



AROUND THE HOUSE

APRIL 2014

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS YOURS



Our Services Include:

- Kitchen/Bath Remodels
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- Additions
- Whole House Remodeling or Build
- Energy Efficient
- Siding/Windows
- Home Offices
- Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist
- Specialized Patio Covers
- Outdoor Kitchens

Inside This Issue:

- **Get Your Outdoor Areas In Shape for Warmer Weather**
- **Trim Your Budget Painlessly**
- **Make Your Home a Stress-Free Zone**

Plus much, much more!!!

April Showers Bring ... Lots of Opportunities for Fun!

April showers may bring May flowers, but they can also bring on a case of cabin fever. Don't let a damp forecast rain on your parade. Whether it's barely drizzling or raining cats and dogs, make the most of the wet weather with these outdoor activities designed especially for rainy days.

Make a Splash

Grown-ups usually discourage kids from jumping in puddles, so youngsters will be surprised and excited when you start a carefree splash contest. Gear up in raincoats and galoshes to head outside and stomp through pools of water. See who can create the biggest spray of water or give kudos for the most stylish tap dance routine.

Color Yourself

Put on bathing suits and then color all over yourselves with bathtub crayons or other washable colors (we recommend that whatever you use washes off easily). Draw silly faces on your stomachs or write funny messages. Go wild. Then get out in the rain and wash yourselves off. It's nature's shower! Ready for more? Dry off and start all over again.

Wet and Wild Relay Race

Don't let a little drizzle keep the kids cooped up. Use waterproof toys to create the ultimate obstacle course for a fun family race. Split into teams (so what, if there's only two of you — compete against each other) and take turns kicking a beach ball around cones, hula hooping, spinning in circles while resting your forehead on a plastic bat, and competing in a water-balloon toss. In this race, laughing at the goofy challenges is more important than rewarding a winner.

Document the Day

Give your young photographers disposable waterproof cameras so they can capture the stormy weather on film. Spring showers provide a perfect opportunity to capture rare images of water droplets, colorful cloud formations, reflections in puddles, and beautiful rainbows. Shoot away, then drop off the cameras at a same-day photo processing center and send your shutterbugs home with the prints for lasting memories.

Paint With Raindrops

Use spring sprinkles to create a work of art. Start by putting several colors of powdered tempera paint into empty containers with plastic shaker tops. Give each of your little artists a sheet of heavy white construction paper and allow them to sprinkle two or three colors onto the paper. Lay a plastic trash bag on the ground, and help your grandchildren gently place their powdered papers on the plastic. Watch the light rain turn the powder into beautiful art, and then take the pictures inside to dry.

Spring Cleaning For the OUTside!

Spring is the perfect time to take care of all those minor tasks you kept putting off during the colder months. It's often hard to feel motivated enough to clean the gutters, and weed the garden when you see a layer of snow and ice covering every area of your home. Once spring arrives, there are a few important things you need to take care of outside.

Weed Gardens

As soon as the snow melts, you'll notice weeds popping up around your lawn, and in your garden beds. Those weeds can include crabgrass, prickly lettuce, dandelions, and dozens of other plants. While you can always pick those weeds by hand, using a pesticide is a better option. You can find pesticides that will target the weeds without damaging your lawn, or other plants and flowers. Before you plant any new types of vegetation, make sure that you give the grass a dose of healthy nutrients and that you lay down a smooth layer of mulch.

Take Care of the Driveway

If you live in a cooler climate, winter can wreak havoc on your driveway. The snow and ice can penetrate below the surface, and cause cracking, or you might notice that the chemicals you used to remove that ice left pits on the driveway. After sweeping away any debris from the driveway, use a combination of dish soap, warm water, and a little distilled vinegar to clean the driveway. If you notice any cracks, chips or other damage, make some minor repairs yourself, or hire a professional company to repair the surface to keep it polished for the next winter.

