

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

December 2017

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Towanda Library

Food for Fines: Donate food items in lieu of fines. Each item is worth \$1 toward fines – only. There is a limit of \$5 in fine “forgiveness” per person. Food will be donated to charity.

Library Closed for Staff Training on Thursday, December 7th.

Preschool Story Hour every Wednesday @ 10:30: Enjoy stories, crafts, and pre-literacy activities such as finger plays, singing, educational games, and acting-out stories. Younger siblings welcome in play areas or on a lap! Yes, the group meets on December 27th!

Bulldog Book Club on December 13 @ 2:30: Each “Late Start” Wednesday of the school year youth in 4th & 5th grade discuss the Caudill nominated books. Sessions are now led by Karen Bersche. Registration is now closed and there is a waiting list.

LEGO Builders Club on December 18 @ 2:30: Third Monday of each month during the school year - youth in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade take on literacy-based LEGO challenges taught by April Fisher. Pre-register today at the library! This group can accept 2 more students.

Christmas Break @ the Library: Activities for Grade-Schoolers

Wednesday, December 27 and Wednesday, January 3 @ 3:00: Musical games, musical instruments, and musical movement. Guaranteed to burn lots of energy and “get the wiggles out”! Join Ms. Katelyn and your friends.

Friday, December 29 and Friday, January 5 @ 3:00: Thumbprint/Spongepaint Art. Make a group mural for the library, as well as individual projects to take home.

No Tuesday Tunes in December. This group meets at 2:30 on the 4th Tuesday of each month during the school year – but there is no school the 4th Tuesday of December. Kindergarten, First, and Second graders sing, dance, play musical instruments, and enjoy other toe-tapping activities taught by Developing Melodies. Pre-register today at library! Two spaces available!

Crochet/Knit/Fibers Group: Every Tuesday @ 5:00 to 6:30. New members are always welcome. Questions are cheerfully answered.

Towanda Reads Adult Book Discussions: “Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans” by Don Brown and “Rain, Reign” by Ann Martin will be discussed on December 12th at 5:00 pm. Join the book discussion whenever a title interests you. Newcomers are always welcome! The group meets the second Tuesday of even-numbered months. Future selections are on the library website.

See all library news at: www.towandalibrary.org and on the library Facebook page (which appears in the left-hand column of the library website and works even for those without a personal FB account)

Pics of Fall Flashlight Walk

On Saturday October 28th, Indian Creek residents went on a flashlight walk down the "bale trail". Residents were encouraged to decorate the straw bales that had been distributed along our new east side trail. We certainly have some very creative residents! Here are a few photos of that walk.





Towanda Busy Bees



The Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club had 8 members receive recognition at the McLean County Recognition of Excellence Ceremony on November 9th. The members met on November 21st and learned how to make fleece pillows and blankets. They also volunteered at the Festival of Trees and will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army in December. 4-H is open to all youth ages 8-18 by September 1st. Cloverbuds is available for youth ages 5-7 by September 1st. New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information contact: Martha Rients 728-2178 or hrients@frontiernet.net

Towanda HCE

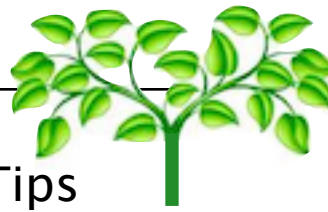
The Towanda HCE group will meet for their December Holiday Potluck Party on Monday, Dec 11, 6 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Meat, drink, table service will be provided. If you wish to participate bring a \$10 gift exchange which is on the theme of Make it; Bake it; Sew it; Grow it". Hostess committee is Clara Lehan, Robin Pearson and Sharon Joplin. Please RSVP to Clara, 309-728-2374 or jclehan@yahoo.com by Saturday, Dec 9. Come for a festive time!

Towanda HCE members will participate in our 100th McLean County HCE year with a float in the Bloomington-Normal Jaycees Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec 2, 10 a.m., Kingsley Jr High, Normal to downtown Bloomington square. We will also be in the LeRoy Christmas Parade on Sunday, Dec 3, 2 p.m. The County HCE Holiday Party will be Saturday, Dec 9, 9am-1pm at the Ozark House, Bloomington. \$15 tickets include luncheon, music, Bingo, make-it, take-it crafts, Christmas items for sale, and will need RSVP by Nov 28 to Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797.

