

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

May 2024

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Sixty More Trees Added to Indian Creek

During the month of April a total of 60 bitternut hickory, red bud, butternut, and sycamore saplings were planted, mulched, staked and mulched throughout our beautiful common grounds. A variety of oak trees and coffee trees were also transplanted from our nursery replacing some of the saplings that have died over the winter months. Thanks to Randy Haag, Mark Bertsche, Tom Chilpala, and Fred Walk for all their time and effort in planting the trees.

Firewood and wood chips/mulch are available if anyone is interested. Please contact Fred Walk at fwalk@frontiernet.net for details.

We have approximately 3 miles of lovely trails throughout our common grounds that take much time and work to maintain for your enjoyment. When walking the trails please pick up any small branches that are on the trails and throw them to the side. This will help make mowing the trails easier for those using the tractor/mower as they will not have to get off and on the tractor to clear these small branches.



Please consider volunteering for the grounds chair position. Contact interim ground chair Fred Walk at fwalk@frontiernet.net for details.

Towanda Fire Department to host Amateur/Ham Radio License in a Day Class



Date: Saturday May 25, 2024

Time: Class – 8 AM to 3 PM; Testing 3:30 PM till complete

Class: Education will be given on the knowledge required to pass the FCC Technician Class Exam. Expectation will be that the student has done preliminary study of some of the material listed below as study material. There is no guarantee that participants will pass the exam given at the end of the day!

Exams: Volunteer Examiners will administer the FCC Technician Exam starting at 3:30 PM. Exam takers will know the results of the exam before they leave. It is possible to then go ahead and also try to pass the General Class Exam. The exam session is also open to current Technician Class license holders who wish to sit for the General Exam. Current General license holders are also welcome to sit for the Extra Class Exam.

Cost: \$15 due at test time to take any class of exam to cover test administration costs. Cash, check or Money Order will be accepted. No credit cards. Candidates who successfully pass their first exam may if they wish take the next higher level exam the same day at no additional cost. Candidates who fail to pass the exam can retake an exam (will be different questions from the question bank) the same day but it will cost an additional \$15. Successful candidates will receive a \$35 invoice by email from the FCC before the FCC issues the formal license. All candidates will be required to submit an email address for the examiners to forward to the FCC. Technician or General candidates presenting to take a next level exam should bring a copy of their current license that shows their FRN number.

Location: Towanda Community Fire Station, 203 W. Jackson St., Towanda, IL 61776

Sponsor: Woodford County Repeater Association

Lunch: A light lunch will be provided by the Towanda Fire Department

Technician Class Study Material:

Pool of all Exam Questions available at: <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=373>

Multiple resources available at : <http://arrl.org>

- Practice Tests – Free
- ARRL's Tech Q&A 8th Edition - \$19.95 + shipping at ARRL On-line Bookstore – gives all question and an explanation of the correct answer
- Multiple Basic and Advanced books for those wishing to dig deeper!

Multiple You Tube study/educational videos – search on “Technician License/Amateur Radio”

Free study guide/practice exams on-line at <http://n3fjp.com> click on Specialty Logs then Amateur Exam Study

Pre-registration for the class or exams is appreciated. Please send an email to k9wra.repeater@gmail.com if you plan to enroll in the class/exam.

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



McLean County's Inaugural Clean Water Extravaganza: RIPPLE

The Ecology Action Center and the Town of Normal will be hosting McLean County's first family friendly clean water extravaganza: RIPPLE on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Fairview Park in Normal. The festivities kick off at 8:00 a.m. with an array of booths and activities from community partners. At 9:00 a.m. and at 10:45 a.m. there will be storytelling performances from Brian Fox Ellis and live music from Twang will begin at 10 a.m. Adult attendees will get the chance to win a rain barrel and children attendees could win pool passes courtesy of Normal Parks and Recreation.

Ripple attendees can expect to learn about local aquatic food chains by viewing native fish brought by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The McLean County Museum of History will be teaching the history of McLean County's municipal water systems while the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District will be discussing current wastewater management techniques. Illinois State University students will guide attendees in identifying macroinvertebrates from Sugar Creek and show how they can be utilized to give clues on local water quality.

McLean County Ag in the classroom will be helping youth attendees deepen their understanding of water's vital role in agriculture by making water cycle bracelets. The Children's Discovery Museum will be demonstrating how clouds are formed through a hands-on activity. Other organizations will additionally be in attendance such as the Nature Conservancy, City of Bloomington, ParkLands Foundation, University of Illinois Extension, Normal Public Library, Wild Ones, and more.

