



# AROUND THE HOUSE

APRIL 2016

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS YOURS



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- New Roof Installation
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- Tile Roofs
- Flat Roofs
- Shingle Roofs
- Energy Efficient Roofs
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- Ventilation
- Fascia
- Gutter Repair/Installation
- Skylight

## Inside This Issue:

- **Earth Day: Then and Now**
- **Need a manly Kitchen for your Man Cave?**
- **Which Home Renovations Can do More Harm than Good?**

**Plus much, much more!!!**

## April Fools! (Or is it April Fish?)

April Fools' Day, also called All Fools' Day, is celebrated every April 1st in the United States. While it is not officially recognized as a holiday, many celebrate by pranking, or pulling practical jokes on their colleagues or by organizing larger-scale hoaxes.

As April Fools' is celebrated in different ways throughout the world, it is unknown exactly how the tradition originated. Some cultures saw it as the first day of spring, celebrating with general merriment and feasting, and certain calendars may consider it the first day of the year. One theory for the terming of an April Fool was that some refused to follow these calendars that recognized April 1st as the first day of the year, which resulted in being called an April Fool.

There are a few other theories as to precursors to the holiday tradition. Hilaria, a Roman festival, which celebrated Cybele, an Anatolian goddess, was celebrated around March 25th. The Feast of Fools was a term given to many medieval festivals celebrated during the fifth-sixteenth centuries in Europe, but particularly at the end of December. These celebrations developed a tradition of practical jokes, especially when observed in Spain.

However, the tradition of practical jokes had been well established by 1632, when legend states that the Duke of Lorraine and his wife escaped a prison at Nantes by dressing as peasants, walking right out the front gate. When the guards were alerted to the escape, they laughed at what they thought was an April Fools' prank. One of the first April Fools' pranks occurred in 1698, when citizens of London were tricked into attending the lion-washing ceremony at the Tower of London, a ceremony that did not actually exist.

### April Fools' Day Pranks

While Americans will typically shout, "April Fools!" after pulling off a prank, Europeans sometimes refer to the holiday as "April Fish," as many observers will tack a paper fish to another's back and yell "April Fish!" However, the individual pranked is still referred to as the "Fool." Fish are often featured on European April Fools' Day cards. Traditional pranking often stops at midday in the United Kingdom, and if one pranks after this time, they themselves become the fool.

Hunt-the-Gowk Day is Scotland's version of the holiday, where one sends a messenger back and forth between another person, each time saying that they need to contact the other before the issue can be resolved. However, this practice is dying out in modern times. The Persian New Year falls on April 1st, which is marked in Iran with one of the oldest pranking traditions that still exist. This is actually another theater as to the holiday's origin.

Many other cultures celebrate April Fools' Day similarly to the United States, and others may designate a "joke" day on another day of the year, such as May 1st for those living in Denmark.

You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time. ~ Abraham Lincoln

## Earth Day: April 22

### History

The first Earth Day was in 1970. Senator Gaylord Nelson, after seeing the damage done by a 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, was inspired to organize a national "teach-in" that focused on educating the public about the environment.

Nelson recruited Denis Hayes, a politically active recent graduate of Stanford University, as national coordinator, and persuaded U.S. Rep. Pete McCloskey of California to be co-chairman. With a staff of 85, they were able to rally 20 million people across the United States on April 20, 1970. Universities held protests, and people gathered in public areas to talk about the environment and find ways to defend the planet.

"Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values," according to a history of Earth Day by the Earth Day Network, which was founded by the event's organizers to promote environmental citizenship and action year-round.

Reflecting on the 10th anniversary of Earth Day, Nelson wrote in an article for EPA Journal, "It was on that day that Americans made it clear that they understood and were deeply concerned over the deterioration of our environment and the mindless dissipation of our resources." In 1995, President Bill Clinton awarded Nelson the Presidential Medal of Freedom for being the founder of Earth Day. This is the highest honor given to civilians in the United States.

### Modern Earth Day

Earth Day continued to grow over the years. In 1990, it went global, and 200 million people in 141 countries participated in the event, according to the Earth Day Network.

Earth Day 2000 included 5,000 environmental groups and 184 countries. Hayes organized a campaign that focused on global warming and clean energy. "The world's leaders in Kyoto, Japan, in late 1997, acknowledged the scientific fact that the leading cause of global warming is carbon emissions from fossil-fuel consumption, and that something must be done to address those rising emissions," Hayes told National Geographic.

