

Home & Garden

October 19, 2011

PROTECT AGAINST RADON GAS

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Michael Christophides of Granite Inspection Group discusses the dangers of Radon gas with homeowner Debra McCabe. The inset photo shows a radon detection monitor with a failed reading.

A supplement of the Southern Dutchess News, Northern Dutchess News & Beacon Free Press

McCarrier's mowing provides benefits for landowners

Wayne McCarrier is definitely an enterprising individual. Displaced by the current downturn in the economy, he has opened his own mowing business - Country Fields Mowing - to serve area property owners large and small.

Wayne has tractors to handle jobs of any size. He has developed a strong starting list of satisfied clients that will attest to his excellent work. Wayne also has a list of quality sub-contractors for referral to handle most any need you have on your property to include, pond building/repair, excavation, home repair, driveway improvement and tree work.

"We have the ability to dig and transplant trees over one hundred years old," says Wayne. "Trees in excess of 100 feet tall can be dug up on your property and moved to your front yard."

Wayne provides heavy brush hog field mowing, equine paddock finish mowing and mowing of trails and pastures. He also has a hay wagon pulled by a restored 1954 Farmall tractor for hayrides.

Wayne has moved back to the farming arena to pursue his desire to pre-



Wayne McCarrier of Country Fields Mowing is ready to help area property owners with a variety of mowing services. He also has a hay wagon for hayrides. (Photo by Curtis Schmidt)

serve the great fields on existing farm properties in this area. He always enjoyed working the land and respects the farmers still doing so today as he

grew up on a dairy farm in Western Pennsylvania. A lot of hard work was performed over a century ago to clear this land and he is grateful to the existing property owners who desire to maintain their fields accordingly.

"I believe what sets me apart is my desire to do a good job for the customer at a fair price with quality equipment and perform the work safely," said Wayne. He has also done field plowing, discing for crops or yard expansion.

Wayne says the benefits of mowing are simple. "The more frequently fields are mowed, the more lush the grass will be. "Grasses benefit from frequent mowing and thrive, weeds do not. Weeds will not have an opportunity to develop seeds if cut five or more times each summer. Mowing fields four to six times per year will result in dense grass like a lawn after a couple years, with fewer weeds," he said. "The grass never gets more than 15 inches high and then is mowed again with the finish mower."

Consistent mowing will turn large fields into a lawn-like appearance. Mowing three times a year will give more of a meadow appearance in between cuts. Property owners who only mow once annually will find their fields overtaken predominantly by weeds and invasive plant species in a few years.

Wayne's finish mower is 7.5 feet - like a heavy duty lawn mower, but is designed for both fields, horse paddocks and lawns, as it has larger

wheels to roll over bumpy areas associated with fields. The finish mower can be used on fields from 2-25 acres.

Brush hog mowers are typically used for heavy weeds, grasses, thorny bushes and small trees. Wayne's brush hog can mow 15 feet down in one pass. This mower is powered by a 100-horsepower 4 x 4 Massey Ferguson tractor. The brush hog does a really great cut as well, especially on the fields from 2-100 acres or more, where he mows from two to four times a year. Brush hog mowing can be effective in winter mowing too, as long as the terrain is relatively level and less than 4-5 inches of snow on the ground.

The new design of Wayne's brush hog leaves little standing in a field when he is done. Old style brush hogs were not as effective as the newer designs. Another benefit of frequent mowing is a more dense root base from the grasses, which helps to eliminate run-off during heavy rains.

Wayne would like to thank his current customers for their loyalty, support, and referrals to new customers. Special thank yous go to Brook Taube, Billy Eklund of Eklund's Farm Machinery in Stanford, Dave Howard, Clarence Knapp along with, Ken Smith, Avi and John Locke for working with Wayne to cover the customers' needs.

To learn more information or a Free Estimate, call Wayne at 845-235-6460 or send an email to freeriderwayne@optonline.net.

