



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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

SLOW DOWN!

Just a friendly reminder to slow down while driving through Indian Creek. There are even more people out now because of the limited places we can go and we have unfortunately seen a lot of people driving too fast.

Mowing Suggestions

When mowing please keep your clippings off the road as it can cause hazardous slick conditions for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and motorcyclists. These conditions could also become a traffic hazard causing vehicular accidents. Please do your part to eliminate this potentially dangerous situation by keeping your clippings off the road.

Why We Need Insects

They are everywhere around us. In our gardens, pollinating our favorite flowers, fruits, and vegetables, also serving as lunch for birds. Occasionally startling those of us who are a bit squeamish. 'They' are invertebrates or what most of us refer to as bugs or insects. From the soils to the seas to the skies, they provide invaluable services that create a healthy foundation for nearly every ecosystem on earth. WE NEED THEM!

The link below is a beautifully written and produced article explaining why they are so necessary.

[www.indiancreeksubdivision.org/gardens_files/why we need insects.pdf](http://www.indiancreeksubdivision.org/gardens_files/why_we_need_insects.pdf)

Pet Patrol



Reminder to clean up after your pet whether you walk it in one of the common areas, along the trail, or along the road. Many people take family walks as the days grow longer and children can pick up the *strangest* things. The main common area is used to play soccer, baseball, frisbee throwing, etc.

Also, leaving the 'deposit' in a plastic bag on the ground is still unsanitary and unpleasant. A clean place to play and walk is beneficial to all!

Thank you!

Towanda HCE News

The Towanda HCE have not met in April or May and we are not promoting any plans for June at this time. Our regular McLean County HCE programming has been put on hold as well. WE are uncertain at this time if the McLean County 4-H Fair & Show will be held at the scheduled time, August 5-9. This decision will be made by July 1 by the State Cooperative Extension. We do know that McLean County HCE will **NOT BE SPONSORING THE Young At Heart event on August 6**. This event is especially geared for the 60+ senior population and an event of this magnitude will not be recommended in August. Our organization will look forward to having a wonderful 2021 Young At Heart event and it will hopefully be without fear of contracting the COVID 19 virus. We hope to have more information in future monthly newsletters. Many of our members of Towanda Unit and also around the county have been busy making fabric masks for friends, relatives and the workers in the community. We encourage all of you to stay safe by using good health hygiene, exercise and careful practices when out in public. For more information about the Towanda HCE Unit, contact, Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797.

Ministry and More food drive

Thank you to everyone who donated food for the Ministry and More food drive. We were overwhelmed at the amount of food we collected and very excited to delivery it all to the pantry. It is such a blessing to live in a neighborhood that is so generous!

Thank you! The Harmon Family



IC Parade

We could not have ordered a nicer day for the Indian Creek Parade on Saturday May 2nd. The turnout was great and there were a lot of smiling faces. Thanks to Connie Whittum and Barb Ulbrich for orchestrating this event!



ICS Website Updates

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

A copy of our annual Consumer Confidence Report to the EPA has been mailed to each residence along with the July billing notice and has been added to our website at www.indiancreeksubdivision.org

Summer lawn watering - Please follow our recommended summer lawn watering schedule by only watering on even or odd days corresponding to your street address number. Please also limit watering to 3-4 hours at a time. This will help ensure our well pump can replace water being used in our tower.

Jim Larson

ICS Birds page

The Indian Creek Subdivision website “birds” page has been recently updated. The link under each bird image now directs to The Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s site. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has lots of information, images and links to the different calls for each bird species. Check it out at www.indiancreeksubdivision.org/birds.htm

Audubon Bird Count (April - May)

