



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

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

## **Towanda HCE**

The Towanda HCE will be meeting on Monday Feb 14, 2022, 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. Barb Wager is giving the major program on "Medical Identity Theft". The minor lesson is on the Canadian Province of Saskatchewan. This meeting is open to the public.

For more information about Towanda HCE: 309-824-4797

The county HCE programs are also open to the public (some with fees) and are as follows:

Cultural Enrichment Class "Mod Podge Plate" - Monday, February 14, 9a – 12p at the Farm Bureau, 309-275-7742;

Community Service Day at Farm Bureau – Monday, February 21, 9a – 2p, 309-533-1135;

Read & Share the Book, The Exiles by Christina Blake, at Extension Office, Monday, February 21, 2p – 3:30p, 309-825-6558;

Local Leader Lesson, "Stain Solutions" Webinar with Camaya Wallace Bechard, Consumer & Family Economics Educator, at the Farm Bureau on Tuesday, February 22, 12:30 – 2:20p, 309-824-2784.

## **Towanda 4-H**

The next Towanda 4-H Club meeting will be on February 1st at 6:30 P.M. at the Towanda Community Building. The speaker will be a veterinarian. He will be talking about his responsibilities as a veterinarian and the career opportunities. We will also be working on a community service project for the Wishbone Animal Shelter. 4-H is open to boys and girls ages 8-18. For more information contact Scott Clement at 309-275-5910 or Jeanie Wager at 309-728-2852.



## Gardening Tips

It is time for you to start setting up your area for seed starting. Simple shop lights with fluorescent bulbs hung with chains work O. K. You can also start pansies, begonias, and geraniums now.

Now is a good time to take a good look at your house plants. If the tips of the leaves are turning brown the soil probably is not moist enough. If there is sticky stuff around the plants and table, you probably have insects. If you do have mealybugs, etc. Spray using insecticide soap. That would kill most insects. However, You do need to continue treating the insects. One week later you need to spray again to kill the insects that hatched after the first spray, a week later, spray again to be sure they all got killed.

It would not hurt to plug in your battery-powered garden tools. If you recharge once a month until time to use them. You won't lose the charge completely.

It is not too early to check your leftover seed for germination. Place ten seeds between two sheets of moist paper towels. If it is too soggy the seeds could rot. Roll up the towels and place them in a plastic bag. Place it on the counter. Check almost daily to see how many have germinated. If less than five have germinated, they should be discarded. It won't be long until the seed racks are in the stores. If you find the variety that you want, get it now. Before they are gone.

You might want to check your bulbs, etc that you dug last fall to see if any are showing new signs of growth. If they are you could place it in a pot of soil and place them in a bright place. Treat as a house plant. After the last frost has passed, you can place it in the ground.

The Holidays have moved on and now we can think about gardening. For outdoors it is best to buy potassium-or-calcium-based-de-icing products to use on sidewalks rather than sodium-based ones. It is not as hard on the plants as the sodium-based ones.

It is not too early to order your seeds and seed-starting supplies. Because of the drought last year, the Christmas trees were in short supply, therefore there could be a short supply of seeds.

The seed catalogs have arrived and it is always fun to look at all of the pretty flowers. Some of them also give us a lot more information, such- as if the deer, bees, hummingbirds like them. For the trees and shrubs, it is good to know the mature size of the plant. You don't want to have to cut it back because it is too close to a building

Keep your rosemary in a cool bright spot. Keep the soil moist, but not soggy. You can enjoy it with stews and with vegetables. It is also good in sugar cookies.

It is time to take a stroll thru your yard and garden. Grab a pencil and paper. Are there any broken branches in the trees and shrubs? If so, you can remove them now. Does that leave a spot that was the shade that is now sun? Maybe some bare spots in the lawn. Maybe a low spot in the yard that needs to be filled in. Enjoy the fresh air and exercise. Don't forget the mower. Does it need a check-up and the blade sharpened?

Now you have some planning to do.

Groundhog Day is past and hopefully, Spring is only 6 weeks away. It is good to see the daylight hours getting longer each day. You might have noticed some of the houseplants are beginning to show new growth. They are awake and hungry. You can start fertilizing them again. We usually start around Valentines' Day anyway. You can feed fertilizer full strength once a month or 1/4 strength weekly.

You can start your tuberous begonias in a container now and then plant them into the ground when the danger of frost is past. If any of your other bulbs or tubers are showing new growth, start them now also.

If your spirea, honeysuckle, burning bush, and pivot have gotten too large, they can be cut back to 4-6 inches from the ground. They will bloom on new wood. If they are diseased, be sure to sterilize the tools after every cut.

Inspect the trees with past history of tent caterpillars. Look for dark brown or gray egg masses that encircle the twig. Destroy by pruning or scratching off with fingernails. Destroy, do not throw them onto the ground for them to hatch later.

