



AROUND THE HOUSE

OCTOBER 2016

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS



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- Flat Roofs
- Shingle Roofs
- Energy Efficient Roofs
- Roof Diagnostics & Evaluation
- Ventilation
- Fascia
- Gutter Repair/Installation
- Skylight

Inside This Issue:

- **Screening is Key to Breast Cancer Awareness**
- **How Home Inspections Relieve the Stress of a Sale**
- **Whip Your Chimney Into Shape for the Chilly months Ahead**

Plus much, much more!!!

Head Off Homeowner Halloween Horrors

Create a Clear Path – Keep the area around your home clear of obstructions so that visitors don't stumble and injure themselves. Especially at Halloween, clear away lawn ornaments, gardening equipment, toys, etc. to help avoid a liability.

Confine Your Pets – For the safety of your pets and your guests, keep dogs and cats away from the front porch or areas where they might jump on or even bite unfamiliar visitors.

Keep the Lights On – Be sure that trick-or-treaters and other visitors are able to see clearly after dark to avoid falls and other injuries on your property. You will not only help avoid a liability claim, but you'll deter burglars who are always less inclined to approach a well-lit home.

Avoid Open Flames – While candles and luminaries set the spooky mood on Halloween, they can easily be overturned and result in homeowners' insurance claims for fire damage. Consider light sticks and battery-powered lanterns instead.

Jack-o-Lantern Safety – Unattended Jack-o-Lanterns lit by candles can easily be tipped over by trick-or-treaters or pets. Avoid fire damage claims by using a battery-powered light in your pumpkin.

Supervise Pumpkin Carving – Enjoy the fun but assure home safety by having an adult or supervised older child carve the pumpkin this Halloween. Better still use a special pumpkin cutter for extra safety.

Think Before You Serve – You are responsible for the safety of guests who will visit your home this Halloween. Offer only commercially-packaged treats to trick-or-treaters. Likewise, be sure to offer non-alcoholic beverages for your older party guests and never serve alcohol to anyone who is under-age. If you are setting the mood at your party by using dry ice in a punchbowl, be sure to keep the chips out since they can cause severe injury if ingested.

Assure Home Security – If you will be away from home during Halloween, don't forget to set your security alarm system before you go. This is a prime time of year for mischief and burglaries. So be sure to also activate motion-sensitive lights and alert your neighbors that you will be away.

Test Your Home Smoke Alarms – While you are testing your home security system, don't forget to test your smoke alarms well in advance of the Halloween celebrations to minimize the chance of having a claim for fire damage.

Check Your Homeowners Insurance – Take a moment to speak with your insurance agent to be sure you will be fully protected for whatever plans you have for the Halloween holiday. The time to find out that your coverage is incomplete is NOT after you have a claim.

Breast Cancer Awareness: Screening is Key

Breast cancer screening means checking a woman's breasts for cancer before there are signs or symptoms of the disease. All women need to be informed by their health care provider about the best screening options for them. When you are told about the benefits and risks and decide with your health care provider what screening test, if any, is right for you -- this is called *informed and shared decision-making*

Although breast cancer screening cannot prevent breast cancer, it can help find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat. Talk to your doctor about which breast cancer screening tests are right for you, and when you should have them.

Most breast-cancer-related tests fall into one or more of the following categories:

Screening tests: Screening tests (such as yearly mammograms) are given routinely to people who appear to be healthy and are not suspected of having breast cancer. Their purpose is to find breast cancer early, before any symptoms can develop and the cancer usually is easier to treat.

Diagnostic tests: Diagnostic tests (such as biopsy) are given to people who are suspected of having breast cancer, either because of symptoms they may be experiencing or a screening test result. These tests are used to determine whether or not breast cancer is present and, if so, whether or not it has traveled outside the breast. Diagnostic tests also are used to gather more information about the cancer to guide decisions about treatment.

Monitoring tests: Once breast cancer is diagnosed, many tests are used during and after treatment to monitor how well therapies are working. Monitoring tests also may be used to check for any signs of recurrence.

"A screening test tries to find a disease before there are any symptoms. With breast cancer, there's a misconception that if you feel fine, don't have a lump, and have no family history of breast cancer, you're okay. The truth is that three-quarters of the women in whom we find breast cancer have no risk factors. So screening is important for everyone."

