



Indian Creek Newsletter

April, 2018

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

“They’re Lumberjacks and they’re OK”



The tree trimming crew: Jim Larson, Loui Blank, Bob Hancock, Fred Walk, Keith Whittum, Greg Beneze, Larry Meyer and Rodney Brittain. Thanks to all of you.





Gardening Tips

by Helen Leake

We are beginning to see the stacks of mulch at the gas stations. They don't have space to store it, so they put it on display. It is too early to place it around your plants but if you find what you want, go ahead and buy it while it is still available. Wait until the soil has warmed up before you apply it. If you put it down now you will keep that soil cold longer.

It is best not to get in a big hurry cleaning all of the garden. Leave the leaves that have blown up around the plants. They are protecting the roots from the cold. Wait until warmer weather so the insect eggs have hatched. Most of the insects are good bugs and are needed to feed the birds and their babies. Also, some insects feed on other insects. Lady bugs like to eat the aphids. Also, in time, the earthworms will eat the decaying leaves and deposit their waste among the roots as fertilizer.

We need to leave an area a little messy. The birds will soon be building a nest and they will need some twigs, leaves, grass, etc. to build a nest for their young. These things have been part of the ecosystem for years, but now people get very neat with their yard and use too many chemicals which can kill more than what we intended to kill.

It is time to divide or move an old clump of rhubarb. Use a spade and plenty of muscle to dig up the plant. Dig out the roots, which are tough, then cut them into several pieces with the spade. Make sure each piece has at least 1 fat bud, the more the better. Plant the severed roots 3 feet apart.

Don't forget to call Julie before you dig. If you cut any wires people will lose service and you could be charged for repair.

It won't be long until we will be seeing those pretty little yellow flowers called dandelions. As much as some people dislike them, they do have some good values. They are one of the earliest flowers to bloom and they do have a lot of pollen for the pollinators.

The weather has usually warmed up enough by the time that they bloom, that there will be pollen for the honey bees when the first warm day for them to come out to go to the bathroom and get some pollen. Honey bees will not mess in their hive. If their legs are full of pollen, they are unable to sting you.

Children enjoy picking them, and the violets to give Mother as a bouquet of flowers. I remember, as a child, splitting the stem and watch it curl. Also making a chain out of the stem.

The dandelion seeds will ripen about the time to nourish the gold finches and indigo buntings during their spring migration. Also, the humming birds like to use the seeds to line their nest, so it is soft for the babies.

Another good thing about the plant is that the tap root grows very deep into the ground. That loosens the soil so that the rain water can soak deeper.

To remove the plant, you can use a forked-tip weeder to pop the plant out of the ground. You can buy a dandelion digger at most garden shops. An inexpensive and pesticide free way to remove the plant is to pour scalding water on it.

You can also remove weeds between cracks in the sidewalk and dog pens by pouring boiling water on them.

Dandelions have also been used to make wine and tender leaves are used in salads but be very sure that no chemicals have been used anywhere near them.

You can also break off the flower when it starts to wilt. No one driving or walking by will notice the green leaves. No matter how much you try to kill them, the wind will still bring seeds to you yard

It is March and the weather can't decide if it is winter, spring, or summer, so be prepared to protect your plants. Wait until the soil is dry enough before you work in it.

Sometimes when we order bare roots plants, they arrive at a time that we cannot plant them right away, so you will need to "heal them in". Select a sheltered spot and dig a trench, one side vertical and the other side at a 45 degree angle. Remove the plastic and other wrapping and lay the plants on the sloping side. You can lay them close together and spread the roots out along the bottom of the trench. Water and fill the trench with soil.

You can start off your dahlia tubers this month in the house or in the greenhouse. Remove any tubers that have rotted. Any tubers that have shriveled can be soaked overnight in tepid water to plump them out. Plant the tubers in a six inch tray of moist peat, so the tops are just covered. Once the new shoots appear, give them plenty of light.

You can cut back your overwintering geraniums and start to give them more water and light. You can take; some young shoots about 3-4 inches long, cut them off with a sharp knife just below a leaf joint, or node, remove the lower leaves. Put the cuttings in a pot with potting mixture. Place the cuttings around the edge of the pot. You should be able to place 5 cuttings around the edge of the pot. Water lightly and keep the soil moist. You do not need to cover the geranium cuttings. They will do better without the covering.

