

# Indian Creek Newsletter

## October 2022

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

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

### **DIVINE INTERVENTION or JUST PLAIN LUCK?**

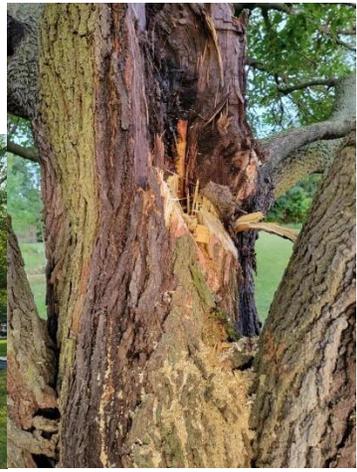
Our local resident and citizen inquisitive investigator, Jim Ferrier (in the residence near the water tower) headed off a potentially bad situation recently regarding a gas leak near the water tower. Maybe you recall about a month ago seeing several trucks and excavation equipment from Nicor on the road (Rt.29) by the water tower. Many have asked what was happening and now we have 'the rest of the story'. (To quote Paul Harvey)

The huge Mulberry tree on Jim's property, had a large branch break and fall toward Rt. 29. While cutting up the brush, Jim noticed an 'odor' and thought it was probably a deceased critter in the bean field across the road. When the wind changed direction and the smell persisted, Jim investigated further and determined it was a natural gas smell coming from the corrugated metal circular ring by the water tower. After a couple of unsuccessful calls to a Nicor customer service number (no longer in service in Bloomington), he drove to the NI Gas distribution center just west of here and found the correct number to call which resulted in an immediate response from Nicor. They sent the many trucks and equipment we saw on the road near the water tower and provided the fix as quoted from Jim:

"Very interesting couple of days. Gas was leaking from the connection fittings in the round corrugated metal "distribution" ring. Not sure what all they did, but know they tightened the fittings with heavy duty pipe wrenches. Also, they replaced a faulty pressure regulator about 15 feet to the south and 6' deep. This component was the main issue. The regulator leak, over time, had killed the grass above it (about 24" diameter). This component's function is to reduce the pressure from the main gas line (only 3" diameter ) before it enters the corrugated metal "distribution" ring where gas pressure is further reduced with more piping and connectors and routed through different lines to homes in the subdivision."

So, if it hadn't been for a felled branch in a tree on Jim's property, we might still be smelling gas or....?

If you should smell gas, here's the number to call: Nicor Gas 1-888-642-6748.



# Fall Scavenger Hunt

Fall is a wonderful time to enjoy walking the trails in our woods. If you have young children or grandchildren, you can challenge them to find some of many the treasures of the forest. The following link is to a document (on the Indian Creek website) that will take you to two pages, with pictures, of treasures that they may find on your hike.

[www.indiancreeksubdivision.org/fall-savenger-hunt.pdf](http://www.indiancreeksubdivision.org/fall-savenger-hunt.pdf)

## Legion News

The Towanda American Legion will have a Drive-thru Pork Chop Dinner on Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:30-6:30. Dinner includes a pork chop sandwich, fries and baked beans. Cost is \$10.00.

We would like to thank everyone for their support. We couldn't do it without our loyal patrons.

The Towanda American Legion is available to rent for family dinners, showers, birthday, receptions, etc, For more information call Mike Potts @ 309-728-2384.

Thanks for helping us spread the word. Very much appreciated!

## Garden Tips

As the fall season moves in and we are cleaning up the summer debris, it is time to have an area in the yard that is a little messy. Next spring, the birds will need some sticks, grass, etc to build their nests. They will also need insects to feed their young.

Now that the nights are getting cooler, the insects will start to lay their eggs on the flower stalks and leaves. If you will leave some of the stalks standing in the flower beds, they will collect leaves and snow to protect the crowns of the plant as insulation from the freezing and thawing.

The insects can live without people, but people cannot live without insects.

It is time to bring your tropical plants indoors before the night temperature drop to the low 50's degrees. Before you bring them in, it is best to move them to a shady place so they can adjust to the change of light and humidity for a few days. Also rinse the leaves with water to remove dust and check for insects and disease. Also check the sides and bottom of the container for insects that have used it for a summer home. It would not hurt to quarantine the plants from your others for a couple of weeks.

Wait until late October when the ground has cooled to plant your Spring blooming bulbs. If planted too early they could start to grow. Place them in the refrigerator until then.

