



# AROUND THE HOUSE

JULY 2017

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS YOURS



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## Inside This Issue:

- **Which Fireworks Pose the Most Hazards and Which Injuries are Most Prevalent**
- **Why We are in Such a Hurry and What it Does to Our Health**
- **How Your Personality and Personal Finances are Related**

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

## What's With All the Fireworks?

Have you ever wondered why we celebrate the Fourth of July with fireworks? Common sense hypotheses would include things like this: Americans like loud booming noises and explosions are fun, or maybe this is another one of those articles about how the Pagans really invented fireworks along with everything else. But all of those hypotheses are, historically speaking, a little off. We actually celebrate America's Independence Day with fireworks because John Adams thought it was a cool idea.

Before John Adams was featured in two of Broadway's most popular historical musicals *Hamilton* and *1776*, he was the second President of the United States and a Massachusetts delegate to the Continental Congress. By 1775 when British Parliament declared Massachusetts to be in rebellion, Adams was fully committed to the cause for American Independence. He often wrote to his wife Abigail about his impatience with the sluggish pace at which his fellow representatives would move toward what he believed to be America's inevitable departure from Great Britain (side note: if John could see us today).

When the vote for American Independence was finally unanimous, Adams put pen to paper. In a letter he wrote to Abigail one day before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Adams mused that July 4th should be recognized "with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more." And by 1777, when the United States celebrated its first birthday, Boston and Philadelphia, where Adams lived and worked, respectively, both lit up the night with fireworks displays.

But America was still fighting the Revolutionary War in July of 1777, and things weren't exactly going the way of the former colonies. Some historians believe that the fireworks and other festivities on the Fourth of July acted as a morale booster — and one that worked. In the second half of 1777, the tired and beleaguered American troops started to gain ground on British forces and claimed a major victory in October of that year at the second Battle of Saratoga. Shortly after the victory at Saratoga, the French army arrived to fight on the side of the USA, bolstering the American army with much needed supplies and men.

So, this Fourth of July, light a sparkler or two for the vision of President John Adams — the guy who very well may have shouted this country into existence from an un-air-conditioned room in Philadelphia — dramatized by Mr. Feeny himself (William Daniels) in the 1972 film version of *1776*.

*Fireworks had for her a direct and magical appeal. Their attraction was more complex than that of any other form. They had pattern and sequence, color and sound, brilliance and mobility; they had suspense, surprise, and a faint hint of danger; above all they had the supreme quality of transcendence, which puts the keenest edge on beauty and makes it touch some spring in the heart which more enduring excellences cannot reach. ~ Jan Struther, Mrs. Miniver*



## Speaking of Fireworks ... (Proceed With Caution!)

Sure, it's a celebration and, yes, fireworks are traditional and they can be used safely. Nonetheless, nearly 20,000 fires annually are blamed on fireworks, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Virtually no one sets out to set their neighbor's house on fire (or their own) but that does happen. In Oahu, Hawaii, in 2005, 123 fires were directly related to fireworks on the Fourth. That is one city in one state. And that adds up to a busy day for emergency crews. Even the most common fireworks, such as a sparkler, can start a fire.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reported in 2015 that a 19-year-old woman died from smoke inhalation in an apartment fire started by a sparkler. It seems a teenager threw a sparkler through the second floor window to get the attention of his friend. But his friend was sleeping downstairs. The sparkler started a fire that engulfed the house, killing the woman.

The problem with fireworks is that if handled in a reckless manner, there are no second chances. Nearly two-thirds of fireworks-related injuries are caused by backyard fireworks, including firecrackers and bottle rockets. About 20 percent of injuries are caused by firecrackers and 19 percent are caused by sparklers.

The worst injuries are caused by illegal fireworks: M-80s and cherry bombs. These fireworks have been illegal since 1966 when Congress passed the Child Protection Act that specifically outlawed them. Today it is a felony to possess or explode a cherry bomb or M-80. If you come by an actual cherry bomb or M-80, you could be in serious trouble, and not just from the law. Since they are illegal, they might be homemade bombs. You are literally risking your fingers or your life by keeping and using them.

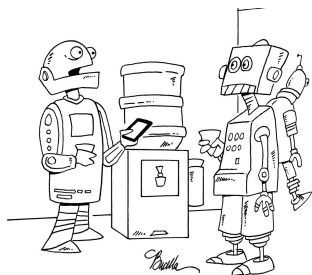
Even if you know the foreign manufacturer, you likely don't have experience using them. You might pay dearly for the experience.

According to the NFPA, the most frequent injuries from fireworks are:

- 36%: Hand or finger
- 19%: Head, face and ear
- 19%: Eye
- 11%: Trunk or other
- 10%: Leg
- 5%: Arm

More than half of the injuries are burns.

A new hazard is the use of toy drones flying near fireworks. This is an unlawful act, according to Forbes, and that's because it is incredibly dangerous. A drone that catches fire can land anywhere, including on people. It literally becomes a flying firebomb.



"It just dawned on me that every time we make a phone call, it's a robocall."

