

Indian Creek Newsletter

September 2017

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Towanda HCE September News



Towanda Home and Community Education

Towanda Home and Community Education will meet on Mon, Sep 11 at 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. The program on Radon & Household Waste will be given by Bev Hornickel. For this our 100th year of HCE, Fact Finds each month will inform us of history of McLean County Units over the past 99 years. Different Units will be highlighted each month. A business meeting and refreshments will follow the program. Guests are always welcome to attend and interact with our program discussion.

Towanda Home and Community Education (HCE) presents a different program every month. The county programs, lessons, workshops and demonstrations promote lifelong learning. Community Service activities and social events promote friendships and help people find "a better way to a better life through education." Contact Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797 or Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650/ rbtnprsn@outlook.com for more information about this meeting and HCE.

Other county programs are open to the public, some with fees. **Zipper Flower Class, making a flower from a zipper, Mon, Sep 11, 1-4 p.m. Extension Office, call 309-821-1266 for list of**

supplies to bring/fees/RSVP-due by Sep 5. **Read & Share, Mon, Sep 18, 2-3:30 pm.** The book **All the Light We Can Not See** by Anthony Doerr will be discussed, Extension Office, LaVonne, 309-661-6391. **Community Service Day, Mon, Sep 18, 9-3,** Farm Bureau Auditorium, working on Operation Santa Stockings for the soldiers; sewers and non-sewers welcome, bring sewing machine if you have one; Karen, 309-326-9559.

HCE is planning their **4th Attic Treasures & Bake Sale, October 21, 8a-2p, Trinity Lutheran Church GYM, 901 S Madison, Bloomington.** Treasures include Christmas items, household items, books, small furniture, linens, crafts, special bake goods and so much more. Sale proceeds benefit the McLean County 4-H program. Call Cindy, 309-824-4797 for more information.

Join us for fun, friends and fellowship. Try us, you'll like us!

Pictured: Pat Pulokas (center of carrying the sign for McLean County HCE) along with Linda Lange and Joyce Schneider in the Danvers Days Parade on Aug 20 in Danvers. We will be in the Towanda 4th of July parade in 2018!



Gardening Tips

by Helen Leake

We are always telling you to place mulch around the trees and other plants to prevent the weeds from growing and to hold the moisture in the soil. It also helps to keep the soil temperature more even. If using organic mulch, such as leaves, wood chips or tree bark, when it breaks down, it adds nutrients to the soil. We usually say to keep the mulch 2-3 inches away from the tree trunk. By putting the much out to the drip line, it is easier to mow under the tree.

Martha Smith, an educator for University of Illinois tells us that the bark of the tree is there to protect the trunk of the tree and it works best if it can have air and light. More and more we are seeing mulch touching the tree trunk and deeper. That exposes the trunk to dark and moisture, which causes the trunk to begin to rot and opens it up to insects and disease. Also as the mulch breaks down, it produces heat, which can kill the living tissues and cause the tree to try to grow roots in the mulch rather than in the ground. Use a medium course mulch.

Different kinds of mulch breaks down at different rates, so when you add more mulch, be sure the total is not more than 2-4 inches. Termites cannot live in mulch, because they need moisture and mulch can dry out.

Also plastic and weed barriers can prevent oxygen and rain from getting to the roots. Using rocks as mulch also holds the heat and cold longer than organic mulch.

A yellow fungus may grow on mulch during warm, wet periods. This is called dog vomit fungus, because that is what it looks like, and it occurs as the mulch is breaking down. It won't hurt anything. Just use a rake and break it up so it can dry out.

Mulch is great for the health of the trees, but covering the base of the tree is a death sentence. Give it at least 2-3 inches to breathe. We are seeing a lot of places that the mulch is touching the trunk. We don't want to see the loss of these valuable trees.

Fall is a good time to divide spring and summer blooming perennials. The long, cool fall gives the roots time to get established before winter sets in. Divide them at least 6-8 weeks before the ground freezes.

If your plants get too crowded, they are easier to have disease problems. Some produce fewer or smaller flowers when they are crowded. Also some die back in the center.

