

“I LOVE FALL!”

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It was about 10 years ago when my husband and I were driving past Simonson Market and I randomly blurted out, “Awah! I love fall!” Apparently he didn’t see the same stand in the parking lot that caught my attention, decorated with hail bales and sunflowers, selling fresh corn and pumpkins. Though I still get teased about it today, it’s true! Once I start seeing the maroon, orange and yellow flower arrangements in local shops...and the shade of the leaves around the lake slowly turning from deep green to golden yellow...and the thought of apple crisp, campfires and football! My thoughts also turn from, “I’m not ready for summer to be over!” to, “I think I’m going to change my name to Autumn.”

Come to think of it, I don’t think I’ve ever heard of someone who DOESN’T like this season. The hot, humid days are gone...along with the mosquitos! There are no worries (yet) of frozen roads and frigid temps. School has started, so all the parents are happy...sorry teachers. There just seems to be a shift in the air that is hard to complain about.

Like every season, this one seems to go by too fast. With all the fall festivals, pumpkin patches and tailgating parties, it often seems we barely have enough time to prepare our yards for winter. Raking leaves (and throwing the kids in the pile) can be a family event worked into the schedule of all the other autumn activities happening around town, however, what if you weren’t able to take an afternoon to clean up your leaves? Whether it was a disability you were living with or simply the act of aging that prevented you from working in your yard, would you have another option? This will be the 17th year for us to proudly be that option.

Senior Community Clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, October 29th where about 300 volunteers will meet at the Boys & Girls Club of Bemidji and spend the morning raking nearly 80 yards for our local seniors and others living with a disability. Not only is this an amazing opportunity for families, friends, church groups, coworkers and school organizations to get a group together and make memories together (*jumping in the leaves is highly encouraged*), but it is a chance for YOU to be that option for someone else. To help them enjoy this beautiful season, knowing their yard will be taken care of.

We’re also happy to take care of our volunteers on that day. Thanks to many local businesses and supporters, we will provide breakfast, lunch and door prizes as well as a free t-shirt if we receive registration by Oct 14th (218-333-8266 or info@northwoodscaregivers.org). For seniors or those living with a disability in the city of Bemidji, you can call 218-333-8261 by Oct 14th and we will send an incredible group of volunteers to your yard on the 29th. (*Warning: there may be some pile-jumping before the leaves are hauled away.*)

When the day is over and we have filled 5 truck-sized dumpsters with leaves from all around the community, I know I will be saying in my head, “Awah! I love fall!”

And I will be playing Christmas music the following day.