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Radon gas is a health hazard - Is your family at risk?

Radon is a tasteless, odorless, colorless, inert, radioactive gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer. It naturally occurs from the breakdown of uranium ore, and is prevalent



Michael Christophides

here in the Hudson valley region. It generally enters a home through soil, seeping upward into the foundation, in the basement and other living levels.

Health risks increase with long-term exposure of elevated levels of radon.

As a home or business owner, you can't afford not to test for radon. Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon gas. In fact, the United States Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. today. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths.

Commonly present

Every home has radon, there is no such thing as zero radon, says Michael Christophides, Chief Inspector / Laboratory Director of Granite Inspection Group, a Pleasant Valley based inspection and environmental testing firm. Granite Inspection Group is the only NYS Certified Environmental Testing Laboratory for Environmental Analyses of Air Emissions of Radon in Dutchess County.

Michael states that in Dutchess County, you have greater than a 50 percent chance of having elevated radon levels in your home. The only way to know is to test.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Surgeon General recommend testing all levels below the third floor for radon. A recent news release from the New York State Department of Health identified a list of counties of concern and Dutchess, Putnam, Orange and Ulster were included. Risk depends on the individual's lifestyle and his or her particular home. If someone is healthy and resilient, it may take awhile but, for a child, infant or elderly person, the impact may be sooner. Individuals who smoke are highly prone to more problems. For smokers exposure to elevated levels of radon is a one-two punch.

Methods of Testing

There are many ways to test for radon - charcoal canisters, liquid scintillation chambers and alpha track detectors to name a few. These are "passive" radon testing methods and

devices that only give a final overall number. However, continuous monitors are better for proper diagnostics and overall results. These "active" radon testing methods and devices provide hourly readings throughout the duration of the test and a total average result for the entire test period. These are considered Continuous Radon Monitors (CRM) and may be used, administered, analyzed and authorized by a New York State Approved ELAP (Environmental Laboratory Approval Program) ONLY! Granite inspection Group is a

New York State Department of Health certified lab.

When testing, always ask to see the tester certifications and make sure you "hired a professional" tester authorized to use such devices being utilized. Or make sure to use a New York State Approved ELAP Laboratory ONLY.

Testing Parameters

All testing equipment or devices must remain in the building for a minimum of 48 hours. Any tests performed in less than 48 hours is not an approved method and retesting by a qualified professional tester is

advised. Michael strongly warns against any kind of instant radon detector or one that takes a few minutes or hours. "There is no such thing as a 'snap shot' or 'instant radon device,'" Michael warns. "Buyer Beware!"

The "instant" testing methodology is not a recognized test method by the EPA or the NYS Department of Health. Any information obtained while utilizing such a test should not be used for anything, nor should anyone make any informed decision with

Continued on page 7

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Michael Christophides,
Chief Inspector/Laboratory Director
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If you have a pool, you need Anything Underwater

Brad Burchell does just about anything underwater - and that's precisely the name of his business.

Brad has been diving for over 26 years and has been involved with repairing swimming pools and other underwater jobs with Anything Underwater, Inc. for about 20 years. He has been referred by pool companies such as Aqua Jet Pools, Holland

Pools, Nejame Pools, Majestic Pools, and many others in the Hudson Valley.

"Some of my work is fixing swimming pools, both in ground and above ground," says Brad. "Without draining the pool, I use special electronic equipment to locate holes in pool liners. I then use scuba equipment to go under the water, clean and repair the hole using underwater glue."

Once the holes are located and repaired, Brad asks his customers to leave the patch area alone for 24 hours so that the glue can cure. They then can add water and continue to enjoy their pool.

He also also performs pressure testing of the pool lines when necessary and does some repairs in Gunitite or concrete pools.

He covers the Hudson Valley from Albany to New Jersey.

"If you own a pool you need my number (845-590-9721). I usually respond to a call about a leak with in 24 hours, but I do make emergency calls when needed," says Brad.

