



INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

December 2022

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

Contact us by email at indiancreeknews@hotmail.com

Water Tower Refurbishing Update

A competitive bidding process for our water tower refurbishing project took place in July/August. The Farnsworth Group (our engineering firm) prepared bidding materials and coordinated the process. The bidding process complied with IL EPA Public Water Supply Loan Program requirements including public advertising and a public bid opening. Fifteen companies were also contacted individually to solicit bids. Four bids were received, two were in line our previous cost estimate and two were somewhat higher. The most competitive bid has been approved by the IL EPA. The Farnsworth Group has worked with the company previously and the company has done other projects in our area. We are in the process of completing the steps necessary to be able to enter into a contract with the company. More specifics will be provided when all the legal requirements are met. The refurbishing work is planned for spring/summer 2023.

ICHWA has been approved for a loan from the IL EPA's Public Water Supply Loan Program to complete our water tower refurbishing project. We have also been approved for a grant which will provide forgiveness for 50% of the loan. The approved loan amount is \$315,112 which includes estimated engineering, construction management and refurbishing costs. The loan is for 20 years at .93% interest.

The Illinois Comptroller's Office recently informed us they require ICHWA to register as a federal non-profit 501(c)(12) entity before releasing the IL EPA approved loan funds. We are currently registered as a section 528 entity at the federal level. We are working with our attorney to do the necessary filings. This is a new requirement which the IL EPA was not aware of until we received notification along with several other entities who have approved loans. We do not anticipate a problem with obtaining 501(c)(12) status, however, we cannot be certain until we receive notification. We will not be able to draw on the loan until we receive approval from the Illinois Comptroller's office. It is critical we have the refurbishing work completed during this next year.

Assuming we receive final loan disbursement approval, we plan to also move the chemical treatment currently being done in the water tower base to a new building next to the water tower. Last year the Farnsworth Group developed specifications and solicited bids for this building. We have found a prefabricated building specifically designed for chemical treatment and are rebidding the construction work. We are also obtaining the necessary county and IL EPA approvals. This project needs to be completed before the refurbishing work begins.

Finding a contractor to complete our water tower refurbishing project at a reasonable cost and being approved for the IL EPA loan and grant programs is very good news. We have spent a great deal of time and effort over the last two years to reach this point. A very high volume of engineering, financial, legal and regulatory information has been filed with the IL EPA in order to meet their program requirements. Completion of the water tower refurbishing and chemical building projects will also allow us to further develop plans for future water system needs. Background on the refurbishing and other water system projects is available in the March 2020 Indian Creek Annual Meeting Minutes which can be found on our Indian Creek subdivision website.



NEWS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Please help the fire department congratulate Danny (son of Kathleen and Michael) for graduating from the Illinois Fire Service Institute Firefighter Academy. Danny was hired by the Town of Normal as a Firefighter/Paramedic this last summer. He has been a member of the Towanda Fire Department since 2018. Your TFD family is very proud of your accomplishments. Great job Danny!

Winter Tips

Weatherproof your home.

- Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls so your water supply will be less likely to freeze.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Insulate walls and attic.
- Install storm or thermal-pane windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
- Repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on your home or other structure during a storm.

Have your chimney or flue inspected each year.

If you plan to use a fireplace or wood stove for emergency heating, have your chimney or flue inspected each year. Ask your local fire department to recommend an inspector or find one online.



Install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector.

- If you'll be using a fireplace, wood stove, or kerosene heater, install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector near the area to be heated. Test them monthly and replace batteries twice a year.
- Keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby.
- All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside.

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- Each winter season have your furnace system and vent checked by a qualified technician to ensure they are functioning properly.

