



# The Intelligent Home Owner

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOME STREET HOME IMPROVERS

Offices In Northeast Minneapolis & St. Louis Park

Issue: October 2006

WE'RE ON THE WEB! [HOMESTREETIMPROVERS.COM](http://HOMESTREETIMPROVERS.COM)

*"Sharing the knowledge to help you care for your home."*

## Minneapolis: Inspections Sweeps to Return in Spring

Residents of Minneapolis, now is the time to prepare for the City of Minneapolis housing inspections sweeps which will resume in the spring of 2007.

During the sweeps, the city will be looking for items such as rotted or missing siding, crumbling or broken cement (such as steps, driveways and private sidewalks), curled, decayed and missing shingles, peeling paint, missing or rotted fascia and soffits, broken garage doors, broken windows, etc. They will also be checking for vehicles parked on non-approved surfaces. If you don't have an asphalt or cement driveway, the city requires a minimum of 4" of class 5 limestone as a parking surface.

Home Street encourages you to take a proactive approach to the sweeps by evaluating your home's needs now. The last thing you want is to be caught off-guard by a citation from the city requiring you to fix a structural issue with only a limited amount of time to do so.

Unfortunately, there have also been reports of predatory contractors and predatory lenders canvassing areas where the sweeps have already come through. It's best to prepare ahead of time for the necessary repairs you may be required to make, so you don't fall victim to these schemers.

As always, make sure you are doing business with a

licensed, reputable contractor, and that you know exactly what your estimate entails.

Not only do improvements to your home make our cities more livable and help to maintain property values, oftentimes, you can realize significant improvements in energy savings by updating your siding, windows, doors and roof, as well.

Home Street can help you evaluate your home's needs, and most work can be done year round. Call **612.490.7671** and take advantage of additional **5% savings** on replacement window installation through December 31, 2006.

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### Visit our Website

Visit our website at [www.fixupnow.com](http://www.fixupnow.com) to see before and after photos of our work and get an overview of products available.

On our website, you can also read back-issues of our newsletter, *The Intelligent Homeowner*. You can read tips on everything from locating financial assistance for your home improvement projects, to learning about the technical terms related to energy efficiency.

You can also read all about our **Home Street Bucks Program**, whereby you earn Points for every home improvement project you do, and for the projects of persons you refer to Home Street. You can earn great rewards with your Points, like fun get-aways, trips and products for your home.

## Home Street Receives 2006 Business of the Year Award!

Home Street Home Improvers was named 2006 Business of the Year (under 50 employees) by the Northeast Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce at their annual banquet held on September 12, 2006.

The award is given annually to a business that has been nominated based upon the criteria of its contributions to the community, its ability to

represent Northeast business in a positive manner, its entrepreneurial spirit and its methods of achieving growth and success.

We're thrilled to have been named business of the year by the Northeast Minneapolis Chamber!

We pride ourselves on our community involvement and home owner education,

but much of our success can be attributed to the quality work of our crews and the excellent service of our suppliers—we thank them!

We also want to thank our loyal customers for looking to Home Street for their improvement needs, and for being a part of our success. Thank you!

Visit [www.nempls chamber.org](http://www.nempls chamber.org)

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Offices in Northeast Minneapolis & St. Louis Park

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MEMBER  
Minnesota and  
North Dakota

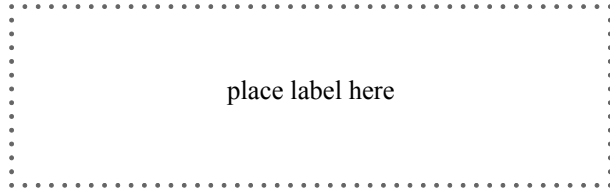


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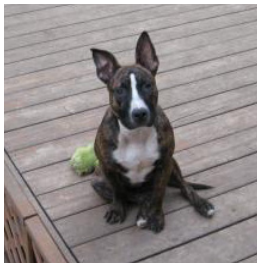
Home Street Home Improvers is proud to support the Northeast Citizen Contractors Patrol (NECP).  
www.nepatrol.org

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## This Month's Waiting Pet: Bean

We, at Home Street, are life-long animal lovers. It is our hope that, through the vast network of our customers and their friends, families and co-workers, we may find homes for these waiting pets. Please post this article at your workplace and place of worship, and share the news of these pets with people you know who may be able to provide a loving home. Thank you.



This month's pet is being fostered by Underdog Rescue. "Bean" is a female American Staffordshire Terrier, Bull Terrier mix, about

10 months old and 40 lbs. (likely to attain 45 lbs). Bean is very sweet, playful, friendly and smart. She loves to play with other dogs. Bean does need to go to a home with another dog that she can play with. She would also make a great jogging partner! She would also excel in

agility. Since Bean hasn't had any consistent training, cats can trigger her prey drive. If you have a cat or cats and cannot appropriately understand and control a dog's instinctual prey drive, she will not be the best fit for you. Bean is spayed, potty trained and up to date on shots. Please call if you would like to meet or adopt Bean! For more information call 952-929-0777.

For more information about Underdog Rescue or to foster a dog or cat, contact [dogs@underdogrescue.petml.com](mailto:dogs@underdogrescue.petml.com) or 952-848-2277.

## Hearts & Hammers, Twin Cities, Inc.

Hearts & Hammers, Twin Cities, Inc., is a private, non-profit organization that provides exterior home rehabilitation assistance for qualifying homeowners, especially the elderly and disabled. In addition to income qualifications, the applicant must have a home that is in need of exterior painting. If the house does not need painting or is not constructed of a material that is paintable, it will not qualify (homes only needing the trim painted will not be considered). Hearts & Hammers is seeking qualified applicants for their next program date in 2007. This would be a great opportunity if you or someone you know has a financial need, and is in need of exterior maintenance before the inspections sweeps return to Minneapolis in the spring. Get more information on how to qualify at [www.heartsandhammers.org](http://www.heartsandhammers.org) or call 952.922.2451.

## Winterize Your Home

Is your home ready for winter? The better your home is prepared for winter, the more comfortable you will be, and you might even save money on energy bills.

- Start by cleaning your gutters of leaves and debris. Clogged gutters are a leading cause of winter ice dams, which can allow water to seep in through your roof.
- Stop air leaks by caulking around window and door frames. Install outlet gaskets on electrical outlets located on exterior walls. Make sure your exterior doors have a sweep at the bottom to reduce drafts.
- Make sure your attic has sufficient insulation, and be sure to insulate around vent and pipe chases.
- It's not too late in the season to consider replacing your windows and doors for maximum insulation and energy efficiency. Call Home Street to find out what your options are.

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