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KA Landscaping can manage all of your landscaping needs, including tree work, lawn work and driveway sealing.

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KA Landscaping handles weekly,

biweekly or monthly lawn maintenance, landscape design, water features, tree services, driveway sealing and snow management.

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Ken and his staff also provide helpful advice to assist you in all of your projects.

Call Ken today or visit the website at KA-Landscaping.com.

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Contact HHH now for heating checkup

Fall is definitely in the air and now is the time to schedule a Fall Checkup of your heating system with Harry Blair of HHH Heating and Cooling Services. Harry is offering "Early Bird" cleaning specials. Just call 462-2523 to schedule your checkup today.

Performing a Fall Checkup not only provides you with peace of mind that your heater will work on that first cold night, but it will also improve its efficiency saving you money.

Depending on your fuel type - gas or oil - Harry and his team will go through a number of steps to make sure your system is ready for the winter. It is important to perform this checkup early enough so that you beat the mad rush of people who turn their furnace on for the first time when it gets cold and then service crews are backed up throughout the fall and winter.

With oil burning furnaces, Harry will clean the parts of the furnace that attach to the flue and clean and check the oil filter and screen. He will also inspect and clean the chimney if necessary. If you have a masonry chimney, he will inspect the whole interior for cracks and broken mortar. Carbon Monoxide is sent up through the flue and a good flow of air is necessary.

On gas-fired high efficiency units,

the process is simpler. Most new units use a PVC pipe that exits to the home at ground level, so Harry checks that this chimney pipe is clean and free of any surrounding bushes.

Harry will check the blower, which is one of the hardest working parts especially if you have an air conditioning unit on top of the heater.

Changing your filters should be done at least once a year if not every 6 months. Harry will also check to see if the heating ducts need to be cleaned with a vacuum cleaner that will remove dust buildup but also remove any dirt and sawdust that got in during construction of the home.

Whether you have a gas or oil heating system, it is important to use a programmable thermostat to reduce your fuel costs. Harry will make sure to check the program on your heater and so that it will lower the temperature before you wake up in the morning.

If you are away for more than a day you should lower the temperature to 45F to 55F as available for your unit. You need to have enough heat in the home to protect your plumbing from bursting.

For more information on your heating system, contact Harry at 462-2523.

Prepare your home against pipe freezes and ice dams

When the mercury falls below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, the potential for pipes to freeze increases dramatically. The following tips are presented courtesy of **Allstate Insurance and Nancy Schneider-Viglotti. Call 845-297-8803** for more information.

Here are some steps to take prior to the arrival of the cold weather so that you can prevent pipe bursts and the accompanying flooding and repair costs.

- Detach all garden hoses and shut off the water supply to outside faucets.
- Install faucet covers to all external faucets.
- Wrap pipes nearest exterior walls and crawl spaces with pipe insulation or heating tape.
- Caulk or weather seal windows to cut down on wind drafts.
- Tag the location of your main water valve and make sure you can easily turn it on and off.
- If you have a thermostat that uses a battery, be sure to replace it regularly.
- Shut off the water supply to your washing machine when not in use.
- Ask a friend or neighbor to check your pipes and the temperature in your

home if you plan to be away for any length of time.

During a deep freeze

- Try to keep the temperature in your home at 68 degrees.
- Keep sink cabinet doors open to allow heat from the home to circulate around pipes.
- Check the water flow from all faucets before retiring for the evening and again in the morning.

• Allow your faucets to drip lukewarm water in order to minimize the chances of a pipe freeze.

Ice dam preparation

- Keep gutters and down spouts clean.
- Identify areas of heat loss in your attic and insulate properly.
- Wrap or insulate all heating duct work.
- Use a snow rake or soft broom to clear fresh snow from gutters.
- Do not use sharp tools or ice picks on gutters or downspouts.
- Avoiding getting on the roof and working on a ladder or beneath a roof that has large amounts of snow - you could be hurt by falling icicles or avalanching snow.



