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## Towanda HCE

The Towanda Home & Community Education group will meet on Monday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Towanda Community Building. Our program will be **Grilling & Barbeque: Tips, Tricks & Techniques** presented by Valerie Dotson. The fact find is "**Eggs-Zactly Right**". The hostesses are Cherry Trent and Lu Payton. For more information, contact Robin Pearson, 815-579-1650 or [rbtnprsn@outlook.com](mailto:rbtnprsn@outlook.com). Guests are welcomed to attend and get great tips for grilling and BBQ.

April HCE Cultural Enrichment class will be on April 10, 1-4 pm at the Extension Office, 1615 Commerce Pkwy, Bloomington where you can learn the art of decorating eggs called **Pysanki**. For details on fees, supplies to bring or other questions, contact call 309-821-1266. There will also be a Read & Share at the Extension Office on Apr 17 discussing the book: **The Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah; for more info- LaVonne, 661-6391. All HCE activities are open to the public. Call phone number listed for more details. Twelve HCE members from McLean County HCE attended the IAHCE (state HCE organization) Annual Conference in East Peoria, Mar 14-16. Attending from Towanda Unit were Kathleen Emery, Cindy Kelley and Pat Pulokas. McLean Co HCE members were honored to receive the **County of the year award** from the state organization. This is the fourth year in a row that we have won this award. Congratulation McLean County Association for Home and Community Education!

Three Towanda HCE members attended the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the IAHCE, held March 14-16 at the East Peoria Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center. McLean County Association for Home and Community Education won '2016 County of the Year' award for the fourth year in a row! We owe this award to all the hard work of our officers and members to make 2016 spectacular.

McLean County HCE received Education Awards in IAHCE District 5 in these categories: Health, Food & Nutrition; International Country of Study; Certified Volunteer Hours of county with highest percentage of members participating; and Membership awards in 2 categories of Activities and Special Activity. McLean County HCE also received the IAHCE state GRAND Award for Public Relations.

Twelve McLean County HCE members attended this year and participated in interesting programs, workshops, Silent Auction and the Fine Arts and Craft/Cultural Enrichment Display. About 325 people attended the conference from 59 counties.



Pictured L-R Front: Kathryn McNeely, Anna Marie Chrisman, Pat Pulokas, Donna LaMar, Lynda Kobs and Fran Burns. Back: Kathleen Emery, Cindy Kelley, Karen Crull, Anita Ogden, Joann Hart and Eileen Norin.

Use or edit the information above as you want. Appreciate you getting our news out to the Towanda Area public.

Thank you!

Pat Pulokas

## Gardening Tips

by Helen Leake



If you still have your poinsettia, even if the leaves have fallen off, you can cut it back to about 5-6 inches. Fertilize it, and keep the soil moist, it will send out new shoots. Keep it in a bright spot and when danger of frost is past, put it outside in the sun.

It is good to hear the birds singing in the morning. More birds will soon be returning, so it is time to clean out the nesting boxes. Open it up and use a putty knife to remove all the mud and debris, place

that in the garbage so you get rid of insects and disease,. Scrub it out with 1 part bleach and 9 parts water. Rinse good and leave it open to dry.

When cleaning up the yard, leave some small twigs, grass, hair and short pieces of string or yarn for the birds to use building their nest. Leave the leaves and debris under the shrubs. The new leaves will soon hide it. There are insect eggs that will hatch and provide insects and larvae for the Mother bird to give protein to the baby birds. Also the birds could find nesting material. Some birds like the dandelion seeds to line their nest. Also empty the bird feeder, wash and dry it and put fresh seed out for them. Scrub the bird bath and give them fresh water. If the water will be too deep, you can place a short stick in it so the bees can get a drink.

When the crocus is blooming, the ground has warmed enough that the roses are breaking dormancy and you can see where to prune by the emerging buds.

It is tempting to apply mulch now, but that will keep the soil under it cool. Wait until May, when the soil has warmed to apply your decorative mulch.

