



# AROUND THE HOUSE

AUGUST 2015

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS YOURS



## **Our Services Include:**

### *New Roof Installation*

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- *Metal Roofs*
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- *Ventilation*
- *Fascia*
- *Gutter Repair/Installation*
- *Skylight Repair/Installation*
- *Insurance Claims*

## **Inside This Issue:**

- **This May Be the Summer to Sell Your Home!**
- **Choose the Ideal Generator for Your Outdoor Adventure**
- **A Solar Battery in Every Home?**

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

## **Back to School (Some Golden Rules)**

Starting the new school year can be a time of great excitement... and anxiety. Help calm your child's fears (and your own) with these teacher-approved tips.

### **Meet the new teacher.**

For kids, one of the biggest back-to-school fears is "Will I like my new teacher?" Breaking the ice early on is one of the best ways to calm everyone's fears. Take advantage of your school's open house or back-to-school night. Some teachers welcome phone calls or e-mails — another great opportunity to get to know each other before the year begins.

If personal contact with the teacher isn't possible, try locating the teacher's picture on a school website or in a yearbook, so your child can put a name with a face. If your child's teacher sends a welcome letter, be sure to read the letter together.

### **Tour the school.**

If your school hosts an open house, be sure to go. Familiarizing your child with her environment will help her avoid a nervous stomach on the first day. Together you can meet her teacher, find her desk, or explore the playground.

With an older child, you might ask him to give you a tour of the school. This will help refresh his memory and yours.

### **Connect with friends.**

A familiar friend can make all the difference when heading back to school. You might try calling parents from last year's class and finding out which children are in your child's class this year. Refresh these relationships before school starts by scheduling a play date or a school carpool.

### **Tool up.**

Obtain the class supply list and take a special shopping trip with your child. Having the right tools will help him feel prepared. While keeping basic needs in mind, allow for a couple of splurges like a cool notebook or a favorite-colored pen. These simple pleasures make going back to school a lot more fun.

School supply lists also provide great insight into the schoolwork ahead. Get your child excited about upcoming projects by explaining how new supplies might be used. Let him practice using supplies that he's not used before — such as colored pencils or a protractor — so he will be comfortable using them in class.

### **Avoid last-minute drilling.**

When it's almost time to stop playing, give a five-minute warning. Giving clear messages to your child is very important.

### **Chat about today's events and tomorrow's plans.**

While it is important to support learning throughout the summer, don't spend the last weeks of summer vacation reviewing last year's curriculum. All kids need some down time before the rigors of school begin. For some kids, last-minute drills can heighten anxiety, reminding them of what they've forgotten instead of what they remember.

### **Ease into the routine.**

Switching from a summer to a school schedule can be stressful to everyone in the household. Avoid first-day-of-school mayhem by practicing your routine a few days in advance. Set the alarm clock, go through your morning rituals, and get in the car or to the bus stop on time. Routines help children feel comfortable, and establishing a solid school routine will make the first day of school go much smoother.

## Looks Like a Hot Summer for the Real Estate Market

Good news in employment has kicked the real estate market into high gear this summer.

The numbers say it's a great time to sell a home and demand is high.

In the latest figures available, May sales of existing homes climbed 5.1 percent, the third month in a row that sales exceeded 5 million homes.

Home sellers are finding that prices are up nearly 8 percent in the last 12 months. In many markets this is because there just enough homes on the market to meet demand. So prices are being nudged up.

Rising prices brings some cheer to the market because it means that fewer people owe more on their homes than the home value. In fact, the number of people upside down in their mortgages has dropped 19 percent in the last year.

For some homeowners, this could mean it's time to go back in the market and sell.

Meanwhile for buyers, mortgages are still very low. Most 30-year fixed rate loans have been just above 4 percent this summer. But that was a slight increase from the dramatic lows of 3.59 percent -- those rates have been offered for more than four years.

Confidence and low interest rates put buyers in the market for their first homes. About 32 percent of homes sold in May were to first-time buyers. That is up from 27 percent a year ago, according to economists.