When pruning, avoid, if possible, pruning "bleeders" such as elm, maples, and birches.  
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Helen J. Leake

## IC Bird Count

This past December 18, 2021 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. From the entire count area they counted 71 species.

Fred Walk  
IC Grounds Chairman

**Cooper's Hawk—1 House Finch—15 Red-bellied Woodpecker—3 Downy Woodpecker—6  
White-breasted Nuthatch—7 Black-capped Chickadee—7 Tufted Titmouse—1  
Hermit Thrush—1 Brown Creeper—2 Barred Owl—2 Golden-crowned Kinglet—2  
Winter Wren—1 Carolina Wren—1 Northern Cardinal—1**



## TOWANDA LIONS CLUB

"We Serve"

The Towanda Lions Club is offering two \$750 scholarships for current high school seniors who have Towanda, IL mailing addresses:

1. The Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship for any college field of study
2. The Towanda Lions Memorial Scholarship for training/education in a trades field

Further details and applications for each of these scholarships are available on the Towanda, Illinois Lions website:

[e-clubhouse.org/sites/towandail](https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/towandail) under [Home/Scholarships](#) listed in the upper-left of the screen.

# 2022 Advance Meat Order

## Towanda Scouting Organization

**Friday, February 11th, 2-5:30pm -OR- Saturday, February 12th, 9:00-11am**

**@Towanda Community Building**

*PLEASE BRING YELLOW COPY WHEN PICKING UP YOUR ORDER!*

To order, call Virginia Lowery 309-825-6341 or Mike/Linda Potts 309-728-2384

**Place Your Order Today ~ The Deadline is January 31, 2022**

WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE	Package Size	# Packages	Package Price	Total
BULK SAUSAGE (\$4.50/lb)	2 pounds		\$ 9.00	\$
LINK SAUSAGE (\$4.50/lb)	5 pounds		\$22.50	\$
BACK RIBS (\$4.50/lb)	5 pounds		\$22.50	\$
COUNTRY STYLE BACON	1 pound		\$ 8.00	\$
<b>ITALIAN SAUSAGE</b>				
ITALIAN BULK (\$4.50/lb)	2 pounds		\$ 9.00	\$
ITALIAN LINK (\$4.50/lb)	5 pounds		\$22.50	\$
<b>OTHER</b>				
BONELESS / SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST(\$6.00/lb)	5 pounds		\$30.00	\$
BONELESS TENDERIZED PORK CHOPS (\$6.00/lb)	2 pounds		\$12.00	\$
			<b>TOTAL</b>	\$

ORDER TAKEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Pick Up: ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Unsure

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Paid ☐ Not Paid

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



- Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls so your water supply will be less likely to freeze.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Insulate walls and attic.
- Install storm or thermal-pane windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
- Repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on your home or other structure during a storm.

If you plan to use a fireplace or wood stove for emergency heating, have your chimney or flue inspected each year. Ask your local fire department to recommend an inspector or find one online.



## **Install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector.**

- If you'll be using a fireplace, wood stove, or kerosene heater, install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector near the area to be heated. Test them monthly and replace batteries twice a year.
- Keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby.
- All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside.
- Each winter season have your furnace system and vent checked by a qualified technician to ensure they are functioning properly.

## **For older adults, keep an easy-to-read thermometer inside your home.**

If you or a loved one are over 65 years old, place an easy-to-read thermometer in an indoor location where you will see it frequently. Our ability to feel a change in temperature decreases with age. Older adults are more susceptible to health problems caused by cold. Check the temperature of your home often during the winter months.

## **Create an emergency car kit.**

It is best to avoid traveling, but if travel is necessary, [keep the following in your car:](#)

- Cell phone, portable charger, and extra batteries
- Items to stay warm such as extra hats, coats, mittens, and blankets
- Windshield scraper
- Shovel
- Battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Water and snack food
- First aid kit with any necessary medications and a pocket knife
- Tow chains or rope
- Tire chains
- Canned compressed air with sealant for emergency tire repair
- Cat litter or sand to help tires get traction, or road salt to melt ice
- Booster cables with fully charged battery or jumper cables
- Hazard or other reflectors
- Bright colored flag or help signs, emergency distress flag, and/or emergency flares
- Road maps
- Waterproof matches and a can to melt snow for water

***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***

# Calendar

Just in case anyone missed learning about the postal rate increase that went into effect January 9, 2022 – (like I did) – 1<sup>st</sup> class letters are now \$0.58 – and postcards are \$0.40....'forever stamps' were a good buy.

Holidays:

2/2 – Groundhog Day

2/12 – Lincoln's birthday

2/14 – Valentine's Day

2/21 – Presidents Day & Washington's birthday - Federal holiday (no mail service, government bldgs. & banks & other closures?)

Thanks – and – enjoy!

Gail

## Towanda Library



**TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY**

*Winter 2022 Updates*

The weather outside has been frightful, and the pandemic has been less than delightful... but Towanda District Library is pleased to offer **warm** and **friendly services**!



