

Explore Florence County events

Florence County Museum open

June 19 - Sept. 11 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Museum opening for the season on Saturday, June 19 from 10 am - noon. Open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays from 10 am - noon June 19 through Labor Day. Exhibits regarding the development of Florence County from its beginning in 1880. Veteran's room includes information from Civil War through today.

Big 4+ Sportsman's Club Annual Picnic & Trap Shoot

July 17 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Membership trap shoot and picnic. Annual membership dues are \$25/family or \$15/single. Big 4+ Sportsman's club Annual Membership Trap Shoot and Picnic. Annual membership dues are \$25/family or \$15/single. 50-Bird Lewis Trap Shoot starts at 8am. \$16 entry - you

may enter twice. You MUST be registered by 11am. Options available including a new Ladies High Fun. Ties broken by shoot-off from 25 yards. You must be present to collect prize. Meat Trap SHoot - 8am. Win various meat prizes. Enter as often as you like - shoot all day long. Picnic starts at 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Food, refreshments, raffles. Please bring a pot luck dish to share. The Club reserves the right to change the shooting program.

UP Garden Tractor Pulls

July 17 to Sept. 11 from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The Up Garden Tractor Pulls return to the area this summer in Aurora on the following dates: July 17 and July 31 at 3:00 p.m., Friday August 6 at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday September 11 at 3:00 p.m. They will also be at the Florence County Fair on the 27 of August at 5:00 p.m.

Tri County NNO

Aug. 3 from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

National Night Out for Tuesday, August 3. This event will be held in Aurora, Wis. at the NWTC Campus. This National Night Out will be a joint effort between Florence County, Dickinson County and Northern Marinette County. We will have numerous law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and EMS from all three counties. National Night Out is a community-building event that promotes strong police and public safety partnerships with the community. It provides a great opportunity to bring neighbors and public safety together. All fifty states along with military bases worldwide host this event on the first Tuesday in August. There will be numerous demonstrations, displays, kids' games, free food and other activities for area youth and neighbors along with visiting with local public safety officials.

How to keep gardens safe in summer heat waves

Summer is a season to relax and enjoy the warm weather. Basking in the summer sun is a great way to relax, but only when the temperatures are safe. Summer heat waves can compromise the health of human beings as well as their pets. Gardening enthusiasts also may need to go the extra mile to keep their plants and gardens from wilting under harsh summer sun.

Extreme heat stress can be very harmful to plants. The online gardening resource Gardening Know How notes that some plants can withstand summer heat waves better than others. For example, succulents conserve water in their leaves, helping them to withstand heat waves when the dog days of summer arrive. But succulents are unique, and many plants will require a little extra help to withstand a heat wave.

Take a proactive approach with mulch. Gardeners need not wait until the heat arrives to protect their plants from searing summer heat. The sustainable living experts at Eartheasy recommend utilizing light-colored mulch during heat waves. Such mulch will reflect the sunlight and help to maintain cooler surface soil conditions. Eartheasy even notes that grass clip-

pings, once they've turned from green to light brown, can make for the perfect mulch to protect plants from the heat. Clippings also are free, making them a cost-effective solution.

Water wisely. The horticultural experts at Yates Gardening note that water only helps

ommends watering in the morning to avoid heat scald and also ensure as little water is lost to evaporation as possible. When watering during a heat wave, do so by hand rather than through a sprinkler. Hand watering allows gardeners to direct all of the water onto the plants that need it most during a heat wave.

Let your plants pitch in. When planting new plants, it's important that gardeners recognize it takes time for these plants to establish their roots so they're strong enough to withstand heat waves. In the meantime, strategic planting can help them make it through their first heat waves unscathed.

Eartheasy notes that plants withstand heat waves if it's applied effectively. If water is only applied in short bursts and not long enough so it can penetrate all the way to the root zone, roots will then stay near the surface. In such instances, roots will dry out during a heat wave and plants won't make it through the season. Timing also is essential when watering. Eartheasy rec-

ommends watering in the morning to avoid heat scald and also ensure as little water is lost to evaporation as possible. When watering during a heat wave, do so by hand rather than through a sprinkler. Hand watering allows gardeners to direct all of the water onto the plants that need it most during a heat wave.



Signs your HVAC unit could be fading

A day outdoors soaking up the sun's rays is many people's idea of the perfect way to spend a summer afternoon. On such days, a periodic retreat indoors into an air conditioned home can offer some much-needed relief from the heat.

HVAC systems are worth their weight in gold during the dog days of summer. Of course, such systems must be replaced from time to time. Learning to recognize the signs of a fading HVAC system can help homeowners replace their units before they cease working,

saving everyone the uncomfortable ordeal of being stuck at home without cool air on hot summer days.

Weak air flow

An HVAC unit operating at peak capacity produces a strong flow of air through the vents of a home. The experts at Select Home Warranty note that when the air flow from the vent is weak, this could be a warning sign of a damaged AC compressor or blocked or damaged vents. Damaged vents might be replaceable, but issues with the AC unit might require a replacement. That's especially so if the unit is old. Repairs might be possible,

but it might be more cost-effective to replace an aging unit rather than commit to costly repairs. **Excessive moisture around the unit**

Excessive moisture around the unit may indicate that its refrigerant is leaking. In addition, Home Select Warranty notes that large pools of

fied HVAC technicians may be able to fix clogged ductwork without replacing the AC unit. If the issue persists even after ducts have been cleaned and unclogged, then a new unit might be homeowners' best bet.

Foul odor

Sometimes the nose knows best when an AC unit needs to be replaced. Unusual odors emanating from the vents when the AC is on suggest that the unit is distributing mold or mildew throughout the home. The Florida-based heating, cooling, plumbing, and electrical experts at

Cool Today note that a moldy or mildew-like smell coming from the vents could indicate a host of issues, including a dirty evaporator coil, a clogged drain line or leaky air ducts. Each of these issues can be fixed, but homeowners must weigh the cost of fixing them versus the cost of replacing an aging unit.

Come the dog days of summer, homeowners want a reliable AC unit to cool their homes. Recognizing signs of a malfunctioning AC unit is a good first step toward ensuring homes remain cool, relaxing respites from the heat this summer.

