



Your First Call For Quality service

**FJ LAWN CARE**  
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**APRIL AND MAY 2013**  
**VOLUME 1 /ISSUES 2 & 3**

## Welcome to Fj Lawn Care Newsletter!



**Snow removal in April. North Minneapolis**

I have to apologize, as I am a bit late getting the April newsletter out, by one day! So, I'm going to combine both April and May together and we'll have two drawings instead of one.

This has been quite the interesting spring, with three snow storms in April. One positive

note to these late spring snow falls is we've reached our normal ground water levels which will help in recovery from the drought last summer and fall.

With this late season snow slowing our lawn care efforts, we will be on solid spring clean ups for at least the next week and a half starting Monday 5/5 for most of our lawn care customers and new customers. This will be followed by spring maintenance which involves for the most part fertilizing with pre emergent for crabgrass and annual weeds. Along with these services we must not forget that the Moles and insects are becoming active, so, we will be starting our trapping, baiting, and insecticides for bugs and grubs in a week as well.

Once all the yards are cleaned up and the fertilizing is completed, the yards will really start to green up and before you know it we're cutting grass. Our mowing routes are still in need of a few good lawns! If you need us to care for your lawn mowing, which would be a professional cut, including the mowing, trimming around the entire yard, and blowing off all the sidewalks, steps and driveway. Give us a call or email us and we'll get you on our routes.

Don't forget, Mother's day is coming 5/12, so happy Mothers day to all you Mom's out there! Also, must not forget Memorial Day, remembering those that protect our country!

## April and May Drawing

On a monthly basis we will draw 1 name for a \$25 gift card to various establishments in the Metro area. We will also randomly draw 25% off discounts on lawn service.

At times these prize amounts may increase, but will stay at \$25 minimum.

**Rules:** Previous year customers will qualify for drawings through May 2013. Resigning customers or new customers in 2013 will qualify for each month of service. For example, if you sign up for say seasonal

**April winner \$25 gift card— Danielle K. Crystal, MN**

**May winner \$25 gift card— Kathy H. Minneapolis, MN**

mowing, which is April through October, this would qualify you for 7 months. If you were a Maintenance customer, say 4 fertilizations (4 months), 1 core aeration (1 month), Over seeding (1 month), and say a Fall clean up (1 month), this would qualify you for 7 months of drawings. If you have both

services, say mowing and maintenance, and the fertilization fell on the same month as mowing, your name would be entered twice. Once you win the gift prize, you can reenter in 4 months, and discounts in 3 months.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

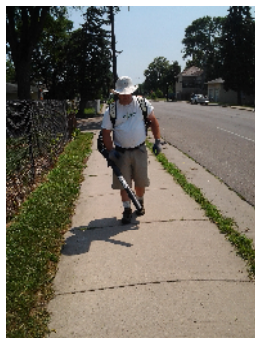
- ♦ *Monthly Prize Drawing*
- ♦ *Lawn Mower basics*
- ♦ *Mole damage and Control*
- ♦ *Recipe's by Yia Yia!*



**Spring Clean Up Coon Rapids, MN**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Monthly Drawing* 1
- Lawn Mower Basics* 2
- Mole Damage and Control* 2
- Recipe's by Yia Yia!* 3
- Message to our customers* 3



Lawn Mowing, trimming and blowing Minneapolis, MN

This time I'm going to explain this in a song that we're all familiar with, and yes this version is original, I think.

'Tis the season to be mowing,

*fa, la la la la la la la,*

with of course the mower, weed whip and blower,

*fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,*

But before you set out to mow your lawn, you best make sure your mower's strong

*Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la*

What do you do? you ask! Sure, let me explain! It first starts with a sharp blade to cut the grass, fol-

## Lawn Mower Basics

lowed by proper oil not too dark or too low, followed by a clean air filter.

*Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la,*

Don't forget to check the fuel to make sure it's not too old, and if it is dump it out, dumping from the muffler side route. Next thing to do is clean under the deck,

*scrape, scrape, scrape, scrape, scrape, scrape, scrape*

Of course we must not forget to add fresh gas, and it doesn't hurt to add a little Seafoam, like an oz per gallon. What does it do you ask? Helps keep the carb. cleaned out and not get full of gunk, causing the mower to run rough.

*Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la*

Ok, so you may think that this seems like a lot of work, after working 40 hour weeks, getting dinner ready, raising the kiddies, and all of the other priorities, the last thing you want to do is have to mow the yard!

*Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la*

Don't give it another thought, as you look at that tall grass and just say s\*\*\*\* it and have Fj Lawn Care do it!

Thank you, oh, thank you we'd love to help you! Every week a professionally cut lawn, we'll have you!

*Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, laaaaa!*

## Mole Damage and Control

Ok, I won't bore you with my song writing disability with this one.

