

WESTPORT~NEWS

On the Home Front

Bi-monthly column by: Linda Skolnick

Get Ready for Fall

The kids have gone back to school, mornings have become a bit cooler, and fall is not far behind. Although we are all hoping to hold onto this beautiful weather for a while longer, it is not too early to prepare for fall.

So, what should we be doing to get ready for the extreme temperature changes? First, have your roof inspected, and replace any missing or broken shingles. Make sure the flashing around vent pipes, skylights and the chimney are secure.

Have your fireplace and chimneys cleaned by a professional to remove build-up of combustible creosote from the chimney, hearth and firebox. If you do not use your fireplace very often, have this done every couple of years instead of annually.

Clear gutter channels and downspouts of debris. Make sure that downspouts funnel water away from the foundation. Replace any broken or deteriorating gutters and down spouts.

Have your heating service company service your furnace. Filters should be changed and registers and ducts should be checked for blockages. In addition, your furnace should be checked for leaks and efficiency.

Remember to shut off the outdoor water supply after the first freeze, including in ground sprinkler systems.

If you have windows or doors with combination screen/storm windows, remove screens, wash and store them, and install storm windows. Remove and store air conditioning units.

Organize and clean out your garage. Move items indoors that may freeze, such as paint and caulk.

It's obviously too early to rake...but fall is going to creep up on us before you know it, unfortunately. Sooner or later we'll have to face the fact that the summer of 2001 has come to an end. Although we're all hoping for another reprise and an Indian Summer, eventually fall will come, and we might just as well be prepared.

