



## HOW TO PREP FOR SPRING

April showers bring may flowers! Spring is a great time to get outside and prep your home for upcoming rain and warmer temperatures. Here are some things to keep in mind when your outside prepping for spring.

### YARD WASTE

There are many ways to deal with yard waste but why should you worry about it? If yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, brush, trash) is left along streets, driveways, and sidewalks, then when it rains all of that waste can be washed straight to storm drains. This can cause storm drains to become blocked, risking flooding. Plus, grass clippings and leaves can add too much nitrogen and phosphate into our water ways. Excess phosphorous and nitrogen added to surface waters can lead to cloudy, green water from accelerated algae and weed growth. Decay of this extra organic matter can depress oxygen levels, killing organisms.

**And remeber this ordinance as grass cutting season starts or it could cost you!**

**953.11** - No person shall throw, place or scatter any garbage, rubbish, trash, grass clippings, leaves or yard debris or other refuse over or upon any premises, street or alley, sewer or drainage basin, either public or private, or adjacent thereto...



### PET WASTE

Yes, it has been cold outside so maybe you slacked on cleaning up pet waste over winter. So, get out there and clean it up! But why, you ask? Pet waste is more than just a stinky mess, it contains bacteria and parasites, as well as organic matter and nutrients, notably nitrogen and phosphorous. The organic matter and nutrients contained in pet waste can degrade water quality by using up oxygen and releasing ammonia. Low oxygen levels, increased ammonia, and warm summer water temperatures can ultimately kill fish as it is picked up in stormwater runoff and outlet into local bodies of water.

### VEHICLES

With warmer weather comes wanting to wash winter grime off your vehicles. Opt for an environmentally friendly soap and wash your car in the grass so the water soaks into the ground verse into a storm drain. Going to a car wash is always a great option also.

Always clean up vehicle leaks promptly and dispose of oil, anti-freeze and other vehicle waste properly! Call the WV DEP to ask about hazardous waste disposal options at 304-558-5938.

### CHECK YOUR GUTTERS

Your home's gutters are very important! Gutters are responsible for funneling the water off of the roof and away from your home (but not onto your neighbors home). Clogged gutters can cause water to fall and collect directly around your foundation and cause your homes and yards to flood.

Cleaning your gutters regularly, even if you have gutter guards, is a great way to prep for those spring showers. You can hire a service to clean your gutters or doing it yourself can save you \$100 or more. Plan to clean gutters at least twice a year—more often if the roof is directly beneath trees or you live in a region with frequent storms. But only take on this task if you can work safely from a ladder or the roof. If your roof is higher than a single story or has a steep roof line, you're better off hiring a gutter-cleaning pro.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Grass is very important! When grass takes root and grows beneath the soil, it acts as an anchor for all the loose soil and sand. Grass helps soak up more stormwater runoff. It also helps cleans air through the process of photosynthesis and keeps your yard from eroding away due to rain and wind.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SA?



## Take a Walk on the Wild Side "Soaring into Nature"

7th Annual Spring Nature Hikes  
St. Albans City Park  
**SAT April 10th 9am - 12pm**

Free event for the entire family!



Registration: 9:00am – 11:30am - DOOR PRIZE  
TICKETS AND EVENT INFORMATION AT  
REGISTRATION

We will have experienced naturalists, rain barrels (\$20 each for diy kit), family scavenger hunt, photo tips, special prizes for Medallion search, safe gifts for kids, special WV Wings of Wonder Birds of Prey program for everyone, masks and hand sanitizer, great door prizes, plant and animal Identification along the trail. Hikers will hike at their own pace and will find identification cards along the trail telling about plants, animals, and trees along the path, and FAMILY FUN. Donations are ALWAYS accepted for future events.

THIS WILL BE A SOCIALLY DISTANCED AND MOSTLY SELF-GUIDED EVENT WITH EXPERIENCED NATURALISTS THROUGHOUT THE TRAIL TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION.

Due to the nature of the Covid-19 requirements, we will not have food or drinks, large groups hiking the trail together, information booths, hands-on displays, special programs for crafts or take homes.

**St. Albans Historical Society**  
Monthly Open House  
404 4th AVE  
**SAT APRIL 3rd 10am - 2pm**

## Easter Egg Hunt

SA Road Side Park

**SAT APRIL 3rd 11am**

Free family event hosted by St. Albans Parks and Rec.

## Spring Fling

SA Road Side Park

**SAT MAY 15th 4pm - 8pm**

Family fun with live music, food trucks, Foam Garage, and more!

## "Do you need Health Insurance?"

It was announced last week that the WV Health Insurance Marketplace is opening back up its Open Enrollment Period. It will run from February 15th to May 15th. If you or a family member are currently uninsured, between jobs, or losing your insurance this is a great opportunity for WV residents to get coverage. The vast majority of people that get their insurance on the Marketplace can qualify for free or reduced cost plans. WV has a free, grant funded program (WV Navigator) that can help you navigate your options. You can call them with questions or for help signing up.

**The WV Navigator program is open Monday – Friday from 8am to 7pm. You can reach them at (304) 356-5834 or at [www.acanavigator.com](http://www.acanavigator.com).**

## PAY ONLINE



### CITY SERVICE FEE

Go to

**WWW.STALBANSWV.COM**

or call **1-833-208-7484**

to make a payment!

You will need your account number on hand.  
\$1.50 fee applies to ALL credit card payments.



### WATER BILL

Go to

**WWW.STALBANSMUC.COM**

or call **1-833-208-7483**

to make a payment!

You will need your account number on hand.  
\$1.50 fee applies to ALL credit card payments.