as thistles and dandelions. Because a lawnmower has a limited reach, all edges around the buildings, along the bushes, and the fence should be cut with a power weed trimmer or hand shears.

Weeds that grow up through the bushes should be removed. These weeds often deprive bushes of vital nutrients required for healthy growth. Invasive saplings such as silver maples and other trees also need to be pulled from the bushes. Structural damage to the building will eventually occur when such saplings are allowed to grow up through bushes that are planted next to the foundation.

**Mission Statement**

The Glendale Heights Department of Community Development strives to provide professional assistance in planning, development and construction by adopting and enforcing current codes and standards in a uniform and unbiased manner, in order to establish and maintain a safe, healthy and attractive community for all residents and business owners.

**Before you do any major work on your property…**

We recommend that you check with Community Development prior to doing any work on your property. It is better to know you need a permit before commencing work than to find in the middle of a project that a permit was required for that type of work. If you’re not sure whether a permit is required for your project, or need more information on permits, please call the Community Development Department BEFORE you start to build at 260-6030

This brochure is for informational purposes only. Please check with Community Development for specific codes and ordinances.

Village of Glendale Heights  
Department of Community Development

300 Civic Center Plaza  
Glendale Heights, IL 60139  
Phone (630) 260-6030  
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**Taking Care of Your Home**

A house is the single most expensive item most people ever purchase. It is also a major responsibility. Your yard is an outdoor extension of your home. It requires just as much attention and care as the inside of your home. With a little time and effort your home can be the pride of your community.
PAINTING THE HOUSE
All buildings have some paint on them and at some point in time that paint will fail. Paint fails when it starts to flake, peel, or fade beyond the point of equal coverage. When this happens the surfaces being covered are left unprotected from the elements. Most homes in this area have wood, aluminum or fiberboard siding. When the paint fails, these surfaces become susceptible to rotting or corrosion. The best way to prevent paint failure is to re-coat it as soon as you notice any chipping or fading of the paint.

BRICKWORK
If your house has brick veneer, the bricks and mortar should be checked for cracked or missing components and repaired to stop further damage.

DOORS
The front door is the gateway to your home. Does it say “welcome to my home”? Is there a clear path to it, or is blocked by overgrown bushes or clutter from old newspapers and toys? Check the frame and lower part of the door for decay. If it requires extensive repair work, it may be better to completely replace it.

WINDOWS
Your windows bring in light and fresh air. Or at least they should. Make sure the windows open and shut easily. If not the track may need to be cleaned or lubricated. Cracked or broken glass poses a risk of serious injury and reduces energy efficiency. It should be replace as soon as possible. Screens also help prevent insects and small rodents from entering your home and therefore need to be in good repair.

ROOFS AND DRAINAGE
Perhaps the most important part of the house, and we only think about it when it’s raining outside, is the roof. A properly installed and maintained roof can last 20 years or more.
Check your roof in the spring and after severe storms for missing shingles. Replace any missing ones with a matching shingle.
Check your gutters and downspouts to make sure they are fastened tight to the building and draining away from the foundation. Serious structural damage or flooding may occur if water is not draining away from the house properly.

FENCES
It has been said that good fences make for good neighbors. But that is not always true. A fence should be clean, straight and solid. A fence that is not in good repair reflects not only your property, but your neighbor’s property as well. For this reason you should periodically check to make sure that all the components are solid. If the panels are loose or the posts are rotted, the fence will eventually lean or fall over. You could be held liable for any personal damage should it fall over unto your neighbor’s property. If the fence is painted, check to make sure your neighbor’s side also looks acceptable.

SIDEWALKS, PATIOS, AND DECKS
These are the surfaces we depend on for walking on when we are outside our homes. An improper surface can lead to a serious injury and you may be liable for the injured party. Make sure the surface is level and without cracks or holes. Check for potential splinters in wood surfaces and remove them to avoid an injury.

SWIMMING POOLS
Swimming pools are great on a hot summer day, but they do require some work. A swimming pool becomes an attractive breeding ground for insects when it is left to sit for several weeks. If you don’t plan on using your pool it should be covered and properly maintained or drained and disassembled.

SHEDS AND DETACHED GARAGES
These structures often get placed on the back burner or completely forgotten about because they are not a part of our house. But they are still a part of your property and therefore still require as much attention as does the rest of your house. Doors should be in working order and kept closed except when structure is being accessed. The exterior should be free of rust and deterioration. Sheds that have settled or shifted should be re-leveled.

LANDSCAPING
Grass needs to be kept cut in order to promote healthy growth. The ideal height for most grasses in this area is about 3 inches high. Keeping your grass cut also helps control unwanted weed growth such