutrients from the sun and it can shade the soil to keep it cool and hold the moisture.

Watch for spider mites on your spruce. You can shake the needles over white paper to see if you have any.

You can remove the winter mulch from your roses. Also, prune them back to shape and remove the winter damage.

Do not apply mulch around your plants now. It will keep the soil cool. Wait until late May after the soil has warmed up more.

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It is time to prune your clematis. if it blooms in April to May, it probably won't need much pruning. It blooms on "old wood", Just remove the dead part. The early double and semi-double mid-season cultivars that bloom in May and repeat blooms in the fall will bloom on "old and new wood". They should be pruned lightly when the buds swell. Just remove the dead and weak stems.

The late large-flower cultivars need hard pruning in the spring.

Your ground cover could be looking like it needs some attention. It can be mowed to remove the winter burned foliage. Raise the mower blade to the highest setting and mow over the ground cover. Then fertilize and water it to encourage new growth. Don't forget to lower the blade to 3-3/15 inches when you mow the lawn.

When the Easter lilies finish blooming, and the last frost date has passed, you can plant them outdoors. You can pinch off the pollen stem now. The flower might last longer and you can prevent some pollen stain on your table covering.

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Now is a good time to take a good look at your house plants. Are the roots growing out of the bottom of the container? Check for root problems, twisted roots at the bottom, and dark areas that could be root rot and insects. If so, it is time to replant. When you replant it, first remove the plant and about 1/2 of the soil and mix new soil with it. If you are trying to control the size of the plant, you can remove about an inch of the bottom soil and roots of the plant, and replace the plant. If you want to replant it in a larger container, just go up one size.

When you place the plant and soil back into the container, leave the soil down about an inch from the top. That will leave space for when you water it. You can also prune it back into shape if needed.

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# The Mighty Oak

by Greg Beneze

Did you know that the oak tree supports more lifeforms than any other North American tree genus. Oaks provide food and protection, or both, for birds to bears, as well as countless insects and spiders. How do we know this? Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy, Professor of Entomology, did research tallying the number of caterpillar species dependent of each type of tree. And yes, caterpillars prefer a specific tree's leaves when dining. Oaks support 897 caterpillar species. The second favored tree species, maples, supports 235 caterpillar species. Caterpillars are an important source of fuel in the food web. The oak's acorns are also an important food source for many animals and a mature oak tree can produce 3 million acorns in its lifetime. Oaks clearly play a huge role in our ecosystem.

The oak (genus *Quercus*), has 90 species in North America and over 600 worldwide. Oaks are some of the largest and longest living trees on the planet. A large mature oak tree can drop 700,000 leaves during its life. Some oaks will retain their leaves through the winter, a phenomenon called marcescence, which can help you identify them in the winter months. This tends to be more common in younger oaks. It is thought that the dead leaves help protect the small tree's branches from dining animals (like deer) because the dead leaves taste bad and make noise while the animal is eating, possibly alerting that animal's prey to its presence. The dead leaves also help catch snow for moisture and create a nutrient rich mulch when they fall in the spring.

Dr. Tallamy recommends you plant at least one oak tree in your yard because "a yard without oaks is a yard meeting only a fraction of its life support potential." He recommends that you plant young oak seedlings as they will adapt better than planting a larger transplanted oak tree. Oaks do well in poor soil and do not require fertilization or lots of watering. They are very slow growing, so when you plant an oak, you are planting a tree for future generations to enjoy.

Some of the oldest and largest trees in Indian Creek are oak trees. There are several oak groves in our neighborhood. Fred Walk and I estimated there are 150 – 200 oaks in Indian Creek, which is an average of about 1 per acre. The largest oak in Indian Creek has a diameter of 4 feet and is 125 to 150 years old. Can you find this oak tree on your next walk in the neighborhood or on our trails?



Photo at left:

Example of two oak trees that are approximately 35 years old. They were planted as 1 year seedlings. The black cherry tree in between the two oaks was also a 1 year seedling planted at the same time. On average, the diameter of a red oak increases 6.3 inches every 16 years.