Clean Out Garage

Many people find that they use their garages as a catch all during winter. Anything they have on hand that they don't have room for inside goes into the garage. By the time spring comes, you might find it hard to even walk through that space. Take everything out of the garage and place it on your driveway or in your yard. Use trash bags and cardboard boxes to differentiate between things you want to keep, things you want to donate, and things that can go in the trash. After donating and calling for a trash pickup, organize your garage, creating different areas for your gardening and landscaping, automotive and other needs.



Just for Fun

1. An Airline - A Dart - A Stairwell
2. A foot - Cinderella Fairytale - A Christmas Tree
3. A Compass - A Doctor - An Evergreen
4. Time - A Kite - A Flag
5. A Bottle - A River - A Guitar
6. Deer Antlers - A Horse - An Attack
7. A Whip - A Joke - A Safe
8. A Dog - A Kite - A Storyteller
9. A Golf Ball - A Nail - A Car
10. A Peach - A Long Jump - A Pole Vault

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!

Why did the gardener plant a light bulb?

Answer page 8

Answer page 8

Christie's Design/Build Remodeling

April Is:

- Spring Ahead For Life Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- Work Life Enrichment Month
- Tartan (Scottish-American) Heritage Month
- Autism Awareness Month
- Cancer Control Month
- Child Abuse Awareness Month

Trimming Your Budget Need Not Be Painful

Brian O'Connor, author of The \$1,000 Challenge, says you can find significant savings on expenses by eliminating some or finding cheaper alternatives.

A matter of percentages. Go through your credit card and bank statements to add up your monthly costs for must-haves. Determine what percentages of income go toward necessities and what percentage to wants. Ideally, you'd allocate at least 20 percent to savings, 50 percent for must-haves, and 30 percent for discretionary costs. Don't try to get every penny accounted for. Just go for the big picture.

Analyze the must-have column. Look at your home, car, insurance, and food. Search for bargains here. For example, carpooling could reduce travel costs by half if you drive 25 or 30 miles to work and back every day.

Trim automatic deductions from your checking account. If the cable bill is \$100 a month, you could switch to Hulu for \$7.99. Decide if you really want to spend \$75 a month on a storage unit for stuff you might never use again.

According to CNNMoney, decreasing discretionary spending could make you feel deprived. So maintain luxuries you really value, like that movie channel. Focus on items you don't care a lot about. If you're paying more for famous name merchandise, like toiletries or cigars, try less-expensive brands.

Avoid impulse buying. How many bargain-priced garments are in your closet that you've worn just once or never worn at all?



This week has become the official time for our nation to celebrate the efforts of volunteers, who may serve at the local, state or national levels.

National Volunteer Week was started in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing it as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every president since has signed a proclamation promoting recognition of volunteers, as have governors, mayors and local officials.

As an individual, however, the main question you might ask is: "What can I do now? I don't really want an award, I just want to be part of it."

Almost every community has a service like Volunteer Match in Kokomo, Indiana. It matches people to important projects that are in desperate need of willing volunteers.

Could you help make repairs on the home of an elderly person who doesn't want to go to a nursing home?

In a children's hospital, you may work on the inpatient pediatric unit. You would check the patients, bring them things to do, play with them at the bedside or in the playground.

The classic volunteer role is helping to prepare food or serve it at a charity kitchen. They always need help.

You may not have a year of your life to donate, but projects abroad match each volunteer to a placement where their existing knowledge will have the greatest impact. By working alongside local partners as well as fellow volunteers you could use your skills to help improve the lives of some of the poorest people in the world.

Think Like a Seal

Because of their intense training, Navy SEALs are not only tough but they're experts at setting goals.

* Focus on one major thing, define it well and then focus until you make it happen. Ask yourself, "Does my schedule get me closer to my goal?" * See your success. Imagine your goal in the most concrete terms: what it looks and feels like and what you need to achieve it.

* Set wayside goals. On your path to the prize, set and achieve smaller wayside goals mark your way forward. These give you momentum.

