

WESTPORT~NEWS

On the Home Front

Bi-monthly column by: Linda Skolnick

Get Ready for Spring

The possibility of a snow day in the near future seems slim, while the days seem to be staying brighter a bit longer. So, we all know what that means....of course, *Spring Cleanup* ! But, where do we start, and more important...when!

Once the thermometer rises a little bit more.....hit the yard! Clear away fallen branches and leaves. Use a mulching mower to spread clipping evenly over the lawn and fertilize naturally. Loosen the soil around perennials and plant annuals once you are sure we have seen our last frost. Prune shrubs and trees.

Repair winter damage. Look for sagging gutters, loose window frames or siding, deteriorating concrete or brickwork, missing roof shingles, or water damage under eaves or soffits. Make sure you schedule repairs, while you can still get a contractor on the phone.

Have exterior walls checked for holes or cracks and patch or paint as necessary. In addition, have your air conditioner or fan blades cleaned. Check outside central air conditioner unit for fallen debris and obstacles . Have filters replaced or washed.

Sweep ashes into your fireplace's ash pit or into a dust pan. Clean and lightly oil fireplace tools.

Hammer any loose nails into your wood deck. Have broken boards and rails replaced. Rent a power washer to clean mildew from the wood, then apply an all weather sealer or stain.

Check outdoor fence. Repair any broken fence boards and paint or seal them as needed.

Inside your home, dust walls and ceilings to remove cobwebs and grimy areas. Dust or wash registers. Wash window curtains or remove drapes for dry cleaning. Have rugs and carpeting cleaned. Dust and polish wood floors. Clean out the garage and get ready to bring out the garden tools and lawn furniture.

Okay, maybe all this is a few weeks pre-mature....but isn't it better to be ready for Spring, then waste a second once Spring truly arrives!