



THE MACOMB DAILY **DEALS**

September 2019





Things to consider before warming up next to your first fire this winter

A warm fire can make even the coldest winter day more enjoyable. Fireplaces may not get much use in spring or summer, but come late fall and throughout the winter, the fireplace can be a great place for families to gather. Before fireplace season hits full swing, homeowners might want to brush up on a few fireplace facts so they can safely enjoy nights spent sitting by the crackling flames.

The Chimney Safety Institute of America advises homeowners with fireplaces to hire a CSIA-certified chimney sweep to clean their fireplaces. After a lengthly period of non-use, various issues could be affecting the chimney, many of which might not be noticeable to an untrained eye. Professional, certified chimney sweeps have extensive knowledge of fireplaces, making them valuable resources who can let homeowners know if any safety issues developed since fireplaces were last used. The National Protection Agency recommends that chimneys be swept at least once per year.

A full inspection of the chimney might be in order as well. Chimney service technicians will conduct thor-

ough examinations of readily accessible portions of the chimney exterior and interior and accessible portions of the appliance and the chimney connection. The CSIA recommends that homeowners who plan to use their chimneys as they have in the past request a Level 1 inspection, which will examine the soundness of the chimney structure and flue as well as the basic appliance installation and connections. Technicians also will verify if the chimney is free of obstruction and combustible deposits.

Homeowners also should inspect their chimney dampers before lighting their first fires of the season. Dampers should open and close smoothly. If not, a service technician can help fix or replace the damper.

Firewood is another thing homeowners must consider before lighting their first fires of the season. The CSIA says that well-seasoned firewood works best, noting that wood that is not well-seasoned will produce more smoke than heat. In addition, the home improvement resource This Old House recommends using dense wood that's been split and stored in a high and dry place for at least six months. Oak is an example of dense wood that, when stored properly, can make for an enjoyable fireplace experience. Avoid softwoods like pine. Pine can produce a lot of creosote, which is a byproduct of wood combustion. Creosote is highly flammable, and as it builds up in a chimney, the risk for a chimney fire increases. Choosing the right wood, making sure it's well-seasoned and having a chimney professionally cleaned can reduce the risk of a creosote-related chimney fire. A Level 1 inspection should

determine if there are potentially dangerous levels of creosote deposits in the chimney.

Before nestling up to a fireplace this winter, homeowners should consider a host of factors and safety measures to ensure their fireplaces are safe and ready for the season ahead.

Story courtesy of Metro Creative Connection Photos: Fireplace1-2.jpg Cutlines: Photo courtesy of Metro Creative Connection





Prepare your deck for winter

Homeowners often take steps to winterize the interior of their homes in the weeks before winter's arrival, but such efforts should extend to the outside of a home as well.

Decks make for great gathering places when the weather permits. Decks are where many people spend their free time and eat their meals come spring and summer, when the temperatures climb and the sun sets well into the evening. But as summer turns to fall, homeowners must take measures to protect their decks from potentially harsh winter weather.

• Inspect the deck for problems. Decks tend to be used more often in summer than any other time of year. That makes fall and early winter an ideal time to inspect for wear and tear and any additional issues that may have cropped up throughout the summer. Damaged boards and loose handrails should be fixed before winter arrives, especially for homeowners who plan to use their decks in winter. Fixing such issues in winter and even into spring may be difficult thanks to harsh conditions, so make good use of the relatively calm autumn weather to fix any issues on the deck.

• Clear the deck of potted plants. Even homeowners who intend to use their decks in winter should remove potted plants from the deck in the fall. The home improvement experts at HGTV note that moisture can get trapped between deck boards and plastic, wood or ceramic containers in cold weather, and that can contribute to mildew, discoloration or decay.

• Store unnecessary furniture. Homeowners who like to sit on their decks in winter will no doubt want to leave some furniture out over the winter. But those with lots of furniture for entertaining guests can

likely move the majority of that furniture into a garage or shed for the winter. HGTV notes that doing so will prevent the potential formation of blemishes on the deck that can result from inconsistent weathering.

• Remove snow, but do so carefully. Prolonged contact with snow and ice can damage a deck. As a result, homeowners should clear snow from their decks when accumulation is significant. HGTV recommends using a snow blower on the deck to avoid scarring. If a shovel must be used, push snow with the planks to reduce the risk of damaging the deck.

Homeowners who take steps to protect their decks throughout the winter months can ensure these popular areas are ready once entertaining season returns in the spring.

Story courtesy of Metro Creative Connection

Photos: DeckCare1-2.jpg Cutlines: Photo courtesy of Metro Creative Connection





ALSO SPECIALIZING IN: WOOD AND VINYL WINDOWS • PATIO DOOR WALLS • STORM DOORS • SERVICE AND REPAIR

September 2019

Fall lawn care tips

Spring and summer may be the seasons most often associated with landscaping and lawn care, but tending to lawns and gardens is a year-round job. If lawn and garden responsibilities dip considerably in winter, then fall is the last significant chance before the new year that homeowners will have to address the landscaping around their homes.

