

Housing Programs & Services

NEWSLETTER

Spring Cleaning Tips

Here are some tips on how to get your home ready for Spring...

1. Change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. In addition to testing batteries regularly, you should change these twice a year without fail.
2. When dusting, move around the room in a circle, starting with the highest points and working your way down to the floor.
3. Flip or rotate your mattress. Check the warranty card for the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.
4. Wash pillows and curtains to help reduce allergens and dust mites.
5. Organize and thoroughly clean out kitchen cupboards and the fridge, discarding canned goods and other items that are past their expiration date.
6. Now is the time to swap heavy quilts and blankets for lighter-weight bedding. Be sure to wash and thoroughly dry all bedding before storing. Stow them in under-bed boxes, zippered bags, or vacuum-seal storage bags, which save space and protect them.
7. Start kitchen herbs inside and transplant later in May. Basil, chives, dill, parsley, and fennel can be started from seeds. Oregano, rosemary, sage, savory, and tarragon do better if you start them from small plants or cuttings.



8. Clean your carpets. Vacuum them thoroughly, then shampoo with a spray foam or powder, or rent a steamer from a hardware store for an even deeper clean.
9. Clean the residue from your windows. Start indoors before installing your screens, then finish the job outside on a dry day.
10. Air out throw rugs on a clothesline to freshen.
11. Prep your A/C by calling a professional to service or if you have window-unit air conditioners. Carefully go over the unit with the brush attachment of your vacuum. Remove and wash the filter and let it dry completely, then reinstall it.
12. Clean the deck to remove grime, pollen, fungus, and mildew. Scrub the surface with a deck cleanser or this homemade cleaning formula: Add 1 cup of powdered laundry detergent to a gallon of hot water, and add 1/2 cup of chlorine bleach to kill moss or mildew.
13. Check shrubs and trees for winter damage and prune accordingly. Remove deadwood or broken branches. Replant any shrubs that have heaved out of the soil during a freeze-thaw cycle, before the roots dry out.
14. Check you garden hoses for cracks and leaks and examine the rubber or plastic washers at the connectors as well.
15. A high-nitrogen fertilizer should be applied twice a year, once in spring and again later in fall.

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Notable News

The City of Apache Junction is offering, for free, up to 10 standard spiral CFL bulbs to all residents of the City of Apache Junction. Eligible residents must live within the corporate limits of Apache Junction. For information on those boundaries visit <http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?nid=598> or call 474-5080.

Residents may bring their old incandescent bulbs and proof of residency to the following locations to receive a voucher to redeem at Best or Ace Hardware for their free bulbs.

City Hall Development Services
300 E. Superstition Blvd.
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Multi-Generational Center
1035 N. Idaho Road
February 1, 2011
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce
567 W. Apache Trail
February 9, 2011
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Calendar

- February 21 —President's Day. City offices are closed.
- April is Fair Housing Month

Programs

Rehabilitate Your Home

The City invites homeowners to apply for grant funding through the Arizona Department of Housing to complete housing rehabilitation and replacement for eligible homeowners.

There are currently 15 grants or forgivable loans from \$10,000 to \$60,000 depending upon the homeowners' needs. Such items may include heating, air conditioning, plumbing, roofs, ADA accessibility, code violations and health and safety issues. If repairs to a manufactured home are greater than the value, a replacement may be considered.

Eligible applicants must be single family or manufactured owner occupied homeowners who have owned their home and property for a minimum of 1 year; reside within the City limits; and are at least 62-years old, have a disability or have children under the age of 18 living in the home.

Privacy is a priority, and recipients of the program and information

collected in the application process are held in strict confidentiality.

Funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis. For more information call Heather Patel at (480) 474-2635 or visit our website at <http://www.ajcity.net/rehab>

FREE Tax Preparation Provided

The IRS and AARP offer free tax preparation for all residents of Apache Junction. Taxes are done by qualified and IRS trained volunteers. These volunteers are trained to identify tax credits that you may be eligible for. Credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Child Tax Credit.

These services are provided between February 1st to April 15th, 2011 at the following locations:

Public Library
Friday and Saturdays
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Call for an appointment 474-8555

Moose Lodge
350 West 16th Avenue
Wednesday and Thursdays
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
First come first serve basis

Busy Bee Home Maintenance Tips

Getting tired of looking at the same room but can't afford to redecorate or move? Try paint! Here are some ideas:

1. Paint One wall for a POP of color: Choose a base color or a slightly deeper shade for the whole room, then choose a single accent wall.
2. Paint two adjoining walls in complimentary colors: Another great look in a room such as a bedroom or family room is to do two walls that adjoin in a light base color and the remaining two in a different color with the same depth of intensity.
3. Use 2 or more close shades of the same color: Those Benjamin Moore or Sherwin Williams strips we all love are great for picking the base color and a lighter trim color, but you can choose up to 3 shades to visually change the proportions of your room. This is a great trick for tall walls where you don't want to use too many colors to avoid awkwardness where the walls meet. By using a deeper color on a lower part of a wall or in an alcove you can draw attention to that area and make it seem like a trick of the light. The room will have depth and richness. The different shades will create shadows and highlights.

Remember paint does not have to be expensive. Check out the mis-tint rack at the local home improvement store. There could be some great colors. Otherwise a good can of paint can cost just \$20 for a much greater impact.

Bees Wishes



RESOURCES

The United Way of Pinal County has published a resource book that offers information to families who are expecting a baby or for those with children. This book is provided through the Success By Six program and the United Way which focuses on Education, Income and the Health of all children, families, and communities.

This book and other resources can be found on the city's website at <http://www.ajcity.net/index.aspx?NID=418>

HOUSING PROGRAM PURPOSE AND GOALS:

1. Eliminate health and safety hazards in homes;
2. Benefit low to moderate income residents; and
3. Improve neighborhoods and encourage stability.



Watch your speed around School Zones!

Housing Funnies

If you have a question or comment about anything written in this newsletter, please contact:
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