



# INDIAN CREEK NEWSLETTER

April 2014

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

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

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## Towanda Area Spring Garage Sales

Want to share advertising cost (and benefit from a 'built-in' crowd)? Plan to hold your sale during the Rte 66 Red Carpet Corridor Event. This year's dates are May 1-4 (Thursday-Sunday)

To be included on the list of area sales, please provide ~ by Wednesday, April 23:

- Sale location
- Contact information (phone & email)
- Days and times of your sale (you do not need to have your sale each day)
- 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)
- \$7 fee (for flyers, Pantagraph ads), checks payable to Gail Ann Briggs

Email info to [rgbriggs@frontiernet.net](mailto:rgbriggs@frontiernet.net) (preferred) or

Send to 112 Hunt St; Towanda IL 61776

Call (728-2187) with questions. Anyone with items they particularly want to sell may want to take out an individual ad as well.

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## Towanda Lions Club

The Towanda Lions Club will offer its annual Ham & Bean Dinner at the Community Building from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm on Friday, April 11, 2014. Tickets are \$6 at the door, or they may be purchased for \$5 in advance from any Lions Club member. Dinner will include all-you-can-eat ham and beans, cornbread, beverage and dessert. An alternative meal will be a hotdog, chips, beverage, and dessert. Children ages 11 and under will eat free when accompanied by an adult. Carry outs are available.

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## Towanda Busy Bees 4H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4H club met Tuesday, March 18th. The program for the month was recycling. They used old t-shirt to construct reusable bags. New techniques for sewing were learned including zig zag and french seams. All members present were excited to take home a new bag and try their new skills!

The Towanda Busy Bees would like to thank everyone who has supported their fundraiser through Schwan's. The club has raised nearly \$300 to go toward programming and annual dues.

The Towanda Busy Bees and the Towanda Home Community and Education group will hold a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 24. Please mark your calendars now! The need for blood donors is always urgent especially in the summer months.

The Towanda Busy Bees welcomes new members at all of their meetings. For more information contact: Martha Rients 728-2178.





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# Garden Tips

by Helen Leake - McLean County Master Gardener



March is when we can expect all kinds of weather in one day, warm, cold, cloudy, and sun. It is good to see the ground again, even if it is brown. After a few day of warm sunshine, it will start to turn green.

We are all anxious to get out in the yard and garden to get the jobs crossed off of our to do list. However, the ground and soil is very wet. If we walk on it too soon, we could compact it. The freezing and thawing has made it more mellow and the earthworms and insects movement have loosened it up.

It is time to spray the fruit and ornamental trees with dormant oil, to break the life cycle of the insects. This should be done before they leaf out and when the temperature is above 40 degrees.

It is also time to prune the trees and summer flowering shrubs while they are still dormant. Many of the shrubs can be reduced in size by pruning back. By removing 1/3 of the oldest wood every year helps to keep them under control. Sterilize your tools after each cut with 10% bleach when pruning diseased plants, so you don't spread the disease.

After the lawn dries from the melted snow, remove the fallen sticks and excess leaves. Leave the leaves under the shrubs, they will break down and return nutrients to the soil.

Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches from the ground before new growth starts. If you have a large clump, tie a rope around it and use a chain saw.



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It is so good to see the grass getting green again. It is time to get out and clean the sticks and leaves off of the grass. There should be some thatch out there. Only if the thatch is more then 1/2 inch thick should it be removed. The dew worms like to eat it.

Right now the grass roots are growing, which is good. The fertilizer is out in the stores, but it is too early to apply it. Wait until Mothers Day to put down fertilizer, if you apply it more than once a year. Then no more than 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. If you only apply fertilizer once a year, do it Labor Day, which is the beginning of the lawn care season.

