

# Indian Creek Newsletter

## May, 2005



### Spring Work Day - May 14



The Indian Creek Spring 2005 work day will be on **Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, rain date May 21. We'll meet at the entrance of the nature area, near the bridge, at 9:00 for coffee and donuts and then get to work. There are four projects planned so we need a lot of volunteers.

- Greg Beneze will lead a crew picking up litter along the highway.
- Sue Arnold will lead a crew pulling invasive garlic mustard.
- Jim Kellenberger will lead a crew clearing saplings from the ditch along Eastwood.
- Jim Russell will lead a crew removing problem trees around the well area.

Please contact one of the crew leaders to volunteer or just show up and join a crew. If we get enough volunteers we may form a fifth crew to apply wood preservative to the tractor shelter and nature area gate posts. Hope to see you on the 14th!



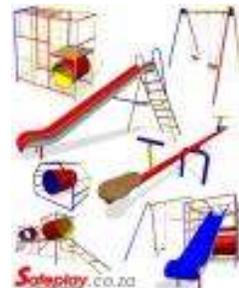
### Towanda Elementary PTO News



Leaders are needed to start **chess and computer clubs** for the 2005-2006 school year.

Volunteers are needed for the Step-Up (Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade) and Guide Step (1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) **reading programs** to assist students who need additional help in learning to read. There may be a small amount of training about a week before school starts to learn the program. If you can help, please contact **Mrs. Erickson at 728-2278**.

Volunteers are needed to help install new **playground equipment** this summer. Please call **Jamie Jackson at 728-2725** if you are willing to help. Tax deductible contributions are welcomed to help defray the cost of shipping and installation for the new playground equipment. Please send cash or checks to the school office. Checks may be made out to Towanda PTO and labeled 'for the playground'.



The PTO is getting ready to send off all the **Campbell's and Tyson Chicken labels** for the year to redeem them for the school. Please send any that you might have still been collecting to the school by Friday, May 20th. Remember to send the entire front label not just the symbol.

## Unit 5 News

Thur, May 12 – **Spring Concert**, 6:30 pm at the **Towanda Elementary School**.

Tue, May.17 - **Retirement Open House** from 4:00-6:00 pm at **Parkside Junior High**, 101 N Parkside Rd for Bruce Boswell (former Unit 5 Science teacher and Department Head)

Wed, May.18 - **Retirement Open House** from 3:30-4:30pm at **NCHS**, 3900 E Raab Rd, for Indian Creek resident **Fred Walk**, and other NCHS staff.

Sun, May.22 - **Baccalaureate** at 3:00 pm, **NCHS**.

Sat, May.28 - **Unit 5 Commencements**, NCHS at 5:00 pm, NCWHS at 8:00 pm, Braden Auditorium, ISU (no admission tickets required)



Fri, May 27, 8:00 – 9:30 am - **last day of school** at **Towanda Elementary**.



## Towanda Area Historical Society

Twenty-nine people attended the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Towanda Area Historical Society to continue plans for a historical book of the Towanda area. There was discussion about how the book might be laid out, such as timeline versus areas of interest; several writers or a few; how to make it visually attractive and easy to read. It was decided to seek donations and include advertising in order to defray the cost of publishing the book.

There are many individuals, organizations, and businesses that already have volunteers working on gathering information and writing histories. Many more volunteers will be needed as the project progresses: typists, editors, proofreaders, reviewers, and investigators / researchers. Technical help is needed for photo and document enhancement and computer work. It was mentioned that employees and retirees of State Farm who volunteer 40 hours to this project during 2005 could receive a \$500 Good Neighbor Grant to benefit the Society.



Volunteers are needed to provide information about the following:

- Fern's Cafe
- Haines Oil truck stop
- Towanda State Bank
- Other farmsteads and agricultural entities
  - descendents of farm families in the area would be especially valuable
- Early settlers and pioneer families
- Route 66 Geographic Walk

**Tuesday, May 24** – A Towanda Area Historical Society general meeting will be held at the Towanda Community Building, 7:00 pm to view material scanned to date for identification of dates, people, etc. and discuss the history update project. Questions, call President Jack Jenkins; 728.2143.