Most people have a calendar hanging on the wall to tell us what day it is when we get up in the morning. It also tells us the first day of spring is March 20. The weather man tells us spring is March, April, and May. We say the average day of the last day of frost is around Mother's day.

Also nature has its own calendar. Some years we can plant early in the month and sometimes we need to wait until later in the month. Confusing?

Plants use the Nature calendar. It depends on the number of day light hours, the Growing Degree Days, and water availability, as to when plants will start to grow. If you will watch the trees and shrubs, you can tell when it is safe to sow certain seeds.

It is said that the time to plant peas, is when the daffodils begin to open, when lilac is in full bloom, plant beans, when lily of the valley blooms, plant tomatoes, when dandelions bloom, plant spinach, beets, and carrots, when maple leaves begin to unfold, plant perennials. When the forsythia is in bloom, the crabgrass seed is germinating, so treat it with per-emergence and also feed your lawn. You can prune roses cut just above an outward bud.

When crab apple is at bud break, the eastern tent caterpillars are hatching. They will be small and it is time to control them with Bt

Some people have been watching these signs for years. I remember my grandfather talking about ""Blackberry winter". It was usually the last cold spell of the season when the berries were blooming.

If you order shrubs or trees from a catalog, you usually get bare-root plants. The companies will mail them according to your zone. They don't know if your soil is still frozen, too cold or too wet for you to

plant. Bare-root plants are good because they have more roots than if balled and burlap. The plants are still dormant and a good time to plant.

When you receive the package, open it right away, sometimes there will be new growth showing and sometimes not. That is OK. Open the package containing the roots. The roots have been bunched together with some moist peat moss to prevent them from drying out. Hopefully the roots will still be moist, healthy, white and plump. If they have mold, brown or rotten, remove that part. If more than half of the roots are bad and the crown is soft, call the company and ask for a replacement. This happens when the plants have been stored too long.

Bare-roots should be planted right away. Soak the roots in cool water for an hour. If you can't plant them in the ground, choose a container large enough to hold the roots, with room to grow. Place the plant in it and fill with moist, coarse potting mix. If there are buds or new growth on the crown, position the plant so the sprouts are just at soil level. Gently firm the soil around the new plant, but don't compact too much. Keep the container inside, out of the cold. You might not see any new growth for 2-3 weeks. When the plants start to grow, you could place them in a cold frame, a sudden freeze could damage them. Keep the soil moist, but not too wet. More plants are killed by over water than by not enough. When the ground warms up, place them in the ground and watch them grow.

If you are having trouble cleaning out your window well get a child size plastic garden rake. It will fit better than an adult garden rake.

It is good to see the spring bulbs blooming and the grass getting green again. We are also seeing the bright yellow dandelions. The honey bees, a much needed pollinator, have been cooped up all winter and really like the dandelions for their important pollen and nectar. Before pesticides, people enjoyed the nutritious dandelion greens. At that time they just had to wash off all the dust from the gravel roads. Another advantage of the dandelions, is their roots grow very deep and loosen up the soil, so the rain can go deeper into the soil.

One way to help the pollinators, is to wait until late afternoon or evening when the honey bees and butterflies have harvested the pollen and nectar and then pull off the closed flower. The only problem, is the humming birds won't be able to line their nest with the dandelion seeds.

Another green plant in our lawn, that we now call a weed, is the white clover. Sometimes called Dutch clover. For years, clover seed was included in the grass seed. When broad-leaved weed killers were developed for weed control, they also killed clover. Therefore clover became a weed.

Clover plants have a relationship with some types of bacteria. The bacteria removes nitrogen from the air and releases it to the clover plant and soil. Then it develops fertilizer for the grass plants. Once the plant dies, it leaves the nitrogen for the grass roots.

Honey bees find a lot of nectar in the clover. So it can be a cover plant to attract the honeybees. If the plant gets too tall, it can be mowed off with the grass. Clover is also a good cover plant for the winter.