Ripple is a day of insights, collaboration, and a shared commitment to ensuring clean, thriving waterways for generations to come. Visit RippleMcLean.org for more information.

The Ecology Action Center is a not-for-profit environmental agency with a mission to inspire and assist residents of McLean County in creating, strengthening and preserving a healthy environment. The EAC acts as a central resource for environmental education, information, outreach, and technical assistance in McLean County. (ecologyactioncenter.org)

Water News

Call JULIE before digging (800-892-0123)

Please be sure to call JULIE to mark utility and water lines (shutoff valve) before doing any projects involving digging. If damage is done to any utility or water lines after marking it is critical you contact the vendor who marks the lines (USIC) and a Board member immediately. Additional information is available on our Indian Creek website (Information/Water – "When You Dig").

Water Hydrant Flushing Schedule – 2024

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, May 27

Monday, August 26

Monday, November 25

Monday, June 24

Monday, September 30

Monday, December 3

Monday, July 29

Monday, October 28

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson



Towanda HCE

The **Towanda Home and Community Education (HCE) group** will be meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The program, "A Taste of Tradition-Heritage Cooking" will be given by Linda Conder. Our minor lesson is "The Republic of Egypt - Tourist Attractions". Our May community outreach project for Home Sweet Home Mission is to bring combs and brushes. For more information about Towanda **HCE**, contact Cindy, 309-824-4797

Our McLean County **HCE** will have their Community Service meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. at the McLean County Farm Bureau, 2242 Westgate Drive, Bloomington near Walmart West. This is a change of day and time from previous CS days. Those able to come will be working on breast pads and seat belt covers/port pillows for breast cancer patients. The public is invited to participate and we welcome sewers and non-sewers. Several kits are ready for pick up for those who prefer to work from home. Bring a sewing machine and basic sewing supplies if able to. We want to continue to fulfill some needs and enjoy one another's company while doing it. Questions can be directed to Betty Jensen, 309-531-2183 or bjgrannie@hotmail.com. The next future meeting dates are on Tuesdays, June 18 and Sept 17.

The May Cultural Enrichment event is Thursday, May 9, 2024 We will meet for Lunch at Garden of Paradise, Bloomington at 11am and Tour of Ewing Manor at 1 pm. Guests are welcome but all must **RSVP for both lunch and/or tour by May 1:** email- grppoppe@frontier.com, text- 309 287 8214, or call 309 825 8458 if questions. Ewing tour includes **"Opening Hazle's Closet: A Curated Glimpse at the Personal Style of Hazle Buck Ewing."** Cost for the tour is \$5.



Enjoy the silence. Cicadas are coming!

April 19, 2024

by Jenna Braasch and Ken Johnson (Reprinted with permission)

If you haven't heard the buzz, you will soon. Billions of periodical cicadas are coming, and [University of Illinois Extension](#) is sharing information to help track their moves before emergence.

"Historically speaking, 2024 is a big year for [periodical cicadas in Illinois](#)," says [Ken Johnson](#), Extension horticulture educator serving [Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Morgan, and Scott counties](#).

[Periodical cicada](#) broods XIII and XIX will be emerging throughout much of the state at the same time. Although exact times and locations will be varied, there will be cicadas.

"The simultaneous emergence of these broods is the first time since 1803, and it will not happen again until 2245," says Johnson. "It's an exciting time for those who enjoy insects and natural phenomena."

Although cicadas do not pose a threat to humans or pets, they will be heard. It may get loud depending on the geographic location and the number of cicadas around. According to the [National Institutes of Health](#), calls of male cicadas can reach over 90 decibels, which is as loud as a lawnmower, motorcycle, or tractor.

Where Are the Cicadas Now?

Many people ask and wonder where the cicadas are before these billions arrive. The broods are underground, feeding and preparing to emerge when the conditions are right. What are they waiting on? Soil temperatures. Consistent soil temperature is one vital component to kicking off the massive emergence.

As of mid-April, Johnson reports that periodical cicadas have begun digging holes in the soil in Jacksonville, located in central Illinois. While miles away in North and South Carolina, there are current reports of cicadas beginning to emerge.