### Low supply: Act fast

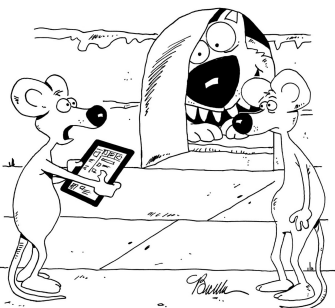
With supply of homes for sale down, buyers have to focus on their goal, making sure to get pre-approved for a loan, and be prepared to make a deal. As interest rates make a slow climb up, people looking for a house to become their home should move quickly. Even a 1 percent rise in the interest rate could slash buying power. Interest rates moving up 1 percent means that a buyer once approved for \$150,000 might only be able to spend \$135,000. So if your heart is in a home, acting quickly is crucial.

### Mortgages are available

New data by lenders shows that some consumers overestimate what they need to qualify for a home loan. Two-thirds think they need a credit score over 780, which is considered excellent, but a credit score of 660 or above is considered good. Some 36 percent think they need 20 percent down, but this is usually not the case.



"Welcome to Walmart. Shopping or just taking photos of people?"



"The cat just sent me a Facebook friend request. Do you think it's some kind of trick?"

## Just for Fun

1. A Bull - A Car - A Shoe Salesman
2. A Courtroom - A Dugout - A Park
3. A Football Team - A Phone - A Stereo
4. Yellow - Black - Baltic
5. Dark - White - Milk
6. Steak - Spaghetti - Tartar
7. A Bobbin - Spider Webb - A Screw
8. Tow - Row - Show
9. Rally - Stock - Drag
10. Families - Trees - Hair

### 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

Why did the clock in the cafeteria run slow?

Answer on page 8

**August Is:**

- **Admit You're Happy Month**
- **Family Fun Month**
- **National Catfish Month**
- **National Eye Exam Month**
- **Peach Month**
- **Water Quality Month**
- **National Picnic Month**

**Picnics Past and Present**

Picnic is actually a very old term. Most people believe picnic is taken from the French word, *picque-nique*, which first appeared at the end of the seventeenth century. It wasn't until 200 years later that *The Picnic Society* made picnic a common English word. We get "pic" from the French word *piquer*. The *nique* part is most likely just a reiteration (such as English words like hoity-toity).

The French picnic referred to a fashionable type of social entertainment in which each person who attended the picnic brought a share of the food in the first picnic baskets. This element was picked up in other picnic terms, such as picnic society. A picnic society described gatherings of educated people where everyone was expected to perform at the picnic or contribute in some other way to the success of the picnic. The association of picnic an outdoor meal didn't appear in English until about the middle of the nineteenth century. Around this time picnic blankets first appeared.

In the early 19th century, a group of wealthy people living in London formed *The Picnic Society* for purposes of entertainment and promoting the idea of the picnic. They envisioned the picnic as a social gathering at which each participant would bring food to be shared with everyone. Each and every member of a picnic was expected to provide a share of the entertainment as well as their fair share of the refreshments. The idea of mutual sharing and cooperation among all those attended the picnic was fundamental to the original significance of the picnic.

Much later picnic took on the additional meaning of an outdoor pleasure party. Nowadays one thinks of a picnic as a casual meal. Modern picnics can be provisioned by only one cook. What matters in a modern picnic is that the food is eaten outdoors. Picnic, as it is now used, includes almost every type of informal outdoor meal; clambake, barbecue (BBQ), or fish fry.

**Water Water Everywhere ...**

Water sustains all life. Entire ecosystems depend on it for their survival.

The United Nations has declared 2005-2015 an International Decade for Action "Water for Life" in order to emphasize the importance of water quality as it relates to sanitation, human rights, geography, urbanization and sustainability.

It has identified eutrophication or the incidence of high-nutrient concentrations - phosphorus and nitrogen - as the most widespread water quality problem globally. The way people manage wastewater from cities, farms and industrial sites contributes to this phenomenon, which contributes to water pollution everywhere.