The next bag of "lawn care" is for weeds. It will not do any good to apply that until the weeds are actively growing and the soil is warm. The weeds need to be able to absorb it for it to do any good. If you only have a few weeds in your lawn, it is better for the environment and much cheaper to just hand spray the weed. You also have a good excuse to walk around in the yard looking for weeds and getting fresh air and exercise. You might even get to visit with your neighbor.

Soon it will be time to start mowing. Just a few tips. Have the blade sharpened or do it yourself. Do not mow when the grass is wet. Only remove 1/3 of the blade at a time. Leave the clippings on the ground, they put nitrogen back into the soil.

Enjoy the fresh outdoor air.



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Like the song, spring will be a little late this year. We will all have to have a lot of patience. Just wait and see if that plant, shrub, or tree survived the long, hard winter. So far the spring flowers are coming up later than usual. There might not be much if any fruit this year, because of the severe cold. Also, because the trees

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used so much energy producing a lot of fruit last year. They will need to build up energy to produce next years' crop.

It is time people are applying chemicals to the lawn, shrubs and trees. It is very important to read the whole label before using the contents. Most of the labels tell what weed or insect it will kill or repel. If whatever you want to get rid of is not listed, that product has not been proven to get rid of it. Check something else. Also, follow the directions for the amount to use. Using more could do more damage than good and it could hurt the environment.. Do not apply weed killer, fertilizer, etc, to the lawn if it might rain in the next 24 hours. The plant needs time to absorb it.. If it rains on it to soon, your time and money has gone down the drain. Also keep children and pets off the lawn after application for at least 24 hours. Pets will lick their paws and ingest the chemicals and children will get it on their hands and rub their eyes and face.

Instead of using synthetic chemicals on the lawn, spread some dried cow manure or organic compost. That will feed the grass. A half inch of thatch and 3 inch blades of grass will help prevent the weed seeds from reaching the soil to germinate and the taller grass will help cool the soil.

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## Towanda American Legion

The Towanda American Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday April 6th from 7:30 – 11:00. Breakfast includes eggs, egg casserole, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, French toast, fresh fruit, biscuits and gravy, juice, milk and coffee for \$8.

There will be a fish dinner on Friday April 18th from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include fish, French fries, coleslaw, dessert and drink for \$9. Please note the dinner will be a week later this month due to the Lions Club Ham and Bean dinner on April 11th.

All dinners are open to the public. Carry outs are available. Thank you for your continued support of the Legion and our Veterans.

Legion, Sons of the Legion and the Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Thursday April 17th at 7:00 at the Post. The Legion is available for rent for reunions, parties and meeting. For more information contact Mike Potts at 728-2384 or Tom Wagner at 287-7861.

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## Towanda HCE



The Towanda Home and Community Education Unit will meet on April 14, 7 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Kathleen Emery will be giving the program about cutting food costs and the fact find about fenugreek, a plant of the legume family. Hostesses are Leatha Poshard and Cindy Jacobs.

All County HCE members and guests are welcome to attend the following programs and workshops: Apr 8, 9-noon, Card Making class, free, Barb at 309-242-6187; Apr 21, 9-noon, HCE Comfort Quilts and 1-4 p.m. Children's dresses and shorts workshop, Eileen at 309-533-1135; Read & Share, *Playing with the Enemy* by Gary Moore to be discussed, LaVonne at 309-661-6391. These county programs are free and held at Evergreen FS Auditorium, 402 N. Hershey Rd, Bloomington. A free cultural enrichment activity will be Apr 15, 1-4pm, "History at the Museum," at the McLean County Museum, 200 N Main, Bloomington. Call Eileen at 309-533-1135 with questions.

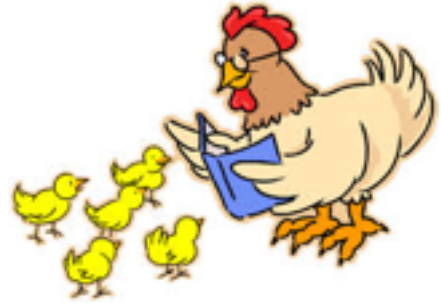
Guests are cordially invited to attend our meetings. Call Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650 or Cindy Kelley, 309-663-4796 for more information about Towanda HCE.