-- Susan Greenstein Orel, M.D.



"I swear, you won't be able to tell the difference, plus, turkey eye of newt is much healthier for you."



"This plan gives you unlimited talk, hex and data."

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

Why do demons and ghouls hang out together?

Answer on page 8

October Is:

- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**
- **Adopt a Shelter Dog Month**
- **Computer Learning Month**
- **Cookie Month**
- **National Diabetes Month**
- **National Pizza Month**
- **National Popcorn Popping Month**
- **Seafood Month**

Chim Chim Cher-ee

A crackling fire is a great place to gather and creates a relaxed vibe in any home. But, if the chimney hasn't been cleaned in years, it's time to hire a chimney sweeper.

The last thing you want is to end up in a room full of smoke from a dirty chimney, or worse, with a chimney fire that puts your home at risk. The Chimney Safety Institute of America recommends that homeowners inspect a chimney and fireplace annually, and clean open masonry fireplaces when there is 1/8 inch of soot built up, or sooner if glaze has built up inside.

Three ways to clean a chimney:

The top-down method: Cleaning from the top down involves climbing onto the roof with chimney cleaning supplies (notably a stiff wire brush that fits the space, flexible rods, and a weight of some sort), lowering the brush into the chimney, and moving it back and forth in a scrubbing motion.

The bottom-up method: Cleaning from the bottom up requires the same tools and actions, scrubbing the inside of the chimney.

The dual line method: This method gets messy, but with a partner and a line attached to both ends of the brush, the entire chimney area can get cleaned as each partner takes turns pulling the rope and brush inside the chimney. The downside to this method is that there is no way to close the fireplace space to keep the grime inside during cleaning.

No matter which method a chimney cleaning professional chooses, you'll want to ensure that the area inside the home around the fireplace is protected from soot. Cover all furniture and floors if the company doesn't do it for you.

Home Inspections May Lower Stress

For buyers and sellers, having a professional house inspection can ensure a happy sale.

According to a study by the American Society of Home Inspectors and the National Association of Realtors, about four out of five homes sold in the nation are inspected before sale.

No wonder: An inspection helps parties on both sides of the sale.

For the buyer, the inspection is an obvious contingency. Buyers don't want expensive surprises after sale. A home inspection reveals the systemic condition of the home, not just whether the paint is new.

Inspectors take a close look at the home's inner health in 10 areas: interior and exterior, structure, roofing, plumbing, electrical, heating, air conditioning, and ventilation, and fireplaces.

These evaluations are detailed. For example, in the case of roofs, inspectors will study shingles, flashings, roof drainage, skylights and chimneys.

Of course, even a house with some problems can sell, but the price will reflect needed repairs

That's where the seller's inspection comes in.

A seller is just as motivated as the buyer to know what is wrong with a house because necessary, but unfinished, repairs mean a lower price at sale, or even a deal that falls through.

A home inspection gives sellers the chance to fix things before the house goes on the market and it is an important part of the clean-up, fix-up process.

You might not want to put on a new roof, but repairing the flashings and roof gutters puts your house in a solid light. Buyers might not expect a new roof, but they don't want to find leaks.

There are a variety of specific things that a home inspection can look for, depending on an individual's concerns. For example, a radon inspection checks a home for levels of radioactive gas and takes between two and seven days to complete. A termite inspection looks for damage to the wood structures of a home. With homes that have a well for water, well water testing is another option; for homes with a septic or oil tank, examination of those structures may be part of an inspection as well.

A general inspection should consider the condition of the roof, the water pressure and plumbing, electrical outlets and switches, and the crawl space and attic, according to HGTV.

Finally, if you have a home inspection, find a place to sit down and relax. Don't follow the inspector around. After all, the inspector is working for you and the report will be for you only.

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

Deborah D., Houston * Wyatt S., Houston * Tony V., Houston * J. McCann, Seabrook

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

Take 'Em or Leaf 'Em

The colored leaves are picturesque and beautiful on the trees, but their charm is soon lost when they pile up in the yard. Getting rid of them is a job that can make your arms sore and your back ache. Here are a few techniques that can help you avoid that fate.

* Remove them the traditional way: rake, but do it right. Start in the afternoon when leaves are dry and light. Instead of pressing on the rake, rake lightly, barely touching the grass. Pull softly toward yourself so your shoulders don't get sore.