I'D LOVE TO SEE  
WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE.  
CAN YOU SEND ME  
A PIC?

SURE!  
SENDING NOW.



## Just for Fun

1. Hair - A Brain - An Ocean
2. A Bride & Groom - A Boat & Trailer - A Horse & Buggy
3. A Scale - A Tire - A Checkbook
4. An Aquarium - An Army - A Car
5. A Sports Page - A Movie - A Broadway Musical
6. A Cook - A Toilet - College Football
7. A Doughnut - A Cavity - A Prescription
8. A Coal Miner - A Dentist - A Guitar Player
9. A Male Goat - A Dollar - A Male Rabbit
10. A Doctor - A Mailman - Domino's

### 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 isn't there a knock-knock joke about America?

Answer on page 8

## Precision Roof Crafters, Inc.

### July Is:

- National Parks and Recreation Month
- National Cell Phone Courtesy Month
- National Culinary Arts Month
- National Grilling Month
- National Hot Dog Month
- National Blueberry Month
- National Picnic Month
- National Ice Cream Month

### Grab Your Phone and Say OMMM

According to Fast Company, there are over 18 million Americans that have joined the meditation movement. With clear benefits such as lowering blood pressure and boosting immune systems under its bonnet, cognitive behavioral therapy treatments like meditation are seemingly more important now than ever.

Because of this massive following, many developers have dived into the app space to attempt to provide an app-powered meditative experience. Lifehacker looked at meditation apps and pointed out that although apps are by no means a requirement for reaching a meditative state, they do help people:

- \* **Build a habit** - Most people have heard that it can take 21 days to build a habit and this makes things difficult for someone looking to start something new. With an app, there is a built-in reminder to take the time for meditation. They can even track stats like a longest streak and hand out rewards for checking in.
- \* **Set a time for meditation** - Clocks or timers are often recommended for meditation to help keep things on track. With a dedicated app, there will be a timer built in as well as serving as a place to store your progress and observations.
- \* **Meditate more deeply** - When starting out with meditation, it is common for most people to be a bit lost. Guided sessions can help a person stay on track or focus on specific goals like relaxation or creativity.

The best part of these apps might be the access to guided sessions because they allow novices to get started without having to wonder what it is they should be doing. They also enable people to see how meditation could work for them without the time or financial commitment that signing up for an actual class might entail.

Ironically, it could be apps that help the always-connected society find success in disconnecting.

### What's the Rush?

In today's connected culture, we are becoming more and more frantic and impatient. The reason, according to Fortune magazine, is that many people are suffering from what psychologists have named hurry sickness.

Symptoms include:

- Repeatedly pushing the button to close the door on the elevator
- Finding the urge to multitask while waiting 30 seconds for the microwave to finish
- Getting extremely frustrated waiting in lines
- Working while brushing teeth and eating lunch

These might not seem like symptoms that are egregious to health, but all of these activities take a toll on the body in the long run as the body interprets this constant need to do more, faster, as stress. Hurry sickness, as far as the body is concerned, means that the stress hormone cortisol is produced double-time. This hormone has been linked with heart disease and can suppress the immune system.

Managing hurry could be a critical element of a person's plan to stay healthy, and Success magazine suggests three ways to become more balanced and efficient each day while reducing the amount of unnecessary hurry.

**Turn off the electronics** - In a society that stays connected at all times, severing that connection can make all the difference. Being glued to the constant updates and newsfeeds on a smartphone has trained people never to rest. The issue is not that people want to get information; it is that once read, they simply crave the next bit in an endless cycle. Nothing is thoughtfully considered or analyzed before moving on.

**Breathe** - At its most basic level, the body's instincts will tell it to seek flight, fight, or freeze when it encounters danger. When faced with unnecessary stress, the body often subconsciously slows or stops its breathing. A lack of oxygen overstimulates the brain and causes poor decision making.

**Focus** - Many tout multitasking as an excellent skill, but in reality, many multitaskers are merely good at not-quite-finished lots of tasks at once. Slowing down and focusing on what is important will lead to better results in the long run.

**It has long been known that sunlight can affect mood. A new study shows that sunlight, or lack of it, can affect thinking power. Short-term recall in particular can be affected by lack of natural light, according to a University of Alabama study by a team led by Shia Kent. The effects were most striking in study participants with depression coupled with lack of sunlight.**

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

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!**

Shirley S., Rosenberg \* Cindy C., Houston \* Sharon S., Houston \* Jorge M., 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.*

**Personality and Personal Finance**

Personal finance can be a difficult topic to sort through because each person is unique and will approach every situation a bit differently. It should come as no surprise, however, that their unique personality can correlate well with their financial habits.

According to the Financial Times, in fact, bad financial habits can stem from status anxiety, lacking a sense of control, loneliness, or little self-esteem. In their analysis, these habits usually present themselves as one of six major financial personalities.

**The Anxious Investor:** These people love risk and tend to trade stocks frequently because they believe they have the edge over others. Unfortunately, this type of investor tends to have an action bias and will often buy high and sell low without being consciously aware of it. Despite their overconfidence, these investors tend to underperform the market by several percentage points.