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# Towanda Library

## Story Hours:

April 2: Eggs and Chicks  
April 9: Bunnies  
April 16: National Library Week Bouquets  
April 23: Sheep  
April 30: Butterflies



## Money Smart Week Events:

**Saturday, April 5 @ 10:30:** Money Smart Kids – games, stories, prizes  
**Monday, April 7 @ 3:30:** Finances for Women  
**Monday, April 7 @ 4:45:** Make Food Your Medicine, Save Money Too by licensed nutritionist Julie Dostel

**Wednesday, April 9 @ 3:45: Lights, Camera, Action! Make your own Book Trailers!** On April 9th, those in the 4th and 5th Grade Book Club may create their own Book Trailer. We will record the book talks and then post them to Facebook (with parent permission), encouraging others to read your favorite books!

## Volunteer Recognition Open House:

**Thursday, April 10 @ 4:00 to 7:00:** Invitations have been mailed for this drop-in event. View ongoing photo show of library supporters and volunteers. Meet and greet the Library Board. Enjoy appetizers. Receive a token of our appreciation.

**National Library Week: April 13 thru 19:** Fine Free Week. Ask to have your current fines forgiven. If all of your items are returned, the fines will be eliminated. Look under the couches! Look under the car seats! Return all overdue items!

**Tuesday, April 15 @ 5:00 and Saturday, April 19 @ 1:00:** Windows 8 Demonstration with Q&A. The library's tech support staff person guides you and answers your questions.

**April 23 @ 3:45:** 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade *Bulldog Book Club* discusses award-winning *Flora and Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo. (revised date because of school snow day in March)

## May Book Discussion Group:

Tuesday, May 13 @ 5:00: Please join us for a discussion of *Empty Mansions* by Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell, Jr. Who owns the mansions? Who can afford the mansions? Glimpse their lifestyles.

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# Unit 5 Calendar

- **ONE HOUR LATE START** ~ Wednesdays, April 9 and April 30
- **MAKE UP Day for SNOW/Emergency Day** – Students **WILL** attend school on Thursday, April 17 (it will **NOT** be a 'school improvement day' for staff as previously scheduled)
- **NO SCHOOL** ~ Friday, April 18 – Board Holiday (Good Friday Observance)

**WEBSITES Worth repeating** ~ visit these sites for more information:

<http://www.villageoftowanda.org/> <http://towandalibrary.org/> <http://www.unit5.org/>

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## *Friends Of Kirbie*

Present's

Kirbie Nicole Brittain's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Celebration of Life

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 10:00 @ Doubletree by Hilton

Cost \$40.00



Kirbie Nicole Brittain was born on May 10, 1993 to Rodney and Joni Brittain. The Brittain's daughter was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma Bone Cancer at 8 years old. She fought her battle in true style and beat the cancer after 4 years. This left her to fight her next battle of needing a heart transplant. As she was given a new heart in 2007, her life changed. She began to grow, and at age 13, she got very involved in helping others. Kirbie was the American Heart Association's Ambassador for 2007 – 2008 and made several public appearances to raise awareness and sign up new organ donors for the many others that follow with needs as well. She worked with David Eckstein of the St. Louis Cardinals in Organ 3000. In August of 2008, the Brittain family was on the way back from vacation when Kirbie suffered a seizure and went into full cardiac arrest. Kirbie fought for 16 days but was never able to come out of her COMA as the arrest left her brain damaged. Kirbie passed away on September 1, 2008 and from that day forward, the Brittain's knew their destiny. The Friends of Kirbie was started for the Kirbie Nicole Brittain Memorial Scholarship and now has awarded four scholarship to some really wonderful deserving individuals. The scholarship is awarded to a deserving senior who has faced serious obstacles in their lives, such as medical, tragedy or financial. Starting with the Class of 2014, FOK will give away one KNB Memorial Scholarship per high school here in Bloomington – Normal with each award being \$1,000.00. That is FIVE - \$1,000.00 Scholarships per year. Even better, we now are in the umbrella with Illinois Prairie Community Foundation and can now boast we are a

Not for Profit 501 (c) 3 Charity@!