(Much of this information comes from a New York Times article in Dr Tallamy's *The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees*.)



# Towanda District Library



We begin this month's newsletter with gratitude for **Robin Pearson**, a dedicated Towanda District Library employee and Board of Trustees member of over 13 years. Robin's adventure at T.D.L. began in February 2008, and she was instrumental in creating a variety of programs and special collections. Robin initiated "Read to Dogs," a program that invites children to practice reading aloud to friendly, furry audiences and their certified handlers. Robin also curated a unique collection of cake pans for circulation—a collection that is still available to patrons today! When asked about her most memorable moments as a library employee, Robin shared fond memories of hosting a cookie decorating class for children, as well as connecting with patrons on a regular basis.

Following her retirement in December 2016, Robin began regularly attending Board meetings, and she was elected to the Board of Trustees in April 2017. Robin's perspective—as a representative of the community, as well as a former staff member—has guided her leadership, and she has consistently drawn upon varying viewpoints when evaluating the library's goals and challenges. In recognition of Robin's service, a brick has been purchased in her name to be added to the Towanda Village Walkway. We have been inspired by Robin's commitment to the library, and we are thankful for her invaluable contributions!



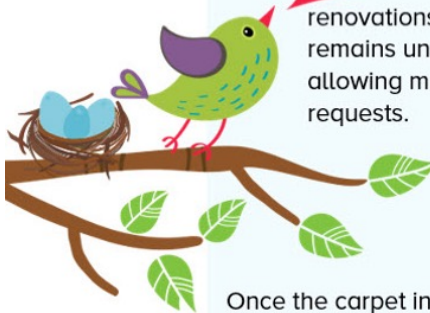
**This project is egg-normous!**

Towanda District Library is in the midst of significant, interior renovations, yet our commitment to providing timely phone and curbside services remains unchanged! The facility has been temporarily organized into "three zones," allowing materials to be inventoried and stored—but also accessible to fulfill patrons' requests.

## *Project Progress to Date:*

- Over 20,000 items have been moved, including 30 shelving units!
- Approximately 75% of the interior has been repainted.
- Two of the three zones have been carpeted, with the final installation of tiles and trim scheduled for May 5 – 7, 2021.

Once the carpet installation is complete, all of the shelves and materials will be moved and reorganized in their permanent locations, while electrical and decorative upgrades continue.





We're here  
to tweet  
talk with you!



- 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 curbside pick-up.
- *Please Note:* Some requests might require additional time to fulfill during renovations, as access to specific items is limited.
- Ready to try browsing the library's shelves from your computer or smart phone? A friendly staff member can help you navigate the online catalog, either through the website or free RSACat app, usually in 5 minutes or less!

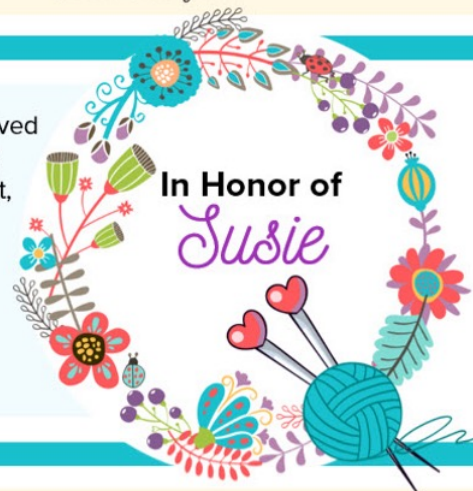
**Mondays, Wednesdays,  
Fridays, & Saturdays**  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



*Closed Sundays*

**Tuesdays &  
Thursdays**  
1:00 – 5:00 pm

Dora Susan Shoemaker, affectionately known as "Susie," was a beloved patron and library volunteer. Her passing last month was felt throughout the community and library staff. With equal patience and encouragement, Susie facilitated a weekly crochet/knitting group at the library. Susie's name will be added to T.D.L.'s commemorative plaque, which honors individuals/groups that have made impactful contributions. Donations made to Towanda District Library in Susie's honor are being used to purchase new crochet and knitting resources. While she will be greatly missed, we are thankful for the "stitches of joy" Susie left on our hearts!