You want to be sure the soil isn't too wet or too dry when you dig. If it is too dry, the soil could fall away from the roots and you will need to work fast so the roots don't wilt or suffer. Simply water the plant the day before. Also choose a cool or cloudy day to divide and transplant.

You can dig up the whole plant and divide it, carefully separating the roots and return part back into the same hole. If the clump is large, you can cut a chunk out, making sure you have at least 2-3 shoots and some healthy roots, the more the better. Have the hole or container ready for the new plant before you start to dig. Dig the hole twice as wide as the root ball and the same depth so the plant will be at the same depth as before. If moving peonies, place the eyes, the pink new shoots, no deeper than 2 inches. If planted too deep, they will not bloom.

Add a little organic compost to the hole and gently pull in the soil around the plant. Water and add 2-3 inches of wood mulch to protect the roots during the winter. Make sure the soil stays moist the first month. If the plant is tall, you can cut off the top 1/3, so the plant can spend its energy on developing good roots. You could put a marker at the new spot, so you don't forget it next spring.

With the hot, dry days, the soil is drying fast. Don't forget to give trees, shrubs and perennials planted in the last 4 years an inch of water a week.

Just about everywhere you look, you can see the clear plastic water bottles, even at business conferences. That is good because it encourages people to drink more water to stay hydrated. Hopefully, when you empty them, you remember to recycle them.

The water in them is probably not any better than the water from your faucet. Unless it says on the container, it probably came from a faucet. In the stores where you refill your container, it probably came from their faucet, which is good because it could contain fluoride for your teeth.

The plastic for the bottle contains crude oil, so it contains carcinogen. And the truck that travels miles to deliver it uses crude oil. It is handy to freeze the bottle and place it in your lunch box to keep it cool. But the freezing the bottles pulls carcinogens from the bottles into the water. The same thing happens if you leave the water bottle in a very hot car. Not good.

You can buy non plastic drink containers in the stores. They cost a little, but by refilling them at home, you save money. You also know where the water came from.

Please recycle the empty water bottles to keep them from filling the land fill. Also the plastic bottles are made into thread to make those warm fuzzy jackets and many other good uses of the recycled plastic thread. It takes hundreds of years for that plastic to break down.

The shorter day light hours are telling the plants that summer is nearing the end. The vegetables are ripening and the flowers are developing seeds. We can look at the clock or calendar to determine the time or date. The plants have to go by temperature and day light hours. You might have noticed in

the past that soy beans grown under the street light don't ripen, because of the longer light. It won't be long until the trees start to change the show of color.

The birds also go by the day light hours. Now they are eating a lot of seeds and insects to fatten up for their long journey to their winter home. They use the stars as their map. Going over large cities with bright lights often confuse them.

You can dig your potatoes when the tops have dried. Use a garden fork and dig carefully so you don't damage the potatoes. Let them air dry for a couple of days before storing them in a cool, dark area. Use any damaged potatoes soon to prevent spoilage.

Check your pears for signs of ripeness. They should be picked when they are fall size, but still green. Store them in a cool location to ripen. Check often for any spoilage.

If your garden hose smashes your plants when watering, make a hose guard. Use a 2 foot long rebar and cap it with 1/2 section of a decorative wrought iron curtain rod. Place it at the edge to stop the garden hose from damaging the plants.

The Spring planted garden is winding down, time to remove any dead or diseased plants. In its place you can plant some lettuce and radishes. Also you can dry some flowers for your year round arrangements. Wait to pick them later in the day, after the morning dew has dried.

Check your lawn for grub damage and sod webworm. The grubs eat the dead roots of the grass. If you have brown patches in the lawn, cut 3 sides of a spot a foot wide and pull the sod up. If you can count less than 10-12 grubs in that area, you don't need to treat that area for grubs. If less grubs than that, you don't need to treat the lawn, because when you kill the grubs, you also kill the good bugs in the soil. It is good to have a few grubs, they help loosen the soil.