Moles! They're every where! You know the furry little creatures that lurk beneath your grass, swimming through your soil, tearing up your hard earned investment on keeping that nice lawn. These little buggers are in search of food, and our lawns harbor a lot of what they need to survive, like earth worms, grubs, insects, slugs. You

name it, if anything living, or meaty falls into their tunnels (traps), they eat it. Pound for pound, the Mole is one of the strongest creature on earth. They have to be to do all the digging they do with their huge front paws and long claws. Moles also have a voracious appetite, needing to feed every three hours to sustain their almighty metabolism. This is why they dig so much. They are constantly on the move for food.

Enter Fj Lawn Care! We will assess the damage and take the proper course of action to control these pests. We will get the customer on a trapping program keeping the tunnels constantly blocked, not giving these critters any other avenues to escape, slowly removing them from your yard. At the same time we will test the turf for grubs, which we are licensed to control with pesticides. Between aggressive trapping and grub control we'll get a good handle on them.



Mole damage caused by tunneling. Brooklyn Park, MN

**'POUND FOR  
POUND, THE MOLE  
IS ONE OF THE  
STRONGEST  
CREATURES ON  
EARTH."**

## Recipe's by Yia Yia!

Who's ready to make some meatballs? I know I am, so let's get started! We mentioned in our last issue that we were going to make Keftedes or Greek meatballs, which is a favorite family recipe from my Yia Yia, Elefteria, which means 'the sun' in Greek. God rest her soul, she passed away 2/2008 at the age of 88. I remember growing up, her house would have this amazing aroma of garlic and Oregano all the time. She always cooked and a good cook she was. Her favorite was Keftedes, and when I was old enough to cook, she showed me her recipe.

### Ingredients:

**Ground Beef-** 1lb

**Eggs-** 2

**Bread-** 2 slices French bread (soaked in milk)

**Onions-** 1 medium onion

**Garlic-** 1 teaspoon

**Oregano-** 1 teaspoon

**Parsley-** 1 teaspoon

**Mint-** 1 tablespoon

**Flour-** 1 Cup

**Oil-** mix of olive oil/vegetable oil. Enough to fry meat balls.

Cooking instructions: Mix together all of the ingredients listed except for the oil and flour. Mix all of this up like mixing for a meat loaf. In a frying pan, add your mix of olive and vegetable oil, about an 1/8" deep to fry the meatballs. In a bowl, add flour. Once meat is mixed up, using a larger spoon, make 1 to 1.5" meatballs, and then roll each meatball in flour, bumping off the excess flour. At this time, turn on the heat to medium/high and start frying your meatballs, turning them every few minutes, so they don't burn. Like frying bacon or anything else in a pan, place these



**Keftedes (Greek Meatballs)**

on paper towel to drain off the rest of the oil once fully cooked. I make my meatballs in 3 lb batches, so I would use a 3 lb roll of meat. One thing Yia Yia would do is make several pounds at a time and freeze them once cooked, and as we needed them she would pull them from the freezer to eat. One other thing she did that was amazing, was she would take say maybe 8-10 meatballs, once cooked, would crumble these into a tomato sauce base, I think it was 1 jar Prago, some tomato paste, and some of her own seasoning, and she also added drippings from the keftedes and she would take these crumbled meatballs and cook them down into the sauce, so it infused the sauce and the meat became some what soft in the sauce. It was very good. She also served this over Greek pasta, or Orzo, which looks like rice, but is pasta. That's it, that's Keftedes! Of course, salad and bread or other things go great with this. Sometimes I'll eat these meatballs as a sandwich with a little ketchup. If you have any recipes you would like to share, feel free to email them to me and I'll post them in one of the news letters. About Elefteria, she was an army nurse in the Greek army during WWII fighting the Italians and soon after the Germans in Albania. Surviving the war, she moved to US, (Virginia, MN) and married my Papou, Louie, and had four kids.

*"MIX TOGETHER ALL  
OF THE  
INGREDIENTS  
LISTED EXCEPT FOR  
THE OIL AND FLOUR.  
MIX ALL OF THIS UP,  
LIKE MIXING FOR A  
MEAT LOAF"*

## Message to our Customers

Putting one foot in front of the other, is the name of the game! Don't ever believe that some thing can not be done, just because some one says it can't. Follow your own instincts and try it for your self. Determination, and hard work makes for success. Being in this business now for going on 2 1/2 years, I can tell you that it is constant work, not bad work, but non the less work, from hiring, to payroll, to sales, estimates, doing the work, etc. I've had some disappointments with some situations and some great

successes, but all of these things that happen to me or anyone else,



**Owner, Jim Thiewes**

are meant to be, or part of the process to success. One thing that we've learned from a young age, is that we learn from our mistakes and try not to repeat them. I've had some great guys that have quit for various reasons. Yes, bit disappointed that some one I thought was that guy to help grow this business, leaves. What do you do? You move on, you focus, you look for some one else and not dwell on the problem, but focus on the solution. We are all evolving every day and change is all around, and in order to survive we must adapt or we fail.