

WINDSTONE WONDERS

Published by: WindStone Residential Association
P.O. Box 812, Ooltewah, TN 37363
office@windstonehoa.org - 706.937.8846
www.windstonehoa.org

May 2018 – Yard of the Month



Jack & Cindy Quigley

1531 Hawks Landing

CONGRATULATIONS



Welcome to WindStone!

David & Nelcie Fortune
83 Hummingbird Hill

Ronnie & Carolyn Creek
9105 Tower Pines Cove

Rhett Peoples
58 Wild Goose Cove



SCHOOL IS OUT

Our children will be riding their bikes and playing around WindStone streets. We urge *all* residents to drive with caution and please observe posted speed limit.

NOTICES AND REMINDERS

- **HOME IMPROVEMENTS** – All **exterior** modifications and improvements to your home or property must first be approved by the Architectural Review Committee prior to work commencing. The ARB modification application can be found online at www.windstonehoa.org or by calling the WindStone office at 706-937-8846.
- **PARKING** – Parking on the streets in WindStone is not allowed. All vehicles must be routinely parked either in the garage or on the driveway.



No Bread for Our Feathered Friends!

Several residents have expressed concern about residents feeding the ducks and geese. Although feeding the WindStone fowl is frowned upon, many residents continue to do so, unaware they may be contributing to "angel wing" disease. Not only do carb-filled bread, crackers, and the like carry no nutritional value, they also can promote a deformity that causes the last joint in the bird's wing to twist outward, triggered by improper bone growth – thus, the *angel wing*. By all means, love your feathered friends; just don't feed them.



Neighborhood Teen Looking for Yard Work:

Mowing, Mulching, Power-washing and more
Call Christian Bout at 423-488-2870

Expert English/social studies tutor:

Ellen Phillips 423.499.4245



When it comes to preparing for warmer months, taking care of certain tasks helps you avoid aggravations like the air conditioner sputtering out on the hottest day of the summer. Regular maintenance of your air conditioning system can help keep it running cool, and keep Murphy's Law at bay.

Get Ready for Summer Now

While many homeowners hire a professional to maintain their central air conditioner system, if you are the DIY type, here are four steps you can take right now to help your air conditioner keep its cool.

1. Check the Air Filter

A neglected air filter can quickly become clogged with unwanted contaminants, which reduces air flow, makes the unit less energy efficient, and ultimately leads to poor or harmful air quality in your home. If you haven't done so already, locate, remove, and clean or replace your system's air filter.

Where Is Your AC filter?

Most central air conditioning systems are made up of two main components: an outdoor unit, called a condenser, and an indoor unit (either an air handler unit or a furnace). Most indoor units are built with the air filter placed inside the blower area, or in a ceiling return's air grille. Alternatively, some garage and basement air conditioner or HVAC models locate the air filter near the bottom of the blower area.



2. Remove and Clean the Air Filter

Inspect the filter closely upon removal and if you see any tears or snags, replace it; otherwise, clean it. Fill a tub with equal parts water and vinegar and submerge the filter in the solution. Soak for one to four hours depending on how long it's been since it was last cleaned. Remove the filter without rinsing it and place on a towel in a sunny area until thoroughly dry. An air conditioner filter should be cleaned on a regular basis; monthly in heavy-use seasons.

If your unit uses a 1-inch pleated air filter, replace it monthly regardless of use; this type of filter is designed to catch only big dust particles.

3. Visually Check the Condensate Drain Line

When your air conditioner is working properly, the pumping of cold air causes condensation to build up. This water drains into a pan and through tubing that leads outside via the condensate drain line.

The condensate drain line for most central air conditioner units and systems will be outside your home, usually near the condenser unit, although some indoor units may be set up to drain into plumbing. (Typically, this drain line is made of PVC pipe.) Inspect the drain line and visually check that it is not restricted from flowing freely by vegetation or other potential blockers.



4. Clear the Drain Line Regularly

Gunk, algae, and sometimes mold, can build up over time and clog an air conditioner's drain line, which can cause the drain pan to overflow. To help prevent this from happening, which can lead to water damage to the system and your home, periodically clear the drain line. (Most professional HVAC services recommend a clean out once per year in the springtime.) You can try clearing a clogged line using a wet-dry vacuum, or with a vinegar solution. If you are not comfortable trying to clear a clogged line, contact a local professional.

Tip: Adding a float switch to your air conditioner unit can help prevent damage from water leaks. The switch shuts down the air conditioner unit automatically if it overflows with water.

By Tara Walsh on May 10, 2016 / Home Care, Home DIY, Maintenance, Spring