

COMMENTARY

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 spot-less 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 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 non-toxic 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

excellent cleaning substitutes.


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

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.

CELEBRATE!



Shelley Menke of Cannon Falls and Bradley Menke of Prior Lake are happy to announce the

Engagement

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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One cool customer

BY KAITLYN EGAN

Bode Youngs, 4, and his father Brad visited Lakefront Park Tuesday afternoon in an effort to battle cabin fever. After walking down to the lake and around the park, Bode attempted to make what may (hopefully) be his last snow angel of the season.

Brad said he is eager for the spring warm up, but Bode was still declaring his undying love for snow.



PHOTOS BY KAITLYN EGAN

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 is still with us, with a depth of nearly a foot in places, but temperatures in the 40s and 50s



Jonathan Cohen

this weekend, as well 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, but this new snow should melt quickly.

The outlook for next week is for temperatures closer to aver-

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

By Jonathan Cohen, Prior Lake observer for the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Date	Melted precip.	Snow-fall	Snow on ground	High	Low	Dew pt. midnight	4" soil 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



WE LISTEN TO EYES

It's Time For Your Spring Eye Exam

Crossroads Optometric Clinic, Inc.
14120 Commerce Ave NE
Prior Lake, MN • 952-447-2020

YOUTH HUNT CLUB FUNDRAISER MARCH 29, 2014

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:30 AM Presale \$20 admission	Sportsmen's Garage Sale
10:30 AM to 4:00 PM - FREE	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 perpeg (2-shooters)
Starts at 4:00 PM	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!

FREE PRESENTATIONS

11:00 AM	DOG TRAINING DEMO
12:30 PM	BALLISTICS PRESENTATION
1:00 PM	INTRO TO FIREARMS
2:30 PM	DUCK AND GOOSE CALLING

EXTRAS.... That May Make A Grown Man/Woman Cry!

SHOOT FOR \$10 EACH OR 3 FOR \$25

✓ .50 cal Beowulf Rifle	✓ .45 cal "Tommy Gun"
✓ FS2000 AR (Buck Rogers space gun) OR Shoot a .458 Rifle (elephant gun)	

PLUS...Shoot 2 rounds of M-82 Barrett Sniper Rifle - \$20
(Bullet as big as your hand; made to stop a tank a mile away)



www.agpowerjd.com

NEW LOCATIONS

Belle Plaine, MN 1051 Old Hwy 169 Blvd (952) 873-2224	Hollandale, MN West Hwy 251 (507) 889-4221	Owatonna, MN 3555 SW 18th St (507) 451-4054	Northwood, IA 806 Central Ave (641) 324-1154	Osage, IA 2197 Hwy 218 E (641) 732-3719
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OPEN HOUSE

BELLE PLAINE • HOLLANDALE • OWATONNA

April 4th, 3pm-7pm • April 5th, 8am-1pm
Refreshments will be provided • Register for door prizes

X700 Signature Series

0% FOR 60 MONTHS*



Drive-over AutoConnect™ Deck • Exclusive 4W steering • Full-time 4WD

*Offer valid until 7/31/2014. Subject to approved installment credit with John Deere Financial, some restrictions apply, see your dealer for complete details and other financing options. Available at participating dealers only.

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