You can also start cuttings from fuchsias, impatient and other plants. They will do better if you place a clear plastic bag over them to hold the humidity in.

The days are getting warm enough for some plants to start sprouting. Keep the mulch topped up to protect the plants from the freezing nights.

When the soil is dry enough to work, don't forget to call Julie before you do any digging. They will locate all of your utility cables, wires, or pipes to prevent injury and save time and money. There is no charge for the service.

It is best to plant on an overcast day or in the evening. When you remove the plant from the container, check the root mass. If the roots are growing in a circle, they need to be loosened or cut with a knife to encourage new feeder root growth. Remember not to plant the trees too deep, but you can plant the other plants at the same depth as they were in the container. You want the root flare of the trees above ground.

Plants should be well watered when they are newly planted. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage the strongest root growth. Do not water plants in the ground daily, it could cause the roots to rot and the plant to die.

Remove only the damaged branches when planting trees or shrubs and let the plant settle in for at least one year before you start formative pruning. The plant needs all of the leaves and branches to get over the shock of being transplanted and trying to get established.

Unless the tree is in a windy area it is best not to stake it. Unstaked trees develop a stronger trunk and root system by being able to sway with the wind. If you do stake a tree, remove the stake after one year.

If you are using pre-emergence herbicide to control crab grass, the ideal time to apply is when the forest areas show color. Crab grass seed needs five days of soil temperature above 55 degrees to germinate. Do not apply pre-emergence anywhere that you sow grass or flower seed. It will also prevent the grass and flower seed from coming up. Helen J. Leake

Towanda HCE News



Picture above is the McLean County group who attended the IAHCE conference. They are the following:

Seated L-R: Anna Marie Chrisman, Fran Burns, Pat Pulokas

Standing L-R: Nancy O'Neill, Kathryn McNealy, Eileen Norin, Karen Crull, Jane Wood, Anita Ogden, Becky Toohill, Lynda Kobs, Kathleen Emery, Bette Ohlenkamp.

The Towanda HCE group will meet on Monday, April 9, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Bev Hornickel will be giving the major program on "5 Ingredient Fix" and Cindy Kelley will give a minor lesson on 100 years of HCE History: Extension Units of Downs, Bellflower, Empire, Night crawlers, and Happy Homemakers. Hostesses are Joann Steinberg, Cindy Kelley and Linda Conder. More information about this meeting or the Towanda HCE, call Robin, 815-579-1650 or rbnprsn@outlook.com.

Other HCE county programs include April 16, 2-3:30 pm, McLean County Extension Office- Read & Share the book, *Wright Brothers* by David McCullough, 309-661-6391; **April 27, Cultural Enrichment – Tri Valley H.S. play, "Shakespeare Trilogy"; meet at Shannons Restaurant, Bloomington at 5 p.m. for dinner and/or meet at Tri Valley H.S. at 7:05 p.m., call Lynda at 309-532-1961 for more information and play ticket reservations by April 20.**

The 94th Annual Conference of the IAHCE was held March 13-15 at Effingham's Keller Conference Center in Effingham, IL. McLean County HCE received Education Awards in IAHCE District 5 in these categories: Public Relations; Family & Community Issues, Special Activity; Certified Volunteer Hours (CVH) of county with highest percentage of members participating and CVH highest number of members participating; Membership- Most Members Gained and Membership Activities. McLean County HCE received the IAHCE state GRAND Award for Membership Activity (Membership/Friendship Tea 2017) and Cultural Enrichment (4-H Sewing Spin Club).

Thirteen McLean County HCE members attended this year and participated in interesting programs, workshops, Silent Auction and the Fine Arts and Craft/Cultural Enrichment Show. About 354 people attended the conference from 74 counties. Kathleen Emery and Pat Pulokas of the Towanda Unit attended.

Spring Garage Sales

[Annual Towanda Area Spring Garage Sales](#) will be held **Thu-Sun, May 3-6**. To be included on a list of area sales and share in the cost of advertising, please provide the following by **Wed. Apr. 25**: a) Sale location, b) Contact information (phone & email), c) Days and times of your sale (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, items will be listed on the flyer and by category in the Pantagraph), and e) \$7 fee (for Pantagraph, ad flyers), checks payable to Gail Ann Briggs. Please, Email sale information to rgbriggs@frontiernet.net (preferred) or Mail to Gail Ann Briggs, [112 Hunt St, Towanda, IL 61776](#). Email or call (728-2187) with questions. You'll get a response by email when I have your information. Anyone with items they particularly want to sell may want to take out an individual ad as well.



