



Indian Creek Newsletter

March 2022

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Indian Creek Homeowners Annual Meeting

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Indian Creek Homeowners and Water Association on Thursday, March 3, 2022. The meeting will be held at the Towanda Community Building and will begin at 7:00 p.m. Agenda topics will include a financial review, water report including update on the water tower refurbishing project, grounds report, and more. COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed - please wear masks. We hope to see you there.

Barb Leathers

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H Club will meet on Tuesday March 1, 2022 at 6:30PM at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be on service dogs. The members will be giving talks and demonstrations. 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.

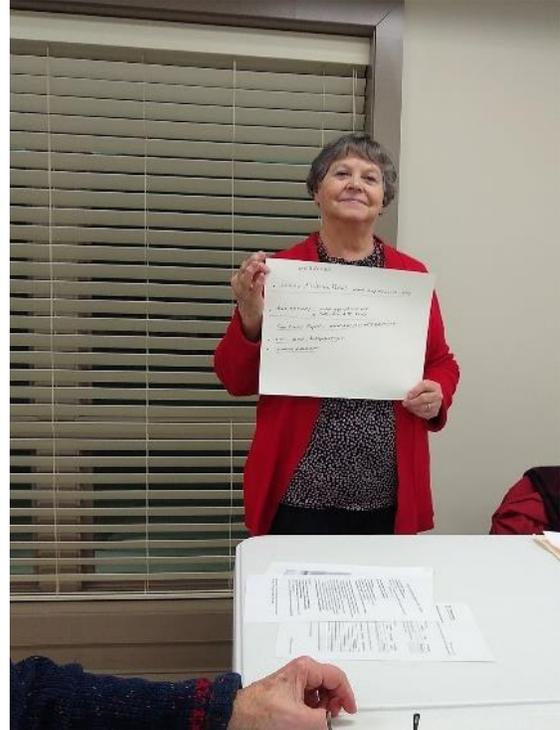
Thank you,

Belle

Towanda HCE

The Towanda HCE met in January and learned about spices from Sandy Whalen. When we met in February, we learned about Medical Identity Theft from Barb Wager. Now we are looking ahead to March. We next meet on Monday, March 14 at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. Our major lesson will be about **“Stain Solutions”** and minor lesson will be about the **Canadian Province of Manitoba**. The Towanda HCE welcomes all to their meetings. Contact Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797 with any questions.

McLean County HCE will be presenting more program topics at their Super Saturday Event joint venture with the Livingston County HCE. Three topics will be presented. Dale Maley, President of the Livingston County Historical Society will present “**History of Country Schools**” to the whole group. We will then break out into two areas to choose from: **Garden Trends in 2022** and **CSA: Community Supported Agriculture**. This event is open to the public and will be held on Saturday, March 19, 8:30 a.m. at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 1617 E Emerson St., Bloomington. Contact Kathleen, 309-824-2784, for more information.



Calendar

2022-2023 Unit 5 Kindergarten Registration information ~
<https://www.unit5.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=15863>

Daylight Savings Time begins March 13 at 2 am. Remember to roll your clocks ahead one hour.

Annual Spring Area Garage Sales

Are you possibly interested in having a garage sale April 28-30?? Please let me know by March 18 and I'll coordinate the publicity.

Thanks!

Gail Ann Briggs, (309) 824-1649 – rgbriggs@frontiernet.net



Gardening Tips

It is time for you to start the seeds for cool-season plants like pansies, violes, and snapdragons. They can be plated earlier than some other plants. Now is the time to get your cold frame cleaned up and ready to go. You can also plant some lettuce in it.

Time to get all gardening things ready to go.

The pretty zinnias have been around for years and the butterflies and hummingbirds enjoy them. Some people have stopped growing them because they would get powdery mildew. Zinnias have come a long way since their beginning. Now they come in most colors except blue and black. You can find plants to grow from 6 inches to 3 feet tall, they might be upright, branching, or spreading. Some of the newer ones are also more disease tolerant. If your zinnias get powdery mildew, you can plant a shorter plant in front to hide the leaves. Zinnias make good-cut flowers.

Zinnias do better if you can plant the seeds in full sun on good warmed, well-drained, well-fertilized soil. Adding a generous amount of finished compost or well-rotted manure will provide more nutrients and drainage. Sometimes, transplants can suffer from restricted roots they develop in nursery pots.

Helen J. Leake

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, 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

The Trees of Indian Creek – Osage Orange

By Greg Beneze

Trees were very important to early settlers - they provided wood for heat and cooking, lumber to build shelters and wagons. One tree, the Osage Orange, played a very special role as early settlers moved west. The Osage Orange is named after the Osage Indians, who harvested the wood and traded it to other tribes. It was a highly desirable wood used to create bows and war clubs.

It is commonly known as a Hedge or Hedge Apple tree because they were used to create fence rows. Their lower thorny branches could be woven together to create an impenetrable thicket. This use as “fencing” began in 1850’s because other types of fencing were expensive and difficult to maintain. Professor Jonathan Turner, who helped establish the University of Illinois, said “God designed the Osage Orange especially for the purpose of fencing the prairies”. By 1869, 60,000 miles of Osage Orange had been planted in the Midwest and South. Some consider its use as fencing to be as important as railroads, steel plows, and windmills in the settlement of the Midwest. In the 1880’s barbwire was invented, and it became the more common method of fencing pastures. However, the Osage Orange continued playing a key role as fence post for stringing the barbwire. Below is a picture of a fence post in Indian Creek that had been used to string barbwire – it is likely 50-75 years old.



The US Dept of Agriculture notes that the Osage Orange has the highest work to maximum load value of any wood by far, meaning it has the rare combination of strength and flexibility. It also burns hotter than any other North American tree wood, produces low smoke, and is easy to split. But one must be careful burning Osage Orange because it can overheat a cast-iron stove. A split log has an orange/yellowish wood on the interior.

The Osage Orange can be easily identified by the green fruit, called hedge apples, that grow all summer and drop in the fall. The hedge apple is the largest fruit produced by a North American tree but it is not considered edible by humans or many animals. Hedge apples can be used to repel spiders and mice and neighborhood children love to throw hedge apples from the bridge into the creek. But be careful of the milky, sticky pulp because it can irritate the skin.



Here is one of the many Osage Orange trees in our woods and yards.



CLASSIFIED

Businesses:



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- Thinking about selling your house?
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 - Email - jerrod.ingram@exprealty.com
 - Website - jerrodingram.exprealty.com

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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.

Snow removal available call Ben Freed 309-261-8956

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>