

INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

April 2021

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Ecology Action Center Goes Big at 50: Sets Goal of Planting 10,000 Trees in 2021

To launch a yearlong anniversary celebration of reaching the 50-year mark, the Ecology Action Center, founded as Operation Recycle in 1971, is challenging itself and the community to go big or go home. “The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago,” Executive Director Michael Brown suggests, recalling the old adage. “But the second best time is today. So why not catch up for the past 20 years right now and plant 10,000 trees this year?!”

At the same time looking to the past and to the future, the EAC is building upon early tree planting efforts of decades ago when the organization was running the local recycling service in McLean County. “We used the proceeds from the then mostly volunteer-run recycling operation to buy and plant trees,” recalls early Director of Operation Recycle Myra Gordon, now a board member of the Ecology Action Center. “If you’ve ever been hiking out at Comlara Park, you’ve seen the results of our efforts – many of those trees were planted by Operation Recycle when the park was first created around the new Evergreen Lake reservoir.”

Named the “Tree Corps,” the EAC’s new tree planting initiative seeks to bring multiple benefits to the community simultaneously. It is in part a clean-air strategy that will be a significant part of the EAC’s upcoming Bloomington-Normal Community Energy Strategic Plan (BNCESP) designed to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change. The trees will also help address air quality issues contributing to respiratory diseases, increase critical habitat for native pollinators and other species, improve watershed protection, and add to greenways and recreational areas.

A key part of the Tree Corps is building partnerships. Intended to be a long-term initiative, this year’s initial projects build upon relationships with the Friends of the Constitution Trail, the ParkLands Foundation, and Living Lands and Waters. The EAC encourages the formation of “Tree Teams” from churches, community groups, workplaces, and others to help reach this ambitious goal. Details including specifics on the “Trail Trees” project with the Friends of the Constitution Trail and “Mohr Trees!” with the ParkLands Foundation can be found at Tree-Corps.org.

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.



Good News for YOU!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to participate in the **Troop #56 Historical Walkway!**



Due to COVID, the bricks are on back order, so we will continue to take orders until the bricks arrive!

ETA is April 1st~ So place your order today to be included in the beginning of the historical/memorial walkway along Route #66! Periodically, we will continue to add to the walkway as additional bricks are sold!

If you have questions, contact:

Virginia Lowery – 101 Miriam Way, Towanda, IL 61776 (309) 825-6341
vlowery1@hotmail.com

Residential Recycling

Henson Disposal launched its residential recycling program in January 2009. They utilize a single stream collection process. This process eliminates the need to separate your recyclables at home. They are the only company in the area to offer an every other week collection program.

Recycling makes a difference by reducing overall waste going to the landfill which keeps our air cleaner and provides by-products and jobs using the recyclable material. This is an every other week pick-up. If you missed the first opportunity to join in and would like to participate, contact Henson Disposal.



Please contact Henson to begin service:
(309) 829-5021

Local Wildlife Sighting



One of our neighbors had a remarkable opportunity to film a barred owl in his own backyard. Click the following link to watch the youtube. Thanks to Ryan Bliss for sharing this enchanting video clip.

<https://youtu.be/HHIdjVDw5HI>

Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



If you have been having a problem with insects on your trees, shrubs, or vines, now is the time to apply horticulture or, sometimes called dormant oil. As always be sure to follow the directions on the container carefully, you do not want to harm the beneficial insects.

When you rake the leaves from your lawn, leave as many leaves under the shrubs as you can. They will act as a mulch and the earthworms will eat them and deposit fertilizer in the soil for the roots to use.

For years, the poinsettia plant was considered as a throw-away plant. Today, people are enjoying it as a year-round house plant. It is only natural for it to start dropping its leaves in March or April. When it does that or starts showing new growth, it is time to cut it back to about 6 inches. Keep it watered and in a sunny location. After the danger, of frost, has passed take it outside, keep it watered, and liquid fertilizer. Next fall bring it inside and continue to water and feed it, keep it in bright light and it might bloom. Enjoy it.

Don't forget to get your lawnmower blades sharpened. A sharp blade makes a neater cut. It won't be long until it will be time to mow.

Now is the time to remove twigs and debris from the lawn. Be sure to leave some small twigs, grass clippings, and leaves for the birds to use in building their nests. Also, leave the leaves that have blown up under the shrubs as mulch. Don't be in a big hurry to uncover the new plants coming up. We still have some cold weather coming.

You can cut back the Russian sage and butterfly bush to about 6 inches. They should come back more bushy.

During the summer and fall, the maple trees drop a lot of seeds and the birds eat the mulberries and then pass the seeds. Then, all of a sudden you have trees growing out of the bushes. By that time they are too big to pull out by hand and it doesn't do much good to keep cutting them off. If you cut the tree trunk back to about 4 or 5 inches and cover it with a tin can or soda can, that will prevent it from getting light and die. Leave it on for about a year.

