

Put away snow blower; bring out lawn mower

I think the time has come to bid a fond adieu to our winter work horse, the snow blower, and get out our summer friend, the lawn mower.

First things first. I have found the best way to store a snow blower is to run the unit completely dry of fuel. This means draining out as much fuel as possible or run the unit until it quits.

If the unit has a four cycle engine, this would be a great time to change the oil because of the acids that form in it when it's dirty. Stick it in the corner of the shed and say goodbye.

Over in the opposite corner sits Mr. Lawn Mower just waiting to get his blades dirty. If you stored it the same way you did the snow blower, you are all set. But chances are you pushed it in the corner after the last cutting and that was it.

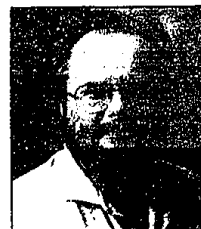
ASK THE MECHANIC

Changing the oil is the single most important job you can do for your mower. Not only does it take a beating because of the heat produced inside your engine but the small amount it holds can only support so much dirt.

The air filter is the next step to helping your engine survive. You have to remember that your engine is running at 3,400-3,600 RPMs. Each time it makes a complete revolution, it takes in air for combustion - times two hours more or less that's a lot of air, so make it clean as possible.

Just put in a new spark plug and forget about it and this will also aid in lower gas consumption and ease of starting. It's a cheap fix.

The blade is the last, but not by far, least consideration. The



Mike Orzechowski

sharper the blade, the better the cut. Less tearing or ripping of the grass means the tips won't turn brown so your lawn is green and not multi-color.

And there you have it. My recommendations for snow blower storage and lawn mower preparation.

Mike Orzechowski is a mechanic employed by the Farmington Hills parks and golf division. Call him at 426-1606, or after hours, leave him a message at 248-473-9530.

On exhibit: Donna Vogelheim, 1991 Farmington Artist in Residence, hangs her work for a show that runs through May 25 at Farmington City Hall, Liberty and Grand River, and Farmington Hills City Hall, 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, in the Art Corridor Resident's Galleries. The exhibit is sponsored by the Farmington Area Arts Commission. Anyone may attend a reception from 7-8 p.m. Monday, April 3, in Farmington City Hall.

Musicale awards recital is Sunday

The first place winners in the Farmington Musicales' annual awards for musical excellence competition will perform in a recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 2, at Antioch Lutheran Church.

The church is on the corner of 13 Mile and Farmington roads.

Vocal judge Dorothy Duensting gave the 11th and 12th grade division a tie for second place to Yuri Watanabe and Molly Cernano and honorable mention to Kelly Karakashian. In the ninth and 10th grade division she awarded first place to soprano Sarah Morrison and second place to Ben Ryberg. Honorable mention was Cathie Randall.

For musical excellence at the piano in the 11th and 12th grade division, judge Jacqueline Curgal Schmitt awarded first place to Julia Siciliano, second place to Lynn Zwinck and honorable mention to Paul Reger. In the ninth and 10th grade, she awarded first place to Kobey Shwayder, second place to Anna Grinabun and honorable mention to a group including Andy Lin, Ryan Laverty, Gina Vermiglio, Wendi Li, Louise Greenstein and Tasha O'Neal. In the seventh and eighth grade division, she gave first place to Leigh Gasworth and second to Emily Moses.

Judges Howard Kagen and Pam McGowan of percussion, wind and brass expertise, awarded Mickey Owen first place and Finlosh Khambatta second place.

Vocal judge Dorothy Duensting gave the 11th and 12th grade category. In the ninth and 10th grade competition, Bill Baxters and Tom Kocelin tied for first place and Drew Deorio was given second place. They awarded honorable mention to Joseph O'Kelly and Tasha O'Neal. Emily Cappa, playing the oboe, received second place in the seventh and eighth grade division.

String judge John Miller awarded first place to violinist Yakov Khariton and honorable mention to Julia Power in the 11th and 12th grade division. In the ninth and 10th grade competition, he gave first place to Ryan Laverty, second place to Katie Lynch and honorable mention to Meredith Carr. Finally in the seventh and eighth grade division, cellist Michele Meredith received first place and cellist Clair Loewy received second place.

On this Sunday afternoon, the special Strey-McCallum piano award will be presented to an outstanding pianist. The winner will be determined by the judge on the day of the performance.

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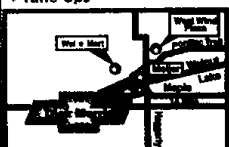
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