

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

June 2013

On the web at <http://www.indiancreeksubdivision.org> Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

In Memory



Helen Mogill - the creator of the Indian Creek Newsletter and website - passed away on May 23, 2013. Her family wishes that donations being made on her behalf be designated to one of the following organizations:

Community Cancer Center of Normal (<http://www.cancercenter.org/>)

Towanda Library (<http://towandalibrary.org/>)

Towanda Historical Society (<http://towandahistory.org/>)

Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship

The Towanda Lions Club is sponsoring a \$500.00 scholarship for a 2013 High School college bound senior and/or currently enrolled college student attending classes full time from the Towanda area. This is a one-time scholarship not open to renewal.

Applicants for this scholarship must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant must have a Towanda mailing residence address.
2. Average grade of C verified by a high school transcript.
3. In 250 words or less, submit a letter of application containing a brief biographical profile which includes your college plans, school activities, community service activities and work history. Indicate your plans for using the scholarship money and why you are deserving of the award.
4. Submit 2 letters of recommendation: one from a teacher, counselor or administrator, and one from a non-relative in the Towanda area.
5. Submit a copy of your fall 2013 class schedule of the college/university you will be attending.
6. Letter of application, recommendations, transcript, and class schedule must be received by the Scholarship Committee Chairman by September 15, 2013.

Mail to: Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship
c/o Mr. Robert Hancock
7 Bent Tree Lane
Towanda, Illinois 61776

The Towanda Lions Club committee will review all applications and select one scholarship winner. All applicants will be notified by mail of the committee's choice. This scholarship is offered in memory of Steve Liebenow, a long-time Lions Club member, educator, and community leader.

Water News

"The IL1135250, Indian Creek Homeowners and Water Association has available upon request this year's Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The CCR includes basic information on the source(s) of your drinking water, the levels of any contaminants that were detected in the water during 2012, and compliance with other drinking water rules, as well as some educational materials. You can view your annual water quality report at (http://www.indiancreeksubdivision.org/icwater_files/CCR%202012.pdf) and learn more about your drinking water. Also, to obtain a free copy of the report, please call Bob Hancock at 309-728-2990 or you may pick up one at 7 Bent Tree Lane, Towanda, Illinois 61776."

Towanda 4th of July



For information about the Towanda 4th of July 45th Annual Celebration – Visit ~ <http://www.towandajuly4.com/>

Mon.Jun.24 – 7:00 p.m. – Community Building – 4th of July Planning Committee meeting

Towanda HCE



The **Towanda HCE Unit June Outing** will be Monday, June 10. The group will meet at the Towanda Community Building at 11:50 am to carpool to Pontiac where we will have lunch at 12:30 pm at Delongs' Family Dining. We will begin a trolley tour of Historic Pontiac at 2 pm at the RT 66 Museum. Included will be a tour of the Jones House in Pontiac. The trolley has seating for up to 30 people so please RSVP to Pat Pulokas, palp@mchsi.com or 309 728 2118.

The Towanda HCE will again host a July 3 spaghetti supper at the community building between 4:30-7 pm. Contact any Towanda HCE member for tickets. Adults: \$6, Children, ages 2-8: \$4. Meal includes: Avanti spaghetti, salad and bread; homemade desserts and drinks. Carry out will be available. Call Cindy Kelley, 663-4796 or Pat Pulokas, 728-2118 for more information and to buy

American Legion

The American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday June 3rd from 7:30 – 11:00. Breakfast includes eggs, egg casserole, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, French toast, fresh fruit, biscuits and gravy, juice, milk and coffee for \$8.



There will be a pork chop dinner on Friday June 14th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include a pork chop sandwich, French fries, green beans, dessert and drink for \$9. All dinners are open to the public. Carry outs are available. Thank you for supporting our troops and Veteran's.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake - McLean County Master Gardener



We have been reading and hearing a lot about the Colony Collapse Disorder of honey bees, CCD. One third of the human diet comes from insect-pollinated plants and honey bees do 80 % of the pollination. Wild bees, bumble bees, wasps, moths and hummingbirds also help to pollinate. The California almond crop uses 1.3 million colonies, [hives], which is about 1/2 of all the honey bees in the United States. The bees do much more than just make the honey for our biscuits.

According to Phil Nixon, an Extension Entomologist at the University of Illinois, who is helping with a study on CCD says pesticides, parasites and stress could be the cause of the loss. Stress can be caused by the bees being moved from one field to another to pollinate the different plants. Parasites in a hive can be treated once the owner discovers the problem.