As long as the dandelion and clover leaves are green, people walking or driving by, don't notice them. Just keep your lawn looking better than your neighbor. It doesn't have to be perfect.

Helen J. Leak

# ICWHA - Annual Meeting Minutes

Indian Creek Water and Homeowners Association  
Minutes for the Annual Meeting

March 2, 2017

Towanda Community Center

President: Barb Leathers  
VP/Secretary: Barbara Ulbrich  
Treasurer: Dave Schulthes  
Water Chair: Bob Hancock  
Grounds Chair: Fred Walk  
Newsletter: Kathy Dumler

- I. Greeting and Introductions – President.
- II. Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting were read and approved. VP/Secretary
- III. Internet Service.

Mike Nelson, Director of Operations at Frontier, spoke to residents. Dean Munter, Frontier tech, also spoke briefly. Frontier will be getting faster internet service to Towanda and Indian Creek, likely by the end of March 2017. A concrete pad was placed near subdivision and an “H” frame will be put up. Fiber is being used, which should result in better speeds. Frontier will offer a “bundled” discount for those who have both internet and land line service. The farther away a house is from Route 29, the more copper wire Frontier must use. This helps explain why Bent Tree residents seem to have the poorest experience with the internet service. Frontier will install the new service for free however if a resident adds a jack inside the house, it will cost. Frontier will provide a Modem (2200 D or 2250). If a have high speed, then a resident should be sure to update equipment (for example modems) inside the house.

Frontier will let Fred Walk know when the service is ready to go live. Frontier will “cut” customers over to the new service. The rollout to the homes will take 2 weeks.

- IV. Fire Department.

Brett Lueschen, Volunteer Fire chief and Jeff Showalter, Asst. Chief spoke to residents. The Fire Department has 4 captains and 20 members. Firefighters devote over 150 hours to regular fire training. 911 calls are dispatched to appropriate agency (Police or Fire). Response time is only a few minutes. Ambulance service is from the Town of Normal; their response time is 7-8 minutes. Town of Normal Ambulance is paramedic service with advanced life support. The Fire Department provides Basic Life Support (BLS). Towanda Fire Department covers 76 miles of coverage including Merna, Indian Creek, and beyond. In the past, there were more fires; nowadays most emergencies are medical emergencies. Over 80% of firefighters in US are

volunteers. \$10 per call. 160-180 calls per year, on average. The biggest challenge in Indian Creek is Bent Tree Lane because it is a one lane narrow road.

Guests were then excused and the business portion of the meeting commenced.

- V. Treasurer's Report. Indian Creek has \$121,185 in savings. Interest rates are now coming up to 1% interest rates on CD. Water tower maintenance is a significant expenditure. The charge for the water operator and chemicals is approximately \$14-15K per year. We are adding on average \$10K per year to our treasury, so we should be on track to cover the maintenance and repaint in 3-5 years. We should expect to pay \$100-\$110K for painting next time.
- VI. Water Report. Water usage has been same. Most days we use 16-17K per day. Sometimes in the summer that increases. Still have yellowish water and still have low pressure. Last year, we had 1 boil order (Sept 2016). As to expenses, we had some increase in chemical costs (which are over \$600/month; however testing costs went down by \$90. It costs \$800 to test 20 samples to send to EPA. As to the "Locates" of water, houses have plastic line, so the only item the service can locate is the shutoff. In some homes, for example on Bent Tree Lane, none of the shutoffs were where the map indicated. However, some of the maps were drawn before the subdivision was totally established.
- VII. Grounds Report. Fred and several volunteers built a new trail just north and east of the bridge and spread mulch on the trail. Jim Russell, Mary Ann Boyd, Linda Garbe, and Fred spearheaded the effort to have a new sign designed. It was made by Prairie Sign. Jim Russell, Bob Hancock and Fred installed it, which saved \$1000. Greg Beneze and Fred moved river rock to landscape around the sign. Keith Whittum, Greg Beneze, Jim Ferrier, and Fred cut down ash trees near bridge and road and cleared out honeysuckle. There'll be a spring work day –it is yet to be scheduled. The original trail has benches. We discussed that it would be nice to have benches on the new trail.

