

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

December 2018

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Special Announcement

Directors of the Towanda Area Historical Society (TAHS), President Gail Ann Briggs, Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Pulokas and Mary Merritt, are soliciting options about the future of the organization; former Directors Dale Messer and Dale Sutter are deceased. Established in the spring of 2005, TAHS is a State of IL Not For Profit Corporation.

The initial goal of the group was to update and expand the first history book "*Towanda, McLean County Illinois 1826-1976*". In the fall of 2006 TAHS and the Towanda District Library (TDL) partnered to apply for an LSTA Digital Imaging Grant from the Illinois State Library (ILS) in Springfield. The successful \$19,141 grant allowed TAHS-TDL, with the help of a hundred volunteers, to develop a website with images uploaded to the ISL Digital Archive: (<http://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/search/collection/tdl/searchterm/Towanda%20Area%20Historical%20Society/order/title>).

Some of the money that was raised was meant to help carry out the goal of developing a book; however, interest and energy has dwindled and the directors need to know your thoughts about the direction that should be taken regarding the organization, the book project, and the remaining funds. Please provide input to Briggs (rgriggs@frontiernet.net - or - mail to 112 Hunt St) and/or to Pulokas (palp@mchsi.com - or - mail to 111 Miriam Way), Towanda, IL 61776.

We appreciate your help!!! Thank you.

Calendar



Unit 5 schools will be closed for winter break that begins after school on Fri.Dec.21. Classes resume as usual on Tue.Jan.8.

Towanda Fire News for December



Happy Holidays! Christmas is coming early for TFD; we are expecting the delivery of Engine 61 in mid December. Its arrival has been a long time coming and we are excited to put this new engine in service and provide an elevated resource for this community. With snow right around the corner make sure you stay safe. Take your time when shoveling heavy snow; it becomes very easy to over exert yourself when the snow is more dense. If you are in an accident or get stuck in a ditch make sure your exhaust is clear of snow while you wait for a tow truck. Staying in the car when the exhaust is covered can be very dangerous. We ran 8 medical and 11 fire calls in October for a total of 127 calls on the year so far.

Towanda Library

As we look toward the holiday season, we continue to make improvements throughout the building, as well as within the collection. We painted the Juvenile Non-Fiction Area! Stop by and let us know what you think. Our new shelving arrives the week after Thanksgiving. This will provide us significant space to grow. We are a work in progress, so please pardon the mess. We will be ready to hit the ground running after the first of the year. We also have big things in store to celebrate the 30th anniversary for the library at the 301 S. Taylor Street location.

Please contact the library or email me directly; director@towandalibrary.org if there is a particular book, movie, music cd, or audio book that you would like us to acquire. In between projects we are hoping to plan a few special events. We will keep you posted through the Indian Creek Newsletter, our website, and Facebook page. We will be launching a new website in early 2019. While we anticipate it to be visually pleasing, it will also be highly functional and much more user friendly for our patrons. We will hold programs to navigate the new site once it goes live. We will also offer programs in 2019 that will explore our new digital services and offerings.

Knitters and Crochet Group: We are happy to welcome the Knitters and Crochet group every Tuesday at 5pm. Come join us!

Towanda Reads Book Discussion Group: We are reading *The Deal of a Lifetime* by Fredrik Backman. Copies are available at the library. We will also be discussing the books that are most important to us. All are welcome to join us to discuss this title at 5pm on December 11th.

Here is a review of *Library at the Edge of the World*: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/felicity-hayes-mccoy/the-library-at-the-edge-of-the-world/>

December Holiday Hours: Closed (12/24, 12/25) Open: 1-5 (12/26, 12/27/, 12/28) Closed (12/31, 1/1) Open 1-5 (1/2, 1/3, 1/4)

Food for Fines All Month Long: 1 Nonperishable Item = \$1 toward existing fines

Towanda Busy Bees 4-H



The Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club's November meeting was highlighted with recognition of each member's accomplishments during the previous year. The December meeting is being rescheduled for a different night than usual, contact Martha Rients at 728-2178 for more information. The January Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15th at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The club focus for the year is STEAM- Science, Engineering, Art and Math. 4-H is open to all youth ages 8-18 and new members are always welcome. For more information contact: Martha Rients 728-2178 or hrients@frontiernet.net



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



With all of the wind we have been having, Mother Nature has been hard on the trees and it soon will be time to do some pruning. Some of the trees have been completely blown over. The only thing you can do is cut it up for firewood. It should cure for 1 year before trying to burn it in your fireplace.