Create an emergency car kit

It is best to avoid traveling, but if travel is necessary, try this web page - <https://www.ready.gov/car> and keep the following in your car:

- Cell phone, portable charger, and extra batteries
- Items to stay warm such as extra hats, coats, mittens, and blankets
- Windshield scraper
- Shovel
- Battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Water and snack food
- First aid kit with any necessary medications and a pocket knife
- Tow chains or rope
- Tire chains
- Canned compressed air with sealant for emergency tire repair
- Cat litter or sand to help tires get traction, or road salt to melt ice
- Booster cables with fully charged battery or jumper cables
- Hazard or other reflectors
- Bright colored flag or help signs, emergency distress flag, and/or emergency flares
- Road maps
- Waterproof matches and a can to melt snow for water

Happy Holidays From Fire Department!

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

Indian Creek Resident and Artist

Check out the Indian Creek resident and artist, John Robert Hermann's, stunning Art Wear, sweat-shop free handmade in Montreal, fair-trade, and eco-friendly!

Art Wear made of the stunning abstract photo collage works created from Indian Creek's 4 seasons: 100% Silk scarves, kimonos, peignoirs, and cotton masks and T-shirts, along with a variety of quality fabric dresses, leggings, yoga leggings and capris, and a "Fly" men's tracksuit! Go to ArtDogs.net for the perfect gift for the art appreciator, proud Indian Creek resident, and hard-to-buy-for on your list!

Indian Creek resident Holiday Special: One 100% organic cotton ArtDogs.net bag and one Fine Art Greeting card per order Not per item!



It's the holiday season and a great time to visit the library! We have a multitude of materials to keep you entertained throughout the cold weather and silent nights. New books and magazines are arriving weekly and are waiting to be borrowed. New DVDs will be available soon.

Are you looking for a specific book, author, magazine, etc.? We will do our best to find it for you! Deliveries from other libraries are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Puzzles are now available for checkout! They are a great activity to do as a family. There is even one in progress on the large table by the magazines for anyone to do. It's a fabulous way to relax in a quiet setting amongst all of the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

The library will be closed December 23, 24, 25 for the Christmas holiday and December 31 and January 2 for New Years.

We are looking for customer service oriented people that want to make our library a pillar of the community! If you or anyone you know is interested in working at the library part-time send a resume to director@towandalibrary.org or come into the library with your resume. We want to get programming and other activities started again!

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, November 28

Monday, December 26

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson

Garden Tips

by Helen Leake



You can plant your amaryllis after its dormancy if you want it to bloom in time for the holidays. Remember that it likes to be in a crowded container. You should keep the top one third of the bulb above the soil line. Water deeply once and when new growth shows, keep the soil moist.

Be sure that your evergreens and broad leaf evergreens are well watered before the ground freezes. While the temperatures are above freezing, you can apply anti-desiccants to the evergreens and broad leaf evergreens to protect them from the winter winds from pulling out the moisture from the leaves and needles.

The newly planted broad leaf evergreens such as azaleas, boxwood, and hollies need a burlap screen to protect them from the cold winter winds. You might want to place the stacks in the ground before the ground freezes. Also don't forget to place the stacks to protect the trees and shrubs from the roads salty snow.

Now that the temperature has gotten cold, don't forget to protect your flowers and plants as you leave the store. Place them in a paper bag and cover the top to keep the cold out. Just a few minutes of cold air can cause the plant to drop the flowers. Also, do not leave the plants in the car while you finish shopping.

Now is the time to mulch the strawberry bed, using clean straw. You want about a 2 inch layer of mulch that does not contain weed seeds. This will help protect the plants from being pushed up out of the ground in late winter and early spring when the top soil tends to thaw and refreeze.

You can cut branches of evergreens, prune the grape vines, and collect pine cones to use for holiday decorations.

Just as your furniture collects dust, so do your house plants. You can clean the leaves by holding a hand under the leaf and gently wipe the top of the plant with a damp cloth. That will improve the looks and make it easier for the plant to breathe. Yes, Grandma was right. They inhale what we exhale and we inhale the oxygen that they exhale.