Designate several target pile spots. Start from the farthest point and work toward the pile, pulling softly.

When leaves are falling fast, rake every few days instead of waiting until they accumulate.

* Mulch them with the lawn mower or garden tractor. Before they get too deep, go over them a couple of times. The mulched leaves fall on the grass and turn into fertilizer.

* Use a leaf blower to clear them out of garden spots and from around fences. Between raking or mulching, you can use the blower to push leaves off of the sidewalks.

Whether you rake or blow leaves, you end up with stacks that have to be picked up. Here's one way to avoid back strain:

EZ Rake, and others like it, are ergonomically designed, 2-step tools (\$30) that all but eliminate bending over to pick up piles of leaves. They have an attached jaw and pan that comes down and picks them up so you can dump them into a leaf bag.

- **Are souvenirs and gifts cluttering your home? The gift giver won't know or care if you chuck them.**
- **Do you have extra furniture that makes rooms seem crowded? Chuck it.**
- **Is an item you're storing broken or damaged beyond repair? Chuck it.**
- **Has more than a year gone by since you used it or wore it? Chuck it.**
- **Do you own something similar that you like better? Chuck it.**

Vacation Home: When Kids are Grown

Those sunny days at the beach house. Kids playing in the surf, hot dogs, fun and family.

Vacation homes are increasingly popular with families, according to investmentnews.com. According to the National Association of Realtors, a record 1.1 million vacation properties were sold in 2014, up 57 percent from 2013.

But what happens to that home when the kids grow up?

Surprisingly, it can be a challenge.

Grown-up kids may not want the vacation home, even though it was a great part of their childhood. After all, ownership implies maintenance, taxes, and utilities.

The simplest solution, in this case, is for the parents to sell the home, leaving memories for the family photo album.

If the kids do want the home, the issue becomes a little thornier, according to Liz Skinner, an investment business advisor.

Homeowners should discuss the issue with potential heirs:

- Who will manage the property and scheduling?
- How much will each heir be expected to contribute in money and time?
- What if one wants out?

If all issues can be resolved, joint ownership is the simplest resolution. But the success of this method depends on siblings cooperating with each other.

One option is to transfer ownership to a trust or limited liability company. States differ on tax assessments between LLCs and trusts, so check with an attorney.

Parents can also set aside funds to maintain the property for some period after their death. In this case, they should specify how the property will be divided at a later sale.

Seafood Lasagna

Ingredients

- 1 (16 ounce) package lasagna noodles
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 pound baby portabella mushrooms, sliced
- 2 (16 ounce) jars Alfredo-style pasta sauce
- 1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 pound bay scallops
- 1 pound imitation crabmeat, chopped
- 20 ounces ricotta cheese
- 1 egg
- 6 cups shredded Italian cheese
- Black pepper



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain.
2. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Sautee garlic and mushrooms until tender. Pour in 2 jars Alfredo sauce. Stir in shrimp, scallops and crabmeat. Simmer 5 to 10 minutes, or until heated through. In a medium bowl, combine ricotta cheese, egg and pepper.
3. In a 9x13 inch baking dish, layer noodles, ricotta mixture, Alfredo mixture and shredded cheese. Repeat layers until all ingredients are used, ensuring that there is shredded cheese for the top.
4. Bake uncovered in preheated oven for 45 minutes. Cover, and bake 15 minutes.

Source: Allrecipes.com



Rocky Road Popcorn Balls

- 3 cups miniature marshmallows
 - ¼ cup butter
 - 8 cups freshly popped popcorn
 - ½ cup dry-roasted unsalted peanuts
 - ½ cup miniature chocolate chips
1. Place the marshmallows and butter into a large pot over medium-low heat, and melt them together, stirring often. Cook until blended and smooth, about 5 minutes, and remove from heat.
 2. Stir in the popcorn and peanuts, and stir gently to thoroughly coat them with the marshmallow mixture. Stir in the chocolate chips.
 3. With greased hands, shape the mixture into 3 inch balls, and wrap each ball in plastic wrap.

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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 **T. Manford!** Congratulations and thank you! **T. Manford 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"

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

Commonym Answers:

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:

Because demons are a ghouls best friend!

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