

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

January 2014

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

Water News

The routine maintenance that was planned for early December has been delayed until spring because of colder than expected temperatures we have been experiencing. We will try to give everyone enough advance notice so you can plan for the water shut-off. Thanks!

Towanda Library

January Story Hours each Wednesday at 10:30 am:

January 8 – Five Little Snowmen;

January 15 – Make snowman picture frame;

January 22 – Penguin Parade!

January 29 – Celebrate Ted Arnold and Rosemary Well's Birthdays.

Crochet Group each Tuesday at 5:00 pm.

TOWANDA READS Book Discussion on Tuesday, January 14th from 5:00 to 6:30. Anyone interested in a discussion of *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern is invited to participate.

4th & 5th Grade Book Club on January 22 from 3:45 to 4:45: This month's book is *A Tale Dark and Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz. The book is based upon Grimm's Fairy Tales so we will have fairy tales treats.

Take Your Child to the Library Day on February 1 from 10:30 to 2:30: We invite parents to bring their child to the library to create a Make-it Take-it Craft -- as well as to check out books and movies.



Take Your Child To the Library Day

February 1 from 10:30 - 2:30



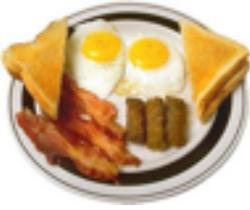
**58th Annual
Towanda Scouting
Organization Pancake &
Sausage Breakfast
Saturday February 8th 2014**

**Towanda Grade School
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

For advance Meat orders, call 728-2384



Towanda American Legion



The American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday January 5th 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.

The Legion will have a pork chop dinner on Friday January 10th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include a pork chop sandwich, fries, baked 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.



Towanda 4-H

Our next monthly meeting is being held on Tuesday, January 7th at 6:30 at the Towanda Community building. We are having a chef come to educate us on healthy and nutritious eating. We will then discuss monthly news, such as our next field trip January 9th to four seasons (members only) to learn more about having a healthy lifestyle. We are taking donations for the food pantry in Lexington; there are options to bring either one package of Pasta or one can of Ravioli or "Spaghetti O's"

If you need more information contact Kathy Schultz at 309-728-2137 or Jeanie Wager at 309-728-2852

We welcome all new members, and look forward to seeing you!

Towanda HCE



The Towanda HCE unit will hold their next meeting on Monday, January 13, 2014, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be "Caring for Tropical Plants" given by Clara Lehan. Hostesses for the evening are Joann Steinberg and Dorothy Brickey. Members and guests are requested to bring snowman items for show & tell. It's our annual "SNOWMAN" meeting!! Join the fun and bring new, old, jewelry, clothing etc etc. Guests are cordially welcome to come.



Other January events include: Jan 13, 1-4, "decorated feather hairpiece" workshop, RSVP & fee by Jan 6, 2014, 309-242-6187, call for more information; Jan 14, 9-noon, Card Making for the soldiers class, free, contact Barb Erdman, 309-242-6187; Jan 20, 9-noon, Comfort Quilts and 1-4 p.m., Children's dresses, pants and Shorts, contact Eileen Norin at 309-533-1135.

There will be a free program- Jan 27, 1-3p.m. "The History of Feet", Dr. Melissa Lockwood will discuss foot care, problems and diseases as we age. Contact Joann Hart at 309-310-9205 for more information.

Area Photo



Bob and Annette Hancock had the pleasure of viewing and photographing this owl in their backyard on December 7, 2013. They believe it to be a barred owl. What magnificent creatures!

Calendar:

Jan.1-3 - Unit 5 still on winter break

Mon.Jan.6 - Unit 5 resumes school

Wed.Jan.15 - Unit 5 Late Start

Mon.Jan.20 - No school (Martin Luther King's birthday)

Mon.Jan.27 - 4th July Planning, 7:00 p.m., Community Building Board Room

Wed.Jan.29 - Unit 5 Late Start

4th of July Planning Group

The group will meet in the Board Room at the Community Building on Mon.Jan.27 at 7:00 p.m. to begin making plans for the July 4, 2014 event in Towanda. People are needed to help with publicity, fundraising, the parade and flea market. Please come with ideas about how you can help make the 46th Annual Celebration an event to remember.