## Towanda Library News (on the web at [towandalibrary.org](http://towandalibrary.org))

The next "Towanda READS" book discussion is *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson, about the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, on Wed., **May 25** from 6:00-7:00 pm at the library.

Registration for the **summer reading program** begins on Tue., **May 31** at 3:00 pm. There will be fun, prizes, and many special guests. Join the kickoff campfire cookout on Friday, **June 3** at 5:00 pm at the library's parking lot. Sessions will be on Wednesday from **June 15-July 27** (not July 6) for these weekly programs at the following times

**Pre-K –1st grade: 9:30-10:30am**  
**2nd grade & up: 11:-00am-noon**

**How to sell items on eBay:** Mon., **June 6** from 7:00-8:00 pm, Linda Aschenbrener, who has her own part-time Internet eBay business, will explain how to use eBay to sell your items on-line. Learn how to list, sell, collect payment, and ship your items.

**Harry Potter Day:** Sat. **July 16**. To celebrate the book release of *Harry Potter & the Half-Blood Prince* (Book 6) the library will show the first three Harry Potter movies. In between there will be games, crafts, trivia contests, prizes, snacks and pizza for dinner! Feel free to come in costume and bring a pillow and blanket

**1:00 pm Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone**  
**4:00 pm Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets**  
**7:00 pm Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban**  
*(all three movies are rated PG)*



**BOOK SALE!** The library is accepting books in good condition at the library for their major fundraiser of the year at the 4th of July Flea Market in the center of Towanda.



### Spring Wildflowers



The spring wildflowers have been outstandingly beautiful this year. Early warm weather brought the flowers out early; the following cool weather extended their stay. Especially striking were the masses of bluebells that blanketed the wooded areas throughout the subdivision. You can see photos and a brief description of the wild flowers found in the subdivision at <http://www.frontiernet.net/~tmogill/icreek/springflowers.htm>.



### Birds



At the end of March, Jim Russell sighted a small flock of wild turkeys in the woods between Beneze's and the creek, and then the next day Jim saw six or seven of them crossing the road by the bridge. In April, Tim Mogill sighted a great blue heron cruising the creek by the bridge.



# Household Hazardous Waste COLLECTION DAY!

## ACCEPTABLE WASTES:

- Oil-based paints
- Paint thinners
- Pesticides
- Old gasoline
- Pool chemicals
- Mercury
- Cleaning products
- Hobby chemicals
- Lawn chemicals
- Household batteries
- Solvents
- Drain cleaners
- Aerosol products
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Lead acid batteries
- Fire extinguishers



Saturday, May 21, 2005  
8:00 am—3:00 pm

Interstate Center  
2301 W. Market Street  
Bloomington, IL

NO "WALK-INS" ALLOWED  
Expect a 10-20 min. wait

For more information, or questions about particular items,  
contact The Ecology Action center at 309/454-3169  
OR visit our website at [www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org)

## Please do NOT bring:

- Latex paints
- Medical wastes
- Explosives
- Fireworks
- Smoke detectors
- Business wastes
- Agricultural waste
- Institutional waste



No walk-ins allowed just means you can't leave your car, no need to make an appointment in advance. For more information, or questions about particular items, contact the Ecology Action center at 309/454-3169 OR visit their website at [www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org).



## Soil

**A neighbor asks:** Lately I've been thinking about getting my soil tested for it's pH and was wondering if anyone might have already done so. I read recently that adding gypsum to clay soil aids in breaking it down and improving the ground. I'd like advice as to how much to use, say per square foot. I'm aware that soil testing can be done by the UI extension office, but was hoping this would be quicker. Any advice is appreciated!

**Marta Mason answers:** Don't add gypsum to the soil. In certain areas it can be beneficial, but McLean county is not one of them. Because of the composition, adding gypsum seems to initially break down the soil, but will make the soil more basic (high pH). The extension office does not advise adding gypsum to McLean County soil. To make the soil more friable, which is what you want, you could add a mix of sand and topsoil. I have had great luck with that. You may want to mix in sphagnum peat too, enough to be able to work the soil.

The extension office does not test soil, but they could provide you with the right connections and tell you how to take soil samples. As far as this area though, we all have clay, which means a slightly higher pH than normal. However, the nutrients are quite high in clay. It is just a matter of getting the soil workable.

