



AROUND THE HOUSE

JULY 2014

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS



Our Services Include

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- Siding/Windows
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- Outdoor Kitchens

Inside This Issue:

- **Appreciate All Your Parks Have to Offer This Summer**
- **Take Advantage of Hot Weather Lawn Care Tips**
- **How Being Polite Can Compromise Security**

Plus much, much

We Could Have Been Eating Turtle Soup on the 4th (And other intriguing Independence Day facts)

1. Independence Day Should Really Be Celebrated on July 2

The second Continental Congress actually voted for America's independence on July 2. In fact, founding father John Adams wrote a letter to his wife predicting "The second day of July, 1776, will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival." July 4 is only significant because that was the day that Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence document. Yet, even that highly celebrated document wasn't actually signed on the 4th. Rather, it was signed at a more leisurely pace throughout the summer of 1776. So, happy, er, 2nd of July?

2. Two of Our Founding Fathers Died on July 4th

In a bizarre, but oddly appropriate, twist of fate, two of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, passed away on Independence Day.

3. The Liberty Bell Isn't Actually Rung on the 4th

Due to concerns that the iconic instrument is deteriorating, the Liberty Bell has not been rung since 1846. Instead, the 2,000-pound bell is gently tapped 13 times on the 4th of July to signal for bells across the country to start ringing.

4. The 4th of July Wasn't Always Recognized as a National Holiday

According to TIME magazine, "Americans began observing the Fourth of July as early as 1777, when the first-ever major celebration in Philadelphia included a parade, a 13-shot cannon salute, and fireworks, but Congress didn't make it official until 1870, when it was part of a bill passed to recognize major state holidays at a federal level." Just think of those poor 18th century souls who had to work on the 4th.

5. The U.S. Isn't the Only Country Celebrating its Independence Today

July 4th marks days of independence in both the Philippines and Rwanda. July 4 is known as "Republic Day" in the Philippines and commemorates the date when the U.S. officially recognized this Southeast Asian nation as an independent state in 1946. Rwandans celebrate "Liberation Day" on the 4th, which marks 1994 end date of the Rwandan Genocide.

6. Our Founding Fathers Would Not Have Recited the Pledge on the 4th

The Pledge of Allegiance did not exist during the lifetimes of our founding fathers. The Pledge was written in 1892, over a century after America's founding.

7. The Turkey Almost Became America's National Bird

Apparently good ol' Ben Franklin was displeased that the bald eagle had been chosen as the symbolic bird for our nation. He said that the eagle is "a bird of bad moral character. He does not get his living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead tree near the river, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing hawk." A turkey, on the other hand, is the "true native of America," Franklin wrote.

18. Turtle Soup Could Have Become Our Go-To July 4th Food

As legend has it, on July 4, 1776, John Adams and his wife Abigail sat down for a celebratory meal of turtle soup, New England poached salmon with egg sauce, green peas, and boiled potatoes. Still thinking of barbecuing today?

July is National Parks and Recreation Month!

Why Are Parks Important?

Parks, whether they are city, state, or national parks, play a major role in the health of a community. Not only do the plants provide the oxygen we need to breathe, these parks provide a safe place for residents of all ages to enjoy the outdoors and each other. The presence of green space often provides numerous benefits, including reductions in stress levels and crime and even economic stimulation. These parks are often a safe haven to wildlife as well, offering protection for indigenous animals.

How Do Recreation Departments Impact Local Communities?

Recreation departments have a positive impact on the communities they serve. When a community offers its residents safe options for recreation, the health and well-being of residents improves, including reduced obesity rates, lower risks of chronic health conditions, stress relief, reduced depression, and improved self-esteem. Recreation departments also have a positive impact on the social aspect of a community, including lowered crime rates. All these benefits make a solid recreation department a great addition to any community. Celebrate National Parks and Recreation Month by visiting your local parks and sharing these facts:

- Annually, U.S. urban park trees remove 75,000 tons of air pollutants. This translates into an economic benefit of \$500,000,000 per year!
- Parks and Recreation agencies are the second largest public feeder of children, behind schools. Each year they serve approximately 560 million meals through summer and after-school programs.
- Children who have easy access to a playground are approximately five times more likely to have a healthy weight than children who do not.
- In 2009, approximately 725 million visits to 6,000 state parks across the country generated an economic impact of \$20 billion for communities surrounding the parks. This ROI is significant since the annual nationwide budget expenditure was less than \$2.5 billion.
- In 2011, the Trust for public Land reported that there are 20,000 individual parks in 100 of the largest cities in the United States.
- In 2011, City Parks Facts Report highlighted that the total area of urban parks exceeds 1 million acres ranging in size from small to enormous parklands.
- The use of urban parks is much greater than that of national parks. On average, there are 35 million annual visits to New York's Central Park, which is five times the number of visits to the Grand Canyon.