Helen J. Leake

## 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, October 31

Monday, November 28

Monday, December 26

Jim Larson – ICHWA Water Chairperson

## Towanda 4-H

The Towanda 4-H Club will have their meeting on October 18, 22 at 6:30 at the Towanda Community Building. This is a different date because of the new sign up for 4-H members with the county. If members are signed up by Oct 31, 22 there will be no county program fee. For more information you may contact Scott Clement at 309 275-5910 or Jeanie Wager at 309 728-2852. We welcome all boys and girls ages 8 to 18 by Sept 1, 22 and Cloverbuds ages 5 to 7 ab Sept 1, 22.

**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release: September 19, 2022

Contact: Larissa Armstrong (309) 454-3169 x 15

**Learn the Backyard Basics: Rain Barrels and Composters**

The Ecology Action Center wants to help McLean county residents conserve water, reduce storm water runoff pollution, and reduce waste going to the landfill. To meet these goals, the EAC has scheduled multiple workshops in October where residents can learn the basics of backyard composting and rain barrel installation. Workshop fees includes materials, equipment, and training so that each participant goes home with a high-quality unit and all the knowledge necessary to put their unit to work.

Spaces are available for the rain barrel workshop on Thursday, October 6, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and on Saturday, October 8, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. with workshops costing \$45.00. EAC staff will provide step-by-step instruction on assembly and initial installation, and show participants how to maintain their rain barrel's condition throughout the seasons. Each workshop will include a Q&A session where community members may ask experts about the ecological impacts and everyday use of rain barrels.

Spaces are also available for composting workshops held Wednesday, October 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 15, 9:00-10:00 a.m. For \$10 attendees get a basic compost bin from a repurposed 55-gallon drum to take home. For \$85, attendees get this same compost bin, a large thermometer to monitor compost pile temperature, and an aerator for stirring their compost pile. The Ecology Action Center's Composting Workshop will also provide information about which materials can be composted at home and how to build, maintain, and monitor the pile to minimize the threat from potential invaders like jumping worms.

Workshop space is limited and pre-registration is required; online registration is available at [ecologyactioncenter.org](http://ecologyactioncenter.org). Consult the BN-Green Events calendar on the right side of the home page for dates and registration.

*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.*

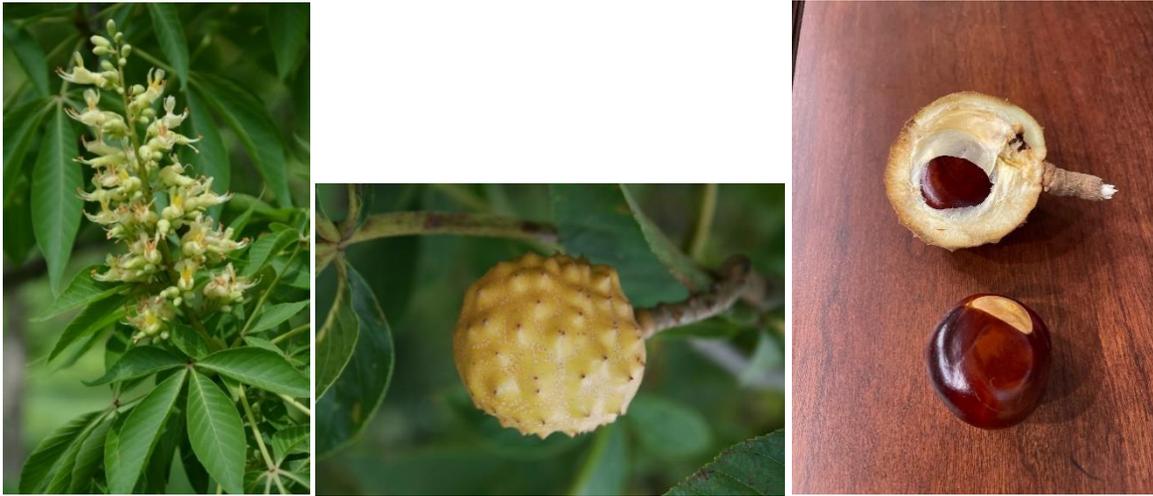
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# The Trees of Indian Creek – Ohio Buckeye

by Greg Beneze

The Ohio Buckeye is the state tree of Ohio and its name is an original term of endearment for the pioneers on the Ohio frontier. Further, we call Ohio "The Buckeye State," and the buckeye seed is the mascot for Ohio State University. But it is also a very common tree in the woods of Indian Creek.