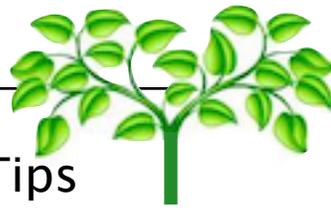
Classified

For Hire:

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

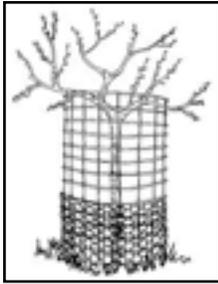


Grace Rients and Emma Rients will babysit for you! Both would be willing to babysit while you run errands, mow the lawn or have a date night. Both are certified by the Red Cross and have CPR training too! Grace and Emma Rients are also experienced pet caretakers. Please call them at 728-2178. In addition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



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake - McLean County Master Gardener



With the colder weather and the grass, clover, and other plants not growing, the rabbits, mice and voles will be looking to other places for food. They will be forced to look to the bark of trees and shrubs for food. Rabbits and mice could easily damage trees and shrubs by gnawing on the bark. We put 2 - 4 inches of mulch around the base of the trees and shrubs to protect their roots from the freezing and thawing, and it also helps to hold the moisture. However, it does make a nice home for mice and voles. That is partly why we say to keep the mulch back from the trunk 2 - 3 inches. The base of the trunk also needs to be able to have air exchange. To prevent rabbits from chewing on the bark of trees and shrubs, you can put a fence made of chicken wire or hardware cloth around them. You might want to stake it so they can not push it in. You can also buy tree protectors to place around the tree trunk. This should be high enough in case of deep snow to prevent the rabbits from reaching higher up on the tree. There are chemical repellents, but they may wash off or lose their effectiveness in warm weather. If you use chemicals, be sure to follow the directions on the container.



It is the time of the year that we see more cyclamen plants, they are native to the Mediterranean area, such as Greece and Turkey. Their colors are in the pinks, red, and white. Cyclamens grow from a bulb, but we usually see the plant in full bloom. The leaves are dark green etched with patterns in silver, it is an attractive plant even when not in bloom. When you select the plant try to get one with several unopened buds. The plant likes cool nights. You can put them in a north facing window or they also like a south window with filtered light. You need to keep the soil moist, and it is best to water them from the bottom saucer or from the edge of the pot. Keep the water off of the bulbs. When it gets too dry, the stems will droop and look like it is dead. Give it a drink and it will perk up again. Remove the flowers and stems that have withered to make room for more flowers. Do not let it form seed heads and it should continue to bloom. Move your clay and concrete pots and statues into a protected location to prevent them from cracking over the winter.



Along with the fir tree, other green plants were honored at Christmas. Holly, with its dark green leaves and bright red berries, reflects the colors of Christmas on each branch. The greenery and the holly were chosen for decoration to show life and growth in spite of winter's cold. Holly, with its brilliant green leaves and red berries, was revered by ancient people as a symbol of eternal life. With the spread of Christianity, holly became associated with the promise of everlasting life. It has come to represent peace and joy. Years ago, children searched the woods for branches of holly to decorate their homes. They believed that decking the halls with boughs of holly brought good cheer and health to the family throughout the year. You can grow holly in this area, zone 5. You do need to have a male plant and a female plant in order to have the pretty red berries. You can have several female plants with just one male plant. Mistletoe was also gathered and brought into the home. The small boughs with berries were thought to bring good luck and love. For this reason, people fastened sprigs of mistletoe above each doorway in their homes. When a girl passed beneath the mistletoe, a young man could give her a kiss, but only if he gave her a berry from the mistletoe. When the berries were gone, so were the kisses. Mistletoe is considered an invasive parasite that sucks the sap

from its host tree. It causes weakness or death to the tree. The leaves, stems, and berries are all poisonous and should be considered dangerous. If you do use the kissing ball in holiday decorations, keep it away from children by hanging it in the doorway.



January is one of the hardest months for the garden, but the easiest for the gardener. The freeze-thaw cycle can injure plants by pushing the crown of the plant up out of the ground. That is why we say to mulch around the plant to try to prevent the changes in temperature. Wet snow and ice can damage tree branches. Use a broom to gently lift the branch for the snow to fall off or carefully sweep it off. Any added weight could cause the limb to break. Do not chip at the ice, let it melt off. Remove any broken branches to prevent more damage by the limb pulling at the bark. Check plants for rodent and deer damage. Put up barriers where needed. You can add cylinders of hardware cloth for protection, if necessary. Rabbits leave a clean 45-degree angle cut. Deer leave a ragged edge and can rub off the bark as they rub their antlers. You can mix sand, birdseed, sawdust or kitty litter to gain traction on icy paths. However, kitty litter can be messy if tracked into the house.

Towanda Busy Bees

The Towanda Busy Bees will continue their fundraiser with Schwan's through the month of January. Supporting the club is as easy as ordering through SchwansCares.com. If you are already a Schwan's customer or if you would like to try Schwan's this is an easy way to have delicious Schwan's products delivered straight to your door!!

The January meeting will be Tuesday, January 21st. The program will be on Recycling. For more information about the club please contact: Martha Rients 728-2178.

