



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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Fall Photos

Photo of the Indian Creek sign by our south entrance. Clinton Brown provided the corn stalks. Fred and Fran Walk put up the stalks and provided some of the pumpkins. Kathy Dumler put out the straw bale, additional pumpkins and some mums.



Below: This is called “Chicken of the Woods” mushroom. Very unique and colorful. Supposedly this can be eaten if it’s not too tough.



Leaves on Money Creek



Towanda District Library November News

We at the Towanda District Library are excited to report that we are open! New materials are being ordered and processed to return the library to a place that strives to create a welcoming environment in which we serve our patrons by providing services and access to information. At this time the library is open 20 hours a week with no Saturday hours. No need to fret, the library will return to regular hours as soon as possible. Our current hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10 am – 2pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays 3 pm – 7 pm.

The library will be closed from October 27 to November 9. It will reopen November 10 at 3pm. Are you interested in getting materials from a specific author or a specific title? Let us know by either sending us an email at director@towandalibrary.org or by coming to visit and filling out a blue slip located at the front desk. We love hearing from patrons in order to improve our collection. Come on in! We are happy to help!"

Thank you so much for the opportunity to add our information!

Rachel Ballenger
Interim Director
Towanda District Library
(309) 728-2176

Towanda HCE

Towanda Home & Community Education group will meet on Monday, November 14, 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be "Fair Trade Goods at Crossroads" given by Sandy Whalen. The minor lesson will be on the Republic of Italy: Economy, Geography & Climate. The November community service project is to bring canned soups and canned potatoes to be given to Home Sweet Home Mission. Each month we'll be asked to bring different items. For more info about Towanda HCE, contact Cindy, 309-824-4797.

McLean County HCE has many interesting programs coming up. Nov 15 will be a cookie Exchange at Farm Bureau. Contact Debi, 309-825-8458 for info/RSVP. Nov 21, 9a-2p at Farm Bureau- Community Service Day will be Packing and delivering Christmas stockings to seniors and soldiers, Eileen-309-533-1135. Also on Nov 21, 2-3:30p will be Read & Share the book: *Distant Shores* by Kristin Hannah, held at the Extension Office, LaVonne, 309-825-6558 There are many other interesting programs in November and December. Check our Facebook page for more information at:

www.facebook.com/McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education-165077036864588/

Brush Pile Usage, Yard Waste Disposal, and Leaf Burning

Please adhere to the following guidelines regarding the brush pile and yard waste.

- Only bring small branches to the brush pile. Do not bring large limbs or logs.
- Throw brush up onto the pile. Do not spread the brush around near the pile.
- Do not dispose of any type of construction materials.
- Ornamental grasses, bush clippings, dead mums/flowers, and leaves are not acceptable.

If you have a wooded area on your property please dispose of any brush you may accumulate in your woods.

If burning leaves, please do not let them smolder causing smoke to linger in the air and drift into the homes of your neighbors. Mulching leaves helps to build up the soil in your yard.

Leaves, grasses, and clippings can be disposed of in our common ground area by **SPREADING** them around in the woods away from the trails and mowed areas. Do not dump leaves and grasses on the trails.

Please refrain from disposing pumpkins and yard waste into Money Creek.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated to help maintain our beautiful common grounds and neighborhood.

Fred Walk

IC Grounds Chair

Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H Club will meet on Tuesday Nov 15, 22 at 6:30 at the Towanda Community Building. This change in date is due to the McLean County 4-H Award of Excellence program on November 1, 2022, where many of our members will be receiving awards. Our areas of study this year are Plants and Soils as well as Natural Resources. 4-H is open to girls and boys 5 to 18 years of age as of September 1,2022.

For more information contact Scott Clement at 309 275-5910 or Jeanie Wager at 309 728-2852.

Towanda Fire Department



The Towanda Fire Departments wants to remind everyone that harvesting is right around the corner and to Start Seeing Farmers.

Fall is here and that means the Farmers will be hitting the fields hard when the crops are ready to be harvested. The Towanda Fire Department needs your help in keeping everyone safe on the roadways.

Soon signs will be popping up along the roads saying "START SEEING FARMERS" to warn us to be aware that farm machinery and trucks will be out on the roads taking up a fair share of highway. When you see equipment traveling down the roadway, please slow down and use caution when trying to pass a piece of equipment.