Its name comes from the 'buckeyes,' a small, dark brown seed with a light patch resembling the eye of a deer. The buckeye tree is one of the first trees to leaf out in the spring while also flowering. The fruit matures to a 1-2 inch diameter capsule, containing one to three seeds (often erroneously called a nut) per capsule. Capsules containing more than one seed result in flatness on one side of the seeds. The point of attachment of the seed in the capsule (hilum) shows as a large circular whitish scar. The capsule epidermis has "spines" (botanically: prickles) in some species, while other capsules are warty or smooth. At maturity, the capsule splits into three sections to release the seeds.



The inedible buckeye seeds contain tannic acid and are poisonous to both animals and humans. Squirrels are said to be the only animal that can eat a buckeye and not get ill. The young foliage, shoots, and bark are also poisonous to some degree. The Lenape (a Native American Indian tribe) carry the nuts in their pocket for rheumatism and use an infusion of ground up seeds mixed with sweet oil or mutton tallow for earaches. They also grind the seeds and use them to poison fish in streams.

In Britain, they are sometimes called conker trees because of their link with the game of conkers. The buckeye seeds or conkers are threaded on to strings. Holding their strings, players thwack each other's conker until one of them breaks or is knocked to the ground.

Many people believe that like a rabbit's foot, a buckeye is a powerful good luck charm. In the summer of 2014, a gaming commission started running a commercial advertising the lucky qualities of buckeyes. After a gambler won \$3000 and attributed it to his lucky buckeye, a casino bought 5,000 buckeyes to give away to gamblers. The demand was so great that they ended up purchasing 40,000 before running out and the promotion actually caused a buckeye shortage in their area.

This year it looks like the buckeye yield will be below average, maybe because we had a late frost. But the buckeye tree pictured on the right (it is close to the burn pile in the field at the end of the gravel well-head trail) is pretty loaded with buckeyes. The buckeye tree picture on the left is on the south side of the well-head trail about half-way to the field and it is labeled. Happy buckeye hunting.



If you look on Etsy, you will find people selling buckeyes and jewelry made from buckeyes. You can even buy buckeye candy, which is a chocolate covered peanut butter orb. Unlike the real thing, it is very edible!



# Towanda HCE

Towanda Home & Community Education group will next meet on Monday, October 10, 6:30 pm at the Towanda Community Building. The program will be "SUGAR BEETS" given by Bev Hornickel. The minor lesson will be on the Republic of Italy: Italian Food. During this 2022-2023 HCE year we will be studying all aspects of The Republic of Italy. October, our community service project is to bring individually wrapped snack items to be given to Home Sweet Home Mission. Each month we'll be asked to bring different items. For more info about Towanda HCE, contact Cindy, 309-824-4797.

The McLean County Home and Community Education is hosting the 2022 HCE Attic Treasures & Bake Sale on Saturday, Oct 1, 8am-2pm at the Interstate Center, Mini Expo Bldg, 1106 Interstate Dr, Bloomington; follow signs; Proceeds benefit McLean Co HCE community service projects and youth scholarship fund; 309-824-4797.

McLean County HCE will be celebrating HCE MONTH all month long with many interesting programs. October 11 we'll be heading to Pontiac to tour the Rudd Homestead, eat at Cafe Fontana and shop until we drop if we wish! Contact Julie Cirks, 309-303-3566 to RSVP. October 14 will be International Day to Study the Republic of Italy with a presentation by Linda Olson at the Farm Bureau Building, 2242 Westgate Dr, Bloomington. Enjoy this free event. There are many other interesting programs in October. Check our Facebook page for more information at:

[www.facebook.com/McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education-165077036864588/](https://www.facebook.com/McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education-165077036864588/)



2022-2023

# McLean County Association for Home & Community Education

## 104 Years of History OUR 105<sup>th</sup> YEAR!

COME LEARN WITH US!

Aspire to Inspire



2022

## OCTOBER IS HCE MONTH

CHECK OUT ALL THE ACTIVITIES THAT Home and Community Education HAS TO OFFER! ALL ACTIVITIES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Visit our McLean County HCE Website @ [www.mcleanhce.org](http://www.mcleanhce.org)

For more information of McLean County HCE membership:

Karen Crull, 309-826-9559, [kcrull1824@aol.com](mailto:kcrull1824@aol.com) or Joann Hart, 309-310-9205, [jh1610@aol.com](mailto:jh1610@aol.com)

### "Rudd Homestead"

Pontiac –Farm/Barn Tour @ 10am

Lunch @ Café Fontana @ 12:30

Shopping on your own

Travel/carpool to Pontiac and the Rudd Homestead for tour (NO FEE), visit their unique boutique store afterwards. Then it's lunch-dutch treat at Café Fontana (Rt 66 & 116) at 12:30p followed by shopping on your own.