Fall lawn care differs from spring and summer lawn care, even if the warm temperatures of summer linger into autumn. Homeowners who want their lawns to thrive year-round can take advantage of the welcoming weather of fall to address any existing or potential issues.

• Keep mowing, but adjust how you mow. It's important that homeowners continue to mow their lawns so long as grass is growing. But as fall transitions into winter, lower the blades so the grass is cut shorter while remaining mindful that no blade of grass should ever be trimmed by more than one-third. Lowering the blades will allow more sunlight to reach the grass in the months ahead.

• Remove leaves as they fall. Much like apple-picking and foliage, raking leaves is synonymous with fall. Some homeowners may wait to pick up a rake until all of the trees on their properties are bare. However, allowing fallen leaves to sit on the ground for extended periods of time can have an adverse effect on grass. Leaves left to sit on the lawn may ultimately suffocate the grass by forming an impenetrable wall that deprives the lawn of sunlight and oxygen. The result is dead grass and possibly even fungal disease. Leaves may not need to be raked every day, but homeowners should periodically rake and remove leaves from their grass, even if there are plenty left to fall still hanging on the trees.

• Repair bald spots. Summer exacts a toll on lawns in various ways, and even homeowners with green thumbs may end up with a lawn filled with bald spots come September. Autumn is a great time to repair these bald spots. Lawn repair mixes like Scotts® PatchMaster contain mulch, seed and fertilizer to repair bald spots, which can begin to recover in as little as seven days. Before applying such products, remove dand errors and location the tap few inches of acil.

dead grass and loosen the top few inches of soil. Follow any additional manufacturer instructions as well.

• Aerate the turf. Aerating reduces soil compacting, facilitating the delivery of fertilizer and water to a lawn's roots. While many homeowners, and particularly those who take pride in tending to their own lawns, can successfully aerate their own turf, it's best to first have soil tested so you know which amendments to add after the ground has been aerated. Gardening centers and home improvement stores sell soil testing kits that measure the pH of soil, but homeowners who want to test for nutrients or heavy metals in their soil may need to send their samples to a lab for further testing. Fall lawn care provides a great reason to spend some time in the yard before the arrival of winter.

Story courtesy of Metro Creative Connection

Photos: FallLawn1-2.jpg Cutline: Photo courtesy of Metro Creative Connection



Holidays at Hefling's Amish Farm Market

By far, our biggest holiday seller is our signature boneless seasoned beef rib roast. We take out the fat and season it with a gluten free, MSG free rub that tastes delicious. These roasts are custom cut to order specifications and are available not only during the holidays but year round for any special occasion. Advanced order is required. During the month of December, we sample this roast on Fridays and Saturdays so folks can try before they buy.

Page 9

"Our turkey season starts in October," says Office Manager Susan Hefling. "That's when our customers start placing their Thanksgiving turkey orders. Customers can just give us a call and we will hold the size bird they request." Pickups occur the Monday through Wednesday before Thanksgiving day. Turkey size ranges do sell out, so it is best to order early to guarantee size selection. All-natural bone-in turkey breasts and extra turkey parts may also be ordered.

turkey parts may also be ordered. This year customers will have two top turkeys to choose from—the first is our Premium Specialty Brand Certified Range Grown Turkeys from northern Minnesota. These birds are raised in forested areas not barns--and are sold fresh at Thanksgiving only. Sizes

come in two pound weight ranges, the smallest is 8-10 lbs up to 24-26 lbs. Fresh means the birds were processed for this holiday season, not sitting around in a freezer. But they are transported from Minnesota per USDA regulations, so they may have a hard shell. Customers should pick up their birds early enough to allow a little thaw time.

New to our store are non-GMO free range whole turkeys from Bowman Landes in Ohio. These turkeys are available in only two sizes—12-14.99 lbs and 15-18.99 lbs. They are raised free range on pasture, are vegetarian fed with non-GMO grain and verified non-GMO verified by the Non-GMO Project. "While these birds are more expensive, we wanted to give our customers the option of a non-GMO turkey," Susan commented. Limited quantities are available so early orders are recommended. Also for the holidays, Hefling's offers Niman Ranch

Also for the holidays, hering's offers interaction terms uncured spiral half hams. These are great tasting hams that do not have sodium nitrate or nitrite. These are great for any party or dinner and will be available from Thanksgiving to Christmas and at Easter. Please call the store for holiday pricing and

holiday hours.



Harper Location.

MD

IOW TAKING

38953 Harper Ave. • Clinton Twp., MI 48036 (at Harper & Crocker Next To Andrea's Fish Market) Hours: Monday thru Saturday 10am - 6pm heflingsamishfarmarket.com • 586-468-4501

Now Accepting EBT Bridge Card



7 uses for fallen leaves

By the time autumn hits full swing, many trees will have shed their leaves for the season, and the last vestiges of red, yellow and orange magic will have faded to brown. Raking, blowing and collecting leaves becomes the primary chores of lawn and yard maintenance, and presents most homeowners with large piles of gathered leaves to tend to.

It is impossible to count just how many leaves fall to the ground each year, or just how many pounds of leaves get collected curbside, but the numbers are substantial. Cleaning up leaves is considerable work, but not all of those leaves need to be carted away. In fact, there are several different uses of leaves that can be beneficial.