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

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, October 31

Monday, November 28

Monday, December 26

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson

The Trees of Indian Creek – Amur Honeysuckle

by Greg Beneze

While most of the trees in our woods contribute to a healthy ecosystem, there is one that does not – the Amur Honeysuckle Tree or Bush Honeysuckle. It is a non-native, fast growing, flowering shrub-type tree that has become invasive and has established itself in roughly half of the US and Canada. Originally from Eastern Asia, in the late 1800's the Amur Honeysuckle was brought to the US as an ornamental tree and for erosion control. It took little time for it to escape gardens and spread into the wild, shading and out-competing native species. It forms a near impenetrable canopy of shade that is difficult for native flowers and trees to compete with. This tree is so detrimental that it is illegal to plant in several states. In Illinois, it is illegal to sell this plant (Illinois Exotic Weed Act).

About 5 years ago, under the guidance of our Grounds Chairperson Fred Walk, we began focusing on removing this unwelcomed tree from our woods during the spring and fall workdays. It is not an easy tree to kill. If you cut it down, the roots will spawn new growth with multiple shoots replacing the one you removed. If you break a branch, the new branch can grow 3 feet in 6 weeks. To kill this tree you must treat the stump with a powerful herbicide like Tordon, which seems to be more effective at killing it than Roundup. But even a powerful herbicide may require multiple treatments to kill the the stump.

The Amur Honeysuckle is a large, deciduous shrub that typically grows 6 to 20 feet in height. It tends to have an “arching “ growth habit.



The tree/bush is easy to identify. In the fall it holds its leaves longer than any other plant, so it is easy to see as one of the last trees with green leaves. It also has small red berries in the fall that birds eat, which unfortunately helps spread the tree's seeds. While these berries are attractive, be aware that they are poisonous to humans. Eating them can cause rapid heartbeat, vomiting, and diarrhea.

In the spring, the Amur Honeysuckle leafs out very early, and has small white flowers that turn yellow. Because it leafs so early, it creates a shade canopy that prevents the growth of woodland flowers, like the Bluebells that grace our woods, as well as seedlings of the native trees. If left unchecked, it can choke out many native plants and trees, and therefore it must be removed to maintain a healthy forest.

If you visit the Parklands' Merwin Forest Preserve (near the intersection County Road 29 and PJ Keller Highway, which is about 5 miles north of Indian Creek Subdivision), you will see several areas where Amur Honeysuckle and Multi-flora Rose are choking out the small trees and wildflowers. The volunteers of Parklands Foundation are currently in an active battle against this invasive species.

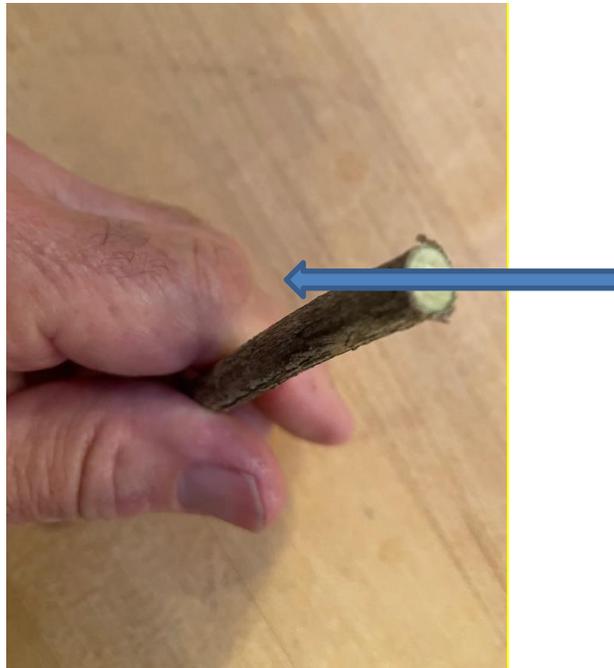
Spring picture



Fall picture



This tree has little usefulness other than helping to prevent erosion, and its bad qualities far outweigh the good. However, not all honeysuckle plants are harmful so if you have one in your yard, you can confirm it is an Amur Honeysuckle by cutting a branch and verifying that it has a hollow tube in the center as pictured below.



If it does, please remove it to help prevent the spread of this invasive species. Contact Fred Walk (fwalk@frontiernet.net) if you need Tordon to kill the stump. I recently found two Amur Honeysuckles hiding in my burning bushes – they are very invasive!

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REALTY

Metal Collection at your curb!

Every Monday morning (5 am), Chuck Eckhart comes around to pick up metal for recycling. If you have items to recycle, please set them out near your garbage cans either Sunday night or Monday 5am for pickup. Collectable items are: appliances, lawn mowers, all kinds of batteries and metal items. Chuck's number is (309) 275-2201 if you have questions.

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.