



# INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

September 2021

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

Contact us by email at [indiancreeknews@hotmail.com](mailto:indiancreeknews@hotmail.com)

## Towanda HCE

The Towanda HCE will next meet on Thursday, Sep 16 at 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. Jeanie Wager and Kathleen Emery will be presenting the Program/lesson: Biscuits, Then and Now & Sourdough. Visitors are cordially invited to attend. Home and Community Education units meet for educational programming and fellowship. There is a program presented each month to address many timely issues and give out the latest updated information on old topics. Contact Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797 if you need additional information or to confirm the meeting night & location.

The county HCE organization is also sponsoring September activities: Mon, Sep 13, 9a-12n-Chalk Paint Jars for fall workshop at McLean County Farm Bureau; ; Sat, Sep 18, Bake Sale Booth at the Downtown Bloomington Farmers Market on the square. 7am-12n across street from Fox & Hounds; Mon, Sep 20, 9a-2p, Community Service Day at Farm Bureau, making Santa Stockings for Seniors; Sep 20, 2-3:30p, Read & Share the book- An American Marriage by Tayari Jones at the Extension Office.

PLEASE put October 30 on your calendars so as NOT TO MISS the McLean County HCE Attic Treasures Sale to be held on Saturday, Oct 30, 8a-2p at the Interstate Center, Cloverleaf Hall. If you have items to donate, call for more information from Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797.



## Towanda Fire News for September, 2021

The Towanda Fire Departments wants to remind everyone that harvesting is right around the corner and to...**Start Seeing Farmers.**

As summer is ending and the kids are going back to some type of school, fall is coming soon and that means the Farmers will be hitting the fields hard when the crops are ready to be harvested. The Towanda Fire Department needs your help in keeping everyone safe on the roadways.

Soon signs will be popping up along the roads saying "START SEEING FARMERS" to warn us to be aware that farm machinery and trucks will be out on the roads taking up a fair share of highway. When you see equipment traveling down the roadway, please slow down and use caution when trying to pass a piece of equipment.

If you have any questions regarding the Towanda Fire Department or would like information in becoming a firefighter, please contact Chief Brett Lueschen at 309.728.2353 or email: [towandachief@gmail.com](mailto:towandachief@gmail.com)



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## 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. Our water operator will flush one hydrant at a time and allow it to run for 10-15 minutes (the next in line hydrant is opened concurrently for a brief period to keep water flowing through the system). Water pressure in our system's lines is maintained by the 35,000 gallons of water in our tower, however, pressure in home lines will be reduced during flushing much like when multiple faucets are opened in your homes. Flushing the hydrants will also stir up sediments so 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.

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

### Summer Lawn Watering

Please follow our recommended summer watering schedule by only watering on even or odd days corresponding to your street address number and limit watering to 3-4 hours. This will help ensure our well pump can replace water being used in our tower. Summer water usage typically is much higher than the rest of the year and can strain our water system capabilities.

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson

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## TOWANDA AREA FALL GARAGE SALES

Information for the Annual Fall Garage Sales for anyone interested in participating in group advertising (flyer with map and newspaper ads) is being collected. The dates for the sales are Thursday through Saturday, September 9-11, 2021. If you'd like to be included on a list of area sales and share in the cost of advertising, please be prompt in providing – by Thursday, September 2 – the following information to [rbriggs@frontiernet.net](mailto:rbriggs@frontiernet.net) You'll get a reply by email when your information and payment has been received:

- a. Sale location (cross streets are helpful)
- b. Contact information (phone & email - for my information only)
- c. Days and times of your sale (it is 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, they will be listed on the flyer and by category in the Pantagraph ad)
- e. \$5 fee (for Pantagraph ad), checks payable to Gail Ann Briggs 112 Hunt St, Towanda IL 61776

*Didjknow?* - Area group garage sales have been held twice a year (with *rare* exception) since 1981. Sign up to have a sale and be a part of the tradition!



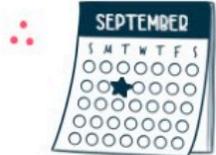
# TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY

## Back to School Edition!



### New Spaces, Fresh Faces!

Have you had a chance to visit our **updated** and **fully renovated facility**? It has been a sincere pleasure to welcome familiar patrons and new members of the community to Towanda District Library throughout the summer. Some of the most popular new “zones” within the library include our “Character Corner” in the picture book collection, the “Tween/Teen Book Nook,” and the adult seating area. We invite you to stop in to see these **new spaces**...



...and then meet some **fresh faces**! It is with great pleasure we are able to announce **Mrs. Jen Zufall** has agreed to assume the role of Interim Director! Jen brings to T.D.L. over ten years of library experience, seven in the role of director at the similarly-sized libraries of Oakwood Public Library District and Gilman-Danforth District Library. She has a wealth of knowledge that is sure to benefit our library and community. Two, talented Library Assistants, Miss Katie and Miss Taylor, also joined the T.D.L. staff this summer, and our entire team is looking forward to assisting you!