All of the branches that have been broken need to be removed. If it is a large branch, you should use the 1-2-3 cut. First, make a cut out about 6 inches from the trunk, cut in about an inch from the bottom up. That way if the branches should fall before you want it to, it will not tear the bark as it falls. Make the next cut from the top out about 4-5 feet from the top down. That will remove the heavyweight. The last cut will be at the collar of the branch at the trunk from the top down. If you cut at the collar, the tree will naturally heal over. If you leave a stump, it will not heal and will leave the door open for disease and insects to enter. You do not need to put anything on the cut, it will heal better if left open.

Any small branches should also be cut back to the collar. When pruning, remove any branches that are rubbing on each other. Also, remove the branches that are growing down toward the ground.

Leave the leaves that have blown up under your shrubs and also any that have blown up around your perennials. They will help protect the roots from severe freeze and prevent heaving from freezing and thawing. It is good to have the leaves collect around the roses, the more the better to protect the crowns from the up and down of the temperature.



The weather this summer and fall hasn't been very helpful for working in the garden. If you have not cleaned off the vegetable or flower garden, the soil will probably tell you 'thank you'. Just remove the tomato vines so they don't leave a disease in the soil. Also remove any plants that have a disease. It is better for the soil to have a messy look than to have a bare look. Leave all the other dead plant and grasses, which will be called residue. It kind of acts like a cover crop or mulch.

The insects have left their eggs on the leaves or in the soil. Next spring the insects will hatch and be food for the birds when they need the nutrition to start their family and feed their young. The remaining residue will help prevent erosion when it rains and prevent the loss of topsoil when the wind blows. The residue will also soften the heavy rains and prevent crusting of the top soil, making it easier for the rain to soak in. The remaining plant cover will help shade the soil, making it harder for the weed seeds to touch the soil and get light needed to be able to germinate. It also keeps the soil cooler which makes the conditions better for the microbes in the soil to work.

Last, but not least, the plant residue provides a good source of organic matter for the soil. The organic matter helps the soil reduce erosion, and helps with soil aeration. By having some plant residue, it will help collect more snow, which when it melts, will add more moisture for the next season's growth. Next spring, after the temperature goes up and the soil dries, you can work the residue into the soil or remove it. You will have better soil to work with than if the soil had been uncovered and developed a crust.



It is good to have a bright colored live houseplant to brighten the dull, cloudy days of late fall. With Christmas just around the corner, the stores have a lot to choose from.

The Amaryllis is a fun and attractive plant. You can buy the kit and plant it yourself or some have them already started. Once the flower stem comes up, it grows very fast. The leaves usually come up after the flower stem. If you turn the container a quarter turn every time you water, the flower stem should not lean toward the light. After it finishes blooming, cut the stem off and treat it like a houseplant. Put it outside for the summer, let it rest for fall and then start all over.

The Kalanchoe has thick leaves and clusters of star shaped flowers. It grows to about 18 inches high. It likes about 4 hours of sunlight to make it bloom. It can go outside for the summer.

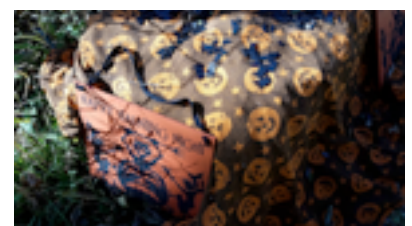
The Norfolk Island pine makes an attractive tabletop "Christmas tree". It likes a cool well-lit location, and you can turn it when you water it so it grows straight up.

The Cyclamen is another attractive plant that blooms for a long time. It has attractive leaves as well as pretty flowers. It likes indirect light. If you turn the plant every time you water, the flowers will stand up straight rather than lean toward the light. It requires very little care.

The Christmas cactus likes a south or west window for the bright light. It usually blooms at Christmas. Sometimes, if you let it rest after it drops its flowers and then water again, it might bloom again after Christmas. With a little care, this cactus can live for years. You can also place it outside for the summer.

These plants all like warm weather. Be sure to well protect them from the cold while being moved from the warm store to its warm new home. A blast of cold air could cause them to drop their flowers.

Fall photos at Indian Creek





Illinois Chapter



On America Recycles Day – Are You Recycling Right?

Bloomington-Normal, IL- Nov. 15, 2018 – On America Recycles Day, local government leaders, multiple organizations and the waste industry, are asking consumers if they are recycling right. Based on audits performed by the recycling industry, one in four items placed in the recycling cart is not recyclable which has led to increased contamination.