Going out on a  
limb to announce...



## Tentative Reopening Plans & Summer Reading Programming

We are looking forward to expanding phone/curbside services to include "grab and go" library access in the near future. The Board of Trustees will evaluate local COVID data, the status of renovations, and recommendations related to the facility's square footage at the May 18, 2021 meeting.

### *Anticipated "Grab & Go" Guidelines:*

- Staff and patrons will be required to wear masks at all times while in the building, regardless of vaccination status.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available prior to browsing the collection.
- Visits should be brief (under 30 minutes); children/teens must be accompanied and supervised at all times.

The earliest, anticipated date for expanded services is **Monday, June 7**. This date will also correspond to the beginning of Towanda District Library's Summer Reading Program.

- Priority registration will be given to Towanda's patrons and Towanda Elementary School students.
- As part of the registration process, families will choose a 30-minute time slot to visit the library each week. Registration details will be published in the May newsletter.
- Weather permitting, reading log check-ins will take place outside. Take-home activities and fun "library challenges" during weekly visits will replace large group programs.





## 2021 ~ Towanda Area SPRING GARAGE SALES

*Days & Hours Vary by Sale & are Listed*

**Thursday, April 29 through Saturday, May 1, 2021**

***Please observe those sales specifically requiring masks***

### INDIAN CREEK SUBD. (2)

**1) – 18 Bent Tree Lane** Thursday 8-1  
Friday 8-1  
Saturday 8-1

#### MULTI-FAMILY

Clothes: Boys and girls ages 8-14, women & men; home decorating items, sporting equipment, bedding, linens; antiques – furniture and other items, books, household items, plants: Hosta & ferns; LOTS of miscellaneous

**2) – 11 Bent Tree Lane** Thursday 8-5  
Friday 8-5  
Saturday 8-1

Home-made baked goods available by the box full: cookies, breads, pastries. **Tons** of women's clothing, many with tags: dresses & professional wear, all sizes: small to medium (4-8); shoes size 8.5/9 women; giant set of Queen Anne's Lace Ming china, power tools, kid's toys; household cleaning supplies; adult bikes - one Trek racing bike; Christmas décor, fishing poles, picture frames, window décor, household organizing, pet supplies, lamp, books, electrician items: romex wire, pex pure flow connectors, plumbing supplies, boxes of nails, tablecloths, office supplies

### VILLAGE (1)

**3) - 201 W Washington Street –**  
**MASKS** Thursday 9 – 4  
**No sale if raining** Friday 9 – 4  
Saturday 8 – 12

New Die cast metal cars, glassware, housewares, dishes, lamps, books, jewelry, purses, shoes, holiday items, LOTS of clothing; toys, Old Star Wars toy; Electric typewriter; LOTS of misc. and MUCH MORE

### LAMPLIGHTER SUBD. (4)

**4) - 122 Eugene Street** Thursday 1-6  
Friday 8-6  
Saturday 8-12

LOTS of wood craft items: hand-made multi-hardwood cutting boards, pizza peels, charcuterie boards, trays; collectible toy tractors; antiques: meat cleaver, washboard, kerosene lantern; cabbage cutter, pastry cutter & pasta cutter; tools: old block planes, wooden extension ladder, step ladder, old wrenches; digital photo frame; misc. home interior décor: 11 new 5-candle wrought iron holders, 14" & 11" bronze candle-holder stands, candle warmers, bronze kettle & bucket, 18 3 1/2" tin metal buckets, 13 3 1/2" & 5 1/2" crocks; ladies coats & clothing.

**5) – 107 Eugene Street** Friday 2-6  
Saturday 8 -1

Baby items, 0 - 2T, Legos, crib, nice bookshelf, Squishmallows, toys, NWT items; accepts Paypal

**6) – 503 Delane Avenue** Thursday 8-5  
Friday 8-5  
Saturday 8-2

Queen size headboard, two adult-size wooden rocking chairs, men's bike, Pack N Play, kids books and games, baby portable hook-on chair, 2 hockey sticks and baked goods.