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

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 WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT AND THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR REFERRING THEIR FRIENDS TO CHRISTIE'S REMODELING FAMILY

**Jake & Kristi Brinkerhoff of Longmont who referred Connie Rehberg
Dennis & Vicki Marquardt of Lafayette who referred Chris Jones
Bret's Electric of Frederick who referred Daniel & Nichole White**

The Future of Grocery Shopping

Somewhere between visiting the supermarket and ordering groceries to be delivered to you (if you live in a city), a new choice is evolving across America.

The hybrid grocery shopping model is taking form: you can order your items online and simply drive to a nearby depot to pick them up.

So is it really a time saver if you have to start your car go to pick the grocery depot anyway? Yes. Proponents say you won't have to find a place to park, walk through the store, and search through the aisles.

The depot system is especially helpful for those who are physically less capable of the supermarket routine. As for driving to the depot, you can schedule your pick up for a convenient time, like on your way home from work or after your kid's ball practice.

The depots are already popular overseas at distributors like Tesco. In the US. chains like Whole Foods and Harris Teeter are starting pilot programs.

Relay Foods is the leading startup in the U.S. According to Time it has expanded from its home in Charlottesville, Va., to Williamsburg, Va., and Baltimore.

De-Stress Your Home

Modern life is high-tech, fast-paced and stressful. It's a jungle out there! Turning your home into a sanctuary from the always on, always-connected world we live in is not only good for your mind, it's good for your health! Make your home a relaxation zone with these design fixes.

Let in light.

Sunlight is nature's stress-buster, because it positively impacts both physical and mental health.

Lift the blinds and lift your mood. If you're lacking in the natural light department, mirrors can be used to brighten up a room, instead.

Dim down at night.

While light boosts energy levels, darkness can soothe the soul, so balancing the two is key. In the evening, keep certain spaces (such as your bedroom) low-key by reducing overhead lighting and using a candle or two. The low light will help transition your system to a relaxed state and prepare you for sleep.

Frame your loved ones.

Remember that fun vacation with those amazing people? You should. Every day. Reliving happy memories breeds an upbeat outlook and framed photos will do the trick. Surround yourself with snapshots of friends, family, places and pets for a daily jolt of positivity.

Simplify.

Clutter is the enemy of calm.

Pick one especially disorderly space in your home (the kitchen, closet or living room are three good options) and spend ten minutes sorting your clutter into three piles: keep, discard and relocate.

Eliminate the "discard" pile and move the "relocate" items to their proper places in the house.

Add nature.

Plants are a great way to make any room feel tranquil and peaceful.

Whether you make a statement with a single staghorn fern or scatter jars of wildflowers throughout your home, you can't go wrong.

In addition to the high-traffic display spots, we recommend placing plants in obscure places (like the kitchen, home office or your bathrooms) to keep the natural vibe alive through and through.

Power down.

The electronics in our lives can [drain more than electricity](#). Surrounding ourselves with screens – computers, TVs, tablets – can take a toll on our sleep habits, too.

Hide them if you can, at least an hour or so before bed.

The blue light emitted from most electronics actually affects your REM cycle, so you don't sleep as well. And nothing knocks your stress levels up a notch like a poor night's sleep!

Think Spring Penne with Chicken and Asparagus

Ingredients

- 1 (16 ounce) package dried penne pasta
- 5 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves cut into cubes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Garlic powder to taste
- ½ cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 bunch slender asparagus spears, trimmed and cut on a diagonal into 1-inch pieces
- 1 clove garlic, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup Parmesan cheese



Directions

- Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to boil. Add pasta, and cook until al dente, about 8 to 10 minutes. Drain, and set aside.
- Warm 3 tablespoons olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Stir in chicken, and season with salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Cook until chicken is cooked through and browned, about 5 minutes. Remove chicken to paper towels.
- Pour chicken broth into the skillet. Then stir in asparagus, garlic, and a pinch more garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Cover, and steam until the asparagus is just tender, about 5 to 10 minutes. Return chicken to the skillet, and warm through.
- Stir chicken mixture into pasta, and mix well. Let sit about 5 minutes. Drizzle with 2 tablespoons olive oil, stir again and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Source: AllRecipes.com