The Linden trees look like they are dying, but they look brown because the Japanese beetles have eaten on the leaves and skeletonized them. They eat the leaf and leave the veins, so it looks brown. The tree has already stored enough energy for next year by July 1, but it won't hurt to give it a good drink of water. Also any other tree or shrub planted this year needs a good drink of water. When watering, pour the water near the drip line {edge of the canopy} of the tree. That is where most of the feeder roots are growing. When you fertilize, you should also place it near the drip line.

Helen J. Leake

Towanda 4H

September begins a new 4-H Year! 4-H is open to all youth ages 8 to 18. Cloverbuds is a club for younger members ages 5-7. The Towanda Busy Bees 4-H club meets on the Third Tuesday of each month at Towanda Community Building. 4-H and Cloverbuds offers activities to develop life skills in personal development, community involvement, leadership and so much more. For more information contact: Martha Rients 728-2178

LEGION NEWS

There will be a pork chop dinner on Friday September 15th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include pork chop sandwich, French fries, green beans, applesauce, dessert and drink for \$9. All dinners are open to the public. Carry outs are available.

Thank you for your continued support of the Legion and our Veterans.

Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday September 21st at 7:00 at the Post. The Legion is available for rent for reunions, parties and meetings. For more information contact Mike Potts at 728-2384 or Tom Wagner at 287-7861.

CHALLENGES

by John Hermann

Art Show + Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

sponsored by  **Prudential**
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09.24.2017

@ EWING MANOR

48 Sunset Road | Bloomington, IL 61701



FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN • FOOD & GIFT

1:00pm-5:00pm

Mixed Media Art Show & Adventure

by John Hermann

in the Genevieve Gardens and Ewing Manor

3pm-4pm

LIVE MUSIC

Manor Living Room + Exterior Patio

4:15pm

**RIBBON CUTTING
CEREMONY**

*Please park across the street at St. John's
Lutheran Church. Entrance is located on the
corner of Towanda Ave. and East Emerson St.*



4th of July Celebration in Towanda – 50 years in 2018

July 4, 2018 will be Towanda's 50th Annual Celebration – and the BEST one yet! A planning meeting will be held **Monday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Community Building. Gail Ann Briggs has been involved with the Parade in one way or another for a number of years, but is stepping down as the Parade Chairman. Information about what the role entails will be discussed at the meeting. Please attend and/or feel free to contact her for information (or to recommend someone) at 728-2187 or rbriggs@frontiernet.net. Lots of information and support (if desired) will be provided to the new chairman!!

REMINDER - Area Fall Garage Sales - will be held Thursday-Saturday, September 7-9. If you'd like to be included on a list of area sales and share in the cost of advertising, please be prompt in providing – by **Wednesday, August 30** – the following:

- a. Sale location (cross streets are helpful)
- b. Contact information (phone & email)
- c. Days and times of your sale (it is not necessary to have your sale each day)
- d. List of items (include as much as you like, in priority order, and depending on space available, they will be listed on the flyer and by category in the Pantagraph ad)
- e. \$7 fee (for Pantagraph ad), checks payable to Gail Ann Briggs.

September Calendar

Monday, September 4 – LABOR DAY – no school

Tuesday, September 5 – Unit 5 Institute – no school for students

Wednesday, September 13 – Unit 5 1-hr late start

Friday, September 22 – Unit 5 NCWHS Homecoming

Wednesday, September 27 – Unit 5 1-hr late start

.....looking ahead: Friday, October 6 – Unit 5 NCHS Homecoming

Towanda Directory of Area Organizations

The directory is being updated and information is needed about Groups, Organizations, etc. Please call 728-2187 or send to Gail Ann Briggs, rbriggs@frontiernet.net the following:

1. Organization Name
2. Contact Person and Phone Number
3. Day, Time, Frequency, and Place of Meetings

Thank you!!

Towanda Library

September 2017 Library News

“You Won’t Believe What I Saw When Watching the Eclipse!” @ 2:00 on September 1. We know that the stories of the crowds and the “people watching” will be much more interesting than what you saw in the sky that day. Come and share your adventures! Where did you go? What did you see? Will you do the same thing in 7 years when the next eclipse happens?