The pretty poinsettias are in the stores everywhere now. It's hard to decide which one you want. Don't forget to protect it from the cold as you are leaving the store. At home it likes to be near a bright window and away from drafts. Keep all of your plants away from a door that opens to the cold outside. The sudden change in temperature is hard on the plants.

Your overwintering geranium likes bright light and cool temperatures. Keep the soil slightly dry. It is only natural for some of your house plant to drop leaves during the winter. Some of the outdoor pines will drop some of the older needles during the winter.

The Trees of Indian Creek – Honey Locust

by Greg Beneze

Now that the leaves have fallen, it becomes a bit more challenging to identify a tree's species. However, there are a few trees that have identifying features that make them easily identifiable. One such tree is the Honey Locust, which is commonly known as the Thorny Locust. While this tree is native to our area, it is considered an invasive species. Due to the volume of seed pods and seeds, it can quickly become the dominate tree in a forest. We certainly have many of these trees in our woods and we are cutting down some that are encroaching on our more desirable hardwoods.



This tree is native to central North America and is found mostly in the moist soil of river valleys. It is a fast-growing tree that typically reaches 60-100 feet tall and tends to live 100-125 years. Honey Locusts produce a high quality, durable wood that polishes well, and a niche market exists for honey locust furniture. It is also used for posts and rails because of the dense, rot-resistant nature of the wood. Caution is needed when near these trees because of the thorns, which are typically 1 to 8 inches long. The thorns may be single or branched into several points and commonly form dense clusters, especially on the trunk of the tree. The thorns are fairly soft and green when young, harden and turn red as they age, then fade to ash grey and turn brittle when mature.



While the thorns are not poisonous or toxic, they can provide a nasty poke to the skin which must be cleaned to avoid infection from dirt that may be on the thorn. Particular care should be taken when walking around these trees to avoid fallen branches that can have hardened thorns capable of puncturing the sole of a tennis shoe. These thorns are notorious for causing flat tires on bicycles and

lawnmowers. While these thorns can be dangerous, early settlers and Native Americans used the thorns for fishing hooks, spear tips, small game traps, sewing needles, and nails.

Another distinguishing feature of the Honey Locust is the seed pod. The pulp on the inside of the pods is edible (unlike the black locust seed pod which is toxic) and consumed by wildlife and livestock. The honey locust derives its name from the sweet taste of the legume pulp, which was used for food and traditional medicine by Native Americans. The 6-to-12 inch long pods, which eventually dry and ripen to brown or maroon, are surrounded in a tough, leathery skin that adheres strongly to the pulp within. The pulp, bright green in unripe pods, is strongly sweet, crisp and



succulent in ripe pods. Dark brown tannin-rich beans are found in slots within the pulp.



There are other types of locust trees. The thornless honey locust is native from Pennsylvania to Nebraska and south to Texas. The first scientific observations of this species were made in 1700. The thornless species has similar seed pods and leaf shape. The Cherokees in Tennessee made bows from the tree's durable and strong wood. It has also long been a favorite for fence posts.

The black locust is native to the southeastern US. It has smaller thorns, smaller seed pods, and the leaf tips are more rounded. However, the seed pods of the black locust are poisonous and the bark and leaves are toxic to cattle, pets, and humans. The seed pods are 2-to-4 inches long. Black locust wood is very dense and harder than the honey locust and is comparable to hickory in hardness factor. We have black locust in our woods as well.



Towanda HCE



The Towanda HCE group will meet for a Holiday Party Potluck on Monday, December 12, 6:00 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Meat and beverages will be provided. Members and guests are to bring a dish to pass. There will be a \$10 gift exchange if you wish to participate. RSVP to Clare Lehan, 309-826-8044 by Sat, Dec 10. The Community Service Project this month is to bring men's Socks for the Home Sweet Home Mission. Come for a festive time. Guests are cordially welcome.

Classified

Businesses:



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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.