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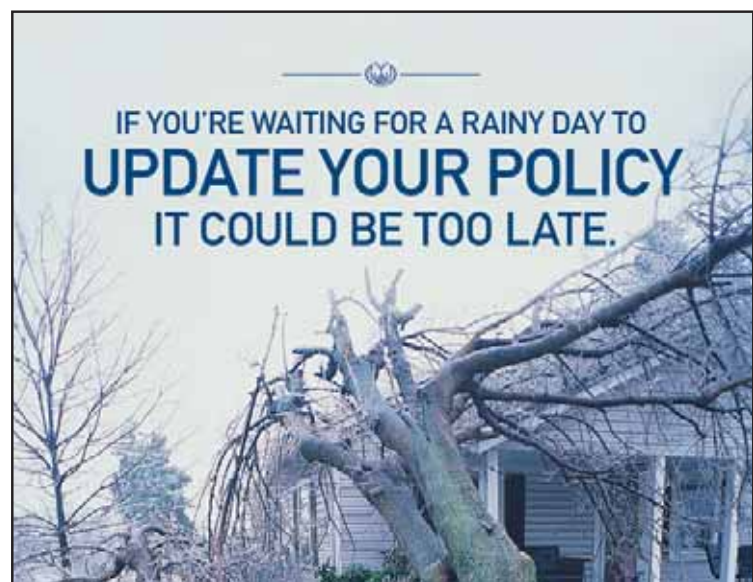
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Enclose your backyard pool with fences from Adams

An investment in beauty, an investment in security - whatever your reasons, Adams Fences can provide the fencing that's right for your needs, taste and budget.

Adams Fencing is an established business with over 30 years of service in the Mid-Hudson Valley, with a commitment to quality that is backed by the Adams name.

General manager Ken Fredericks and his experienced staff always provide free estimates, extra attention to detail, superior workmanship and quality products.

Here is a look at some of the fences Adams Fences installs.

Maintenance Free Vinyl Fence

Imagine the convenience a picket, private or semi-private fence that doesn't decay and never needs painting. Traditional or ornamental styles are made with top-grade materials and that means that you'll be enjoying your fence for years to come.

Maintenance Free Ornamental Aluminum Fence

This is a strong and durable aluminum fence with the look of majestic wrought iron and no worry of rust. Adams features traditional designs, as well

as elegant pickets with decorative finials, ball caps or scrolls. The choice is yours.

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Adams Fences also carries post and rail fences and chain link dog kennels.

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sure to complete your outdoor living space.

For more information, on Ill call Adams Fences at 454-0363 or visit their web site at www.adamsfences.com. Adams Fences is located behind Adams Fairacre Farms on Rt. 44 in Poughkeepsie.



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Awning FX offers shade, shelter, local ownership

Awning FX is a complete awning company serving the Hudson Valley for over 18 years. Douglas Brown, Patrick Brown and their staff offer custom awnings for both home and business and work together with industry leaders, such as Sunbrella, Somfy, and Eclipse Awnings to bring you the best product available.

They also offer a wide variety of stationary AND aluminum awnings.

At Awning FX, awnings are crafted with pride right here in the Hudson Valley. With Awning FX, you are dealing with a locally owned and operated firm. You get the personal service that you expect and deserve.

As an example of their personal service, here is a testimonial: "I am enjoying my new awning, thanks to you. Your operation is first class and I will spread the word among my family and

friends. After all of my research, I am so glad I decided on Awning FX." - Gloria Laszure.

In retractable awnings, Awning FX can offer Awning Shade Solutions with their ever-popular retractable deck and patio awning. They come in any width and have projections that start at 5 feet and can go out as far as 16 feet 6 inches.

They also offer a wide variety of stationary awnings. Awning FX can offer Awning Shelter Solutions with Custom made Stationary awnings built for your

needs and to your specifications.