“The Added Value of Your Library Card” September 5 & 12 @ 5:30 and September 18 & 25 @ 4:30. Learn about Worldbook Online, Tumblebooks Online, and how to borrow free e-books from the library. Your library pays for all of these resources – to make them free for you!

Towanda Reads Adult Book Discussions: “A Gentleman in Moscow” by Amor Towles is the book that will be discussed on October 10th at 5:00 pm. Selections for the next twelve months are on the library website.

September is Library Card Month: Did you know that you must renew your card every 3 years? It’s free and allows you to use any library in Illinois, as long as your card is active.

Preschool Story Hour every Wednesday beginning September 6th @ 10:30: Stories to build character, new friends to build social skills, crafts to train dexterity needed for pre-writing fine motor control, and pre-literacy activities such as fingerplays, singing, educational games, and acting-out stories. Snacks also. Younger siblings welcome in play areas or on a lap!

Bulldog Book Club on September 13 & 27: Each “Late Start” Wednesday of the school year youth in 4th & 5th grade discuss the Caudill nominated books. Pre-register today at the library!

LEGO Builders Club on September 18: Third Monday of each month during the school year youth in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade take on literacy-based LEGO challenges. Pre-register today at the library!

Tuesday Tunes September 19th @ 2:30 to 3:30. Kindergarten, First, and Second graders sing, dance, play musical instruments, and enjoy other toe-tapping activities. Pre-register today at library!

Library Board Meeting: The board next meets at the library on September 19th.

Crochet Group: every Tuesday @ 5:00 to 6:30. New members are always welcome.

See all library news at: www.towandalibrary.org and on the library Facebook page

Karen Stott Bersche, Director
Towanda District Library
301 S. Taylor St.
Towanda, IL 61776-7582
Phone: (309) 728-2176 Fax: (309) 728-2139

<http://www.towandalibrary.org> Email: director@towandalibrary.org

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTER

Ecology Action Center Encourages “Carpooling” for Household Hazardous Waste Collection With less than two weeks to go until the September 9 Household Hazardous Waste Collection for McLean County residents, the Ecology Action Center is asking everyone to share a ride. The EAC’s Executive Director Michael Brown says, “Nobody likes to sit in line—but there’s not much we can do about it, right? Wrong. The single most important thing residents can do to help reduce wait times is to carpool their hazardous waste with that of their friends and neighbors”.

According to Brown, one vehicle carrying the hazardous materials from several households is much more time-efficient for the hazardous waste crews to unload than the same volume of materials transported in multiple cars. “So this also means much fewer cars, which means the lines will be both shorter and will move faster,” added Brown.

Under the regulations allowing for one-day HHW collections in Illinois, the EAC is restricted from directly organizing any transportation of hazardous materials. They can only collect it at the event and have it transported to processing/treatment facilities. But residents can organize on their own for carpooling of materials to the collection, whether it’s through their neighborhood association, informally through word-of-mouth, or through social media sites like Nextdoor.com and Facebook. The McLean County Household Hazardous Waste collection event will be held on Saturday, September 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rivian Automotive, located at 100 N. Mitsubishi Motorway in Normal. Residents must enter the facility using the south gate from West College Avenue instead of the west side entrances used in the past. Participation is limited to McLean County residents. Illinois regulations mandate that only residential HHW may be collected—no business or commercially generated wastes can be accepted.

In the past, state-sponsored HHW collections were a legal, safe, and reliable way of disposing of HHW in Illinois, but budget cuts resulted in the loss of state funding for five years. In 2012, the EAC and its partners decided that the community needed to take matters into its own hands. They developed a public-private partnership to cover the costs of holding a one-day collection. The unprecedented turnout at that event led local government partners to increase support for the 2015 collection. HHW collections are expensive; this year’s will cost as much as \$180,000. The City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, and McLean County have provided \$140,000. Current sponsors and event partners include Illinois Farm Bureau, Home Sweet Home Ministries, Midwest Fiber, WGLT, Radio Bloomington, Area Disposal, Henson Disposal, State Farm Insurance, and Republic Services.

