



INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

September 2022

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

TOWANDA DISTRICT LIBRARY TEMPORARILY CLOSING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Unfortunately, due to staffing shortages, the Towanda District Library has temporarily closed until further notice. All programming scheduled beyond today, August 17, 2022, has been canceled. The library hopes to open its doors and services as soon as possible. Your patience is appreciated during this interim period.

If you would like to reserve a book online and pick it up at another RSA library, please visit <https://bit.ly/TDLbooks>. The nearest RSA libraries are Normal Public Library, Hudson Area Public Library District, and Lexington Public Library District.

Books that have been placed on hold will not be delivered to the Towanda District Library. Please place another hold on the item and choose another RSA library in the "Pickup Library" drop-down.

If you need to return a book, please continue to utilize the book drops located on the building and in the parking lot. Volunteers will continue to ensure books are returned to the library. Items may be renewed until September 17, 2022 through RSACat.

Any books currently checked out will have the late fee waived until September 6, 2022. This date may be extended if the library is still without adequate staffing.

If you have any questions, please contact libraryboard@towandalibrary.org.

Towanda Area Fall Garage Sales

If you'd like to be included on a list of area sales and share in the cost of advertising (flyer with map via email and newspapers), please provide – by Saturday, September 3 – for sales Thursday-Saturday, September 8-10, 2022 - the following information to; rgbriggs@frontiernet.net

- 1) sale location
- 2) contact information
- 3) days and times of your sale (it is not necessary to have your sale each day)
- 4) list of items (include as much as you like, the more you list will make buyers want to stop)
- 5) \$5 fee (for ad in newspapers & flyers), checks payable to Gail Ann Briggs at (112 Hunt St, Towanda IL 61776). I will reply by email when I have received your information and payment.



McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Cancelled Due to Processing Facility Fire

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has cancelled the September 2022 McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection event due to insufficient capacity for processing hazardous waste materials after a June fire at their contractor's Liverpool, Ohio processing facility. Heritage Environmental has ceased accepting many categories of hazardous waste materials until the facility is repaired. It is unlikely to be operational until late fall.

This temporary shutdown is likely to affect operations at all permanent Illinois Household Hazardous Waste Collection facilities and some or all fall HHW collection events in Illinois. The Ecology Action Center (EAC) strongly recommends that residents safely store all Household Hazardous Waste materials until events resume next year. The EAC anticipates the next McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be held in the fall of 2023. *Residents are encouraged to sign up for the EAC's hazardous waste collection email notification list in order to stay in the loop on future collection events. This email signup is available at ecologyactioncenter.org/hhw/hhwupdates/.*

Household Hazardous Waste Collections in McLean County are coordinated by the Ecology Action Center as the community environmental sustainability agency with support from the Illinois EPA, the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, McLean County, and Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District. The fall 2022 HHW collection had additional support provided by Heartland Community College and Republic Services.

Household Hazardous Wastes are materials and chemicals that are toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive, or explosive. They typically cannot be safely recycled or disposed of without a special center or collection event. These wastes can be a serious threat to water supplies and public health if they are improperly discarded with nonhazardous trash (put into a municipal solid waste landfill), dumped down the drain, or illegally dumped elsewhere.

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.



Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



We need to continue watering, weeding, and checking for pests, but we slowdown on fertilizing the perennials, shrubs, and trees to let them harden off before the cold weather arrives. Continue to fertilize and dead head the annuals. Also stop fertilizing the roses by August 15.

You can dig your potatoes when the tops have dried. In the open spaces you can plant some cool season plants for a fall crop, such as greens, radishes, etc.



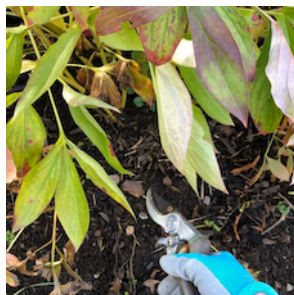
Now is a good time to plant your fall garden of radishes, lettuce, spinach, green beans, turnips, etc. You will need to water often, but the soil is warm and the seeds should germinate faster. You might need to water morning and evening in order to keep the soil moist.

Cut back straggly annuals to promote new growth and just putter about the garden. Cleaning up plants, pulling weeds and enjoying the results of your labor.



September first and Labor Day are just around the corner, and that is the most important time of the year for our lawn care. It is the best time to sow lawn seed. Prepare the soil and get good seed and soil contact. Cover it with a light covering of clean straw and keep it moist. The soil is warm and it should germinate quickly.

It is also the most important time for an application of fertilizer. Apply one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. If you leave the clippings on the ground when you mow, this should be enough fertilizer for the year. The only application that you need. Save some money. When the temperature drops to 55 degrees, the plants start sending its energy to the roots instead of the blades, so they can have more energy for growth next spring.