August is National Water Quality Month in the United States.

Emphasizing how interlinked water systems are, the **Audubon Society** points to the dangers of runoff from agriculture, forestry, construction and people's personal yards:

"Each individual household may not produce enough pollution to force a beach closing or cause a fish kill, but the combined output of all the homes in a community can be severe. And, consider that about half of the U.S. population lives within 50 miles of a coastline where runoff flows quickly to the ocean. This is why watershed protection — attention not only to the body of water but the area that drains into it — is important."

The Environmental Protection Agency, which reports that 40 percent of the nation's waterways suffer water quality problems, has a detailed **watershed database**, which allows users to locate which watershed they live in and learn about how polluted it is and what actions they can take to protect their regional water quality.

Clean Water Action offers a succinct but thorough **factsheet** on what individuals and families can do to prevent water pollution from their homes, including:

- not using antibacterial soaps or cleaning products
- not flushing unwanted or out-of-date medications down the toilet or drain
- not putting anything but water down storm drains
- fixing leaks that drop from cars and putting liners in driveways to collect oil and other materials
- avoiding using pesticides or chemical fertilizers
- choosing nontoxic household products when possible
- picking up after pets
- not paving properties

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	4	5		8				9

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!*

- ♦ B. Baber, Houston ♦ J. Covington, Houston ♦ R. Cramer, Houston ♦ S. De La Garza, Houston ♦ L. Diggory, Houston ♦
- ♦ B. Fox, Houston ♦ C. Gaines, Houston ♦ S. Garlington, Pearland ♦ E. Gonzales, Houston ♦ D. Gonzales, Houston ♦
- ♦ K. Hartzog, Houston ♦ M. Kyaw, Pearland ♦ E. Mazziotta, Houston ♦ X. Miao, Houston ♦ A. Morehead, Houston ♦
- ♦ E. Morris, Pearland ♦ M. Mullins, Houston ♦ G. Nguyen, Houston ♦ S. Night, Houston ♦ J. Ostergrant, Pearland ♦
- ♦ G. Saxe, Houston ♦ E. Spearman, Houston ♦ D. Tickle, Houston ♦ J. Tran, Houston ♦ J. Wright, Houston ♦

*We are giving recognition to our new clients and our superb friends who are kind enough to refer their neighbors and relatives to us.*

**A Solar Battery in Every Garage?**

Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk wants to sell a battery as a lifestyle choice.

Early response to his pitch for the Powerwall, a 220-pound solar battery designed to hang on a garage wall, has been strong. Musk says they have received 38,000 presale reservations from around the world for about 50,000 batteries priced at \$3,000 and up.

The idea of independent power has wide appeal for homeowners who are tired of paying the electric company or who are concerned about the environment, says Bloomberg Businessweek.

It may be affordable for homes that already have solar panels on the roof.

But if you are starting from scratch in the U.S., the cost of panels and batteries could add up to \$98,000, according to an analysis by Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF). And the equipment would rarely be used to its full potential.

"The battery-in-every-home idea, not only do I think it doesn't make economic sense, I don't think it's necessary," said BNEF analyst Brian Warshay.

The battery is garage infrastructure, not something you can fiddle with and fall for like a phone or a car.

**Power Up Your Outdoor Adventure**

Recreational generators can supply power to the most remote places on Earth, including most campsites.

In the past, they've had a bad rap because of their noise levels. Not anymore. New generators use inverter technology, which makes them far quieter.

You can use an older emergency generator at your campsite; but the current won't be clean enough for electronics like cell phones or laptops, and the noise they produce is aggravating.

**Inverter Generators**

Ideal for outdoor adventures such as camping, boating, and tailgating, the new inverter generators are extra quiet because they utilize a unique type of alternator to generate very clean AC power. They are also smaller and weigh less. Equally as important, the engine can run at varying speeds, significantly reducing fuel consumption and any noise they might generate.

