

## October

**Fall Flower Show 10/8 – 10/31 & 12/3 – 1/23**  
Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park  
[www.comozooconservatory.org](http://www.comozooconservatory.org)

**University of Minnesota Gopher Football**  
TCF Bank Stadium  
10/15 vs Wisconsin  
10/29 vs Michigan State  
[www.gophersports.com](http://www.gophersports.com)

**Shadows & Spirits Tours 10/20 – 10/22 & 10/27 – 10/29**  
Minnesota State Capitol  
<http://events.mnhs.org/calendar>

**Nick or Treat 10/31**  
Halloween Event at Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America  
<http://www.mallofamerica.com/home>

**Minnesota Orchestra's Sommerfest**  
An Evening with Herbie Hancock 10/28  
Bride of Frankenstein 10/29  
[www.minnesotaorchestra.org](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org)

## November

**Christmas Fairs 11/5 & 11/19**  
American Swedish Institute  
[www.americanswedishinst.org](http://www.americanswedishinst.org)

**University of Minnesota Gopher Football**  
TCF Bank Stadium  
11/12 vs Northwestern  
11/19 vs Penn State  
[www.gophersports.com](http://www.gophersports.com)

**A Christmas Carol mid-November – 12/31**  
Guthrie Theatre  
[www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org)

**Target Holidazzle Parades 11/25 – 12/23**  
Along Nicollet Mall  
For specific dates/times 612-338-3807  
[www.holidazzle.com/](http://www.holidazzle.com/)

**Holiday Traditions in the Period Room (Late November – 12/31)**  
Minneapolis Institute of Arts  
[www.artsmia.org](http://www.artsmia.org)

## Walker Art Center

Target Free Thursday Nights 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Target Free Saturdays – 1st Saturday of each month  
[www.walkerart.org](http://www.walkerart.org)

## December

**Saint Paul Ice Fishing & Winter Sports Show 12/2 – 12/4**  
RiverCentre  
[www.rivercentre.org/calendar](http://www.rivercentre.org/calendar)

**A Pioneer Christmas 12/3 – 12/4**  
Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life  
[www.targetcenter.com](http://www.targetcenter.com)

**Hill House Holidays**  
Saturdays & Sundays 12/3 – 12/18  
James J. Hill House  
[www.mnhs.org/places/sites/jjhh](http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/jjhh)

**Nutcracker 12/16 – 12/18**  
Ballet Minnesota  
O'Shaughnessy Auditorium  
<http://oshaughnessy.stkate.edu/allevnts.html>

**Holiday Music Festival (Throughout December)**  
Mall of America  
<http://www.mallofamerica.com/home>

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HEATHER M. DAWE  
REALTOR

# Talk of the Twin Cities

## Household Hazmat:

What You Need to Know to Keep Your Family Safe

Although a part of our daily lives, many common products kept in and around the home contain hazardous materials, such as heavy metals or chemicals that are known to be toxic, corrosive or flammable. Storing and disposing of them with care can help limit exposure to these substances—which is healthier for people, pets and our environment.

### The Problem with Mercury

Mercury is an element found in common household items including compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and tubes, thermostats, thermometers and batteries. It's an extremely toxic element that can damage the brain, kidney and lungs and impair the normal development of the brain and nervous system in fetuses or young children. If a product containing mercury breaks, important steps must be taken to ensure the safety of everyone in the house.

### What to do if a CFL Breaks

1. Have people and pets leave the room right away.
2. Open windows or doors to ventilate the room for 10-15 minutes before returning to clean it up. Turn off the central heating and air for several hours.
3. Thoroughly collect the broken glass and visible powder, but try not to touch it directly. Wear protective gloves or consider using a bar of soap to pick up the pieces.
4. Place clean-up materials in a sealed container or two sealed plastic bags before discarding.
5. Some major home and hardware retailers offer in-store collection to make recycling more convenient.

Do not throw used batteries or CFLs in the trash. To prevent toxins from releasing into the air, soil or water, contact your local public works department or go to [earth911.com](http://earth911.com) for disposal information.

*Americans buy almost 3 billion dry-cell batteries every year (about 32 per family) to power toys, portable tools and electronic devices.*

- Batteries contain a variety of heavy metals and corrosive acids that generate power by converting chemical energy to electrical energy. However, these toxic ingredients have the potential to cause burns or injury to the skin or eyes.
- Rechargeable lithium ion batteries, in rare instances, pose a fire risk because they may overheat and ignite if they fail. Lithium ion batteries are found in notebook computers, mobile phones, cameras, ride-on toy vehicles and radio-controlled cars and aircraft.
- Lithium batteries are not only a choking hazard for small children and pets, but they pose the risk of serious internal injuries if swallowed. Always keep button-cell batteries well out of reach of children and pets. If you suspect that one has been ingested, seek medical attention immediately.