To tackle the issue of recycling contamination, the National Waste and Recycling Association (Nwra) and Solid Waste Association of North America (Swana) formed a state-wide task force to bring the recycling industry - haulers and sorting facility operators - together with government and business to develop simple, cohesive recycling education materials to help residents better understand what items should and should not be placed in recycling carts.

“Recycling is more highly contaminated with non-recyclable garbage than ever before,” said Walter Willis, SWALCO executive director and co-chair of the Nwra – Swana task force. “The non - recyclable items weigh down sorting facilities, reduce commodity prices, and affect the re-manufacturing markets,” continued Willis.

“Recycling facilities report contamination from 25% to over 35% in some of the recycling streams,” said Lisa Disbrow, Vice Chair of the Illinois Chapter of Nwra and co-chair of the Nwra and Swana task force. “As recycling facilities add labor to help remove contamination and slow lines to improve recovery, these additional costs are passed along which may increase costs for local governments, and ultimately residents,” commented Disbrow.

The task force identified the most common items placed in the recycling cart that are not recyclable including plastic bags, tanglers (i.e. garden hoses, wire, cords, clothing), food waste, medical waste including syringes, and batteries. As a result of the task force discussions, guidelines were developed to represent the common recycling denominators of all programs throughout the state, and the goal is to have them as go-to guidelines for all programs, all haulers, and all educators throughout the state. Participating in the discussions at the task force, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency developed and launched a new webpage this month to answer recycling questions for Illinois residents: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/Pages/recycling.aspx>

“Plastics are the most commonly misunderstood items,” explained Marie Streenz, Operations Analyst with Midwest Fiber Recycling in Normal. “The resin identification code number in the triangle does not mean that a plastic object is recyclable! Plastic containers - bottles, tubs, jugs and jars - are the only plastic items recyclable in your curbside carts. Please keep all flexible plastic packaging, pouches, bags, and wraps out of your recycling!”

To both reduce contamination and simplify the message, a streamlined recycling flyer has been developed that is virtually universal across Illinois. “Beyond that, if local residents want detailed answers of what is and what is not recyclable, they can always call us at 309-454-3169 or check out our easy-to-use Recycle Coach app at RecycleBN.org,” said Michael Brown of the Ecology Action Center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Marie Streenz, 309-452-0064 x.110 or Michael Brown, 309-454-3169 x.11

RECYCLING GUIDELINES Midwest Fiber RECYCLING

YES!



METAL

Steel & Aluminum Containers and Foil



PAPER

Cardboard (flattened),
Office Paper, Newspaper, Magazines

Clean & Empty
Replace lids & caps



PLASTIC

Containers: Bottles, Tubs, Jugs, and Jars Only



GLASS

Containers: Bottles & Jars Only

NO!



No Plastic Bags
No Product Wrap
(return clean to retailer)



No Big Items (Electronics, Wood,
Propane Tanks, Scrap Metal or Styrofoam
check with Ecology Action Center for other options)



No Tangles (Hangers, Hoses,
Wire, Cords, Ropes or Chains) Textiles or Shoes (donate)



No Clothing



No Food, Liquid, Diapers,
Batteries or Needles



No Shredded Paper
(unless bagged)

Put material in loose
- Not in Bags

These Guidelines represent the common items accepted in most recycling programs in Illinois. To find out more detail, including recycling and reuse programs beyond the bin, visit RecycleBN.org, or contact Ecology Action Center at 309-454-3169.



recycleCOACH



Towanda HCE

The Towanda HCE will be meeting for their December Holiday Potluck Party on Monday, December 10, 6 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Please bring a dish to share. Meat, drink, and table service will be provided. If you wish to participate, bring a \$10 gift exchange. The hostess committee is Bev Hornickel, Robin Pearson, and Clara Lehan. For more information and to RSVP, contact Clara at 309-826-8044 by Saturday, December 8. Join us for a festive and fun time and fellowship.

Classified

Businesses:



John Hermann

Financial Professional Associate
Greater Illinois Financial Group

Prudential Advisors

1907 Jumer Drive, Suite D, Bloomington, IL 61704
Tel 309 808-5212 Fax 309 808-5230 Cell 309 287-5972
john.hermann@prudential.com

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 Sale:

Snow blower - Craftsman 30", electric start. Like new - asking \$725.
Treadmill- 585 preform personal trainer - asking \$100.
Call Mary Leins at 728-2904

For Hire:

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".