**RV Generators**

Mike Sawisch, a product expert at Electric Generator Direct, says RV generators are designed to meet the high-powered demands of recreational -vehicle appliances like air conditioning units, refrigerators and TVs.

They cost a little more than other portable generators, but it's worth it to have the power you need.

**Be an Angel and ...**

Every year, on August 22, National Be an Angel Day, we have the opportunity to put away our phones and become mindfully aware of the people around us, including family members and neighbors. Do they have a special need? How can we help? Here are a few suggestions:

- Wash the car of an elderly or ill neighbor.
- Tip the pizza delivery guy 50-100%.
- Help someone finish a tiring task without being asked.
- Take your clean, lightly-used clothing or household goods to local victims of a flood or tornado.
- Smile at strangers.
- Buy coffee coupons and place them anonymously on coworkers' desks.
- Notice and greet by name or compliment a shy or reticent coworker.

No matter how small or seemingly insignificant your act of kindness, it will be received with a smile and gratitude. Being angelic can become addictive, too.

One last word. Angels don't boast or text the others about their good deeds. They just feel an inner glow of satisfaction.

## Cajun Catfish Supreme

### Ingredients

- 1 ½ pounds catfish fillets, cut into strips
- 2 teaspoons Cajun-style blackening seasoning
- 4 tablespoons mayonnaise
- ½ cup butter
- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 pound small peeled shrimp
- 1 cup sliced green onions
- 2 (10.75 ounce) cans condensed cream of shrimp soup



### Directions

- Sprinkle catfish strips with blackened fish seasoning. Spread catfish with mayonnaise. Place in a shallow dish, cover, and refrigerate for 1 hour.
- In a large skillet, heat 4 tablespoons butter until it begins to sizzle. Sear the fish strips until golden, turning once. Transfer to a 9x13 inch baking dish, and arrange fish in a single layer.
- In the same skillet, heat remaining 4 tablespoons butter over medium heat. Cook and stir mushrooms in butter until golden. Stir in parsley, green onions, and shrimp. Reduce heat to low, and cook until shrimp are pink and tender. Stir in cream of shrimp soup, and blend well. Ladle soup mixture over fish in baking dish.
- Bake at 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) for 30 minutes.

Recipe Source: Allrecipes.com



### Peach Wrinkle

- 6 fresh peaches, peeled, pitted and sliced
- ½ cup white sugar
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup milk
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Grease a baking dish.
- Mix peaches with 1/2 cup sugar in a bowl. Arrange in the bottom of the prepared baking dish.
- Beat butter and 1 cup sugar together in a bowl until creamy. Add eggs and milk; stir to combine. Mix flour, baking powder, and salt together in a separate bowl; add to butter mixture. Stir until fully incorporated. Pour batter evenly over peaches.
- Bake in the preheated oven until center is set and bounces back when lightly pressed, 40 to 45 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 the **Edith Hicks!** Congratulations! **Thank you, Edith, for Gayle McKay to us!!!** **Edith Hicks** wins a **\$50 Gift Card**. You can be the client of the month too! Watch for your name here in an upcoming month!

**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:

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).

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your 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**

**Mail To: 3919 Jeanetta, Houston TX 77063**



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

Puzzle Answer:

1. They all have horns
2. They have benches
3. They have receivers
4. Seas
5. Chocolates
6. Sauces
7. They have threads
8. Boats
9. Car races
10. They have roots

Riddle Answer:

It always went back four seconds!

## Precision Roof Crafters, Inc. Money Saving Coupon

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

**AUGUST SPECIAL**

**\$20 OFF  
Diagnostic &  
Evaluation**

**Service Call**

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

Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.  
Must present this coupon to receive offer.

**Offer expires September 15, 2015**



*New Roof Installation • Roof Repairs • Metal Roofs • Tile  
Roofs • Flat Roofs • Shingle Roofs • Energy Efficient Roofs •  
Roof Diagnostic & Evaluation • Ventilation • Fascia • Gutter  
Repair/Installation • Skylight Repair/Installation • Insurance  
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