Source: EPA

### In This Issue

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Sources: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Robert Jaffin



**Heather M. Dawe**  
"Your Personal Connection"

# Garage Makeover

It might seem like your garage is only good for cars and out-of-season junk, but consider your garage an extra room. With just a little bit of creativity and effort, it can become a fully functional part of your home.

Just as many basements or attics are finished, complete with heating, air conditioning and wiring, garages can be as well. Whether you've got an extra house guest or a surprise live-in relative, the garage can be the perfect spot to host visitors and give everyone a little extra privacy. Invest in decorations, furniture and even carpet to keep the garage looking habitable, even when not in use.

The garage is also the perfect place for entertainment. Incorporate fun add-ons such as a pool table, ping-pong table or even foosball. Having people over to watch the big game? Convert your garage into the ultimate football haven with big-screen TVs and a built-in bar in the corner.

Last, consider using your garage as a workroom or a photography or woodworking studio. The garage also can serve as a home gym, if there's not enough room in the main home to store treadmills or a weight bench.

**Fast Fact - You can burn nearly 200 calories by raking leaves for an hour.**

*CRS, Your Home Newsletter, Sept 2011*

## No Leaks

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, water from household leaks can add up to 10,000 gallons of water every year — enough to fill a backyard swimming pool. If your faucet has sprung a leak, H2ouse.org encourages you to keep these tips in mind.

Most faucet leaks are caused by worn washers within the faucet. Replacing the washer is fairly simple: Cut off the water supply to the problem faucet, disassemble it and replace the washer with a new one. If you're unsure of what type of washer to buy, bring it into the hardware store so you can compare it to similar models or ask a sales associate for assistance. Still leaking? The problem may be in the underground pipes, in which case it's best to call a plumber.

If you're replacing tubing under a sink, be sure to replace the shutoff valve as well. Most likely, these valves haven't been touched in years, so it's best to get a new one when it's being used.

If you wind up going the do-it-yourself route, take photos or sketch and record the order of disassembly. Many homeowners skip this vital step, which leads to even more problems down the road with faulty equipment.

The most important rule? If you feel you can't handle it, call in an expert. Going in blind to fix leaks can wind up costing you if something goes awry.

*CRS, Your Home Newsletter, Sept 2011*

### Shop, Play & See the Best of the Twin Cities

This seasons  
featured  
businesses:

- ▶ Gutter Topper & Bjorkstrand Exteriors
- ▶ Surge Water – City & well water experts
- ▶ Twin Cities Closet Company
- ▶ Evolutionary Illustration & Design Studios, Inc.

Go to [www.YourPersonalConnection.com](http://www.YourPersonalConnection.com) and check out the business connections section for a additional details and a full list of great resources.

# Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

When the summer ends and the weather is beginning to cool, there are important home maintenance tasks to tackle.

- Inspect the chimney cap and vents for your fireplace and dryer to remove any debris
- Open septic tank and check the level - if it's high or approaching a high level, call a pumping contractor (this should be done every three years regardless)
- Clean out gutters and drainpipes and ensure that downspouts are working well
- Drain and store outdoor hoses and hose bibs and turn off interior valves leading to outdoor faucets
- Cover the air conditioner and switch the breaker to the OFF position.
- Remove screens and check the weather stripping around all windows and doors, repair and replace if necessary
- For central air systems, check that the drain pan under the cooling coil in your furnace plenum is clean and working well
- Change your furnace filter - this should be done each month during the winter as well
- Remove the floor grilles and vacuum out the ducts
- Vacuum around and in electric baseboard heaters to remove dust and debris
- Test your furnace by turning it to heat (don't forget to light the pilot, if necessary) and raising the temperature until the system comes on - turn down to the desired level afterward
- Bleed the air from your hot water radiators
- Inspect the ducts from your furnace and throughout your home, repairing any cracks, tears and other damage
- Check that your sump pump is operating well and clean out any debris in the basket
- Check that your bathroom and range hood exhaust are working well and that the dampers open properly outside
- Test your smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and security systems, replacing batteries as needed.

Source: Edick Valuation Services LLC.

## New Clients

Jan Delaney  
Angie Klein & Jon Mielke  
Jonathan & Sarah Tishler  
Laurie & Chris Vance  
Persio & Silvana Ravena  
Bill & Sandra Ogren  
Karen & Roger Allen

## Returning Clients

Paula & David Ruppert

## Referrals

Melodie Risacher  
Marianne Hagen  
Maya Missaghi  
Frank Dawe

## Babies

Ryan Kaplan  
Beth & Paul Grabow



## Pets

Sydney – In loving memory

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