For your business, Awning FX can offer Awning Image Solutions that are custom designed not only to enhance the beauty of your building while providing protection from the elements, but to also provide advertising both day and night.

Some of the advantages of awnings include energy savings, ease of operation and reduced sun exposure.

For more information, call Douglas or Patrick Brown at 566-4000 or visit the web site at www.awningfx.com.



Awnings from Awing FX are attractive and offer ease of operation.

Radon gas

Continued from page 3

such a test. The gas is measured in terms of picocuries per liter of air. The EPA and the NYS Board of Health threshold for corrective action is 4.0 pCi/L. If your home tests at 4.0 pCi/L or higher, it is strongly suggested to take corrective actions. Homeowners should not be wary if an elevated radon level is found. Corrective actions are available through the use of a mitigation system by a qualified professional.

How often should we test?

If you have never tested for radon or don't recall if you ever did - Test NOW! If you have not tested in the last two years it's time to TEST Again! If you have made changes to your home, renovations, remodeling, insulating, additions or upgrades...it's time to Test Again. And if you do have a radon mitigation system you should TEST ANNUALLY! For more information visit us at www.hudsonvalleyradon.com or call Michael Christophides, Laboratory Director with Granite Inspection Group at 845-635-2552, Test it... Fix it... Save a Life!

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Excessive moisture = MOLD! Call SERVPRO® to solve the problem

The long-range damage resulting from the heavy rains that swamped the Hudson Valley during August and September is still being felt. Now, the real flood damage is in the form of MOLD.

Many home and business owners took it upon themselves to handle their own cleanup from water damage. They cleaned the damage they saw - surface water. Surface water, however, is only the tip of the iceberg.

The professionals at SERVPRO® know all too well that it's "the water that you don't see that causes the real damage." The intrusion of water into your home or place of business can result in mold growth a lot sooner than you think. Mold growth can begin within 48-72 hours in excessive moisture conditions. This quick growth can lead to indoor environmental conditions that could pose health threats.

Many local home and business own-

ers are just finding out about mold issues now - and in many cases the mold has had a couple of months to grow.

Don't wait for structural and health issues that result from mold growth to manifest themselves in your home and in your family. Now is the time to call the professionals at SERVPRO® to check all areas of your home or commercial business. They are on call 24-7, 365 days of the year to help make your damage "like it never even happened."

What's the cause?

Excessive moisture can result from storm damage, plumbing or equipment failures, long-standing leaks and poor humidity control. When water intrusions are not addressed right away, the possibility of mold growth drastically increases. Humidity and moisture levels from water-damaged environments help mold spores to

grow and multiply. Organic materials found inside a building, such as wood, paper, drywall and insulation, provide food sources for mold to flourish.

Health concerns

Health concerns may arise when excessive mold grows indoors. Even though, anyone may experience health problems due to the exposure to mold in damp buildings, concerns are more likely to arise for "at risk" individuals. These may include immune suppressed or compromised individuals, young children, and individuals with chronic inflammatory lung diseases such as asthma and severe allergies. Possible health effects include runny nose, sneezing, coughing, aggravation of asthma, sore throat or inflammation of the sinuses.

People most at risk include:

- Infants and children
- Pregnant women
- The elderly

• People with compromised respiratory systems or asthma and allergies

• People with weakened immune systems

Take precautions

SERVPRO® Professionals handle water damages every day and know prompt action is required to prevent mold growth. If a mold problem should occur in your home or office building, SERVPRO® professionals can help to remediate the problem so that health concerns and structural damage are no longer an issue! If there is an ongoing moisture problem in the building, it is important to be aware of:

- The presence of visible mold.
- Strong musty odors, which may indicate mold is present.
- Any evidence of past moisture problems that might have caused undetected mold growth.