It is believed the insecticides and pesticides either kill the bees or cause them to forget how to get back to the hive. Fungicides may interfere with the microbes that break down the pollen in the honey bee gut, making them sick. When the honey bee takes the food back to the hive, they share it with the other colony members. When the queen feeds on it, she dies and then they all die. When bees get sick, they go outside to die. That is why the hive is empty when the owners check on it.

Some research has shown that imidacloprid, [which is found in a lot of tree and shrub products], thiamethoxam, and clothianidin have been linked to a reduction of bees. Imidacloprid is no longer used in France.

A good source of lawn pollen is found in dandelion, creeping charlie, clover and wild violet.

Some people have been using tree and shrub systemics on linden trees and roses to stop japanese beetles. That is also killing the bees and other pollinators. Do not use the systemic on anything that has flowers and do not spray when the bees are active.



We put mulch around our trees, shrubs and flowers to help prevent the weeds from germinating. The primary benefit of mulching is to reduce moisture evaporation. There should be less wilting. Moist soils lose 1/4 inch of water per day when the temperatures are above 90 degrees fahrenheit. Since most of the plant roots are in the top 8 inches of soil, the plants suffer greater wilting stress when the temperature is high.

Mulch also acts like an insulation, keeping the hot air from reaching the soil and roots. The roots grow better when the soil temperatures are in the 60's and 70's.

It is best to use organic mulch, such as wood chips, clean straw, composted leaves or dry grass clippings. Also do not put black plastic under the mulch. It will prevent the rain from quickly getting to the roots and the mulch which slowly breaks down, is prevented from returning nutrients to the soil. Also, the plastic will slowly work itself up and will need to be trimmed. You can put the plastic under rock to keep them from sinking into the soil. However rock mulch does tend to hold the heat from the sun and heat the roots.

Mulching under some vegetables could limit some diseases, especially fruit rot. Most disease organisms are transferred to plants by raindrops splashing on the soil and bouncing back up to the plant and infecting it. Most commonly affected are tomatoes, cucumbers and melons.

Proper mulching is 4 - 6 inches of organic material. Deeper levels of mulch could inhibit water and air getting to the soil. Shallow mulching reduces the benefits of weed control, soil temperature, and water retention.



As you walk thru your favorite stores, you can't help but see the pretty orchids. You would like to take one home with you, but the plain plant isn't as pretty without the flowers; however, the blooms could last 3 - 4 months. Do not cut off the spike after the flowers have dried.

Most of the ones we see in the stores are called phalaenopsis, phals for short with their long, thick wide leaves and the flowers on a long curved spike. Phals are native to jungles and mountainous regions in Asia and the South Pacific Islands. They can grow on tree trunks under the shade of the tree top. They like the dew and the high humidity, which allows them to absorb moisture thru their exposed roots, which are thick and fleshy. They don't need soil, so we buy them planted in bark mulch that allows for good air movement and keeps the high humidity around the roots. If they are grown in a greenhouse, they might be planted in sphagnum moss. The moss supplies the moisture in the hot conditions, but can cause them to be over watered in home conditions, resulting in root rot and death.

To water them in the winter, you can soak the orchid pot in the kitchen sink once a week for 10 minutes and occasionally mist the roots. I mist the roots almost daily and keep a container of water among them for humidity. Place them near a window in the winter for light.

Once the night temperatures stay above 50 degrees fahrenheit, you can move your phals outside to almost full shade. They can't take the bright, hot sun. It will enjoy the warm days, cool nights, and morning dew to start growing. When the night temperature drops to 50 degrees F, time to bring them back inside. Fertilize with a fertilizer made specifically for orchids, and as always follow the label directions.

You can also leave them inside all summer and they can still bloom again.

Helen Leake

New Neighbor News

Hi-

Val & I moved to 6 Bent Tree around Christmas. When we were looking at the house to buy, we noticed a black cat in the woods, quite wild and uninterested in human contact. Mike Duval said you won't get within 20' of it, and we went on.

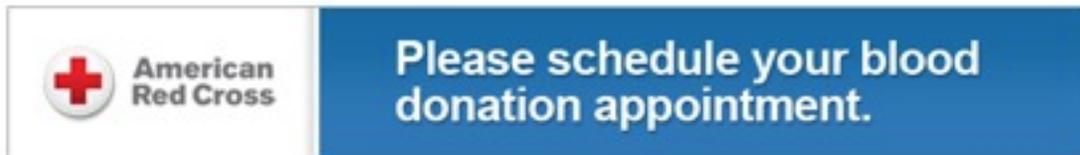
Being an animal lover by nature, and fresh to the nature side of life here, Val dispatched me to the store for corn, peanuts, birdseed, and began assisting the critters through the winter. Having turkeys, deer, come within a few feet of the windows was especially pleasing to her, and to me if I admitted it.

