

Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

DEADRICH REAL ESTATE



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A Tradition of Service Since 1923

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2004



Fall into Autumn— Easy Home Maintenance Tips

No matter where you live, seasonal changes in temperature and moisture levels require maintenance. Check out these fall maintenance tasks to help maintain your house in good condition.

- **Change the batteries in your smoke detector.** Fire experts suggest changing the batteries twice a year. An easy way to remember—change your batteries at the beginning and end of Daylight Savings Time.
- **Drain a gallon or two of water from your water heater** to extend its life expectancy.
- **Clean your roof gutters** of leaves and other debris.
- **Trim shrubs and trees** so that they clear the foundation, exterior walls, and roof

SEPTEMBER

September 6—Labor Day

September 11—9/11 Day

September 15—
First day of Rosh Hashanah

September 22—
First Day of Autumn

September 26—
National Good Neighbor Day



of the house. Shrubbery that's too close to the house can promote the growth of mildew, mold, and algae, particularly during warmer weather. Root growth can damage foundations. Limbs can scrape paint on siding and trim.

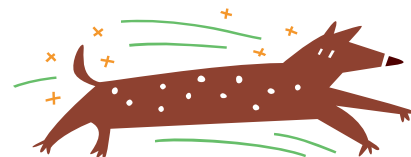
- **Examine the roof for evidence of damage to roof** coverings, flashings and chimneys. Check for evidence of leakage and condensation or vermin activity. Level out insulation if needed.
- **Inspect the exterior walls and foundation** for evidence of damage, cracking or movement. Watch for bird nests or other vermin or insect activity.
- **Clean windows and test their operation.** Improve caulking and weather-stripping as necessary. Watch for evidence of rot in wood window frames. Paint and repair windowsills and frames as necessary.
- **Inspect for evidence of wood boring insect activity.** Eliminate any wood/soil contact around the perimeter of the home.
- **Test the overhead garage door opener,** to ensure that the auto-reverse mechanism is responding properly. Clean and lubricate hinges, rollers and tracks on overhead doors.
- **Replace or clean exhaust hood filters.**
- **Clean, inspect and/or service all appliances** as per the manufacturer's recommendations.
- **Fertilize your lawn:** once in mid-September and again in early October. Consider aerating your lawn.



Labor Day: How it Came About; What it Means

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well being of our country.

"All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."—*Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor.*



ALWAYS FINISH

*If a task is once begun,
Never leave it till it's done.
Be the labor great or small,
Do it well or not at all.*

—Anonymous



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Repair, Replace, Relax with Fidelity National Home Warranty (FNHW). A home warranty from FNHW provides both the home buyer and seller with “peace of mind” when it comes to repairs and/or replacement of a home’s major systems and appliances. FNHW prides themselves on superior customer service, including quick response time and efficient solutions for homeowners’ problems and needs. The homeowner only needs to make one call and pay one small service fee when a problem or a repair need arises.



If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.



This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another agent.



Protect Your Home From Costly Termite Damage

It is widely known that termites can be devastating to homes, but the full extent of their destructiveness is greater than most homeowners realize. Termite damage costs homeowners billions of dollars every year.

Termites inhabit every U.S. state but Alaska. Subterranean termites, the most destructive species, often go undetected, devouring a home from the inside and compromising the structural integrity of the house. Termites are just as likely to

attack newly built homes as existing ones and termite damage is not covered by homeowner’s insurance or most home warranties. For this reason, it’s essential that homeowners take every precaution to prevent disaster from striking.

- **Eliminate wood contact with the ground.** All wood that is part of the home should be at least six inches above the ground, though up to 18 inches is ideal. Direct wood-to-soil contact by wood siding, porch steps, latticework, posts, etc. provides termites with easy, hidden access into a home. Likewise, avoid placing firewood against your home and use mulch sparingly.
- **Prevent moisture accumulation near the foundation.** Since termites are attracted to moisture, it’s important to direct water away from the foundation.
- **Reduce humidity in crawl spaces.** Ensure that there is proper ventilation in crawl spaces and prevent shrubs and other vegetation from covering up the vents.
- **Consider hiring a licensed pest management professional.** Schedule periodic home inspections by a professional pest control firm.

Courtesy of ARA Content



LABOR DAY PASTA SALAD

12 plum tomatoes (about 1 1/2 pounds), quartered, or 1-pint cherry tomatoes, cut in halves

2 cups (lightly packed) whole fresh basil leaves

2 ounces finely crumbled blue cheese

2 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil

2 tablespoons white wine vinegar

Salt and pepper, to taste

1-pound penne or other medium-shaped pasta, uncooked

Toss the tomatoes in a bowl with the basil leaves, blue cheese, oil and vinegar. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Refrigerate and let marinate for 45 minutes to 24 hours. Just before serving, cook the pasta according to package directions; drain thoroughly. Transfer the pasta to a mixing bowl while still warm. Add the tomato mixture and toss to mix. Let stand at room temperature about 15 minutes before serving.

Serving Size: 8