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** Services vary by location*

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Magic Salt from DJM is the 'green' way to remove ice, snow

DJM Distribution & Supply, Inc. is a proud distributor of Magic Salt and Magic Minus Zero, the green and environmentally safe products to help remove ice and snow.

These products have earned the "Designed for the Environment" recognition from the EPA. Magic Minus Zero is the only roadway deicer in the USA to be granted this designation and the logo is clearly printed on each bag of Magic Salt distributed.

Magic Minus Zero can be sprayed onto regular rock salt, transforming it into Magic Salt, a highly effective ice melting product. By applying Magic Minus Zero directly onto paved surfaces, ice and snow will not bond, black ice is eliminated.

Magic Minus Zero is a highly effective liquid de-icing agent made from a patented blend of magnesium chloride combined with an agricultural by-product of the distilling process.

Magic Salt is regular rock salt that has been treated with the liquid Magic Minus Zero at a rate of 8 gallons per ton of rock salt. Magic Salt is a highly effective ice-melting product that is less corrosive, safer for concrete and brick and environmentally friendly.

Here is a list of Magic Salt features and benefits:

- Magic Salt is economically superior, because it has a higher residual effect. Less Magic Salt is required to

displace an equal amount of ice or snow than with any other ice-melter - at any price.

- Rock salt applications are reduced by 30% to 50%.

- The need for sand in most circumstances is virtually eliminated.

- Magic Salt has a working temperature of -35°F, whereas regular rock salt is ineffective below 18°F. This is a net 53°degree gain in working temperature, similar to calcium chloride, without the adverse effects.

- Because of its residual effect, snow and ice will not bond to the pavement. Black ice is virtually eliminated.

- Magic Salt is less corrosive. Unlike plain rock salt or calcium chloride, independent tests show Magic Salt to be completely less corrosive. Unlike calcium chloride and ordinary rock salt, Magic Salt leaves no visible residue.

- Unlike calcium chloride and ordinary rock salt, Magic Salt is safe for people to handle.

- Magic Salt is environmentally friendly, releasing far less chlorides into the environment than either plain rock salt or calcium chloride.

Call DJM Distribution & Supply, Inc. today at 845-486-7605 to learn more about Magic Salt products and to purchase your supply for the upcoming winter.

Chain saws from A-1 will help to beat high cost of heating oil

It may be warm now, but the heat will be costly when the winter months roll around. If the cost of oil heat has you worried, then now is the time to check out the large selection of Husqvarna chain saws at A-1 Lawnmower and Small Engine Repair, Inc.

Kathie and Stu Kotchie will be happy to instruct you in the operation of the many different types of saws

And if you visit A-1 now, Kathie and Stu will throw in a free extra chain.

In addition, A-1 carries a full line of riding and push mowers, string trim-

mers, backpack blowers and rolling leaf blowers so you can keep the yard spruced up during the summer months.

A-1 also features a delivery service and handles all types of repairs - on all items, not just the ones they sell. Kathie and Stu even carry many hard-to-find parts.

For more information, visit A-1 Lawnmower and Small Engine Repair, Inc. at the intersection of Rt. 376 and Lake Walton Road/Robinson Lane in Wappingers Falls or call 221-LAWN (5296).



A-1 Lawnmower and Small Engine Repair, Inc. carries a full line of Husqvarna chain saws.

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Continued from page 8

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How to tackle kitchen upgrades

For many homeowners, a high-use area like the kitchen is always a priority when thinking about home upgrades. But how does one renovate effectively and inexpensively?

The key is deciding what you need to live in the room and organizing the re-design in phases, say the experts at the American Institute of Architects.

Begin by thinking about creating an

open, flexible space that will grow with your needs. Buy raw materials like tiles or light fixtures to save money, but have a professional install them. An architect can help map the process.

To find an architect to create your ultimate dream kitchen, visit www.architectfinder.aia.org.

Source: Statepoint.net.