In 2010, for the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, 225,000 people gathered at the National Mall for a climate rally. Earth Day Network launched a campaign to plant 1 billion trees, which was achieved in 2012, according to the organization.

Although Earth Day has become mainstream, surveys show that environmentalism may be stumbling. According to recent Gallup polls, 42 percent of Americans believe that the dangers of climate change are exaggerated, and less than half say that protection of the environment should be given priority over energy production.



"You're lucky. My wife won't let me have a man cave."



"Do you know you move your lips when you text?"

## Just for Fun

1. May - Bean - Flag
2. Lamb - Pork - Karate
3. Road - Weather - Treasure
4. Penguin - Kiwi - Ostrich
5. Bad T.V. Shows - Stamps - Checks
6. Sheets - Books - Rolls
7. Chips - Sweet - Spears
8. Right - Love - Bermuda
9. Buck - Baby - Wisdom
10. Crab - Caramel - Candy

### COMMONYMS

What's a commonym you ask?

A commonym is group of words that have a common trait in the three words/items listed. For example: A car - A tree - An elephant ... they all have trunks. These will make you think!

Answers on page 8

Can February March?

Answer on page 8

# Precision Roof Crafters, Inc.

## April Is:

- National Humor Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- Lawn and Garden Month
- National Poetry Month
- National Pecan Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- Guitar Month

## Clear Gutter Clutter

Usually you think about your gutters in fall. But plenty of debris can accumulate there in the six months since you last cleaned them.

It's easy to miss leaves from trees that don't go bare until late fall. They're probably still up there. Storm-blown sticks aren't going anywhere by themselves. Many trees drop spring buds and flowers, and then there are the clouds of white cottony stuff blowing from the cottonwoods. By the middle of April, it's time to clean the gutters again. Here are a few safety tips.

\* You'll be climbing a ladder, so don't wear loose clothes that could trip you up or catch on the ladder or the gutter. Wear shoes that easily grip each rung of the ladder.

\* Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes and wear work gloves so you won't be cut by something sharp, which could also startle you and make you fall.

\* Always work with a partner who can hold the ladder and help to move it to the next work spot, and who can call for help if you fall or are injured.

\* Use a trowel instead of your hands, even if you are wearing gloves.

\* Dump debris into a garbage can below. If you miss it, you can sweep up when you're finished. Never carry a trash bucket up the ladder.

You may not look forward to the project, but gutters are needed to carry water away the foundation and basement. And they can prevent wall damage on the inside of a home.

## Need a Man Kitchen for the Man Cave?

Some say kitchens are becoming the new man caves. Men say they do want to cook but would like kitchen features that are more appropriate for their sizes and tastes. Kitchens of Montana, Santa Monica, Calif., says men like ...

\* Bold darker colors offset by black or white, a crisp and clean style.

\* Beefed up hardware. They are more comfortable with larger handles on drawers and cabinets and like brass and bronze hardware.

\* Colorful appliances and gadgets. Red ranges are a favorite as are small appliances of the same color.

\* A second sink. They want simple hardware on it and a spray-faucet attachment worthy of a firehouse, says New York architect James Ramsey.

\* Elevated counters, or at least one elevated counter. One recent remodeler raised the central island by 2 inches, making it 38 inches high.

\* A wireless sound system and TV that can be controlled with a smartphone. New York designer Bob Schwartz likes the Sonos system for its compactness and great sound.

\* Very tough surfaces on counters. Designer Young Huh says Caesarstone and Silestone are big names in this category. Some men like to tenderize meat or saw a large bone in half without damaging the counter.

\* Heavy duty power for ranges, exhaust systems and dishwashers. With a powerful stove, choose a hood designed for high BTUs, which will also clear the cooking smoke a guy can create.

\* A higher vent hood. Avoid head bumps: hang the hood a little higher.

\* Space for socializing. The center island should have seats and elbow room so guests can share the space with the cook.

## Raise Your Hand to Volunteer

President George H.W. Bush's inauguration address in 1989 that praised "all the individuals and community organizations spread like stars through the nation, doing good."

During his first year, he founded the Points of Light Foundation and then launched the current volunteerism movement by signing the first piece of federal service legislation in 20 years, the National and Community Service Act of 1990.

Today, Points of Light partners with thousands of corporations and nonprofits through affiliate organization in 250 cities. More than 4 million Americans give 30 million hours of service every year.