It is time to start getting our perennials ready for cold weather. In late winter, the peonies poked their red nose thru the ground to tell us that Spring is really on the way. It wasn't long until we had some attractive plants with big red, white, and pink flowers. It is time to cut the plant back to near the ground. Place the stems into the garbage or burn them. Now is the time to divide them. Be sure that you have 3-5 eyes [little pink shoots] per division. Replant so that the eyes are no more deep than 2 inches. They need full sun to bloom good.

You can also divide your iris now. Separate the rhizomes by hand so you can check to see if any are spoiled and should be destroyed. You can replant the rhizomes slightly exposed to the top. Cut them back 2/3.

The Trees of Indian Creek – PawPaw

by Greg Beneze



If you aren't familiar with these native Illinois fruits, you're not alone. Pawpaws, the fruits of the pawpaw tree, are sometimes called America's best kept secret fruit. They resemble a tropical fruit, and we have many of these trees in our woods.

The Pawpaw tree bears the largest native tree fruit in North America. These fruit ripen in the fall and are 3 to 6 inches long. The pawpaw fruit can be described as custard-like with a flavor that is a cross between a banana and a mango (though some think it tastes plainer, more like a raw potato, especially if the fruit is not ripe). Take note that while the fruit is edible, you should never eat the skin or seeds of this fruit. Pawpaw skin contains annonacin, which is toxic to nerve cells.

When the fruit is ripe, it falls from the tree. One must be careful when shaking a pawpaw tree loaded with fruit as they may fall on your head. The ripe fruit on the ground is quickly eaten by the animals, so if you are foraging for fruit, you will need to visit the trees often. Due to the extremely short shelf life of this fruit (2-3 days at room temperature or a week in the refrigerator), it is not suitable for large scale commercial production, so to sample it, you must find a tree in the woods.

PawPaw fruit is too soft to slice but can be eaten with a spoon. It does not do well when heated alone, but it can be mixed in with baked goods (such as quick breads). It is also excellent in frozen desserts (like sorbets), smoothies, puddings, and salsas. PawPaw flavored craft beer is also a niche item you may come across.

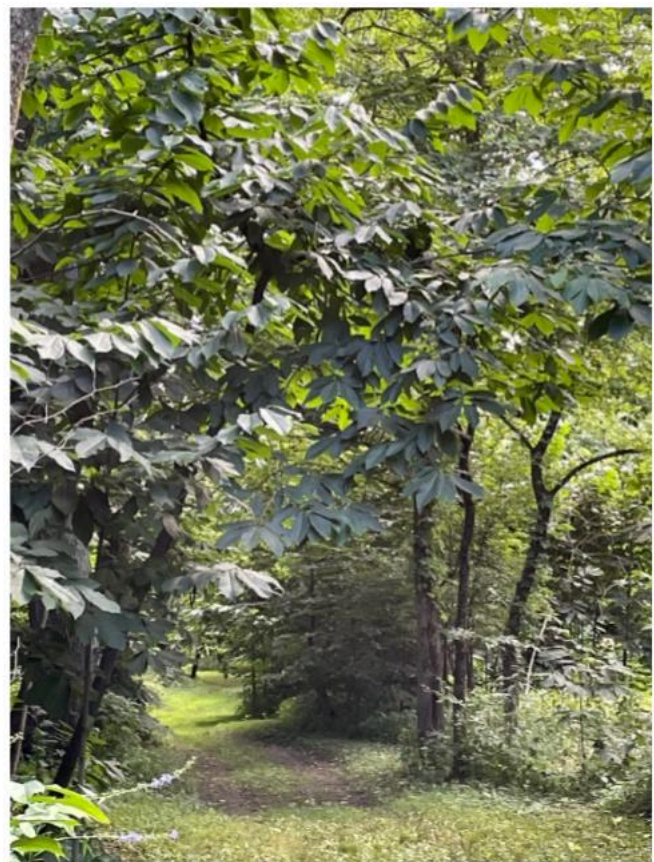
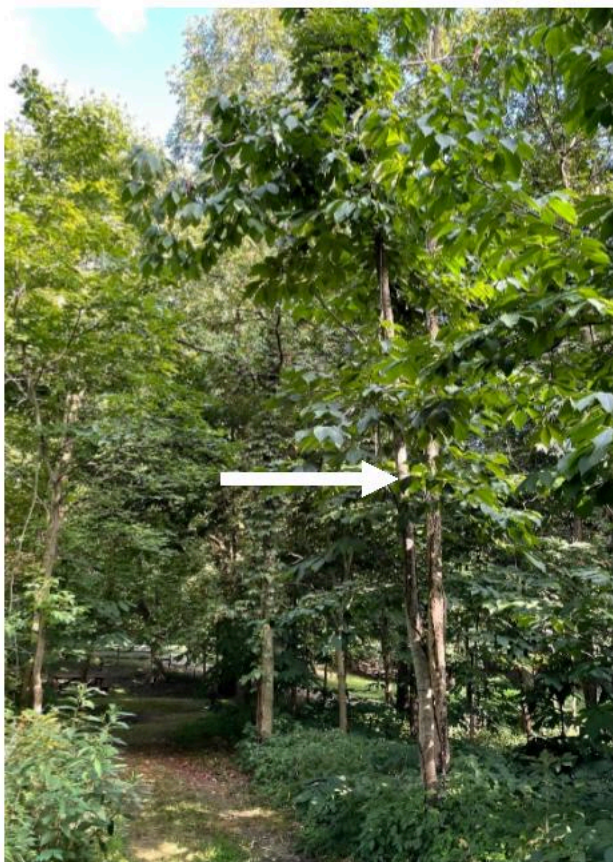
Pawpaws are pollinated by flies and beetles instead of bees, which pollinate many of our common food crops. The faint (or often non-existent) scent of the pawpaw flower mimics the smell of rotting meat. These plants evolved with flowers to attract blowflies or carrion beetles who naturally feed on dead and decaying animals. This pollination strategy is more common among tropical plants, but rare among our native, more temperate species.



