
Fontenelle Gazette September 2010

**Fontenelle View
Neighborhood Association
Newsletter**

Locally owned business ads Page 3

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Next Meeting – Thursday October 14, 2010
7 – 8 PM
Central Park School
4904 N. 42nd Street
Omaha, NE 68111
Street parking use North Entrance

Topics of discussion

Safety
Beautification
Learning to be Green
Membership
Support of local and self- employed businesses.
Possible projects
CHLI project

Safety

Well it's that time of year again, so I thought the safety issue that we should address is furnace safety. Thanks to our friends at Grayslake Fire Dept, here's a list of some do's & don'ts regarding gas furnaces.
Replace or clean your furnace filter. You should replace or clean your furnace filter(s) three or four times yearly. This is a quick, easy job every homeowner or tenant can do. A new filter makes

your furnace more energy-efficient and saves money, too.

A furnace that is not running at peak performance can be deadly. Carbon Monoxide is a natural product of incomplete combustion. Virtually every gas furnace produces some Carbon Monoxide, which is usually carried away from your home through the furnace's venting. A clean, efficiently burning gas furnace produces very small amounts of carbon monoxide, while a dirty, inefficiently burning one can produce deadly amounts. Carbon Monoxide is odorless and colorless. It causes flu-like symptoms, disorientation, confusion, and even death.

It is highly recommended that you have your furnace cleaned and checked every year. The older the furnace, the more important this service is. Newer gas furnaces are equipped with many features that shut the furnace off when a problem is detected. Older furnaces have no such devices. Over time, furnaces can develop small cracks in the combustion chamber. These cracks may not be visible to the naked eye. It is through these cracks that Carbon Monoxide can leak into your home.

It is also important to change your furnace filter regularly. The filter usually is found just inside the front cover of the furnace. It may have its own access door on the front of the furnace. A clean filter will help your furnace burn more efficiently, and will help keep dust from being circulated through your home.

Keep the area around your furnace clean and unobstructed.

Keep the burner area of your furnace clean. Furnaces that require lubrication on the motors and bearings should be attended to by a qualified heating technician once a year. Do not have anything combustible within six inches of your vent pipe. Do not close off more than 20% of the registers in your house. This can cause high resistance and unnecessary heat build-up in the furnace.

Do not store combustible material such as paint thinners, gasoline, etc. near your furnace.

Stay Warm! Peace, Trudie Martin Ahlstrom



Beautification

Fall is upon us dropping leaves. This article will give a list of composting leaf mulch ideas.

This is a portion of an article from Master's Gardeners online.

Once your leaves have been gathered, you have a choice between using them undecomposed, as mulch, or composting them before you put them in your garden. Regardless of how you are going to use them, the first step is to chop or shred your leaves. This will save space if you are placing them in a bin, it will minimize their blowing around and matting if you are placing them in the garden, and it will hasten their eventual decomposition into composted organic matter.

If you do not have a shredder, and do not wish to rent one, you can use your lawn mower to shred the leaves. If the leaves are on your lawn attach a bagger to your lawn mower before you begin cutting. As you cut the lawn, the leaves will be shredded and gathered into the bagger. You may also gather leaves in a pile and run the lawn mower without a bagger through the pile. Direct the discharge shoot in one direction at all times so that the shredded leaves are placed in a pile and not blown all over the place.

Once you have your shredded leaves, you may place them in your garden as mulch immediately, if you wish. However, do not place an excessive layer of mulch directly on the crowns of herbaceous perennial flowers. This is not necessary, and it can lead to root rot. If you are trying to extend the season for winter root vegetables, like rutabagas, carrots, leeks, kale or beets, you may use a heavy layer of shredded leaves to cover them. You may find that you can harvest these vegetables all winter with this added protection from the leaves. If you do use uncomposted shredded leaves as mulch in your garden, you should add some slow release nitrogen fertilizer to the garden in the Spring, as the process of leaf decomposition may rob the soil of nitrogen/

http://www.emmitsburg.net/gardens/articles/frederick/2001/compost_leaves.htm

Also consider snow removal. If we have another winter like the last one, it's going to take all of us working together to get all the walks, and driveways clear. Our community's children depend on the walks being clear. We have to demonstrate to the children of our community that they are important enough to keep the walks clean for them. If you are unable to clean your walks:

1. Ask a neighbor to barter for food, or something you create to pay for having your walks cleaned.
2. Ask a neighbor's child to clean your walks and pay them the going rate.
3. If one of your neighbors has a snow blower, ask them to clean your walks and pay the going rate, or pay for the gas.

Learning ways to reduce our impact on our natural environment

1. Reduce, reuse, recycle
2. Consider composting – see insert from the *University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources*.
3. Use non-toxic materials when possible
4. Ask for non-toxic materials when none exist.
5. Create new uses for existing tools, materials, and wigits.

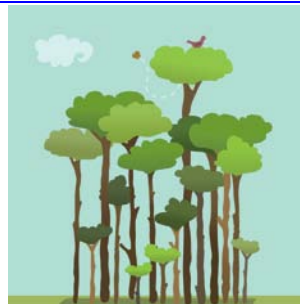
Look for more ideas about learning to be green in our next newsletter.

Consider sending the editor an email on ways you are being green. The editor will print them.

Thanks

Consider sending us your email address so that we can send our newsletters to you via email and save on paper and trees. If you would like your newsletter mailed, please send us your mailing address and postage. Thank you

charlene@rosewoodenvironmentalart.com



This page is dedicated for ads of the locally owned businesses.

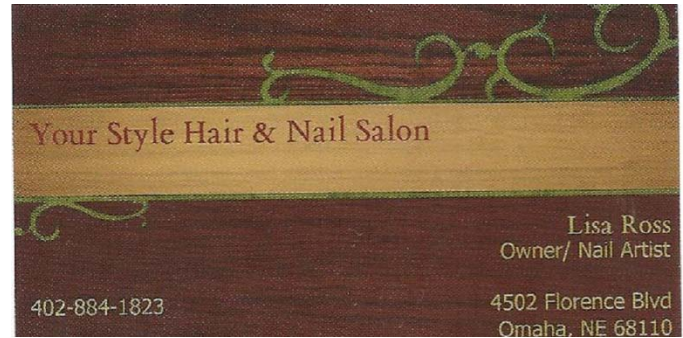
Supporting our local self-employed businesses and locally owned businesses

If you live within the boundaries of FVNA please submit your locally owned business information to be published in our newsletter. It's free if you become a member. Business of the Month coming soon

**Steven Johnson
Lawn Service
Mowing, trimming, trims bushes, not trees, and rakes leaves
402-612-7233**



**S & E Painting
4327 Larimore Avenue
Omaha, NE 68111
402-516-8343
Uses only high-end products for a long lasting finish.
Call for proposal**



Lisa Ross (lives in FVNA boundaries)



**Lee's Cleaning service
Free estimates
Insured
402-455-0470**



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The CHLI Project

The CHLI project is the Community Health and Living Index. We are in the first stage of filling out the CHLI assessments and turning them in. Once the CHLI assessments are compiled we will begin the second stage of the project to determine the results of the assessments. At the next meeting we will discuss the results. Please join us to discuss the results. Central Park School, October 14, 7:00 PM.