Number Observed & Species Observed

1 Mourning Dove	1 Northern Waterthrush
1 Chimney Swift	2 Common Yellowthroat
1 Turkey Vulture	1 American Redstart
1 Downy Woodpecker (Eastern)	23 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
1 Willow Flycatcher	16 Northern Cardinal
1 Least Flycatcher	1 Indigo Bunting
3 Eastern Phoebe	1 Barred Owl
1 Great Crested Flycatcher	2 Red Bellied Woodpecker
3 Blue Jay	4 Northern Flicker (Yellow Shafted)
2 American Crow	2 Tufted Titmouse
2 Black-Capped Chickadee	6 Ruby Crowned Kinglet
7 White-breasted Nuthatch (Eastern)	2 Brown Creeper
3 House Wren	1 Winter Wren
4 Carolina Wren	4 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
1 European Starling	12 Hermit Thrush
5 Gray Catbird	1 Palm Warbler
13 American Robin	2 Eastern Bluebird
14 American Goldfinch	1 Brown-headed cowbird
64 White-throated Sparrow	
1 Ovenbird	

Towanda 4-H

Right now our Towanda 4-H Club is having virtual meetings because of the COVID-19. We are hoping to get back together soon.

Jeanie Wager
309 728-2852

Frontier Boxes



Do you have a “leaning Tower of Pisa” Frontier box like this in or near your yard? If so, Frontier will come out and straighten the box or install a new one at no charge. Individual homeowners need to call and create a ticket to authorize the work. The number to call is 1-800-921-8101.

Fred Walk
Indian Creek Grounds Chairperson

Past Newsletters

We are looking for some Indian Creek history. Indian Creek newsletters that were emailed and/or inserted into mailboxes in 2004 and before. If you have newsletters from 2004 and before, would you please let me know.

Fred Walk - 728-2188.

Towanda District Library

During these unprecedented times, Towanda District Library acknowledges the importance of supporting the health and safety of the community, which means limiting access to materials and programs within the physical building. This reduced access doesn't diminish our passion to serve all members of the community; however, we hope the services we are able to offer reflect a commitment to keeping both patrons and staff members safe. We are unique compared to other local businesses that are offering curbside service because our materials recirculate. When you purchase from a retailer or restaurant, once you receive your item, the process is complete. When our materials are returned, they are quarantined for seven days and then sanitized before they can recirculate.

Although the physical library is currently closed, please explore the digital media library offerings through our website: www.towandalibrary.org.

June 1 our staff returns to the library once (if) the stay-at-home order is lifted at the end of the month. We will be preparing for curbside service. Here are key dates to note:

June 8 we ask that you return any library materials to our drop boxes.

June 15 we'll begin taking holds for contact-free curbside service which you can do by calling the library at **(309) 728-2176**.

Safety and service are our top priorities and we may need to adjust as information presents itself. Please continue to check our website and Facebook page for updates.

Thank you for your patience and support throughout this challenging time. We look forward to serving you again soon.

I am also attaching a [flier](#) that has quite a bit of information.

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<http://www.towandalibrary.org>

Email: director@towandalibrary.org

Towanda District Library: Explore. Share. Read. Discover.

"Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of people in your charge."

- Simon Sinek



Gardening Tips

It is getting time to plant our containers and you don't need to use all new potting mix every year. If you still have a container from last year that you didn't remove all of the "soil", here is how you can save some money. Remove all of the dead plants. Empty 1/2 of the potting mix into a container and add either 1/2 new potting mix or 1/4 potting mix and 1/4 compost. Mix it up well. Place the new mixture into the container you want to plant in.

There is no soil in potting mix. You can buy it, but it is more expensive. Sphagnum peat moss has great water and air holding properties and is slow to break down. One problem is once it dries out, it is difficult to rewet. The easiest way is to sit the container in water and let it sit overnight.

Coir is the fibers and pith waste from coconut processing. It has the same water and air holding properties as peat, but it absorbs water more quickly.

Once you have completed your flower container, do not use it as an ashtray for your cigarette butts. The potting mix is organic, and it can burn. If you place a cigarette butt in the container it will gradually dry out the mix. The mix can burn, and in a few hours, you could have a house on fire. It happened several times last year.

The amazing little hummingbirds are returning. They are fun to watch if you can keep up with them. They can travel up to 30 miles per hour. They feed on nectar and insects as often as 18 times an hour. That is the human equivalent to about 150,000 calories a day. So, if you want them to visit your yard, you should have a variety of plants so there will be food the whole season.

