



The Cruise

Cruising with RPC

2023 Newsletter
November
Baldwin Township

Total Permits Issued

This Month: 43
Year to Date: 649

New Home Permits

Monthly Total: 0
Year to Date: 11
Monthly Valuation: \$0
Year to Date Valuation: \$4,211,561.00

All Commercial Permits

Monthly Total: 2
Year to Date: 28
Monthly Valuation: \$4,000.00
Year to Date Valuation: \$3,593,380.94



This edition's **FOCUS:**

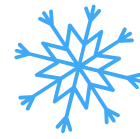


Here comes Winter!

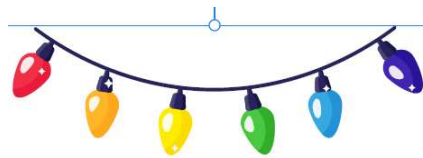
Are you ready?

Winterizing Your Home

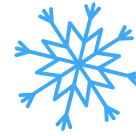
As the frost begins to gather and warm socks are calling your name, it's easy to make the transition from caring for your yard to tackling those indoor chores you've been avoiding all summer. Here are a few things to keep in mind prior to hibernation this winter.



- Window wells - Care for your window wells and keep them free from debris and snow. One of the easiest ways to do this would be to purchase a window well cover. Otherwise, shoveling from the inside is also an option. It's messy but removing the snow from your wells keeps the evacuation route clear in case of emergency, keeps the spring thaw from traveling inside, and also, there's the benefit of letting in more of that scarce winter sunshine.
- Windows - Remove window screens. Ice and snow can collect between the screen and window which could warp or tear your screen. Moisture buildup can cause damage to window structures. A buildup of snow, ice, or debris could become a source for leaks which might lead to a mold or mildew issue.
- Outdoor water fixtures - Don't forget your exterior faucets, too! Turn off the water supply to these - there's typically an easily accessible shut-off valve along the water line. Winterize your sprinkler system by shutting off the water supply before freezing temperatures arrive. Drain the pipes to help prevent them from freezing during cold snaps. Disconnect any outside hoses from the spout and shut off water to those sources. If you have a pool or outdoor water feature, take steps to drain and protect them as well.
- Gutters - If debris is left in gutters, it can get wet and freeze, permitting the formation of ice dams that prevent water from draining. Also, the added weight can damage the gutters.
- Roof - Snow and ice can be tough on your roof. Cut back overhanging branches to prevent damage to shingles and gutters. Check the attic and ceilings for staining from water leakage. While you're up there, make sure the attic is properly ventilated to prevent mold and mildew. Invest in a snow roof rake.
- Holiday lights - If you plan on stringing up holiday lights outdoors, look into using energy-efficient LED lights to help reduce your energy bill. LED lights are longer-lasting, safer and more durable than regular incandescent glass bulbs, meaning they should withstand the elements better.



Cruising with RRC



- Outdoor furniture and grills - Cold temperatures, snow and ice can damage outdoor furniture and grills. If possible, store them in the garage or basement. Grills should be maintained before being put away for the season. If you have a gas grill with a propane tank, close the tank valve and disconnect the tank and store it outside. If you don't have storage space for your items, purchase covers to protect them from the elements.
- Fireplace - Animal nests or creosote buildup in your wood-burning fireplace can be hazardous. Call a chimney sweep to thoroughly clean the chimney before your first winter use. The damper should open and close with ease. You should also vacuum or sweep out any accumulated ash from the firebox. An electrical fireplace requires regular cleaning and maintenance, as well. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for your model to keep it operating smoothly and safely.
- Dryer vents - You should clean your dryer vents on a routine basis, but they should certainly be inspected and cleaned as part of the winterization process. The use of more blankets and heavier clothing can increase the accumulation of lint, dust, and debris which can negatively affect airflow and cause the dryer to work harder.
- Stock-up - In case of the next big storm, keep a few items close at hand. A snow shovel, ice melt, and a good ice scraper will help get you out the door. Flashlights/batteries, a weather radio, and a freshly stocked emergency car kit are always a good idea. Don't forget to buy a little extra pet food, just in case.
- No power? - Should weather conditions keep you inside without power, have a few activities on hand to keep from going stir-crazy. Playing cards, board games, arts and crafts, and musical instruments can help to pass the time.



Happy Holidays to all from Rum River Consultants