Please join us in helping to ensure that Kirbie Nicole Brittain, continues to touch lives by coming to celebrate Kirbie's 21st Birthday and fundraiser on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 10:00 at The DoubleTree by Hilton. I can assure you that you will not be disappointed with the wonderful culinary arts that Chef Karl and Juan will prepare.

We will be having many games for prizes as well as many great silent and live auction items. Last year was attended by over 140 and the fun was had by all.

We hope that you will find it in your heart to attend. You can view more at  
<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofkirbie>

Click on Like and then on the link. You can also purchase tickets through the link or just donate if you feel so moved. Contact Rodney at [rodney.brittain@hilton.com](mailto:rodney.brittain@hilton.com) for further information





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## Announcing a Celebrative Finale

### HEALING ARTS NETWORK 1998 – 2014

**Beginnings**—A massage therapist, Susan File, in 1997 invited people to her home to discuss starting a center and network of “alternative healers.” We later called ourselves “integrative” healers, holistically connecting physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual therapies. We included supporters of and practitioners of various modalities, including Brennan Energy healing, chiropractic, pastoral and other forms of counseling, medicine, massage, coaching, homeopathy, acupuncture, Reiki, and yoga. We formally organized in 1998, with Joe Grabill and Ron Ropp as leaders, and had 65 paid members by the end of the year. Soon Chris Kaufmann began hosting a Bloomington Cable Channel 10 show called “New Views on Health,” which included many of us as presenters.

**Directory**—In 1999, we developed a directory which has been in publication ever since. For the first edition, we printed 1,000 copies with 22 practitioners listed. For our current eleventh edition, we printed 3,000 copies with 25 practitioners listed. About half the practitioners in this final edition were also in the first. Directories, made available in places of business throughout the community, proved helpful to practitioners in attracting clients and to the community at large in educating about the wide diversity of integrative health modalities.

**Website**—In 2000 we established a website.

**Special Events**—We brought in special speakers, for example, Robert Elwood (author of Frodo’s Quest) and a Tibetan healer. We organized a Health Fair, held at ISSCS, featuring many booths and sessions. We sponsored periodic workshops. For years we had annual meeting potlucks, open to the public, at the home of Ron and Jo Ropp.

**Incorporation**—We incorporated under the State of Illinois in 2004.

**Leaders**—Varied people, in addition to those already mentioned, volunteered significant service—Kevin and Lee Ann Rasmus, Carolyn Treadway, Kathy Tornquist, Debbie Dehm, Mary G. Moore, Anita Deoskar, Judy Tovey, Diane and Merlin Mather, Naomi Wilansky, Tina Sipula, Gladys Carmack, Debra Risberg, Jeff Shoaf, Mariellen Griffith, Gwenn Marie, Karen Ridinger, and Michelle Staley. Numerous others, unnamed, provided support. Common Ground and Havana Printing have been important partners.

**10th Anniversary**—We had a 10th anniversary party in 2008 at the Chateau, which included, l. to r., Ron Maier, Mary Moore, Joe Grabill, Carolyn Treadway, Mariellen Griffith, Merlin Mather, Naomi Wilansky, and Gwenn Marie.

**Transition**—We noticed after 2008 that the hospitals, wellness fairs, and many health care practitioners in Bloomington/Normal were complementing our original mission. There was no longer a large split in public awareness between traditional and integrative health. Further, the recruitment of new Healing Arts leaders was proving difficult.

