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**To:** Susan Walko  
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Happy Warm Weather.

When the warm weather melts the snow and all of the plants start budding, people think of spring cleaning. What a coincidence, I am thinking of spring cleaning? This issue of the newsletter is all about preparing yourself to spend more time outside. The idea with Spring Clearing (yes you read it correctly, not spring cleaning) is that you get rid of or clear all of the clutter that accumulated during the winter. The fewer things you have that need to be cleaned and maintained, the more time you will have to enjoy the outdoors. So start clearing today, think about cash in the future and come up with a solution for paper.

I am abandoning the pretty format that you may be accustomed to because I would rather work on content and spend the extra time outside working in my garden. However, my daughter Kim is now 14 and she just got her working papers. She will be working for me doing computer work and will hopefully spend time creating beautiful documents in the future. If you have any computer work that you want her to do let me know. She so far has done Quickbooks Entry, typing in Word documents and Contact Database Entry.

**Tips for Spring Clearing:**

- o Work on clearing out one area at a time.
- o When you clear one area, learn to keep it clear before you tackle the next area.
- o The outside needs clearing too. It is the first reflection of you that people have.

**Have a Yard Sale**

If you have many items and want to have a yard sale, start planning now. Unless you let go of some of your other responsibilities and dedicate time to prepare for a yard sale, you will be able to have your yard sale in the fall. Here are some things to keep in mind.

Decide what large dollar value items you want to sell. Furniture is usually a good item.

Think about how you will display everything. No one really wants to bend over and look at clothes that are spread out on a blanket on the lawn.

Have a plan for rain.

You don't really have to price everything but you should have a general idea of what you want to sell items for.

Remember your goal is to move the stuff out of your possession into someone else's.

If you want to read more about tips for having a yard sale stay tuned for an article in the Eagle Tribune which will print on May 7. I was interviewed for the article.

**PAPER**

Paper is the single biggest issue with remaining organized. My answer is simple. Make a 2 second decision on whether it is valuable to you. For example, don't even give any flyers a chance to make their way into your In-Box. They go straight into the recycle bin. If your community doesn't recycle or if you want to see many of the papers go to a good cause, see the list of ideas for recycling below.

**Paper recycling Ideas:**

Local schools often collect **paper** recycling to raise money for the school. Presentation of Mary in Methuen is currently collecting paper.

Many nursing homes collect **magazines** for reading and projects.

The MSPCA loves donations of **newspapers**.

I am going to have an article in a future newsletter on people's failed or incomplete attempts at organizing. I would love to hear from you with your story. Have a great spring.

Susan Walko

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