Pet Cleanup

Just another friendly reminder to all IC dog owners about cleaning up their pets "deposits", please!

CALENDAR

Mon.Apr.2 – No School (Unit 5)

Wed.Apr.11 – 1-hout Late Start (Unit 5)

Fri.Apr.13 – Lions Club Ham & Bean Dinner

Fri.Apr.20 – No School / Institute (Unit 5)

Wed.Apr.25 – Garage Sale Information Due

Saturday April 21, 2018 Blood Drive 8am- 12pm:

We have partnered with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive event. [From 8am to Noon on Saturday April 21, you can visit the station and donate blood.](#) To ensure a timely donation you can go online and schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are always welcome however, appointments will be called first. If you have any questions please visit our Facebook page for the most up to date information-- Towanda Fire Department. Stay up to date on personnel and apparatus by visiting our

updated website at www.tcfpd.org. In the month of February we ran four fire calls and nine medical calls putting our call count at 26.

Towanda Lions Club

Easter Egg Hunt

The Towanda Lions Club will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 31 at the Towanda Community Building. Registration is open to babies up through 4th grade. The Towanda Ladies Night Out group will be selling breakfast items and coffee. Please plan to come early because we will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Towanda Lions Ham & Bean Dinner

Towanda Lions Club will offer its annual Ham and Bean Dinner at the Community Building on Friday, April 13. Serving will be from 4:30 PM until 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Children aged 11 and under may get the hot-dog-optional dinner when each child is accompanied by a paying adult. A dinner includes ham and beans with unlimited refills, corn bread muffin, condiments, beverage and a dessert. Carry-out is an option on request. Tickets are available from any Lions Club member. We hope to see you there, and we thank you in advance for supporting an activity that will put dollars back into this community.

Contact one of your local Lions Club members for tickets. In Indian Creek contact Louie Blank or Bob Hancock. We welcome your support of our local non-profit organization.

Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship for 2018

The Towanda Lions Club is announcing the availability of the Steve Liebenow Memorial Scholarship for 2018. The club sponsors this scholarship in the amount of \$750. as a tribute to Steve Liebenow, a long-time Towanda Lions Club member, Unit 5 educator and Principal, and community leader who passed away in 1999. The scholarship is available to a high school senior or a prospective or currently enrolled college/trade school students who lives in the Towanda area. This is a one-time scholarship not open to renewal, although an applicant not chosen one year may apply again if she/he is still a student aspiring to a college/trade school degree. The scholarship is available for any field of study. All information regarding the scholarship is available at the club website:

<https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/towandail/index.php>

In addition, District 1-BK of the Lions of Illinois, also sponsors an undergraduate scholarship for students entering, or in the process of completing, a degree which leads to working in the field of special education, including, but not limited to, education of children with vision and/or hearing impairments.

For questions or further information pertaining to either scholarship, please contact Mr. Louie Blank at 309-825-4692.

Towanda Library

April 2018 Library News

National Library Week Open House on Tuesday, April 10: From 1:00 to 5:00 pm you are invited to enjoy refreshments and visit with FRIENDS as we celebrate National Library Week. Library board members will be on hand to hear your feedback about our library. What do you love about it? What could we do differently? Celebrate reading and living in a community that values books, reading, and educational programming. The very fact of supporting a library sends a strong message to our children.

Spring Cleaning Book/DVD Sale @ your library during National Library Week. Help us make room for new books and DVD's – by your purchases. Prices that can't be beat!

Towanda Reads Adult Book Discussion @ 5:00 on April 10: The group meets to discuss "The Life We Bury" by Allen Eskens. The public is welcome to join the discussion whenever a title interests you. The group meets the second Tuesday of even-numbered months.

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!

Bulldog Book Club on April 11 @ 2:30: Each "Late Start" Wednesday of the school year youth in 4th & 5th grade discuss award-winning books. Amy Oberts leads the discussion of "Save Me a Seat" on April 11th. Food from Indian and American cuisine will be served.