**The Hoarder:** On the opposite end of the spectrum, hoarders use money as a security blanket. They cannot handle risk, and they often keep cash even in times when investing or spending money would be the wiser choice. While there is nothing wrong with saving money for emergencies, hoarding cash is far from optimal.

**The Social Value Spender:** This personality-type loves to purchase things for themselves or others to boost their self-esteem. The feeling of enjoyment that they get when making these purchases can help in the short-term, but it often ends in debt problems.

**The Cash Splasher:** Related to the social value spender, some people like to spend money in very visible ways to increase their perceived social standing. Purchasing a meal for a group, for instance, makes the occasion all about their generosity. Unfortunately, this behavior can lead to debt and depression.

**The Fitbit Financier:** Some people are obsessed with tracking their financial status. Frequently switching service providers and remortgaging are great examples of this personality type. In many cases, they are compensating for the lack of control in other areas of their lives and are seeking to control at least some aspect of it with exacting detail.

**The Ostrich:** For some, making no decision seems easier than making the wrong decision, but in most cases, this can lead to poor financial results in the long run. This person will allow that lack of knowledge to fester until problems arise .

**Put That Card Away!**

If you are pre-approved for a home loan, or ready to apply for a mortgage, lock down your credit use immediately.

One thing you don't want to do is make significant charges on your cards. Lenders can and will check your credit report a final time before approving your mortgage. If your debt to income ratio has changed, or your credit score has dropped, you might find your mortgage declined.

According to thesimpledollar.com, it is best not to apply for new credit, open new accounts, or run your cards up to the limit.

A changing credit profile, especially your credit score, can cost you big money. A 100-point drop in your credit score would, at best, cause lenders to offer you a higher interest rate.

A 1 percent increase on a mortgage can increase your monthly payments by \$200 and increase the cost of the loan by thousands of dollars.

**Tech Support Scams**

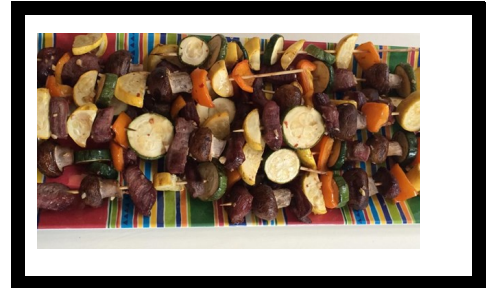
One increasingly worrisome crime is affecting computer users who get tricked into thinking that they have a problem with their PC. According to USA Today, a typical scenario involves a user that gets a nasty looking pop up while they are surfing the internet. It explains that their computer is infected and they should call the displayed number for tech support.

Once they call, the scammers take control of their computer, do nothing, and charge outrageous fees. On average, a typical victim will be out around \$280 for using one of these tech support companies. Although these scams might seem obvious to many users, analysts estimate that more than \$24.6 million dollars were lost in the last two years.

## Firecracker Kabobs

### Ingredients

- 1 pound cubed beef stew meat
- 1 (8 ounce) package whole mushrooms
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 yellow squash, chopped
- 1 zucchini, chopped



### Marinade

- ½ cup maple syrup
- ½ cup lime juice
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 teaspoons ketchup
- 4 teaspoons soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes

### Directions

1. Whisk maple syrup, lime juice, garlic, ketchup, soy sauce, and red pepper flakes together in a bowl until marinade is smooth.
2. Place beef in a bowl; pour in marinade and stir to coat. Marinate beef in the refrigerator, at least 3 hours.
3. Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat and lightly oil the grate. Soak skewers in water for at least 10 minutes.
4. Thread beef, mushrooms, onion, green bell pepper, squash, and zucchini onto skewers.
5. Cook kabobs on the preheated grill until vegetables are tender and beef is cooked through, 5 to 7 minutes per side.

Source: Allrecipes.com



## Blueberry Clafoutis

- 1 pint fresh blueberries
- 1 ¼ cups milk
- 2/3 cup white sugar
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 pinch salt

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C). Generously butter a 2 1/2-quart baking dish.
2. Pour blueberries into prepared baking dish.
3. Blend milk, sugar, flour, eggs, vanilla extract, and salt in a blender until batter is smooth. Pour batter over blueberries and gently shake to remove any air bubbles.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until puffed and center is set, 25 to 30 minutes. Cool until clafoutis deflates and is just warm.

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### 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 **Mary C.** Congratulations and thank you! **Mary C. wins a \$25 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**

**Email To: info@roofprohouston.com Mail To: 3919 Jeanetta St., Houston, TX 77063**

**Yes! Feel tree to use my name as a reterence when you contact the reterrals!**

**Fax To: [insert fax number] Mail To: [insert address]**



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

Commonym Answers:

1. they have waves
2. they are hitched
3. they are balanced
4. they have tanks
5. they have scores
6. they have bowls
7. they are filled
8. they have picks
9. they are bucks
10. they deliver

Riddle Answer:

Because freedom rings!

## Precision Roof Crafters, Inc. Money Saving Coupon

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

**JULY 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.  
Coupon expires August 15, 2017



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