



AROUND THE HOUSE

JULY 2016

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS YOURS



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- Skylight

Inside This Issue:

- **Keep These Rules in Mind for a Safe and Happy 4th!**
- **Homebuyers – This Just Might be Your Lucky Month!**
- **Don't Want to Mow the Lawn? Let a Robot Do It!**

Plus much, much more!!!

The Story of Independence Day

The Declaration of Independence

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the **Declaration of Independence** and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776).

It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775).

And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).

So what did happen on July 4, 1776?

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

In contrast, we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th of each year, the anniversary of the date the Constitution was signed, not the anniversary of the date it was approved. If we'd followed this same approach for the Declaration of Independence we'd be celebrating Independence Day on August 2nd of each year, the day the Declaration of Independence was signed!

How did the Fourth of July become a national holiday?

For the first 15 or 20 years after the Declaration was written, people didn't celebrate it much on any date. It was too new and too much else was happening in the young nation. By the 1790s, a time of bitter partisan conflicts, the Declaration had become controversial. One party, the Democratic-Republicans, admired Jefferson and the Declaration. But the other party, the Federalists, thought the Declaration was too French and too anti-British, which went against their current policies.

Adams complained in a letter that America seemed uninterested in its past. But that would soon change.

After the War of 1812, the Federalist Party began to come apart and the new parties of the 1820s and 1830s all considered themselves inheritors of Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans. Printed copies of the Declaration began to circulate again, all with the date July 4, 1776, listed at the top. The deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, may even have helped to promote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated.

Celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common as the years went on and in 1870, almost a hundred years after the Declaration was written, Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday as part of a bill to officially recognize several holidays, including Christmas. Further legislation about national holidays, including July 4, was passed in 1939 and 1941.

Firework Safety for a Happy 4th

Remember, fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious burn and eye injuries. You can help us prevent fireworks-related injuries and deaths. How? By working with a national, state or local organization where you live to promote fireworks safety in your community.

Follow these safety tips when using fireworks:

- Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.
- Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting.
- A responsible adult SHOULD supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.
- Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away.
- Use fireworks OUTDOORS in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Always have a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby.
- Never carry fireworks in your POCKET or shoot them into METAL or GLASS containers.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.
- FAA regulations PROHIBIT the possession and transportation of fireworks in your checked baggage or carry-on luggage.
- Report illegal explosives, like M-80s and quarter sticks, to the fire or police department.



"He's no longer listed in serious condition."



"I can work days, evenings, nights...I'm very flexible."

Just for Fun

1. Help - Yesterday - Revolution
2. Moth - Meat - Medicine
3. Robert Kennedy - Julius Caesar - John Lennon
4. Orchestras - Ears - Brakes
5. Cliff - Springboard - Platform
6. Radio - Brain - Tidal
7. Shag - Red - Magic
8. Snow - Corn - Dandruff
9. Tennis - Small Claims - Supreme
10. Surprise - Search - Slumber

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

What do you call an American drawing? Answer on page 8

Precision Roof Crafters, Inc.

July Is:

- National Anti-Boredom Month
- Unlucky Month for Weddings
- National Blueberry Month
- National Cellphone Courtesy Month
- National Hot Dog Month
- National Ice Cream Month

Gardening? (There's an App for That!)

A number of apps allow you to plan, nurture and identify plants.

Identification

These apps can be handy if you see a plant in the wild or in a nearby garden that you love but can't identify. Or if you forgot the name of the plant in your garden.

Two apps, *Like That Garden* and *Garden Answers*, are similar in that you can take a picture of a plant and submit it for identification. You can see some suggestions as to what the plant might be. In testing out a picture of a Ninebark Bush, each app returned at least seven possible matches, including the right one. However, the photos were so ambiguous that in one case, we appealed to the \$1.99 Ask the Expert feature. The correct answer came by email in about a day.

On the other hand, we also got the correct answer from the Facebook Plant Ident site, in about 3 minutes. Of course, Facebook relies on what garden experts are online at the time.

Knowing what to plant

The right soil, sun, and water add up to success in gardening.

The most elaborate app for this purpose is *Gro*. This app, which is free to download, works with accessories you can purchase to help analyze soil, recommend a plant perfect for the conditions, and even control watering schedules.

Gro can also recommend plant combinations - like the plants you'll need to grow to make salsa, according to maketecheasier.com. Or, it can recommend plants that will beautify your landscape.

Good News for Home Buyers

As spring fades away and summer vacations go on the record books, house hunters are scanning the economy and coming up with some great conclusions. One of the best: It's a good time to buy a home.

Propped up by steady job growth rates, wages slowly rising, and favorable mortgage interest rates, housing demand is rising. The latest report on existing home sales underscores this.

Quarterly results from luxury home builder Toll Brothers should ease any concern about that area. Economists polled by The Wall Street Journal estimate sales of newly built homes rose 2.3 percent in April from a month earlier.

The National Association of Home Builders reports that their gauge of builder sentiment shows home builders are optimistic about current conditions.

One factor that has held housing back, affordability, is now giving house hunters a second chance for a more positive outlook.

While rising home values have made it difficult for buyers, especially first-time home buyers, to get a mortgage, the National Association of Realtors say new affordability gains have tipped the scales in the favor of home hunters.

When affordability was compared with median household income by NAR, the study showed that by that measure housing is more affordable than it was last summer.

Leaving the Fold

It is the computer age. We can make a phone call, play a game, save a report, and send data to Japan with about four words to our smartphone assistant.

Why are we still folding laundry?

Answer: There is just no app for that. But there could soon be a machine and, failing that, there are new strategies.

All the newest clothes dryers helpfully steam, de-wrinkle and freshen but somehow when they come out of the machine, they are not folded. According to the Wall Street Journal, most of the major appliance makers have not solved this problem. Same with unloading dishes into cabinets; it doesn't happen.