Pawpaw exhibits other features of tropical plants including specialized "drip-tips" on their leaves to help wick away water, which is a feature common among tropical plants to clear away moisture that can promote development of fungal diseases on foliage. The palm-like appearance of almost foot long pawpaw leaves is also reminiscent of the tropics.

There is evidence that humans played a role in pawpaw dispersal. One of the earliest records of the pawpaw is from Hernando de Soto's expedition to the Americas in 1541. A Portuguese officer on the expedition notes that Mississippi Valley Native Americans were cultivating and eating pawpaw. Given this and other accounts of pawpaw use by Native Americans (some dating back over 10,000 years), it is likely that an often-nomadic lifestyle and trade with other tribes resulted in greater distribution of pawpaw prior to European settlement.

Post-settlement, our forefathers also cultivated pawpaw, with both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson including pawpaw plantings in their agricultural practices. Interestingly, pawpaw is noted to have sustained the Lewis and Clark expedition for a few weeks when rations were lean. Pawpaw trees can grow to a height of about 25 feet but when grown in shady and protected areas of established forests, they only get to be 2 to 12 feet tall. The leaves are dark green, shiny, and oval-shaped with pointy ends. The leaves can grow up to 12 inches in length. In the fall, the foliage turns varying shades of yellow.



The picture above on the left is one of our larger pawpaw trees, located near the start of the creek trail, west of the bridge. As you go further along that trail you will find many pawpaw trees of various sizes.



Towanda HCE

The Towanda HCE will be meeting for their first meeting of the 2022-2023 year on Monday, September 12, 6:30 pm at the Towanda North Park shelter across from the Towanda Community Building. Cindy Kelley will be giving the program "Discovering the Art of Flavor Using Oils & Vinegars". The minor lesson will be about the history of the Republic of Italy. Each month we will receive minor lessons on different aspects of The Republic of Italy.

There will be one more Bake Sale Booth at the Downs Village Market on Wednesday, September 7, 4-6 p.m. Proceeds from these HCE bake sale booths will benefit HCE Scholarships and their many Community Outreach programs they support. We also want everyone to put Saturday, Oct 1, 2022 on their calendar as the McLean County HCE Attic Treasures and Bake Sale will be coming to the Interstate Center, Mini Expo Building, 8am - 2pm. We will have holiday, Christmas & Household items, books, small furniture, linens, crafts, baked goods and so MUCH MORE!. We do not sell footwear and clothing, but we do sell purses, scarves, and jewelry. If you have items you want to donate, contact Cindy Kelley, 824-4797 and you can bring priced items on Friday, Sep 30, 9a-3p to the Mini Expo Building at the Interstate Center. Proceeds will benefit HCE Community Outreach Projects and HCE Scholarship(s) for 4-Hers.

Towanda HCE will have a display at local libraries during October for "October is HCE Month" in McLean County. Come view our display of activities and information about HCE. Consider joining us in our education journey! For more information about Towanda HCE, contact Cindy Kelley, 309-824-4797.

Water Hydrant Flushing Schedule – 2022

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 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. weather permitting. Hydrants will not be flushed in freezing conditions or other inclement weather.

Monday, August 29

Monday, September 26

Monday, October 31

Monday, November 28

Monday, December 26

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

Classified

Businesses:



John Hermann

Financial Advisor

The Greater Illinois Financial Group

Prudential Advisors

1907 Jumer Dr, Suite D, Bloomington, IL 61704

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Jerrod Ingram

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 - Cell - (309) 360-9020
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REALTY

For Hire:

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.

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 is a Junior at NCHS. Please call or text her at 309-532-7522.

Lydia Lueschen is available for babysitting. She is 16 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.