**Ron Maier**—For the last several years Ron has acted as coordinator of activities and producer of the directory.

**Celebration**—Last year it became clear that our particular mission and role had succeeded and it was time for the Healing Arts Network to end. After March 2014 the Healing Arts Network will no longer exist as an organization nor have a website. No more directories. Now, in our 16th year, we celebrate how we have helped change ourselves and our community in the direction of greater integration of health and wellness.

For More Information—

|               |              |  |
|---------------|--------------|--|
| Chris Kaufman | 309/829-1422 | <a href="mailto:wellsprings1@gmail.com">wellsprings1@gmail.com</a> |
| Joe Grabill   | 309/454-2883 | <a href="mailto:joe@thegrabills.com">joe@thegrabills.com</a>       |
| Ron Maier     | 309/287-7422 | <a href="mailto:ronaldm55@aol.com">ronaldm55@aol.com</a>           |

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202 W. College Avenue  
Normal, Illinois



[www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org)  
Phone: 309-454-3169 • Fax:

## Creative Entries Sought for Renewable Fashion Challenge

The Ecology Action Center is looking for creative shoppers to participate in this year's Renewable Fashion Challenge which will take place at the Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo on April 12 at the Illinois Wesleyan Shirk Center.

This contest encourages consumers to extend the life of existing textiles, and spread out that environmental cost by re-using clothing which is already here. Each year in the U.S., 25 billion pounds of textiles are produced and over 21 billion pounds of textiles are sent to landfills. Getting a garment from design to retail store requires a mind-boggling amount of environmental resources – water, pesticides, chemicals, energy and more. Making a conscious choice to reduce our impacts through creative re-use can have significant environmental benefits.

Contestants will find a fashion “look” from a magazine or celebrity fashion event. They will then scour area thrift stores, consignment shops and even their own closets to replicate that look, by using only pre- owned garments. The competition will culminate with a fashion show at the April event, and prizes will be awarded to winners. Hair and make-up styling will be provided by Paul Mitchell-The School, Normal. DJ Joe Beck will provide music as designers model their looks on the runway.

The Ecology Action Center and RFC Co-sponsor Home Sweet Home Mission Mart will launch the 2014 Renewable Fashion Challenge at a Kick-Off event on Thursday, March 20, at 6:00 p.m. at the Mission Mart at 301 E Oakland in Bloomington. At this event, designers will receive discounts at the Mission Mart, learn more about the competition and be informed of more discounts available at local “Fashion Hot Spots” including Advocate BroMenn Thrift Shop, Cal-Di-Lu Consignments, Plato's Closet and Penelope's. Interested fashion designers should pre-register at [www.renewablefashion.org](http://www.renewablefashion.org) in order to learn about the events and offers. The deadline for submitting final entries is April 4.

For a complete list of the rules for the Renewable Fashion Challenge, please visit [www.renewablefashion.org](http://www.renewablefashion.org). Please contact Kris Hall at the Ecology Action Center with any questions at 309-454-3169 x.12 or [khall@ecologyactioncenter.org](mailto:khall@ecologyactioncenter.org).

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## Spring Cleaning? Don't throw Hazardous Waste out with the Trash!

Improper disposal of household hazardous wastes pollutes our local water supplies and environment. Whether it is thrown out with regular trash going to a municipal waste landfill, dumped illegally down the drain, storm sewer, or in a ditch, these actions compromise the safety of drinking water thereby threatening the health and well-being of area residents.

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The Ecology Action Center, acting as the local solid waste agency, receives inquiries daily from concerned residents who wish to dispose of materials properly. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events are the primary means for safe disposal of many of these materials. While no spring HHW events are planned for our area, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has scheduled HHW collections in Lewistown on June 7 and DeKalb on June 21. More details are available at the IEPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/hazardous-waste/household-haz-waste/hhwc-schedule.html>. These collection events are open to any Illinois resident to bring residentially-generated HHW for proper disposal—no business waste is accepted.