LEGO Builders Club on April 16 @ 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!

Tuesday Tunes on April 24 @ 2:30: This group meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month during the school year with the exception of March and May. 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!

Read to Dogs every Tuesday in April from 5:30 to 6:30: Children read aloud to certified canine friends during 15-minute pre-registered appointments. See photos on the library Facebook page.

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

Appy Hours @ the Library each Tuesday from 5:00 to 6:00: Bring your e-readers or other electronic devices and your questions to "Appy Hour". Enjoy a one-on-one session to learn about the library's online resources – such as Worldbook Encyclopedia Online and/or Tumblebooks animated books for young children. Learn how to borrow free e-books from our library.

See all library news at: www.towandalibrary.org. See photos of library programs on the library's 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

Indian Creek Water and Homeowners Association Annual Meeting

Monday, March 5, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. - Towanda Community Center

President: Barb Leathers; VP/Secretary: Barbara Ulbrich; Treasurer: Dave Schulthes; Water Chair: Bob Hancock; Grounds Chair: Fred Walk; Newsletter: Kathy Dumler and Ron Metz

Greeting and Introductions were made by the President. Minutes of 2017 Annual Meeting were read by the VP/Secretary; no suggested edits were offered. Money Creek Township officials then made a presentation. This presentation was moved ahead in agenda to accommodate guest speaker Angel Baker. Angel Baker is the Money Creek Township Supervisor, 309 261 3300 and Louis Kraft is the Money Creek Township Trustee, 309 830 8048. Louis is an Indian Creek homeowner. They shared that the Township officials (Supervisor, Clerk, Road Commissioner, and Trustees) meet the second Monday of month, except in April, when they meet the second Tuesday of the Month. Indian Creek residents were invited to attend if they wish. Angel has served as supervisor for 1 year; she was the clerk for 9 years.

The township has only a few areas of responsibility: 1) roads and keeping ditches clear; 2) general assistance; and 3) cemeteries.

The township consists of six square miles and has 44 miles of road. The township just received its annual audit. It has \$660,000 in its account. If one bridge goes bad, the Township account is essentially depleted because it is so costly to build a new bridge. There are five bridges within the township. McLean County has responsibility for the County roads within the township, such as PJ Keller Highway. Currently, a road, one and a half miles north of Indian Creek is being repaired with tar and gravel. The township building where we vote and where road equipment is stored is at the far north end of the township.

There exists a small account for general assistance (electric/rent assistance). There have been no claims on that.

The township has only two cemeteries for which it is responsible-- Clarksville cemetery and a small family cemetery—both of which are closed. The township is required to keep these mowed and maintained.

Angel and Louis fielded a few questions from residents. Angel then excused herself from the meeting and was thanked for her report.

Standing reports were then presented.

Finance Report: Dave Schulthes, Treasurer. We continue to add consistently to our fund. Over the past twelve months we added \$13,000. The total amount in the fund as of

12.31.17 was \$128,900. It is held in Certificates of Deposit. Dave explained that the last time we painted the water tower was 2007. We anticipate needing to repaint it in 3-5 years at a cost of approximately in \$100,000-\$110,000. The good news is that we are now receiving more interest on the CDs we hold.

Water Report: Bob Hancock, Water Chair. Residents use approximately 16,000 gallons per day except in summer, when we use approximately 35,000 gallons per day. This higher level of use puts a lot of pressure on the pump. Electrical work was done on the water system during the summer 2017. The panel by the well head was constantly on and we had no way to shut it off, so we had that replaced. The line running from the box to the pump was replaced. Two electrical switches in the tower were corroded and they were replaced. Total cost of repairs was \$550. We pay Frank Cottrell, our certified water operator \$600/month. He inspects the system at least 4 times per week. In spring/summer, we'll start flushing hydrants. It will regularly occur on Thursdays 9-11 a.m. Chemicals cost \$685/month. These chemicals are required by the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure the elimination of bacteria. Fluoride is also added. The testing cost has increased by \$300 to a total cost \$1200 per year. Again, this level of testing is required by EPA. Bob put a lock on the well head cage. Bob and Fred each have a key.