**7) – 107 Miriam Way** Thursday 10-2  
Friday 10-2  
Motorcycle helmet, chaps, jacket

### 8) – 809 Towanda Barnes Road

Thursday 8-5  
Friday 8-5  
Saturday 8-2

**ESTATE SALE:** couch, dining table & chairs, kitchen table & chairs, pool table, storage cabinets, book shelves, Emmett Kelly figurines, Hallmark ornaments, Christmas items, household items, LOTS of miscellany

### RURAL (1)

### 9) – 17443 N 2100 East Road

Thursday 8 – 3  
Friday 8 – 3  
Saturday 8 – 3

#### MULTIPLE Families Sale

Kitchenware, Tupperware, holiday, vintage collectables, lots of Knick knacks, (most item under \$1.00)

#### Directions

#### from Lamplighter:

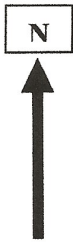
- Turn left (S) on Towanda Barnes Rd
- Take your first left (E) 1800
- Go to 2075 N, turn right (S) follow the curve
- Take first right (S)
- Sale is 3<sup>rd</sup> house on left (E).

#### from Towanda School:

- Go left (E) on E 1900 North Road
- Turn right at 1<sup>st</sup> road (S), then
- Turn left at 1<sup>st</sup> road (E), then
- Turn right at 1<sup>st</sup> road (S), and go around the curve heading (E) again,
- Turn right at 1<sup>st</sup> road (S),
- Sale is at 3<sup>rd</sup> house on the left (E)

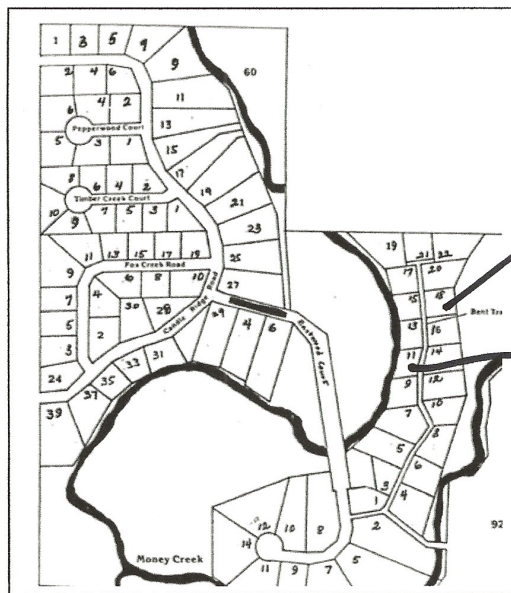
#### from Towanda-Barnes Rd/ Ft Jesse Rd:

- Go (E) on Ft Jesse to 2100 East Rd
- Turn left (N) at 2100 East Road
- Go (N) to 17443 N 2100 East Road
- Sale is on the right (E)