### Expanded Hours of Service

Beginning Tuesday, September 7, \*

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>
<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>

*Closed Sundays*

Towanda District Library's hours and services may be adjusted in response to data shared by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

### Expanded Hours & Flexible Services

At the time of this printing, the library is **open** for **browsing**, also known as “**Grab & Go Visits**.” Beginning Tuesday, September 7, we are pleased to offer expanded hours of operation—increasing from 26 to **32 hours** per week! Please see the upcoming hours (at right) or visit the library's website or Facebook page to skim the latest updates.



In response to recommendations from the C.D.C. and I.D.P.H., we are unable to offer in-person programming for groups of all ages. The Board of Trustees and Library Director will continue to monitor data and consider social distancing constraints to determine when programs will resume. **Phone and curbside services will continue**, and we invite you to contact us by phone, email, or via Facebook Messenger to request items or assistance.

### Essential Supplies...for Students and Patrons of ALL Ages!



In accordance with state directives and in response to the latest COVID variants, **all library employees and patrons** (above the age of 2 years) will be required to wear masks upon entry—regardless of vaccination status—beginning **Monday, August 23**. Disposable masks will be made available on an as-needed basis.

September is also known as “Library Card Sign-Up” month, and we invite patrons 8 years and older to register. **Signing up for a library card is free and takes fewer than 5 minutes!** In most cases, we are able to reset library card PINs or extend privilege dates over the phone. Pick up this essential “lifelong learning supply” today!



## TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY

301 S. Taylor St. Towanda, IL 61776  
(309) 728-2176 • [www.towandalibrary.org](http://www.towandalibrary.org)  
Explore. Share. Read. Discover.



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# Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



Do you remember how much fun it was when you were young to catch lightning bugs on a warm summer evening? You would get a glass peanut butter jar, pound 2 or 3 holes in the metal lid, using a hammer and nails. See who could catch the most lightning bugs in an evening. They were everywhere. The next morning, disappointed because they all died. It was fun trying to catch that flash of light over here and then catch the next flash over there. Today the number of fireflies has really declined. Like other insects, they are threatened by the overuse of pesticides, loss of habitat, and light pollution. They live in the grass, when they hatch, the male is looking for a mate. They flash a light to signal their location of each other. They need it to be dark to see each other's flash of light.

We need to stop fertilizing perennials after August 10. That is so they can start preparing for the cold weather coming down the road later.

Once the bagworms reach full size, insecticides are ineffective. The best way to control them is to prune them off and burn the large bags. Don't just drop them off onto the ground. The eggs will still hatch and cause damage again later.

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The hot, dry weather has been with us for some time and will probably stay for a few more weeks. If you have planted some new trees in the last 3-5 years, you should check to see if they are showing signs of damage. The leaves and needles could show signs of premature drying or falling.

For drought-stressed trees, you can use a soaker hose, drip irrigation, or a 5-gallon bucket with a small hole in the bottom. If possible, saturate the ground to a 2 foot depth once a week. Water in the morning or evening to prevent moisture loss to evaporation. Maintain a layer of mulch around the base of the trees 2-4 inches deep. Keep the mulch 4 inches from the trunk of the tree. It needs space to be able to breathe and to prevent damage to the bark. Long-term drought stresses trees by weakening them and making them target for insects and diseases.

Don't fertilize or apply pesticide to the lawn or around the trees during the hot dry weather. It could do more damage than good.

Also, avoid using post-emergent herbicides during hot weather.

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Pollen season has arrived, as the sufferers have already found out. Climate change is partly to blame. Researchers have found that between 1990 and 2018, the seasons have started 20 days earlier and last 10 days longer. It also includes 21% more pollen than 30 years ago.

The warmer weather and longer pollen seasons show how it affects people's health. It is tied to respiratory health, viral infections, and school performance.

For years, the pretty yellow flowers of goldenrod were blamed for the pollen. It's pollen is too heavy to blow in the wind. That pretty flower of the ragweed pollen is light and really causes the problem. We have also added a lot of other plants that add to the problem. Those pretty year-round grasses also add to it. Just about everything has its good side and its bad side.

Hopefully, you have already ordered your spring-blooming bulbs. If you receive them before the cool

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weather when it is time to plant them, you can store them in a cool place, such as the refrigerator. If you plant them before the soil cools they could start to grow and not bloom.

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We usually think of bats living in the caves, but some of them do live in people's yards. Some of the people are glad to have them because they do eat a huge number of mosquitoes and bugs that can cause illnesses. Experts do say there is very little risk of them causing any illness. You should treat bats the same as any other wildlife. Do not touch them. Wildlife animals are just afraid of us as we humans are afraid of wildlife animals. Also, do not feed the fox, raccoons, etc. Do not place meat, cheese, or dairy food in the compost because it will draw wildlife.