Come learn with us.

Tuesday, Oct 11

RSVP by Oct 1:

Julie Cirks

Call/text-309-303-3566 or

email:[cirksfarm96@yahoo.com](mailto:cirksfarm96@yahoo.com)



### HCE COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

Monday, Oct 17 9a-2p

This free workshop is at the Farm Bureau Auditorium, 2242 Westgate Dr, Bloomington. We're making Santa Stockings for seniors. No need to bring any materials. Bring sewing machine if you have. Public Welcome, sewers and non-sewers, come & go as able.

For more info: Eileen, 309-533-1135.

Next CS Days: Nov 21, Jan 16, Feb 20, for various projects.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY to STUDY REPUBLIC of ITALY



### "Welcome to Italy"

Friday, Oct 14, 2022

11am – 1pm

Farm Bureau Building  
2242 Westgate Dr, BLM

Presenter – Linda Olson

Public invited to attend  
this FREE EVENT

More Info: Nancy-309-378-4352

Fun Fact: Italy has one of the world's oldest populations, with 23% of the population aged over 65 years and a median age of around 45 years. The country also has one of the lowest birth rates in the western world.

Come Learn with us!

### ATTIC TREASURES SALE

Saturday, Oct 1, 8a-2p

McLean Co Fairgrounds  
Mini-Expo Building

Enter through south entrance  
Follow signs/directions

Holiday, Christmas & household items, books, small furniture, linens, crafts, baked goods and SO MUCH MORE!

We do not sell footwear, clothing  
We do sell purses, scarves, jewelry

309-824-4797

Set up tables: Thursday, Sep 28, 6-8p

Members/Friends bring PRICED items, Fri. Sep 29, 10a-3p

Sale Proceeds to benefit:

HCE Community Outreach Projects  
& HCE Scholarship(s) Fund



### OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN NEW THINGS!

Programming Chairman: Kathleen Emery-309-824-2784  
Call for more information

#### Local Leader Lesson:

"Fair Trade Goods" Oct 25 - 12:30-1:30p

@ Crossroads-Global Handcrafts Store  
428 N Main St, Bloomington

#### 2022 October Unit Meeting Program

at Unit Meetings near YOU:

"SUGAR BEETS"

Sat, Oct 8, 2022



RSVP by Mon. Sep 26

June Fitzgerald: 309-261-4376 or [Fitzfarms4@gmail.com](mailto:Fitzfarms4@gmail.com)

\$70/\$75 check made payable to McLean County HCE and send to Jane Wood, 329 Fieldcrest Ct, Normal, IL 61761

#### HCE FALL TRIP

The Beef House

Covington, IN

Dinner & Play:

"The Wild Women of Winedale"

10AM -Meet to Carpool from FB

Information is subject to change

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# October/November 2022

## McLean Co HCE Newsletter

(All programs Open to Public, some with fees)

LLL = Local Leader Lesson

EX = Extension Office: 1615 Commerce Parkway, BLM

FB = Farm Bureau Bldg., 2242 Westgate Dr, BLM

### Bake Sale Booths:

Sat, Oct 1 – 9a-2p, Attic Treasures Sale

Sat, Dec 10- 1-5 p, Old Rugged Barn

More Details TBA

### Holiday Party

Dec 10 -

Details TBA

Committee:

Eastsiders & Dale Units

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY

### SOLDIER/VETERANS PROJECTS

Soldier Care Packages may be sent out end of October if up to date addresses are received. We will also collect supplies to take to

Veteran's care facilities. Bring items to board meetings.

Cindy Kelley – 309-824-4797 or ckek71@frontier.com

### FAMILY ISSUES/COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Peg Glaser, chm, 309-530-8331

2022-2023 collections for Home Sweet Home Mission

Bring different items each month. Oct- Individual snack desserts

Nov- Canned soups, potatoes Dec- Mens Socks

Jan- large cans men's shaving cream.

## VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

### HCE Community Volunteer Hours - CVH

Linda Conder, CVH chairman, would prefer your hours reported monthly. Contact Info: [littlebit2159@gmail.com](mailto:littlebit2159@gmail.com); 309-287-5588

### McLean HCE is a YWCA – RSVP Agency (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program)

If you are already a RSVP volunteer, your HCE hours now count as of January 1, 2021. If you are not a RSVP volunteer, you can learn about the benefits of volunteering your time to over 78 other agencies under the RSVP umbrella. You can volunteer for wonderful organizations in McLean County. In the future, HCE may also use RSVP to help us with programs where we need extra help.