We have had a lot of strong winds and ice on the trees this winter. While the branches are bare of leaves, it is a good time to take a good look at the trees to see if there are any broken branches or limbs crossing each other. If you found any, they should be taken care of now. Those branches should be cut back to the collar at the trunk, or to an attached branch.

Once the soil is dry enough to work in, you can plant trees and shrubs. Most oaks, birch, bald cypress dogwood, and magnolias prefer spring planting. Fruit trees and bare root trees also prefer spring planting.

If your perennials are coming up, now is the time to divide them. You can remove all of the dead material around them.

Your plants will have a better chance of surviving if you plant them in the same depth that they were in the container. Trees can die if planted too deep. Water them deeply and less often to encourage good deep feeder root growth.

We talk a lot about what flowers that the pollinators like, but we don't say much about the fruit and vegetable flowers. The fruit and vegetable flowers need to be pollinated to be able to produce fruit and vegetables, and the pollinators like them just as well.

A vegetable garden can give you food, energy, and also help the environment. If you leave the garden a little messy, the small weeds and debris can give the birds a place to find insects to feed their young on the plants and small weeds. It can also give wildlife some shelter. They can also find material to build their nest.

By growing your own fruits and vegetables, you can avoid some chemical pesticides that the commercial growers use.

Nothing tastes better than a vine-ripened tomato. The garden food will taste better and have more nutrients because it can fully ripen on the vine. It is also fresh.

A well-known seed company reported that they sold more seeds during 2020 than any time in their over 14-year history. Can we break that record this year?

Towanda HCE



Eastern Swallowtail

The Towanda Unit of the McLean County Home & Community Education group will meet on **Tuesday, April 13, at 6:30 P.M.** (different day of the week) at the Towanda Community Building. We will not be serving refreshments but you can bring your own beverage to drink. Our major program will be "Gardening for Swallowtail Butterflies". Our minor lessons will be on "Illinois Lighthouse Study: Waukegan Harbor."

For more information about Towanda HCE, contact Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797. Come join us for fun and educational programs. Guests are always welcome to Towanda HCE meetings and activities.



Waukegan Harbor lighthouse

County HCE activities include April 19, 9am-2pm, Community Service Day, Farm Bureau at 2242 Westgate Dr, Bloomington, Eileen, 309-533-1135; Apr 19, 2-3:30pm Farm Bureau Building, discussing the books *The Golden Boy* by Tara Sullivan and *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet, LaVonne Cunningham, 309-825-6558 for more information. Guests and friends are welcome but call for more information and/or RSVP to make sure there are accommodations available. Cindy Kelley will be sending out Care boxes to soldiers overseas around April 29. She is also accepting items to put in the boxes and if you have a soldier you'd like her to send boxes of food items, personal care products and more, call her at 309-824-4797.



Towanda District Library

The Towanda District Library is still in the process of renovations including painting and getting new carpeting. The attached photos provide a “sneak peek” inside the temporarily closed building, and it reveals how the staff is safely and strategically organizing all of the library’s materials, ensuring their availability to the community we support and appreciate!



While we are currently in the midst of renovations, we are pleased to continue offering our phone and curbside services. In addition to placing holds online, please call the library at 309-728-2176 for any requests or suggestions of materials. We are here to help and look forward to seeing you soon!



Towanda Area Spring Garage Sales

Friday, April 23 – is the due date for information about sales to be held at the days/times of your choice during Thursday-Saturday, April 29, 30 and May 1. Needed are: 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) \$5 fee (for Pantagraph and 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.

Water Hydrant Flushing Schedule – 2021

The six water hydrants located in Indian Creek subdivision will be flushed on the dates listed below. Water hydrants are flushed in order to reduce the build-up of sediments in our water system. This is an important process for improving water quality. Please follow the procedures listed below:

- Do not run water during the flushing time period.
- Following flushing, run water through faucets until clear. We recommend this be done by-passing any treatment/filtering system in your home because of the increased sediment stirred up during the flushing process.

Please mark your calendars with the dates listed below. Flushing will be done between 5:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. weather permitting. **Hydrants will not be flushed in freezing conditions or other inclement weather.**

Monday, April 26
Monday, May 24
Monday, June 28
Monday, July 26

Monday, August 23
Wednesday, September 22
Saturday, October 23
No flushing in November
Wednesday, December 22

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson

Classified

For Hire:

Bailee Harmon is currently a freshman at NCHS. She is available to pet sit, babysit, and to do other house hold chores. Bailee can be reached at (309) 530-8279 or her mom (Hallie Harmon) can be reached at (309) 530-5360.

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.

Jenacys Masters, 16, a Junior at NCHS is interested in doing any odd jobs to earn money for a car. Preferably in the Towanda area. She is offering dog walking/pet sitting, babysitting, running errands, or any other "teenager" type jobs. Please contact her at 813-943-2085. Cherish Pedraza 13 Bent Tree Ln.

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 - annettehancock1953@gmail.com

Website - www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock

Pinterest - www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935



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

Jerrod Ingram

Real Estate Agent - eXp Realty

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