We need the wildlife because they are a chain in the ecosystem and they remove mice, voles, and snakes, etc. They do have a job to do.

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## Ecology Action Center Backyard Composting Workshops Address Threat of Invasive Jumping Worms

The Ecology Action Center is hosting composting workshops to help community members learn proper techniques to compost food waste at home, without spreading the invasive, destructive jumping worms that have already been identified in several locations throughout McLean County. In-person and online workshops will be held regularly, and community members can sign up at [ecologyactioncenter.org](http://ecologyactioncenter.org) or by calling 309-454-3169 ext. 12.

Backyard composting has always helped to reduce the amount of organic material sent to the landfill. But this year, McLean County is concerned about another environmental impact – one that could determine the fate of natural wooded areas as well as residents' own gardens. Food scraps and other organic waste can occupy as much as 25% of landfill capacity, but composting can help keep landfills open and able to accept other waste for a longer period. Proper composting technique is essential to minimize emissions of the potent greenhouse gas methane and, now more than ever, to safeguard the compost pile from pathogens and invasive species that can cause critical damage to soils and plants. This season, invasive jumping worms have been sighted several times in the BloomingtonNormal area. Easily mistaken for earthworms, this destructive invasive species consumes nutrients, damages soil structure, disrupts beneficial soil life, reducing soil's ability support desirable wild and cultivated plants.

The Ecology Action Center's Composting Workshop will provide information about which materials can be composted at home, what equipment is needed, and how to build, maintain, and monitor the pile to minimize the threat from potential invaders like jumping worms.

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.



## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Returns to McLean County

### Ecology Action Center opens registration for October 9, 2021 HHW Collection

In a change from recent years, the Ecology Action Center (EAC) is NOT asking for donations for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection this year. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is covering most costs for an October 9, 2021 HHW collection event to be held at the Interstate Center in Bloomington from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. “This change will help conserve local financial resources for both donors and taxpayers,” said Michael Brown, Executive Director of the EAC. “While our community has been very supportive in helping to ensure the success of local hazardous waste collection efforts, we are grateful for the Illinois EPA assistance to broaden this event in order to include all central Illinois residents.”

**The HHW collection event will be appointment-only in order to regulate traffic to prevent long waits; residents must sign up for an appointment at [HHWmclean.org](http://HHWmclean.org).** Residents without computer access may call 309-GOTO-HHW, or (309) 468-6449 for assistance. Participation is open to all Illinois residents at no cost. Illinois regulations mandate that only residential wastes may be collected—no business or commercially generated wastes are accepted. The deadline for HHW appointments is noon on Friday, October 8, 2021. Volunteers are needed to help with traffic control at the event; signup is available online at [HHWmclean.org](http://HHWmclean.org).

**Accepted materials include:** Oil-based paints, Used Motor Oil, Herbicides, Pesticides, Insecticides, Old gasoline, Pool chemicals, Cleaning products, Mercury, Acids, Medications (except Controlled Substances), Household batteries, Paint thinners, Lawn chemicals, Solvents, Antifreeze, Hobby chemicals, Aerosol paints and pesticides, Fluorescent lamp bulbs, Drain cleaners, and Corrosives.

**Unaccepted items include:** Latex paint, Agricultural wastes, business/commercial sector wastes, Explosives, Fireworks, Controlled substances, Lead acid batteries, Propane tanks, Smoke detectors, Farm machinery oil, Fire extinguishers, Biohazard waste, or Institutional or business waste.

The 2021 McLean County HHW Collection is made possible in partnership with Illinois EPA, support from the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, McLean County, and BNWRD, and in-kind services donated by Republic Services.

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.

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# Classified

## For Free:

The Immen's have free hostas to transplant. If interested, email [rachel.immen@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.immen@gmail.com)

## For Hire:

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.

Bailee Harmon is available to pet sit, babysit, and to do other household chores such as water plants/flowers and cleaning. Please contact Bailee at (309) 530-8279 or her mom (Hallie Harmon) at (309) 530-5360.

## 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](mailto:annettehancock1953@gmail.com)  
Website - [www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock](http://www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock)  
Pinterest - [www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935](http://www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935)



**John Hermann**  
Financial Advisor  
The Greater Illinois Financial Group  
**Prudential Advisors**  
1907 Jumer Dr, Suite D, Bloomington, IL 61704  
T 309 808-5212 F 309 808-5230 C 309 287-5972  
[john.hermann@prudential.com](mailto:john.hermann@prudential.com)

## Jerrod Ingram

Real Estate Agent - eXp Realty

- Thinking about selling your house?
- Considering buying a house?
- Contact me today!
  - Cell - (309) 360-9020
  - Email - [jerrod.ingram@exprealty.com](mailto:jerrod.ingram@exprealty.com)
  - Website - [jerrod.ingram.exprealty.com](http://jerrod.ingram.exprealty.com)