There's a huge brush pile and we will need to have a "burn day". Fred would like to have trees that were identified by a former resident Sue Arnold to have new signage put up on those. The common area has birdhouses and these need some maintenance. We are fortunate to have many species of birds living in the subdivision. The Audubon Society has done bird counts here.

We had a discussion about Homeowners using chlorine tablets in their chlorinators to purify their wastewater. Homeowners can read more about this on the Indian Creek website in Greg Beneze's article: Your Septic System.

Mike and Becky Emery are moving away. Becky is on Money Creek Township Board of Trustees. There will be a vacancy there if anyone is interested. The Township has the responsibility to maintain township roads.

- VIII. Kathy Dumler and Ron Metz do a terrific job with the newsletter. President Leathers gave a “shout out” to them. If you want to submit an article, please do so by the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month, to allow Kathy/Ron processing time.

At 8:50 p.m., Tom Chlipala moved to adjourn; Judy Schulthes seconded.

Meeting Adjourned.

## **Almost Stepped in it**

Just a general reminder that residents should be picking up after their dog(s) as they walk them through the neighborhood. Let’s all “Keep Indian Creek Clean”.

## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

The annual Towanda Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Towanda Community Building. Babies through 4<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to participate. Please arrive early so that children can get registered prior to 10:00 a.m. when egg-hunting will promptly begin.

Thanks!

Jerry Bersche  
Towanda Lions Club

## **LEGION NEWS**

The Legion will have a breakfast on Sunday April 2nd from 8:00 – 11:00. Breakfast includes eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, French toast, fresh fruit, biscuits and gravy, juice, milk and coffee for \$9.

There will be a fish dinner on Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00. Dinner will include fish, au gratin potatoes, coleslaw, roll, dessert and drink for \$9.

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

## Towanda 4H

The Towanda Busy Bees 4-H Club would like to thank the community for supporting the canned food and personal care drive held for the Salvation Army in March. The club will meet at the Towanda Community building on Tuesday April 18th at 6:30 pm. The club's focus this year is Engineering and Technology and the club will continue to explore energy and motors.

Mark your calendars now for the Annual American Red Cross Blood Drive to be held on Tuesday, June 20th from 2:30 until 6:30. For more information about Towanda Busy Bees 4-H contact: Martha Rients 728-2178

The Towanda 4-H Club held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 7 at the Towanda Community Building.

Our guest speaker was from the McLean County Humane Society (MCHS). Stacy Bill, the guest speaker, told us about how they take abused and unwanted animals in to care, and love them the best they can. They do have newborns, but they go very quickly. Their local facilities are in Normal on Kays Dr. and at PetSmart in Bloomington where they sell cats. Keep your eyes open for fundraisers that are constantly happening.

Talks and demonstrations: Caleb Vogel did a talk on how to read a nutrients fact label.

In recreation time we created a bridge and then had to see how many pennies the bridge could hold.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 4 at 6:00 p.m. at Der Bauenrhof Alpaca Farms. 4-H enrollment will be open for new members through April 15, 2017. For more information about joining Towanda 4-H, contact Malisa Kraft at 309-825-1235.

Submitted by:

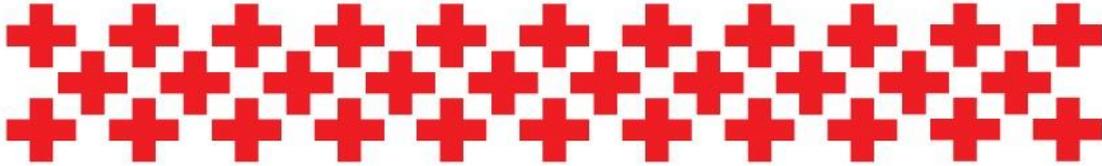
Caleb Vogel, Towanda 4-H Reporter

(309) 825-6248

# Calendar

## American Red Cross

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



## **Blood Drive** **Towanda Fire Department**

Fire Station Bay Area  
203 W Jackson Street  
Towanda, IL 61776

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**  
**8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

For an appointment contact: Gregg Egbers at 309-826-3168 or visit  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID.  
You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit  
[redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) for more information.