# Bloomington Farmers Market

<http://www.uniquelybloomington.com/FarmersMarket/>



The Bloomington Farmers Market starts May 14, and runs every Saturday from 6:45 to 11:00 am. There is an increase in the number of vegetable growers and artists from last year. Eat breakfast or lunch at one of a growing choice of fine eateries available downtown.

Events on the 14<sup>th</sup> include:

6:45 am: **Kick-off**

8:00 am: **Cooking demo with food-tasting**

9:00 am: **Adopt-a-Pot ceremony**

@ 9:10 am: (after the ceremony) **Touch of Soul** performing classic soul.

11:00 am: **Tour de Metro downtown home tour.**

All activities are free, except the home tour which costs \$20 per person.

**WJBC will be broadcasting live from the Market**



<http://www.threepetunias.com/>

(309) 378-2617

Marta Mason, Indian Creek resident, is part owner of **Three Petunias** floral business, which offers custom arrangements for weddings, funerals, etc. plants, containers, and delivery. **Three Petunias** will also be selling floral arrangements, pre-made or made to order from the flowers on hand, at the **Bloomington Farmers Market** every Saturday morning this summer.



## Garden Club Redux

If anyone is interested in reviving the Indian Creek Garden Club, please email me at [hmogill@frontiernet.net](mailto:hmogill@frontiernet.net) or call me at 728-2048. If there is enough interest, I'll try to set up a meeting. Suggestions for meeting topics would be appreciated. Read of past garden club activities at <http://www.frontiernet.net/~tmogill/GardenClub/Homepage.htm>



## Satellite Maps On the Web

Check out Google's new satellite maps. The site is <http://maps.google.com> - you can search by location e.g. Towanda Il, etc. or include a street address along with city and state (although I couldn't get our subdivision streets recognized). You can scroll around the town or thru the countryside by following highways, rivers etc. You can zoom in for close-ups or out for a wide view. Click on Satellite in upper right corner screen right after entering a location in the search entry field and you will get an aerial view rather than a street map. Apparently the images are 6 to 12 months old....but still kind of cool. Enjoy!

# Kids at Work



Worker	Street	Phone	Baby Sitting	Pet Care	Lawn & Garden
Andrew Cummings	Fox Creek Road	728-8839			Y
Anna Cummings	Fox Creek Road	728-8839	Y		
Adam Doubet (12)	Candle Ridge Road	728-2463		Y	
Bayli Doubet (11)	Candle Ridge Road	728-2463		Y	
Ryan Doubet (15)	Candle Ridge Road	728-2463	Y		Y
Katie Jurovic	Bent Tree Lane	728-2243	Y		
Stephen Jurovic	Bent Tree Lane	728-2243		Y	Y
Nic Patti (14)	Candle Ridge Road	728-2065	Y	Y	Y
Gregory Mason	Fox Creek Road	728-8008	Y	Y	Y
Travis Mason	Fox Creek Road	728-8008	Y	Y	Y



May 11

## Towanda Senior Group



The Towanda area Seniors group meets monthly, the second Wednesday of each month, at 12:00 at the Towanda community center. The meeting consists of a pot luck luncheon, conversation and sometimes a special program. The next meeting is May 11. Bring a dish to share; meat and drinks will be provided. Donations are accepted, but not required. Questions? Call Dave (Bud) McDaniels, 728-2175



## Communications

**Email:** If you are interested in receiving email announcements of upcoming subdivision events or other announcements of interest to residents, send your email address me at [hmogill@frontiernet.net](mailto:hmogill@frontiernet.net).

**Subdivision web page:** <http://www.frontiernet.net/~tmoqill/icreek/home.htm>

If you have scenery, garden, wild animal or pet photos that you are willing to share, email them to me, Helen Mogill, [hmogill@frontiernet.net](mailto:hmogill@frontiernet.net), or bring them by to me at 18 Bent Tree Lane. I can scan and return your photos. My phone is 728-2048.

**Newsletter:** If you have events or announcements you'd like to see in here, please contact me, Helen Mogill, email: [hmogill@frontiernet.net](mailto:hmogill@frontiernet.net), 728-2048. Kids – contact me if you'd like me to include your name, phone, and a list of odd jobs that you are willing to do – babysitting, pet care, lawn mowing, etc. Adults, let us know about your business.