Celebrate Service. That's the message that local volunteer groups will be promoting between April 10-16, a week-long effort to inspire and encourage everyone to join and to work with their neighbors and business cohorts to address the myriad issues that prevent the full enjoyment of life.

Volunteers are needed to care for infants and teens with AIDS, provide job training for the homeless, teach immigrants English or illiterate adults to read, work with hospice patients or youth sports teams, deliver meals to shut-ins, mentor a child, or to provide monthly haircuts or manicures to those in a nursing home. Celebrate service by becoming a point of light in someone's life. Everyday should be a day to volunteer.

National Volunteer Week began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every President since has signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week.

	4	1						
	5						6	
8	3		2	9				
			4	7				6
	1						5	
6				8	9			
				4	5		2	7
	8						3	
						1	8	

To solve a sudoku, you only need logic and patience. No math is required.  
Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has a number 1 through 9 with only one occurrence of each number.

Each column and row of the large grid must have only one instance of the numbers 1 through 9.

The difficulty rating on this puzzle is easy.

**WE WELCOME THIS MONTH'S NEW CLIENTS TO THE "PRECISION ROOF CRAFTERS" FAMILY**

**Here are some of our new clients that became members of the "Precision Roof Crafters Family" this past month. I'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!**

Les A., Houston

John G., Richmond

Gregory H., Houston

Gloria M., Houston

Aaron A., Missouri City

Glenn G., Houston

Peggy K., Sugar Land

Debeshree S., Houston

Rick D., Pearland

Clint G., Houston

David L., Katy

Benjamin S., Tomball

Robert F., Houston

Zen H., Spring

Richard M., Houston

**Home Renovations  
(When Addition Can Subtract)**

Whether you're thinking of selling your home or just want to improve its comfort value, there are inexpensive steps you can take to achieve either goal.

They include adding ceiling fans; updating appliances to attractive, energy-saving units, applying a fresh coat of paint and replacing old-style light fixtures.

Here are some renovations that will decrease the value of your home, according to Scott McGillivray, author of *How to Add Value to Your Home*.

\* Breaking down the wall between two small bedrooms to create a master suite. Buyers prefer three-bedrooms.

\* Converting an attached garage to living space. Sounds like a good idea, but many buyers won't even look at a home that doesn't have a garage.

\* Adding artistic touches to the home, like large wall paintings. They can be painted over, but most buyers prefer uncluttered walls, a blank space for them to fill in, not an example of the previous owner's tastes.

\* Painting walls dark colors tends to make home buyers think the rooms are small and unwelcoming. Light-colored walls make the rooms feel larger and friendlier, which is what home buyers want, even if they will paint the walls themselves.

\* Doing it yourself: Quoted in *Bottom Line Personal*, McGillivray says that unless you are a professional remodeler, skip do-it-yourself updates. When buyers, and the home inspectors they hire, see such work, they wonder what else you have done, such as working on the electricity and plumbing. Buyers are more confident when they feel a home has been professionally maintained.

\* Adding a chain-link fence in the front yard looks cheap and unwelcoming. And it give buyers a low first impression of the property.

**Market Developers Are Considering the Millennial**

It could be that builders are taking a cue from retirees and millennials. They both want a reasonably sized home that's beautiful and comfortable but costs less than the new homes builders have been constructing.

In some areas, high home prices have almost closed off the new-home market to young buyers, but that's changing fast. Local builders and national companies are now offering entry-level homes. They can cost about 30 percent less than a builder's other offerings.

As one builder put it, there are only so many people who can afford to buy a home for \$400,000. So they are building homes that will cost much less.

Many millennials are willing to sacrifice luxury for affordability. One couple quoted in *Bloomberg Businessweek* bought a home with particle board cabinets and a small yard, but the price was right and they wanted to build home equity.

They say that after they have kids, they can buy their dream home with a big backyard. At that time they will be making a lot more money. A time to buy now?

Real estate advisors say that if a millennial or retiree can find an entry-level home they like and can afford, it would be a good time to buy it.

Everything related to homes could rise in the future, including land prices and mortgage interest rates.

The Federal Reserve has begun raising interest rates for the first time in seven years, which could nudge mortgage interest rates higher.

**Cutting the Cord**

A Pew Research Center study published in December shows that 24 percent of Americans do not subscribe to cable or satellite television.

Young adults are most likely not to have a cable or satellite subscription. In fact, 16 percent have never had a television subscription.