Historically state funding provided for annual HHW collection events in McLean County from 2003-2007. Unfortunately, due to state budget cuts, this funding has become much more irregular and infrequent with a gap in state HHW funding for McLean County for six years. To meet the community's needs, in 2012 the Ecology Action Center raised over \$160,000 in contributions and in-kind services to hold the first-ever locally funded HHW collection in the McLean County area. This effort resulted in the largest HHW event ever in this community as thousands of households sought to dispose of a backlog of hazardous waste. This unique and wildly successful funding strategy drew recognition ranging from an Honorable Mention among the 2013 Governor's Sustainability Awards to the McLean County Chamber of Commerce Green Excellence Award. IEPA provided funding for a 2013 HHW collection in McLean County, but the frequency of receiving such funding in the future remains unknown.

Currently, the Ecology Action Center is working on a new strategy with area partners to help provide for more regular HHW collection events for area residents. However, in the short term the EAC urges residents to adopt three strategies for dealing with household hazardous waste. [www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org) Phone: 309-454-3169 • Fax: 309-454-7508

1. Take advantage of IEPA funded HHW collections in other communities when possible. See the spring schedule at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/hazardous-waste/household-haz-waste/hhwc-schedule.html>.
2. Utilize local programs to dispose of some categories of HHW including household batteries, CFLs, electronics, automotive fluids, medicines, and mercury thermostats. See locations and details of these programs at <http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org/waste-and-recycling/ways-to-locally-recycle-some-hhw/>. Please note, many of these programs are limited to residential waste only due to funding limitations. Businesses should contact the Ecology Action Center for resources for hazardous waste disposal.
3. Reduce generation of hazardous waste in the first place. Avoid the problem of disposal by buying safer alternatives to hazardous products, buy smaller quantities of hazardous products in order to avoid leftovers, or find others that can use leftover hazardous products through neighborhood associations, the Pantagraph's Good Neighbor column, or through the McLean County Freecycle: <http://groups.freecycle.org/McFreecycle>.

More information on hazardous waste disposal and nonhazardous waste disposal are available at [www.ecologyactioncenter.org](http://www.ecologyactioncenter.org) or by calling 369-454-3169. Free resources include a notification email list for HHW updates, instructions on disposal of nonhazardous latex paint, suggestions on alternative (non-hazardous) products, and information on the EAC's Yard Smart program, promoting sustainable landscaping and gardening with less synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

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 Sale:

Craftsman 22-inch electric start, two-stage snow thrower. Approximately 3 years old, works perfectly, always garaged with annual oil change. \$700 new, will take \$300. Have all manuals, extra key, cord for electric start.

Coleman Powermate 5000 watt generator, 120/240 AC voltage. Has Briggs/Stratton 9HP OHC motor. Works perfectly, most recently in November 2013, the day the tornado hit Washington, IL. Again, have all manuals, etc. Bought about ten or eleven years ago new for \$600. Have used maybe three or four times since owning it. Will take \$300.

Pull behind lawn tractor lawn roller; fills with water and has rubber/steel seal to keep water in. Used only a few times in ten years. Will take \$50.

For all three of these items, call Brian Krause - 728-5567.

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### Lawn Care and Snow Shoveling

Sam Cash  
Cell 309-830-6535  
17527E 2200 North Road  
Hudson, IL 61748  
[sjcwest@frontier.com](mailto:sjcwest@frontier.com)

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### For Hire:

Lauren and Myles Smith, will provide child care and pet care - call 728-2930

Grace Rients and Emma Rients will babysit for you! Both would be willing to babysit while you run errands, mow the lawn or have a date night. Both are certified by the Red Cross and have CPR training too! Grace and Emma Rients are also experienced pet caretakers. Please call them at 728-2178. In addition to dogs, we have experience with hermit crabs, hamsters and rabbits too!

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