But that's not the point of this. Over the course of the next few months, we slowly lured the wild cat in, first onto the screened porch and eventually and tentatively inside. Our sparkling personalities aside, it was the cooked food, we admit. Finally we were able to touch it, pet it, and now it sits on Dan's lap at 4 AM daily, presumably knowing he controls the next free meal.

As will happen in the best of families, a suitor entered the picture. Just prior to the vet's appointment to have it spayed, we noticed a swelling in the cat's stomach which couldn't be attributed to Val's overfeeding. We are now proud parents of 3 kittens, born under the neighbor's porch and later brought one-by-one into Dan's bathroom closet for safety. That is where they reside today, as they are pampered by their mother and of course Val.

They were born around May 8, and as they approach weaning, we are looking to place them in good homes. Val would like to offer them to the Indian Creek families first. If there is any interest, please give her a call at 728-2696, or her cell 815-735-5897 and they can be presented in their adoptive best. If you just want your kids to see them, that is fine too; Val is softer than Dan lets on.

Val & Dan Duback



Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club and the American Red Cross are hosting an upcoming blood drive. Please join our lifesaving mission and schedule an appointment today!

Drive Details:

Site: Towanda Community Building

Address: 103 South Jefferson, Towanda, IL

Room Name: Main Room

Date: Tue Jun 19, 2012

Time: 03:00 PM - 07:00 PM

Coordinator Name: Martha Rients

Coordinator Phone Number: 309-728-2178

The Towanda Busy Bees and the American Red Cross thank you for your participation in our previous blood drives and hope that you will contact us to set you appointment for 2013!

The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime.

Thank you for supporting the American Red Cross blood program!



Freecycle Free-For-All

The Ecology Action Center announces the semi-annual Freecycle Free-For-All on Saturday, June 1 from 9 am – noon at White Oak Park in Bloomington. This is a Freecycle event open to the public where unwanted household items may be given away or obtained for free. Ultimately, the goal is to prevent useable items from ending up in the landfill.

The rules are simple – individuals may bring used, unwanted items in good condition and take what others have brought. One does not have to bring items to take items, nor take items to bring items. All items must be small enough to be easily carried; large furniture or appliances are not accepted. Additionally, no firearms, animals, foods, medicines or other consumables are permitted. Items will be accepted for donation from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. only.

More details are available at www.ecologyactioncenter.org or by calling (309) 454-3169.



The Ecology Action Center is a central resource for environmental education, information, and outreach in McLean County. The EAC educates for environmental action at a walk-in information center and through educational programs on a variety of environmental topics.

Classified



For Hire:

Lauren and Myles Smith, will provide child care and pet care - call 728-2930

Grace Rients and Emma Rients will babysit for you! Both would be willing to babysit while you run errands, mow the lawn or have a date night. Both are certified by the Red Cross and have CPR training too! Grace and Emma Rients are also experienced pet caretakers. Please call them at 728-2178.

In addition to dogs, we have experience with hermit crabs, hamsters and rabbits too!

Library News

Exciting New Program from McLean County Arts Center: ROVER Mobile Art Center Offers Youth Classes at Towanda District Library

Attention junior high and high school youth! Start your summer fun by being creative. Learn 3-D, 2-D and fiber arts in FREE afternoon sessions at the Towanda District Library.

Professional artists have been hired to teach classes that mirror classes offered at the McLean County Arts Center.

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons during the first 2 weeks of June from 3:00 to 5:00 aspiring artists ages 10 to 18 will gather under the shade tree in front of the library for classes sponsored by a National Endowment for the Arts grant.

Classes are limited to 15, so sign up immediately at the library - to assure your spot under the shade tree!

Summer Reading Program

Have Book – Will Travel!



Travel with us as we explore cultures around the world!
Snacks representative of each country served at sessions.

Monday Night Voyages - 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Wednesday Morning Voyages - 10:30am - 11:30am

For your convenience we are duplicating our presentations. You have the opportunity to attend the same program on Monday evenings or Wednesday mornings.

June 10 & 12 – Ireland!

Learn Gaelic phrases, the history of Irish dances and make your own castle. Watch an Irish dancer and join in the steps.

June 17 & 19 – Scandinavia!

Make a Scandinavian horse and play games that originated in Scandinavia.

June 21 -- Solstice Sleepover: Bring your favorite stuffed animal to leave at the library. We will host an Animal Sleep-Over with all of the animals to celebrate summer solstice. Check our website for a video of the stuffed animal antics during their library sleepover!

June 24 & 26 – Africa!

Discover what African schools are like and the types of clothes they wear. Boys will craft tribal masks and girls will design Masai Collar Necklaces.