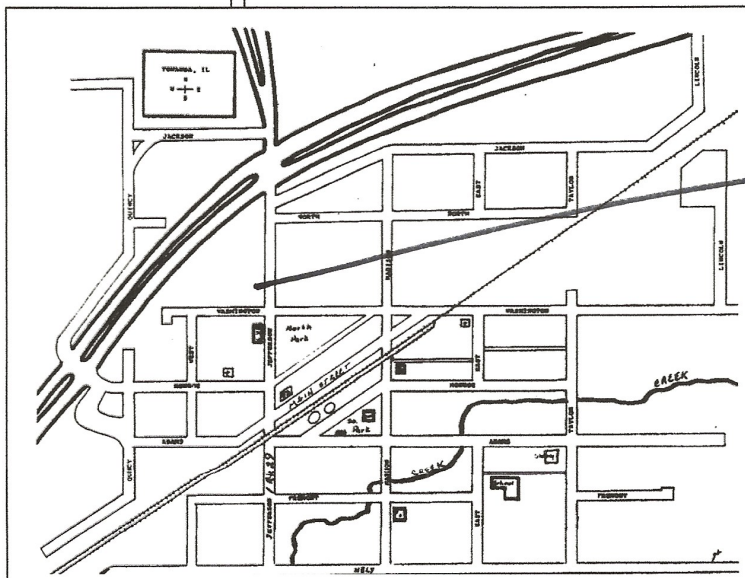


## 2021 SPRING GARAGE SALES

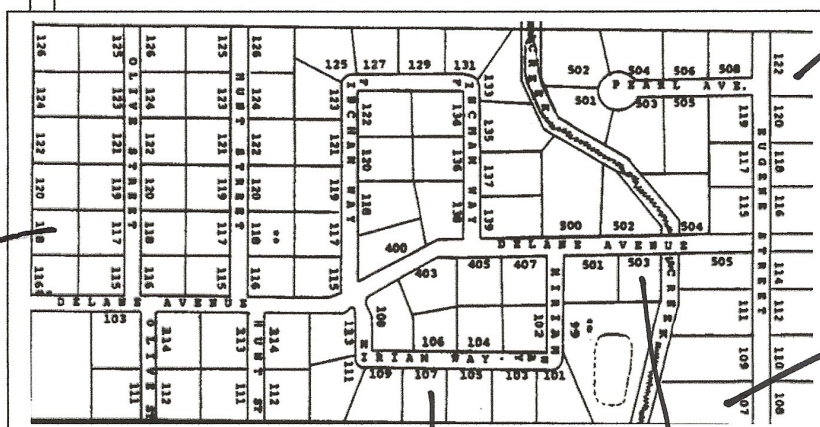
INDIAN CREEK  
2 miles North  
on County 29



## TOWANDA



LAMPLIGHTER  
1/2 mile South  
on County 29 -  
Towanda-Barnes Rd



RURAL  
East &  
south-east  
of school



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## Indian Creek Tractor

The Indian Creek Water and Homeowners Association (ICWHA) has a light duty tractor that is primarily used for mowing trails and doing work around our common ground areas. It is important to understand that this is an older tractor and designed for light duty work. While the end loader capacity is large for a tractor of this size it is not able to handle 2000 pounds of material. It is meant for small landscaping jobs such as carrying mulch, cut up branches, small amount of rocks, etc. It takes considerable time, effort, and cost to maintain our tractor. Also, it is important to note that most repairs are conducted by the generosity of a few Indian Creek homeowners saving us a sizeable amount of dollars in expenses. If you need to use the tractor, please be very careful and treat it "kindly." If you encounter a problem while using the tractor please notify me immediately.

Homeowners operating the tractor for personal use are expected to reimburse the ICHWA annual fund \$5 per half hour usage. Please contact Fred Walk and pay him directly for the fuel. This payment will then be used to purchase additional diesel fuel.

Please contact me with any questions about using the tractor.

Sincerely,

Fred Walk  
Grounds Chair fwalk@frontiernet.net  
309-830-2188

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## Brush Pile and Yard Waste Disposal

Please do not dispose of yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and bush clippings to the BRUSH pile. These items do not burn well 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. Grass clippings and leaves can be disposed by spreading them out in the wooded common ground areas away from the trails and roads. Please contact me about locations to spread grass clippings and leaves. Do not dump grass clippings or leaves on the trails or the well road.

Please contact me with any questions.

Fred Walk IC Grounds Chair  
fwalk@frontiernet.net  
309-830-2188

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## Local Photos

An Indian Creek neighbor, Jim Kellenberger had an opportunity to photograph a Barred Owl in his backyard. Jim Ferrier shared a great shot of our sign and farm equipment in the background. By Kathy Dumler is the sunset.



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## Classified

### For Hire:

Bailee Harmon is currently a freshman at NCHS. She is available to pet sit, babysit, and to do other house hold chores. Bailee can be reached at (309) 530-8279 or her mom (Hallie Harmon) can be reached at (309) 530-5360.

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.



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## 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](mailto:annettehancock1953@gmail.com)  
Website - [www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock](http://www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock)  
Pinterest - [www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935](http://www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935)



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### Jerrod Ingram

Real Estate Agent - eXp Realty

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- Considering buying a house?
- Contact me today!
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