Photo ID - only - outside

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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Sat.Apr.1 – 8:00-12:00 - **Blood Drive** at the Towanda Fire Dept (203 W Jackson) - see attached flyer

Tue.Apr.4 – Election Day – VOTE

Sat.Apr.15 – 10:00 – **Easter Egg Hunt** at the Community Bldg. – Babies thru 4<sup>th</sup> graders (arrive early to register for prizes; hunt begins promptly at 10.) – sponsored by Lions C

Fri.Apr.21 – 4:30-7:00 – Ham and Bean Dinner at the Community Bldg. – Tickets: \$5/advance and \$6/door. Menu: ham & beans (unlimited refills); corn bread muffin, beverage, dessert (children aged 11/younger may get hot dog option when each child is accompanied by a paying adult) – sponsored by Lions Club. Carry outs available (feel free to bring your own container).

### **Unit 5 –**

Fri.Apr.14 - Board Holiday, no school

Mon.Apr.17 – School Improvement Day - no school for students

Wed.Apr.26 – Late Start – 1 hour

**Annual Towanda Area Spring Garage Sales** – will be held Thu-Sat, May 4-6. If you'd like to be included on a list of area sales and share in the cost of advertising, please provide – by Wed.Apr.27

- 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, they will be listed on the flyer and by category in the Pantagraph ad)
- e) \$7 fee (for Pantagraph ad flyers), checks payable to Gail Ann Briggs.

Please:

§ email sale information to [rqbriggs@frontiernet.net](mailto:rqbriggs@frontiernet.net) (preferred) or

§ Send to 112 Hunt St; Towanda IL 61776

§ Call (728-2187), email 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.

Thank you!

*Gail Ann Briggs*

## **Towanda Library**

### **April 2017 Library News**

**Tuesday Tunes:** The next Tuesday Tunes is on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ 2:30.

**LEGO Club:** On Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30. Enrollment is at capacity for this very popular after-school activity. Refreshments are served.

**National Library Week is April 9 to 15.**

**Pokemon Trading:** Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 learn about fair trading principles. A Pokemon collector will share some unique pieces. Bring your Pokemon items to show. Preregistration is required by April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Towanda Reads Adult Book Discussions:** second Tuesday of even-numbered months @ 5:00. Discussion on April 11<sup>th</sup> is of "Ordinary Grace" by William Kruger.

**Senior Financial Assistance** presented by Department on Aging: third Monday of each month from noon to 2:00. The April date is the 17<sup>th</sup>. Save money as they help you apply for Homestead Tax Exemptions, license plate discounts, or answer your questions on Social Security matters.

**Library Board Meeting:** The board meets at the library at 7:00 on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The architect will again be present.

**Bulldog Book Club:** Each “Late Start” Wednesday of the school year @ 2:30. Enrollment is at capacity for this very popular after-school activity. April 26<sup>th</sup> is this month’s meeting date.

**Story Hours:** every Wednesday @ 10:30 a.m. Open enrollment allows children to join whenever they turn 3. Younger siblings sometimes join the fun games, songs, crafts, snacks, and stories. Families are invited to remain after the Story Hour to visit, as the children play with the giant LEGOS, Duplos, puzzles, educational games, puppets, kitchen, dress-up clothes, beanbags, or doll house.

**Read to Dogs:** Individual one-on-one, 15-minute reading sessions are held every Tuesday evening in April from 5:30 to 6:30. Call the library to make an appointment for your child to read to one of the therapy dogs. Pre-registration required.

**Crochet Group:** every Tuesday @ 5:00 to 6:30.

**Brownie Scouts** meet at the library @ 2:30 on the second Thursday of each month - for the remainder of the school year.