About 75 percent of young adults without a cable subscription say they access information online.

## Chicken Asparagus Roll-Ups

### Ingredients

- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 lemon, juiced and zested
- 2 teaspoons dried tarragon
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper, ½ teaspoon salt
- 16 spears fresh asparagus, trimmed
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- 4 slices provolone
- 1 cup panko bread crumbs



### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 475 degrees F (245 degrees C). Grease a baking dish. In a bowl, mix together the mayonnaise, Dijon mustard, lemon juice, lemon zest, tarragon, salt, and pepper until the mixture is well combined. Set aside.
2. Cook asparagus in the microwave on High until bright green and just tender, 1 to 1 1/2 minutes. Set the asparagus spears aside. Place a chicken breast between two sheets of heavy plastic (resealable freezer bags work well) on a solid, level surface. Firmly pound the chicken breast with the smooth side of a meat mallet to a thickness of about 1/4 inch. Repeat with the rest of the chicken breasts.
3. Place 1 slice of provolone on each chicken breast, and top the cheese with 4 asparagus spears per breast. Roll the chicken breasts around the asparagus and cheese, making a tidy package, and place, seam sides down, in the prepared baking dish. With a pastry brush, apply a coating of the mayonnaise mixture to each chicken breast, and sprinkle each with panko crumbs, pressing the crumbs into the chicken to make a coating.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until the crumbs are browned and the chicken juices run clear, about 25 minutes

### Pecan Cups



- 3 ounces cream cheese
  - ½ cup butter
  - 1 cup all-purpose flour
  - ¾ cup packed brown sugar
  - 1 tablespoon butter
  - 1 egg, beaten
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - ¾ cup chopped pecans
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
  2. To Make Crust: In a medium mixing bowl blend softened cream cheese and 1/2 cup butter or margarine until thoroughly combined. Add flour and mix well. Place in refrigerator to chill.
  3. In a medium mixing bowl combine brown sugar and 1 tablespoon butter or margarine. Add egg and vanilla, and blend well. Stir in pecans.
  4. Pat crust into the bottoms of paper muffin cups. Pour in filling, distributing evenly between all cups. Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes.

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3776**



**Client of the Month!**

Every month we choose a Precision Roof Crafters' Client Of The Month. It's just our way of saying thanks and giving a little recognition to our good friends and clients who help support us!

This month's client of the month is **Rebecca Marek!** Congratulations! **Rebecca wins a \$50 Gift Card.**

You can be the client of the month too! Watch for your name here in an upcoming month! You can be the client of the month too!

**SEND A REFERRAL: GET A PRIZE**

For every referral you send our way that becomes a client, you will receive a gift from our company:

"A \$25 Pre-Paid American Express Gift Card"

By referring your family, friends & neighbors, you've helped our business grow. Offering these special rewards is our way of saying, **"Thank you, you're the best!"**

Without you, we couldn't do what we do. To take advantage of our Referral Reward Program, just fill out the enclosed referral sheet and either fax or send it in. That's all there is to it!

**ROCKET REFERRAL REWARD PROGRAM!**

If you use this form, we will be able to make sure you get credit for all of your referrals when they become clients. If you have any questions, just give us a call at (insert your phone number).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Referrals: If you run out of room, please feel free to use a separate sheet of paper.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes! Feel free to use my name as a reference when you contact the referrals!**

**Fax To: 713.334.4458**

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2	4	1	6	5	8	9	7	3
7	5	9	1	3	4	2	6	8
8	3	6	2	9	7	5	4	1
3	2	5	4	7	1	8	9	6
9	1	8	3	6	2	7	5	4
6	7	4	5	8	9	3	1	2
1	9	3	8	4	5	6	2	7
5	8	2	7	1	6	4	3	9
4	6	7	9	2	3	1	8	5

1. Poles
2. Types of chops
3. Maps
4. Birds that don't fly
5. They all get cancelled
6. Ways stamps are sold
7. Pickles
8. Triangles
9. Teeth
10. Apples

Riddle Answer:

No – but April May!

# Precision Roof Crafters, Inc. Money Saving Coupon

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Take Advantage of Our \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

**APRIL SPECIAL**  
**\$20 OFF**  
**Diagnostic & Evaluation**

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**As always you have our Personal Satisfaction Guarantee**

Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.  
Must present this coupon to receive offer.  
Coupon expires May 15, 2016



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