**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.



**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**.



**Safely Serving Our Community**

Our highest priority is providing a **safe and welcoming environment** for our community and library staff. In order to resume in-person visits inside the facility, the library's Board of Trustees has established a new guideline: 3 consecutive reports from the McLean County Health Department of positivity rates at 10% or below are required to resume full services. At the time of this printing, the positivity rate has dropped from 26.8% to 13.5% in the past 10 days, which is promising! During these unprecedented times, we appreciate our community's support and flexibility.

**(309) 728-2176** • [www.towandalibrary.org](http://www.towandalibrary.org) • Explore. Share. Read. Discover.

**Phone & Curbside Services**  
**(309) 728-2176**



*~ Friendly ~  
~ Safe ~  
~ Efficient ~*

**Hours of Service**

**M:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
**T:** 1:00 – 6:00 pm  
**W:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
**R:** 1:00 – 6:00 pm  
**F:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
**S:** 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

*Closed Sundays*





# The Trees of Indian Creek – the Sycamore

We live in an oasis of trees surrounded by some of the richest farmland in America. Among the thousands of trees in our woods is the American Sycamore. The Sycamore is the largest deciduous tree in North America and the fastest growing hardwood tree, growing an average of 2 feet annually. According to the National Register of Champion Trees, one of the largest, known as the Pinchot Sycamore, is located in Simsbury, Connecticut. It is 100 feet tall with a 28-foot circumference and is estimated to be 300 years old.

The largest Sycamore in our woods is on the south side of 10 Bent Tree Lane (behind Fred and Fran Walk's home, down the hill and towards the creek). It has a circumference of 16 feet, 1 inch (and a diameter of over 5 feet). The largest oak in our woods, the Watertown Oak has a 14-foot circumference (Mighty Oaks article in June 2021 newsletter).



Because of their very distinctive bark, the Sycamore is one of the easier trees to identify, especially in the winter. The bark has a camouflage pattern of gray/brown outer bark that peels off to reveal a light gray or white wood beneath. Older trees often have solid light gray trunks. The loss of the outer bark on a Sycamore is completely normal. Older trees are often attacked by a fungi that weakens the heartwood, creating large hollow spots in the trunk that wildlife use for nests and shelter.

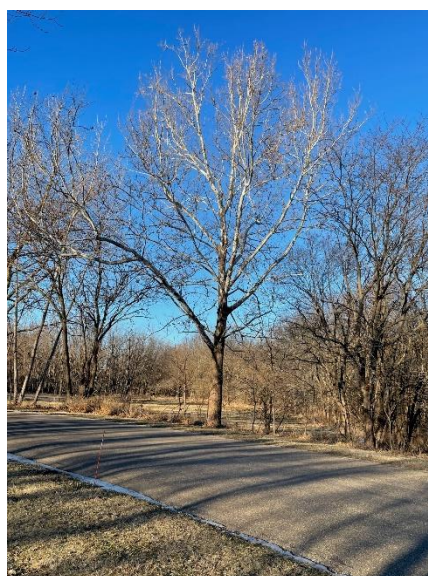
Sycamores have 1 to 1 ½ inch brown seed balls and leaves that have a shape similar to the maple leaf but are much larger and can be as large as a dinner plate (and challenging to rake in the fall).





One type of Sycamore, called the London Planetree, is a hybrid that was developed for city landscaping and is tolerant of city conditions. This variety of the Sycamore is common in European and American cities. I'm not aware of any of these hybrids in our woods.

We have around 40-60 American Sycamores in our woods. Most are growing along the banks of Money Creek because they prefer the moist soil of flood plains. Because of this, the Sycamore was like a beacon to early explorers and settlers who would look for the white bark against the blue sky to help lead them to water. An "easy to see" Sycamore tree is located on the east side of Eastwood Court, in proximity of the tractor shed, as the road curves.



# Water Hydrant Flushing Schedule – 2022

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 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. weather permitting. **Hydrants will not be flushed in freezing conditions or other inclement weather.**

	Monday, July 25
Monday, February 28	Monday, August 29
Monday, March 28	Monday, September 26
Monday, April 25	Monday, October 31
Monday, May 30	Monday, November 28
Monday, June 27	Monday, December 26

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson

# 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

**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

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 is a Junior at NCHS. Please call or text her at 309-532-7522.

Lydia Lueschen is available for babysitting. She is 16 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.

Caden Lueschen is available for snow removal. Please call 309-728-2353

### **For Sale:**

Norah Ketelsen (5) is a new Daisy with Girl Scouts this year! Click her LINK below to order. We will start delivering February 5th. If you have any questions, please call/text her mom at 309-236-0510.

Thank you!

<https://app.abcsmartcookies.com/#/social-link-landing/77ccb8ee-18cc-499e-a94b-c1654bd40b5b>