Pecan Crackers

- ½ (16 ounce) package graham crackers
- 2 cups chopped pecans
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup margarine

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- Line a baking sheet with graham crackers. Sprinkle evenly with pecans.
- In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine sugar, butter and margarine. Bring to a boil and boil 3 minutes. Remove from heat and spoon mixture over pecans, coating well.
- Bake in preheated oven 12 minutes, until golden. Cool completely before serving.

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****\$1,900 Remaining****

Each year, because of the nature of our business, we spend thousands of dollars on advertising, much of that money wasted over the past years learning what works for our company. Since referrals from our clients and friends have always been the best source of new business, we thought, "Why waste our money on unproductive advertising and spend some of our advertising dollars on what works best - referrals"? It's our way of saying, "Thanks for the Referral" and giving recognition to our good friends and clients who help support us!

This month, our friend Jonathan Brooks won our **\$200 REFERRAL FEE** for referring **Andrew Brandess and Jaime Suess** to Christie's for a basement remodel for their home – thank you!

2,500 Give Away!

CHRISTIE'S DESIGN/BUILD REMODELING is asking for your help. When you send your referrals, you are helping the business grow. To say, "**Thank You**" Christie's is offering these special rewards for you and your friends and family.

Here's how it works:

You'll receive \$200 for each referral. That's \$200 for referring your friends, family, and your neighbors, etc. WOW that's easy money! *

Your referral will receive \$200 discount off their final payment*

There is no limit to the amount you can earn! Refer as many times as you want.

You or your referral can call, fax, or email their contact information to us and we'll take it from there!

Our rewards program runs until the \$2,500 is gone or until the end of the year (12/31/2014), whichever comes first! Watch for future newsletters for the future balance.

Rest assured, at **CHRISTIE'S DESIGN/BUILD REMODELING** we'll treat your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers with the care and professionalism you've come to trust.

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**We must receive the referral information in our office or we won't know to give you credit for the referral. To receive the \$200.00, the contract minimum is \$5,000.00. A contract must be signed and deposit received by Christie's before the referral compensation will be issued. There is no limit to the number of times you can receive compensation.



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

Commonym Answer:

1. they have flight
2. they have balls
3. they have needles
4. they all fly
5. they have necks
6. they are mounted
7. they are cracked
8. they have "tails"
9. they are driven
10. they have pits

Riddle Answer:

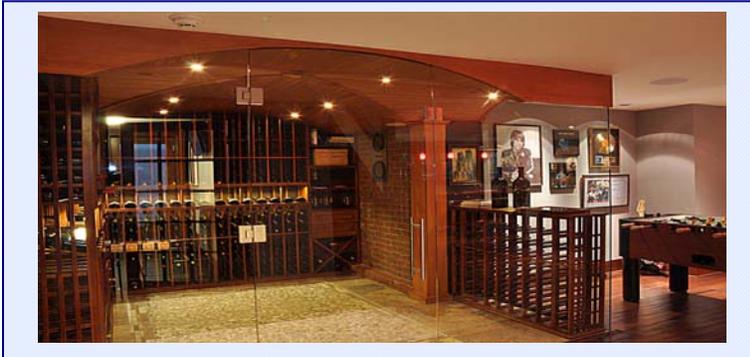
The gardener wanted to
grow a power plant!

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~Basement Finishing ~ Bath ~Remodeling ~

**Kitchen Remodeling ~ Additions ~ Whole
House Remodeling ~ Siding ~ Windows ~
Outdoor Kitchens ~ Decks ~Energy
Efficient Makeovers ~ Tenant Finishing ~
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