During a lifetime, people spend 18,000 hours (375 days) doing laundry and half that time is manually handling each piece and folding. A Tokyo-based company is developing the Laundroid to address an annoying gap in the market. The size of a refrigerator, the Laundroid takes several hours to fold a load of laundry. Drop shirts, pants, and towels into the machine and overnight they are folded.

Another strategy being developed in California. FoldiMate is a folding machine about the size of a washer. Users clip a dozen items to the outside of the machine. Folding takes 10 seconds per garment. Dewrinkling takes 30 seconds per garment. Neither the Laundroid nor FoldiMate is on the market yet, but plans are to start production in about a year.

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

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!

P. Foucher, Houston * B. St.Cyr, Houston * T. Whipple, Houston * K. Brown, 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.

**Have Your Milk
(and Drink it Too)**

People who suffer from lactose intolerance often needlessly avoid dairy products, according to the National Institutes of Health.

About 30 million Americans are deficient in the enzyme lactase, causing a condition called lactose intolerance. It can cause bloating, cramps, flatulence, diarrhea, stomach ache, even nausea.

Previously, it was thought that avoiding dairy products was the only way to avoid the symptoms. That meant the people didn't get such nutrients as calcium, protein, magnesium, potassium, zinc, and phosphorous, more of which are found in dairy products than others.

A National Institutes of Health study shows that 8 ounces of milk, small helpings of yogurt, and hard cheese, particularly if eaten with other foods throughout the day, may effectively manage symptoms.

NIH recommends starting with small amounts of dairy -- one-fourth cup to one-half cup of milk with meals. Chocolate milk is also an alternative to unflavored white milk. Some say that it is easier to digest.

Many find that Low-lactose cheeses are acceptable small servings. Try Swiss, Colby, Monterey Jack, and mozzarella.

Finally, don't avoid dairy because of a self-diagnosis of lactose intolerance. See your doctor.

Let a Robot Mow the Lawn

If you like your robotic vacuum cleaner, you're a prime prospect for a robotic lawn mower.

They resemble a Roomba vacuum cleaner, but they target grass instead of dust. Traveling around your yard, the battery-operated mowers are quiet enough to work at night or on Sunday morning.

Because they run on a schedule you set, you can start them any time you want. In fact, a robotic mower is most effective when used more than once a week, trimming a small amount each time. The clippings are fine enough to sift back into the ground.

Robotic mowers do require some set-up time. You have to tack down the included low-voltage wire around the perimeter of the lawn, creating an invisible fence. After that they run by themselves.

Though the technology is rather new, anyone who hates mowing can consider one of these three models:

- Robomow RS630 has triangular blades, weighs 44 pounds, and cuts a 22-inch swath (\$2,100 at robomow.com).
- Husqvarna Automower 220 AC weighs 19.8 pounds and has three blades. It cuts an 8.7-inch-wide path, making it ideal for half-acre or smaller lawns (\$2,400 at husqvarna.com).
- Worx Landroid M weighs 20 pounds and cuts a 7-inch path. After laying perimeter wire, it worked right out of the box. A sensor sends it to its base if it starts raining.

Oh Those Pesky LEDs

Why does a fan need an LED light to indicate it is on? Wouldn't you know the fan is on without a light?

Fact is our lives are now filled with bright, usually too-bright, LED lights on everything from the coffee maker to the computer. Most of them are unnecessary and have the side effect of making it hard to sleep or hard to avoid.

According to lifehacks.com there are some fairly easy solutions:

- Duct tape.
- Nail polish, less ugly than tape, a dark color can be applied to an outside LED light to dim it significantly.
- Aluminum foil, don't use it inside a computer! But it will cover lights that stick out of a device.
- Motherboard. Only for techies, this solution assumes there is an option in the BIOS settings to turn off the LED.
- Pillow over offending light: Strategy for hotels and guest rooms.

Hot Diggity Dog Noodle Casserole

Ingredients

- 1 (10 ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 1 (8 ounce) package wide egg noodles
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can cream of mushroom soup
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 pound hot dogs, cut into circles
- 1 pound frozen green peas, thawed
- 4 slices bacon, fried and crumbled
- 1 ½ cups milk
- 1 (16 ounce) package instant lasagna noodles
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese



Directions

1. Prepare spinach according to package directions. Drain and spread in the bottom of a lightly greased 9x13-inch baking dish.
2. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add egg noodles and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente. Drain and place on top of spinach in baking dish.
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
4. In a large bowl combine the soup, milk, sour cream and hot dogs. Mix together and place mixture on top of noodles.
5. Cover dish with aluminum foil and bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for about 45 minutes, or until heated through. Sprinkle with peas and bacon and heat in oven until peas are just hot.

Source: allrecipes.com



Blueberry Snow

- 1 (10 inch) angel food cake
 - 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
 - 1 cup milk
 - 1 (16 ounce package) frozen whipped topping, thawed
 - 1 (21 ounce can) blueberry pie filling
 - ½ cup confectioners' sugar
 - ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
1. Break angel food cake into small pieces, and spread into the bottom of a 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
 2. Mix together confectioners' sugar, cream cheese, vanilla, and milk until smooth. Fold in whipped topping. Pour over cake pieces. Pour blueberries over all. Chill for 4 hours or overnight.

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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 **Z. Derr** ! Congratulations! **Mr. Derr 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!

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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).

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Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

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

1. Songs by the Beatles
2. Balls
3. All were assassinated
4. They have drums
5. Dives
6. Waves
7. Carpets
8. Flakes
9. Courts
10. Parties

Riddle Answer:

A Yankee Doodle!

Precision Roof Crafters, Inc.

Money Saving Coupon

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