Bob shared that he purchased a new sign - \$116 for the sign material we can make residents aware of meetings, boil orders and also work days, etc. We expect to repaint the tower in 2023. On the north side of tower, there is mildew showing. We will have to do Consumer Confidence reports this spring. The notices associated with it will go out with the 2nd quarter billing. On the tower, the green light means things are good. The red light indicates some type of problem, for example, low pressure. We have an automated device that sends Bob a message – if he doesn't answer, it will go to the next number, then to the Board. One resident asked if water is flushed in the winter. Bob shared that it is not because the valve might freeze and this would be highly problematic. Bob will ask Frank about the possibility of flushing during the warm days in winter time.

NOTE: After the meeting, Bob did follow up with Frank about flushing during the winter and while it would be our decision, he was not in favor of it. There are weep holes on the hydrants and they often do not drain completely. With night time temperatures around freezing you risk hydrant problems. Essentially, best not to open them during the winter months.

Grounds Report: Fred Walk, Grounds Chair. Slides were shown of the grounds. We have 156 total acres and 56 acres of common ground. The new sign at the subdivision entrance has been up for one year. River rock was removed with a new border installed around the sign. The sign was also landscaped with a variety of plants and flowers. It has solar lights and is lighted at night. Fred presented slides of workers creating the new trail. Stumps were removed so we could mow. Mulch was spread. Two benches were put on the trail. We had an autumn walk – we set out bales and people decorated.

The picnic table by the bridge on the old trail is chained to keep it safe from floating away during flooding. There were good turnouts for the work days! Work included removing a large snag near the bridge, killing honeysuckle, which is a medium sized bush and is very invasive and blocks sunlight out and chokes off other species.

We burned down the initial burn pile beyond the wellhead. A few weeks ago, we burned another large pile down. This helps control all the burning going on in the subdivision. Neighbors don't like to smell smoke on random days. Our solution was to burn the burn pile when conditions are right. People can bring brush from their lots and then it will be burned. The purpose of the burn pile is for Homeowners to bring small amounts of brush. We stained the tractor shed. By the well head there was a lot of cable, etc. and we removed it to recycle it.

Several trees have markers on them (e.g. "Locust", "Buckeye", etc). Some markers will be need to be replaced. We have several birdhouses. Many are falling apart and need to be replaced.

The tractor is old! Residents were asked that if they use it, please use it kindly. When residents use it, they will need to reimburse the Association for \$5 per half hour of usage. You can pay either Fred or Dave. Fred will ensure it stays filled with diesel fuel. The tractor required quite a bit of maintenance this past year including replacing the water pump, manifold, and rebuilding one of the hydraulic cylinders on the loader. The blades were also replaced on the mower. Fred expressed a special thanks to those who helped keeping it running. The next work day will be May 5, beginning at 9 a.m.

Fred presented a slide showing the origin of Money Creek. It is located just to the northwest of Moraine View state park.

Newsletter Report: Kathy Dumler, Ron Metz, Co-Editors – Ron and Kathy do the newsletter and the website. We will retain the older newsletters – there are no paper copies of these.

Other Items: Frontier Service. It has been a year since Frontier promised to provide upgraded, reliable internet service to the subdivision. Fred was contacted by Frontier rep Jeremy Biddle, who tried to explain what has transpired. Jeremy is a senior network design engineer. He apologized for all the delays. He said the project is finally coming to a conclusion and should be ready mid-March (2018). Existing phone and internet service will not be moved without an order for upgraded service. If you want to get the higher speed service, or get Vantage TV, you should call 309-828-0384 (this is the LOCAL FRONTIER number). Do **NOT** call 855 408 4213 which is advertised by Frontier on their bills. Bill Bodine is a test case for the upgraded Frontier service. Bill shared that it took two days for Frontier to perform the upgrade at Bill's house. The Stiegerwalds also volunteered to have the upgrade performed.

There are some boxes and old posts that Frontier used to use (e.g. when the service was via microwave) and some are falling over. Frontier should remove or repair these and not just abandon them, but alas they have not done so. You need to know which posts are truly not in use if you are considering removing them. You'll need to contact Frontier on this point.

Meeting Adjourned.

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

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.

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

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

Need help with you yard this spring and summer? Cal Avery Hartman, 728-2093. I can help with mowing, raking or basic yard clean up.