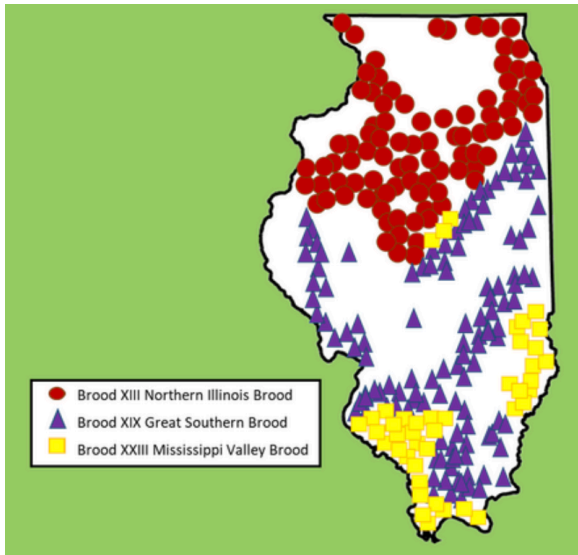
"Periodical cicadas will begin digging holes to the surface a few weeks before they emerge from the ground," says Johnson. "They'll wait underground until soil temperatures, 7 to 8 inches deep, reach 64 degrees Fahrenheit, at which point, they'll emerge and molt into adults."

Are you looking to track the cicada soil conditions near you? [University of Illinois State Water Survey at the Prairie Research Institute's](#) Water and Atmospheric Resources Monitoring Program, WARM, has a soil temperature tool that is searchable by location and available by creating a free account. The tool tracks temperatures typically used for farming, gardening, and now Cicada Watch 2024.

For more on cicadas and what to expect when they emerge throughout Illinois in May and June, visit extension.illinois.edu/insects/cicadas. Download Extension's Cicada Broods infosheet, which is available at go.illinois.edu/Cicadas24.

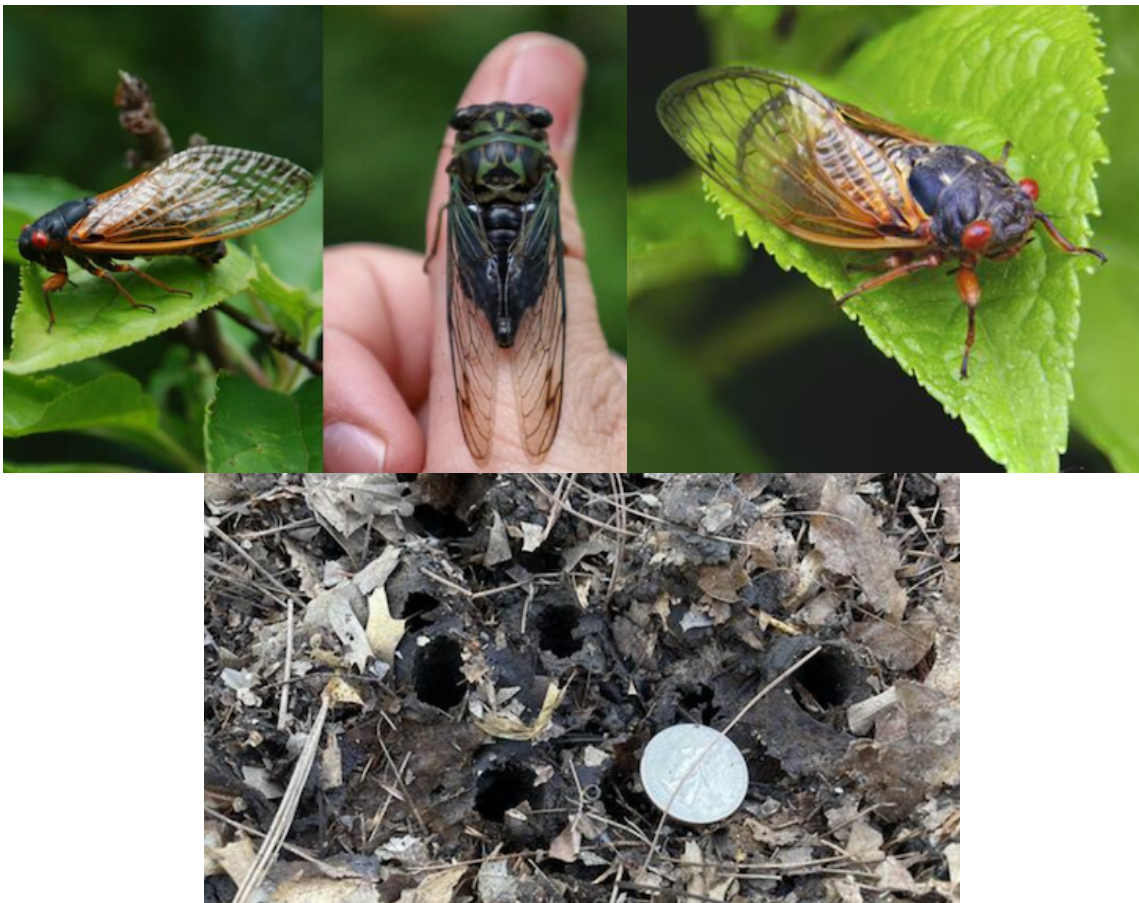
SOURCE/WRITER: [Ken Johnson](#), horticulture educator, Illinois Extension

WRITER/EDITOR: [Jenna Braasch](#), media communications coordinator, Illinois Extension



The map shows the three broods that are relevant for 2024 emergence.