For more information about Towanda Home and Community Education: Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797, ckek71@frontier.com or Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650, rbtnprsn@outlook.com.

Unit 5

- Wed.Dec.13 = late start
- Fri.Dec.22 – Fri.Jan.5 = No School



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake

Now that it is cold outside, the birds are not finding insects to eat. It is time to put out suet cakes so they can get some protein to help keep them warm. Also it is good to keep some bird seed in the feeders. They like to eat late in the afternoon to hold them over for the night. The birds also like a place out of the cold winter winds. A lot of the pretty song birds have gone to warmer places. We still see a lot of sparrows, we need to feed them thru the winter so they will be here to eat the insects next spring.

If you have some tall, narrow trees, such as the Arborvitae, you could wrap a rope around it so when we have ice or heavy, wet snow, it won't split. Sometimes they have more than one trunk, and by wrapping around them up about 6 feet or more will prevent them from falling over and breaking.

Also if you have some young fruit or ornamental trees, place some tree wrap around the trunk. In January, when the sun is warm the tree could think it is spring and send some water up the trunk. Then after the sun goes down, the temperature drops faster than the water in the trunk. The water can freeze and cause a crack in the bark of the tree. In early spring, remove the wrap so the insects don't make a home there.

You can cut some of the older stems from your red twig and yellow twig dogwood to use in your winter arrangement. You need to remove older stems every few years because the younger growth produce the most color.

If you have not planted your hyacinth bulbs in the ground yet, you could try to force them to bloom indoors. They are easy to force, but you do need to have some patience. Fill a pot with damp soil up to about 4 inches from the rim. Place the bulbs, with the tips facing up, close together, but not touching. Add more soil, but be sure the tips barely show. Place the pot in the refrigerator for 6-8 weeks. Mark the date on the pot or calendar. They need to chill before they will grow and bloom. When you remove them from the fridge, water and place them in a semi-dark place for a week so the shoots can turn green and grow. Then place them in a cool bright spot. Remember they are used to cool air. You should see blooms in 3-4 weeks.

Avoid mulching the perennials until after the ground freezes.

Remove the rotten fruit and debris from around fruit trees.

Stop fertilizing your house plants, unless they get supplemental light. They rest during the shorter light days of winter. You could provide extra humidity for house plants.

It is the time to look for that fresh cut Christmas tree. A few things to think about before you go. After you have decided where you are going to put the tree, check to make sure there is enough space. Measure to see how high it is to the ceiling. Take a tape measure to check how tall the tree is. Looks bigger when you get it in the house. Bundle up good and go find that perfect tree. If you can't place it in the house the same day, place it in a bucket of water and in a place out of the wind.

Place a tree bag on the floor, so you can pull it up around the tree when you take it out and not drop needles all over the floor. Have water in the tree stand and cut about 1-2 inches off the trunk. You want a fresh cut so the tree can absorb the water. It will use a lot of water the first few days. Be

sure that there is always plenty of water at all times. The cut will heal over if not kept under water. Try to cover the tree stand so the cat and dog can not drink the water.

If you are planning on a live tree, dig the hole before the ground freezes. Place the soil in a place where the soil won't freeze when you plant the tree. Cover the hole with a board. Remember the root ball is large and heavy. Don't keep the tree inside for more than 2-4 days. You don't want it to think it is spring. Water it deeply after you plant it outside. You want a fresh cut so the tree can absorb the water. It will use a lot of water the first few days. Be sure that there is always plenty of water at all times. The cut will heal over if not kept under water. Try to cover the tree stand so the cat and dog can not drink the water.

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Classified

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
7 Bent Tree Lane
Call Home - 728-2990
Text or call- 242-1802
Email - oldcars@frontiernet.net
Website - www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock
Pinterest - www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935



For Hire:

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.

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? 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".

Justin Schwamberger, 17 years old, is available for helping with lawn care, snow removal, and help around the home. Call 728-2857.