1. Spread leaves as a protective mulch to cover tender perennials or root crops/bulbs in the ground. The leaves will form a natural insulating cover that keeps the soil and the plants within a bit warmer over winter.

2. Create a pile of leaves that will break down and form a crumbly, compost-like material called leaf mold. Even though leaf mold may sound like a blight, it's actually a good amendment to garden soil, improving its structure and ability to hold water. Leaf mold also attracts beneficial organisms that are vital in healthy soil.

3. Brown leaves can be added to green materials in compost piles to improve the health of the compost being formed. According to the healthy living resource Care2, the ideal ratio is 75 percent brown to 25 percent green materials in compost. Turn compost piles regularly to aerate them.

4. Store dried, mulched leaves in a dry spot so they can be used in the spring as a weed barrier for spring plantings. They will keep weeds at bay and help retain soil moisture to ensure small sprouts have the resources to grow.

5. Use shredded leaves as a lawn supplement. Pass a lawn mower over leaves left on the lawn to break them down into pieces too small to rake. This will help keep the lawn healthy throughout the winter without blocking out needed sunlight.

6. Bag dried leaves and pack them tightly together in cold areas of the home, such as basements or garages. They can act as added insulation. Bags of leaves also can be placed around planting containers to protect them from frost.

7. Gather a few of the best-looking leaves and preserve them. Use an iron on a low setting and press leaves between two pieces of waxed paper until the waxed paper seals together. Or use clear contact paper to achieve the same effect. Fallen leaves can be used in many different ways

Fallen leaves can be used in many different ways throughout the year.

Story courtesy of Metro Creative Connection

Photos: FallenLeaves1-2.jpg Cutlines: Photo courtesy of Metro Creative Connection



Prevent growth of mold/mildew in colder months

Mold and mildew are not only unsightly, but unhealthy. These fungi grow readily in damp areas and are found in the air breathed both indoors and outside. If left unaddressed, mold and mildew can threaten the health of a home's inhabitants.

Mildew is a type of mold that remains relatively flush with the surface it grows on. Other molds can grow puffy in appearance. Molds serve the purpose of destroying organic materials, but in high amounts, these microorganisms can cause respiratory problems, sinus congestion, throat irritation, headaches, and other issues, particularly when mold grows unchecked indoors, says Better Homes and Gardens. As a result, it is essential to address mold before it becomes problematic.

According to Polygon, a drying technology and temporary climate solutions company, the wet season in winter is when molds often grow and expand. Mold can break down the integrity and strength of the surfaces where it grows.

Homeowners can employ the following strategies to prevent mold growth.

- Keep all surfaces clean, using proper cleaning products. Diluted bleach solutions are highly effective at killing microscopic fungi, viruses and bacteria.
- Reduce moisture and humidity by ensuring sufficient air circulation in rooms, particularly bathrooms and kitchens. An exhaust fan will help remove moisture quickly.
- Fabrics covered in mildew that can be laundered should be carefully removed and washed in chlorine bleach and hot water. An oxygen bleach product also can be effective.
- Invest in a dehumidifier that can reduce moisture in the home in problem areas, such as damp basements or garages.
- Fix plumbing leaks as soon as possible.
- Remove damp leaves and snow from areas around the foundation of the home. Ensure that gutters and downspouts are clear of debris and can shuttle water away from the house effectively.
- Replace cracked or defective mortar in basements.

• Make sure all seals on windows and doors are not compromised and are in good working condition.

• Be sure an HVAC in-line humidifier is adjusted to the right setting and isn't pumping too much moisture into the heated air; otherwise, the added humidity can contribute to mold.

• If there is a flood or water infiltrates a home in other ways, hire a professional service to help clean and dry the home effectively.

Mold and mildew are problematic, but with diligence they can be kept at bay.

Story courtesy of Metro Creative Connection

Photos: MoldGrowth1-3.jpg Cutlines: Photo courtesy of Metro Creative Connection





24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

ANYTIME PLUMBING

HEATING & COOLING INC.

DRAIN CLEANING SPECIALISTS



RESIDENTIAL WE WANT TO BE SATISFACTION COMMERCIAL YOUR PLUMBER GUARANTEED INDUSTRIAL YOUR COMPLETE PLUMBING & DRAIN CLEANING SPECIALIST STATE LICENSED PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTOR Sewer & Water Lines Installed, Repaired & Replaced Frozen Water Lines Thawed & Repaired • Toilets Sump Pump Repairs & Installation • Faucets • Mobile Home Repairs Leak Detection Sinks Hot Water Heaters New Construction Tubs Install Clean-outs Repairs & Installs Garbage Disposals Heating & Cooling Back Flow Testing Sewer Jet Service Camera Inspection **Basement Waterproofing** LICENSE #81-07618 • INSURED **FAST SERVICE** www.aeanytimeplumbing.com **FREE PHONE ESTIMATES** SENIDE DISCOVER VISA 586-293-3000 • 586-468-2400

586-979-8555 • 800-882-0067