**Summer Reading Programs:** As you plan your summer schedules, be sure to include Mondays @ 4:30 pm and/or Wednesdays @ 10:30 am for STEAM activities and stories at our library. The 2017 Summer Reading theme is “Read by Design.” This year’s activities will be geared toward upper-elementary students, as well as younger children. The July 19<sup>th</sup> Final Party is a “Maker Fair” with lots of prizes for well-executed design projects.

**Money Smart Week:** Monday, April 24 @ 3:00 Julie Dostal, MS, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator presents “The Not-so-Sweet Connection between Sugar and Heart Disease.” Monday, April 24 @ 4:30 Master Gardener, Charlotte Talkington, presents “ How to have a Beautiful Garden without Spending a Ton of Money.” Learn tips to spend less money using seeds and stem cuttings for your flower and vegetable garden.

**Money Smart Kids Session:** @ 10 am on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**See all library news at:** [www.towandalibrary.org](http://www.towandalibrary.org)

Karen Stott Bersche, Director  
Towanda District Library  
301 S. Taylor St  
Towanda, IL 61776-7582

Phone: (309) 728-2176 Fax: (309) 728-2139

<http://www.towandalibrary.org>

Email: [director@towandalibrary.org](mailto:director@towandalibrary.org)

## Brush Pile Burning

Below are some photos from the brush pile burning.

The following individuals volunteered their time and equipment to burn down the brush pile on March 10.

Howard Rients Larry Meyer Mike Orrick Greg Beneze Kathy Hilterbrand Rodney Brittain  
Keith Whittum Connie Whittum Tom Chlipala Louie Blank Fred Walk





# CLASSIFIED

## FOR SALE

New high quality 3M furnace filters for sale, 16" X 25" X 4". These are \$30+ at Menard's and we are selling them for \$10 each to raise money for Val's charity 'Fostering Dignity'

<http://www.fosteringdignity.org.%20/> www.fosteringdignity.org

Home 728-2696; cell 838-9706.

Val and Dan #6 Bent Tree

Zenith flatscreen 32" pic in pic TV. Asking \$100.

Foosball (soccer) table. 52". Asking \$125.

Sony Wega flatscreen 27" TV. \$50.

Outdoor 5 pc set includes 2 chairs with matching adjustable ottomans, and a glass top table. \$125.00

Rolltop desk. \$75. Call (309)728-2991

Used copy machine: The library will accept the best offer for a working copy/fax machine. Call (309) 728-2176.

**Giving away** 400 paving bricks. Suitable for edging, landscaping etc. 728-2343

## 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

Call Home - 728-2990

Text or call- 309-242-1802

Email - [oldcars@frontiernet.net](mailto:oldcars@frontiernet.net)

Website - [www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock](http://www.pamperedchef.com/pws/annettehancock)

Pinterest Recipes - [www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935](http://www.pinterest.com/ahancock0935)



## For Hire:

Need help taking care of your pet while your away, call Bailee Harmon at (309) 530-5360. "I love animals and have been volunteering at the Humane Society for almost six months. I would love to help take care of your animals".

Do you need a babysitter? Do you need your house cleaned? Or, just an extra set of hands to help out around the house? Anna Kraft is willing to help! She is a sophomore at NCHS and can be contacted at 728-8088 (home) or (309) 830-7721 (cell).

Need help taking care of your pet while you are away or while you are at work? Call Avery Hartman, 728-2093. I have experience and references.

Are you looking for someone to watch your pets when you are gone or walk them while you are at work? If so, call Sami Hartman (30 Candle Ridge Road). I am responsible and LOVE pets. I have experience and references. My number is 728-2093.

The Schwamberger boys, Jairon 17 and Justin 15, are available for snow removal services or as maintenance helpers. Call 728-2857

If you need help with snow removal on your driveway or sidewalk, call Joe and Chet Kaufmann at 309-728-8095

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