Hummingbirds have the highest metabolic rates and the fastest heartbeat of the birds. Their heart beats about 500 beats per minute while resting and up to 1200 beats when in action. Their wings beat about 50 times a second. This means they must consume 1 1/2 times their weight in nectar every day.

They are also very smart. They can find the rich-nectar plants with long tubular plants, such as trumpet honeysuckle, columbine, bee balm, cardinal flower, and salvia. As they use the tip of their long bills drinks the nectar, they are also collecting pollen their forehead. So, they are also a pollinator.

If you want to invite the hummers to your yard, put out a sugar-water feeder, some plants that they like, and shelter nearby. The best choice of feeders should be trimmed in red. Do not have yellow on it, because that could draw bees and wasps.

To fill the feeder, make a solution of four parts water and one-part white sugar. Never use honey, brown sugar, artificial sweeteners, or red dye. During the cool weather replace the solution every 3-5 days and clean the feeder thoroughly each time. In the hot summer, change the water daily and keep the feeder in the shade.

During the breeding season don't remove the spider webs because the hummingbirds use them to hold their nests together.

Bugs are everywhere busy pollinating flowers, fruits, and vegetables. They are even serving lunch to the birds. They provide great services to create a healthy foundation for most ecosystems on

earth. They have been called the "little things that run the world" We need the bugs, but they are declining in number. Gardeners can help to bring them back

Insects and spiders make about 84 percent of wildlife species on earth. Whether they are 6 legged, 8 legged, or many-legged, they are part of the global ecosystem. They pollinate the crops, they provide natural pest control, and provide wildlife food sources and soil aeration. Some might seem like a nuisance to us, but we need them.

Without the bugs, we could be drowning in organic waste. Termites, cockroaches and blowflies help decompose dead material and return nutrients to the soil. When humans disrupt the system with Carolinas chickadee will collect more than 400 caterpillars a day When our yards can't supply the number of "bugs", our yard can't support the birds. We are losing more birds every year due to a lack of proper food.

Disturbing the soil, pesticides use, climate change, the rise of invasive species and light pollution all contribute to the problem'

Some of the things that the gardener can do are simple little things to do. Do we really need a perfectly manicured lawn? Some of the good insects and birds use the dandelion for food an nests. Save a patch in the back corner to be a little messy. Overwatering can also cause damage. The overuse of pesticides is a big problem. You can kill the good bugs as well as the one you wanted to get rid of. Overuse and poor timing can also damage the lawn. If you leave the clippings on the lawn and fertilize in the fall that is all it needs, The over-fertilize can hurt the earthworms that help fertilize and aerate the soil,

When mowing, leave the blade at 3 - 3 1/2 inches. It will shade the soil and help prevent weed seeds from reaching the soil.

Another problem is getting to be light pollution. Some flowers want the dark to bloom. The lightning bugs need to be able to see the light signal from the male to the female and if is too light they miss the signal.

It's said that the more you do to the lawn the more you have to do.

Helen J. Leake
Master Gardener Alumni

CLASSIFIED

Businesses:



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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- 242-1802

Website - www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock

Pinterest Recipes - www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935



For Hire:

Need someone to take care of your pet while your away, call Bailee Harmon at (309) 530-5360. I have experience with animals at the Humane Society and have been pet sitting for two years. References provided upon request.

Brenna Schwamberger will be a junior at NCHS in the fall. She is available to babysit this summer if you're looking for a night out once in a while or you need someone full-time. She has taken Child Development at NCHS and completed the Red Cross Babysitting and Child Care course. If interested, call or text Brenna at 309-824-1410. Also, available to watch pets or water plants if you're out of town.

Aubrey Thomas is available for childcare and pet care. She has taken the Safe Sitter course and is experienced with taking care of several animals. Aubrey will be a Sophomore at NCHS in the fall. Please call or text her at 309-532-7522.

Lydia Lueschen is available for babysitting. She is 14 years old and has completed a babysitting course along with being CPR certified. Please call or text her mom - Dallas Lueschen- at 309-826-1868.