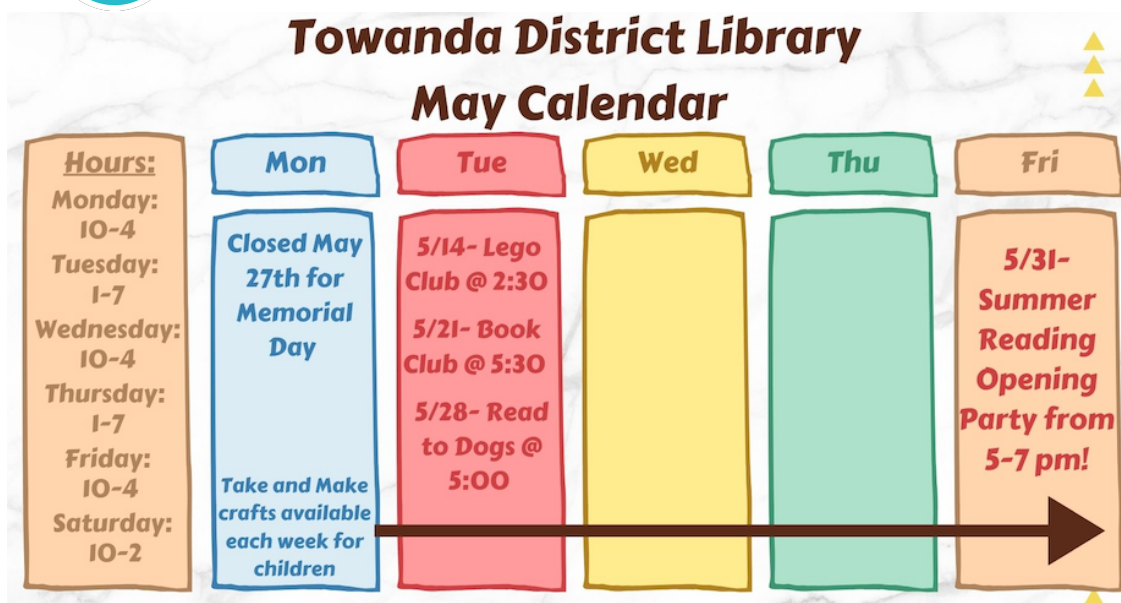
Photo: Modified from Simon et al. 2022





TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY

Explore • Share • Read • Discover



Get ready to embark on an unparalleled adventure with our Summer Reading Program: "Reading Explorers! Journey Into a World of Stories." This summer, we invite all young adventurers to dive into the pages of their favorite books and explore the world through stories and activities.

Mark your calendars! The journey begins on May 31st with an opening celebration from 5-7 PM, featuring pizza, balloon artists, and face painting to kick things off in style. Whether you're a seasoned explorer or setting out on your first expedition, there's no better time to start your adventure.

Since we are working so diligently on preparations for the summer there will not be any storytimes this month. However, we will have plenty of take home activities for everyone and all of the library resources are still available.

We hope to see you soon!

Dresser for sale - in perfect condition asking \$200.

Contact Mary Daily if interested & would like to see it. Text 309-826-6943



Classified

Businesses:



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For Hire:

Millie Harmon is available for both pet sitting and babysitting. Millie has experience pet sitting, is a member of the Junior Zoo Keepers at Miller Park zoo, and is part of the equestrian team at Lone Ridge Farm. Millie has completed a safe sitters course and enjoys being with children. She can be reached at 309-665-9053 (Millie) or 309-530-5360 (parent).

Lydia Lueschen is available for babysitting. She has completed a babysitting course along with being CPR certified. Please call or text her mom - Dallas Lueschen- at 309-826-1868.

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 attending Heartland beginning in Fall 2023. Please call or text her at 309-532-7522. References available.

Jaeden Proesel - Age 16 is willing to do odd jobs such as dog walking, pet sitting, lawn care, etc. Please reach out! 309-310-7470