Contact our HCE coordinator for our RSVP link & info:

Pat Pulokas, 309-530-5327 or [palp@mchsi.com](mailto:palp@mchsi.com)

### McLean County HCE SCHOLARSHIP

HCE awarded 2022 scholarships to 3 county 4-h members. We invite 2023 applications from McLean County 4-H members who meet requirements of having exhibited a 4-H project in one or more of the Home & Family AND/OR Food, Nutrition & Health areas at the 2022 4-H Fair and 3 other fairs in their 4-H career.

Apply by April 1, 2023. Contact a member of the Scholarship Committee for full requirement information and application.

Committee: Peg Glaser, 309-530-8831, [cpglaser82@gmail.com](mailto:cpglaser82@gmail.com)

Jeanie Wager- 309-728-2852; LaVonne Cunningham- 309-825-6558

### Website: [www.mcleanhce.org](http://www.mcleanhce.org)

Do you have HCE Information to put on our public sites?

Website: Paula Miller- 309-824-0661 or [pami2468@hotmail.com](mailto:pami2468@hotmail.com)

Facebook: Robin Bagwell-309-750-6715 or [bobbinface@frontiernet.net](mailto:bobbinface@frontiernet.net)

## McLean County HCE MEMBERSHIP Activities

Visit a HCE unit meeting, workshop, or class for wonderful lifelong learning.

For more information of HCE membership:

Karen Crull, 309-826-9559, [kcrull1824@aol.com](mailto:kcrull1824@aol.com)

Joann Hart, 309-310-9205, [jh1610@aol.com](mailto:jh1610@aol.com)

\*\*\*\*\* OCTOBER IS HCE MONTH! \*\*\*\*\*

### Monthly Programs

Coming to a Unit Meeting NEAR YOU!

More info: Kathleen, 309-824-2784, [ksemery@frontiernet.net](mailto:ksemery@frontiernet.net)

LLL(Local Leader Lessons) are free & open to the public.

FB: Farm Bureau Auditorium, 2243 Westgate Dr, Bloomington

October – Sugar Beets (LLL-Sep 27, 12:30-1:30p @FB)

November –Fair Trade Goods @ Crossroads LLL- Oct 25,12:30-2:30p

December 10– Holiday Party Details TBA 9a-1p

January, 2023- Online Shopping LLL - Nov 22, 12:30-1:30p- FB

February, 2023- Simply Charcuterie! LLL, Jan 25, 12:30-2:30p at FB

March, 2023 – Pollinators – LLL is Feb 22, 12:30-2:30 @FB

Minor Lessons for 2022-2023 year will be on the International Study of Republic of Italy

September – Republic of Italy- History Timeline

October – Italian Food

November – Italy-Economy, Geography & Climate

January – Italy- Agriculture

February – Italy-People & Demographics

March – Italy - Cities

April – Italy - Vatican

May – Republic of Italy- Tourist Attractions

### Read & Share 2-3:30p

Place: Extension Office

FREE, Public invited

Info: LaVonne C. 309-661-6391

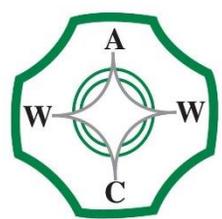


Nov 21 Distant Shores by Kristin Hannah – Extension Ofc

Feb 20, 2023 The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter

by Hazel Gaynor - Extension Ofc

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
DEPENDING ON HEALTH CONCERNS &  
RESTRICTIONS DUE TO  
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC!



McLean County Association for Home and Community

Education is affiliated with:

Illinois Association for Home & Community Education (IAHCE)

National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON)

Country Women's Council USA (CWC)

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)

Like us at [www.facebook.com/McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education-165077036864588/](https://www.facebook.com/McLean-County-Association-for-Home-and-Community-Education-165077036864588/)

Information is subject to change

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# CLASSIFIED

## Businesses:



### **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

**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 - [jerrodingram.exprealty.com](http://jerrodingram.exprealty.com)

**exp**  
REALTY

## **Metal Collection at your curb!**

Every Monday morning (5 am), Chuck Eckhart comes around to pick up metal for recycling. If you have items to recycle, please set them out near your garbage cans either Sunday night or Monday 5am for pickup. Collectable items are: appliances, lawn mowers, all kinds of batteries and metal items. Chuck's number is (309) 275-2201 if you have questions.

## **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.