The Ecology Action Center needs support from private individuals to make this a success. Donations to the McLean County HHW Fund may be made online at HHWmclean.org or by sending a check to the Ecology Action Center at 202 W College Avenue, Normal, IL 61761. The EAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; contributions and sponsorships are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Fundraising efforts will continue through the date of the HHW collection. Details including what materials can and cannot be accepted at this event are available at HHWmclean.org. Volunteers are

still needed to help with traffic control at the event; signup is available online at the same address. 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.

Ecology Action Center seeks nominations for McLean County Green Awards

The Ecology Action Center presents the annual McLean County Green Awards to recognize local efforts to improve our environment. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 awards, with recipients being named in October at the EAC's annual fall wine-tasting fundraiser.

The McLean County Recycling Award identifies businesses, schools or organizations with outstanding recycling programs or waste reduction efforts or individuals who have played a role in a successful program or effort. While nominations will be accepted for any recycling or waste reduction project, areas of growing interest include source reduction of hazardous wastes or zero-waste programs.

The Anne McGowan Making a World of Difference Award recognizes outstanding projects, activities, or individuals in McLean County who promote environmental awareness or natural resource conservation. The EAC recently dedicated the World of Difference Award in memory of McGowan, an early director of the EAC, due to her ability to inspire and motivate others to take action. Former EAC Executive Director Michelle Covi described Anne as a catalyst for action.

She was energetic and never hesitated to get her hands dirty. Her natural curiosity and love of the natural world fueled her passion for wildlife exploration and preservation. She shared her love with children and adults alike when she conducted nature walks, wildflower walks, and nature programs. She inspired and nurtured life-long dedication to environmental awareness and conservation in children, college students, and adults whose lives she touched.

In the spirit of Anne, the EAC seeks nominations of worthy projects, organizations, or individuals in nomination for the Anne McGowan Making World of Difference Award or the McLean County Recycling and Waste Reduction Award. Current EAC Executive Director Michael Brown suggested, "if more of us followed the outstanding example set by Anne McGowan, the world would be a much better place."

Nominations may be made online at ecologyactioncenter.org/green-awards/ or by stopping by the Ecology Action Center at 202 W College Avenue in Normal; all submissions are due by Thursday, September 14 at 5 p.m. The recipients of the 2017 awards will be named at the EAC's annual wine-tasting fundraiser at Epiphany Farms Restaurant on Thursday, October 12.

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.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE



84" sofa from non smoking home. Excellent condition. Hunter Green, Burgundy, Tan and Cream plaid with two matching pillows. \$200 or make offer. This is a Smith Brothers sofa made in Berne, IN. Contact Judy Schulthes, 728-2927

Businesses:

Pampered Chef features Cooking Shows, Catalog Parties, Freezer Meal Workshops, Bridal Showers & Fundraisers!

Contact your local Indian Creek consultant for these events.

Annette Hancock

Call Home - 728-2990

Text or call- 309-242-1802

Email - oldcars@frontiernet.net

Website - www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock

Pinterest Recipes - www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935



For Hire:

Need help taking care of your pet while your away, call Bailee Harmon at (309) 530-5360. "I love animals and have been volunteering at the Humane Society for almost six months. I would love to help take care of your animals".

Do you need a babysitter? Do you need your house cleaned? Or, just an extra set of hands to help out around the house? Anna Kraft is willing to help! She is a sophomore at NCHS and can be contacted at 728-8088 (home) or (309) 830-7721 (cell).

Need help taking care of your pet while you are away or while you are at work? Call Avery Hartman, 728-2093. I have experience and references.

Are you looking for someone to watch your pets when you are gone or walk them while you are at work? If so, call Sami Hartman (30 Candle Ridge Road). I am responsible and LOVE pets. I have experience and references. My number is 728-2093.

The Schwamberger boys, Jairon 17 and Justin 15, are available as maintenance helpers. Call 728-2857

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