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Devitt's sets winter preparation seminar on Nov. 5

Put the date on your calendar: Saturday, Nov. 5 at 11 a.m. at Devitt's Nursery & Supply, located one mile south of Newburgh on Rt. 32.

That's when the experienced professionals at Devitt's will present a seminar on winter preparations that will save time, effort and money next season. Joe Gizzarelli and Chris Fitch and their staff will cover a wide array of topics and answer any and all questions.

It's an opportunity that you don't want to miss.

Joe notes that a good fall cleanup is the first order of business. "Getting rid of the weeds and debris will eliminate a lot of unwanted items next season,"



he said. He is talking about weeds in particular and other plants coming up in unwanted areas.

Handling and preserving summer bulbs will also be discussed. Bulbs from flowers such as canna, gladiolas and dahlia are not winter hardy. Joe and his staff will show you how to "lift" them from the ground and store them for next season.

They will show you how to wrap shrubs and other larger plants with burlap to protect against deer and cold winds. In the case of hydrangeas, Joe recommends placing stakes around the plant, wrapping with burlap and then adding leaves on top to protect the plant and help with flowering for next year.

The use of anti-desiccant spray is next on the agenda. These sprays help plants such as shrubs, rhododendrons, holly and azaleas during the winter months by preventing water loss through large leaves. Wrapping and anti-desiccant spray is also recommended as a protection for plants near the road as barriers against salt and other chemicals used for snow and ice buildup.

Preventing your plants from being on the winter menu of deer will be another topic. The staff at Devitt's will dis-

cuss a variety of sprays and application methods, plus the use of netting and other items.

They will also discuss the use of winter fertilizers, lime and gypsum to aid the soil and prepare it for next season.

Joe adds that this is also the time to evaluate your property from a landscaping perspective. "Think about some mistakes that were made this

year or changes that you would like to make to save time, money and effort next year," he said.

And, last but definitely not least, please do bring along your list of questions. "Everybody has a different situation and we can all learn from each other's question's said Joe.

Call Devitt's at 845-561-1968 or visit the website at www.devittsnsy.com.



Devitt's is your center for holiday decorating

The holidays are just around the corner and the one-stop shop for all of your decorating needs - plus a great winter wonderland for the kids - is Devitt's Nursery & Supply.

Whether you are the individual who appreciates the singular beauty of using outdoor lighting to silhouette a few trees or the one who goes for the more extravagant displays, Devitt's has everything you need, plus the helpful advice from a knowledgeable staff.

"Decorating of this type is not just for the holidays. It's a great opportunity spruce up your yard and property during all of the cold and gloomy winter months," says Joe Gizzarelli, nursery manager at Devitt's. "Decorating is all about your mindset and we're here to provide all of the help and products so you can achieve your goal."

He notes that simply using a spotlight or floodlight under a tree helps to use nature and make for an interesting landscape. Such lights come with a spike, so they can be placed

strategically for the desired effect and homeowners can do the work themselves in most cases.

To save money, the folks at Devitt's recommend the extremely low-voltage LED lights that cost 80 percent less to run and have a much longer life than traditional lights. Timers can also be purchased to save even more on the electric bill.

Devitt's also has a full line of wreaths, roping, ornaments and inflatable decorations.

And - the holiday treat for kids? It's an elaborate display covering three greenhouses, featuring "Eggbert" and all of his friends, including farm animals and such as sheep, goats, donkeys, chickens, turkeys plus plenty of refreshments.

And "Eggbert?" Well, you will just have to come and meet him yourself.

The holiday display will run from the final week of November to the weekend before Christmas. Call Devitt's at 845-561-1968 or visit the website at www.devittsnsy.com.



Joe Gizzarelli of Devitt's Nursery & Supply illustrates a variety of ways to prepare your flower gardens for the winter. These include bringing in summer bulbs, pruning and protecting larger plants by wrapping them with burlap. (Photos by Curtis Schmidt)

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