# The hazards of spring cleaning

BY MEGHAN LITSEY

There must be something in the air this time of year that compels us to clean, consolidate and reorganize our homes into efficient and spotless spaces.

As you work up the elbow grease and start tossing out junk, it may surprise you to learn that some of your everyday household products require special care when you dispose of them.

Do you have leftover items like paint, cleaners, oils, batteries or pesticides lurking in your garage or basement? Oftentimes, these products contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients and are considered to be household hazardous waste.

Improper disposal of household hazardous waste includes pouring it down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting it out with the trash.

### More information

For additional tips on reducing household hazardous waste at home, visit www.reduce.org.

The dangers of these disposal methods might not be directly obvious, but incorrect disposal of these wastes can pollute the environment and even harm human health.

The next time you're spring cleaning or on the move, be safe and do the right thing. Instead of in the trash or down the drain, here's what you can do to ensure proper disposal of your household hazardous waste:

■ Become a label reader. Look for key words, like "caution," "warning," "danger" and "poison" which indicate the level of hazard. As a general guide, bring products labeled "warning" and "poison" to your

household hazardous waste excellent cleaning substitutes. facility for safe disposal.

■ Dispose of old or unwanted lawn and household chemicals properly. Bring your household hazardous wastes (paint, motor oil, etc.) to the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Call (952) 496-8652 for drop-off locations and times.

■ Create an inventory of the products you have, so you do not buy more than you need.

■ Visit the Re-Use Room at the Scott County Household Hazardous Waste Facility and pick up free, usable products that have been dropped off at the facility by residents who don't need them anymore. Free items include a variety of household, automotive and lawn and garden products.

Consider creating a nontoxic tool kit made from simple materials you have at home. Baking soda, vinegar, and vegetable and lemon juice are a few common ingredients that make

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Finally, if you see anyone dumping any substance other than stormwater in roadside ditches and storm drains, please report it to Pete Young, water resources engineer at the city of Prior Lake, at (952) 447-9831.

For potentially hazardous materials and petroleum spills, call 911 first when there is an immediate threat to life or property. If there is a potential public safety or environmental threat, call the Minnesota Duty Officer Program at (651) 649-5451 or 1-800-422-0798.

Meghan Litsey is the outreach specialist with the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District. The public is invited to attend the regular board meetings of the watershed district Board of Managers on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Prior Lake City Hall.



of their daughter Christa Lee Menke to Matthew John Byrnes, son of Steven Byrnes of Bloomington and Karen Meyer of Eden Prairie.

The future bride graduated from Prior Lake High School and the University of St Thomas with a bachelor's degree in Accounting and a graduate degree in Accountancy. She is a Senior Accountant at Road Machinery & Supplies Co. in Savage.

The future groom graduated from Prior Lake High School and the University of St Thomas with a bachelor's degree in Finance. He is a Financial Analyst at Security Life Insurance Company of America in Minnetonka

Christa and Matt reside in Prior Lake and have planned an August 2014 wedding.





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Bode Youngs, 4, attempts a snow angel on one of the remaining patches of snow at Lakefront Park with his father, Brad Youngs March 25. (Inset) Bode shows off an ice chuck he found on his visit to Lakefront Park.

WEATHER

## Warmup, rain should melt the snow

Last week was cooler and much drier than average, with only about a half inch of snow on Monday, March 24.

Our precipitation and snow totals so far this March have been much lower than average, which is 1.89 inches

of precipitation and 10.2 inches of snow. The snow pack but this new snow should melt is still with us, with a depth of nearly a foot in places, but



Jonathan Cohen

as the rain expected on Thursday, March 27 and Monday, the last day of the month, should help diminish it. The rain will probably change to heavy, wet snow later on Thursday and Monday

as temperatures fall,

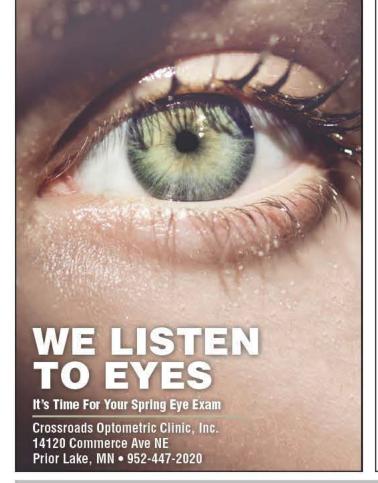
quickly.

The outlook for next week is temperatures in the 40s and 50s for temperatures closer to aver-

this weekend, as well age, which rises to the 40s for the first week of April. Ice-out Prior Lake observer for the on Prior Lake will probably not occur for another few weeks.

By Jonathan Cohen, Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Date	precip.	fall	ground	High	Low	midnight	temp	
March 20	0	0	14	42	22	27	38	
March 21	0	0	12	44	19	15	37	
March 22	0	0	12	21	7	4	34	
March 23	0	Trace	12	27	5	11	35	
March 24	0.03	0.4	12	32	16	14	34	
March 25	0	0	11	22	9	7	33	
March 26	0	0	11	40	10	25	36	



## **YOUTH HUNT CLUB FUNDRAISER MARCH 29, 2014**

Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club 2920 E 220th St, Prior Lake, MN

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Sportsmen's Garage Sale 9:30 AM Presale \$20 admission. 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM - FRFF New & Gently Used Guns, Gear & Goods 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Shooters' Bonanza \$30 for a 10-station punch card Noon to 4:00 PM. High School Trap Tournament \$20/50 targets Noon to 4:00 PM. Sporting Clays Tournament \$49/100 targets 1:00 to 4:00 PM... 1000 Bird Pigeon Shoot \$350 per peg (2-shooters) **NEW Clubhouse Unveiling & Awards** See the exciting plans for the new clubhouse, restaurant & banquet facility! 4:15 PM - Until it's over... Auctions – Silent & Live 15 Hunting &/or Fishing Trips available plus a lot more! FREE Wild Game Appetizers!

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