1. Your Hand - Your Voice - Your Children
2. Chop - Yard - Pogo
3. Lawn - Rocking - Wheel
4. Sheep - Watch - Seeing-Eye
5. Lilac - Plum - Violet
6. Tug - Sail - Steam
7. Turkey - Teddy Bear - Christmas Stocking
8. Sea - Taco - Turtle
9. Sand - Juke - Toy
10. Time - Stink - Atomic

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!

Answer page 8

How do you prevent a summer cold?

Answer page 8

CHRISTIE'S DESIGN/BUILD REMODELING

July Is:

- Parks and Recreation Month
- National Blueberry Month
- National Anti-Boredom Month
- National Cell Phone Courtesy Month
- National Hot Dog Month
- National Ice Cream Month
- UV Safety Month

Home Improvements on the Upswing

There are many personal reasons why a homeowner decides to upgrade their home or to spend more on maintenance. But these are the top two:

With home prices rising last year (and still appreciating but not in double digit figures) some of them want to sell. Upgrading a kitchen floor or installing a new countertop could allow them to ask a higher price for the home.

Going all out on general maintenance is another factor in selling. Every light bulb has to work and the home has to be totally clean looking, which might mean painting a room or two. If a prospective buyer sees one maintenance problem, it could create a whole negative feeling about the place.

The second reason for spending more on upgrades and maintenance is to make the home more attractive and comfortable for the homeowners themselves.

Instead of spending a great deal on a down payment for a different place, their expectations about staying on the property have changed.

Between 2007 and 2009, homeowners spent about \$2,000 a year (adjusted for inflation) on their homes, say economists at the University of Texas at Dallas.

A Little Debt is a GOOD Thing

Everyone knows credit card debt is evil. But could it possibly be true that some debt is good, even credit card debt?

Financial advisor and author Jane Bryant Quinn thinks so. In fact, she says that if you do not use your credit card, your credit score could actually disappear and you will be unscorable.

Lenders rely on a credit score to make a decision about whether a person is likely to pay back a loan. A person with no debt might have no credit score.

High credit scores are essential to getting a mortgage or the best rates on loans. They even are important to basic needs such as car insurance rates or starting utility service. Without a good credit score, your car insurance will cost more and the utility might ask for a higher deposit.

Even if you used credit cards in the past, you could still lose your credit score if you do not have any activity on a loan in six months. Quinn advises people with mature credit habits to maintain one credit card and use it at least once a month and then pay off the balance. One active credit account is all you need to maintain a credit score.

If you have a credit card that you never use, check to see that it is still active and then use it occasionally for small purchases that you can pay off at the end of the month.

If you're married and your credit cards are in both of your names, the cards might be cancelled if either of you dies. So get a credit card in your own name now.

Treat Your Lawn to TLC

If you see a pest, find out what it is before reaching for that scary-sounding spray can.

People are buying sprays without even knowing what the problem is in the first place, say the experts at Maryland's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Local cooperative extension offices can help identify the problem and suggest a remedy.

Some bugs can be taken care of by just hand picking them off. Like the big green tomato (worm) bug. It's easy to see and harmless to pick up in your hand. Then throw it away from the plants.

It's July, time to give your grass its second fertilizing. The first should have been in May.

When mowing, put your mower on mulching mode. Grass clippings provide nutrients to your lawn. They don't create thatch. Thatch is a layer of decomposing grass roots, not grass clippings.

Sharpen your mower blades at least once a year, more often if you have acreage to mow or there are rocks or roots in the lawn that nick the blades. Dull blades rip the grass apart instead of cutting it. It's very bad for the grass.

9		4		6				
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6				8				
								1
		7	4					5
					7		9	
					3	7		
		1	9					
		9	6			2	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
"CHRISTIE'S REMODELING FAMILY"

Here are some of our new clients that became members of the "Christie's Remodeling Family" this past month. I'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Gary Phillis & Patricia Bornmann of Boulder

Don't Hold That Door!

One World Trade Center in New York City, has a security system that cost \$20 million to purchase and install in 2008.

Nonetheless, this year a New Jersey teenager managed to get in and roam about for two hours before being caught.

Few have to be reminded of the security dangers in that scenario.

However, maintaining secure areas is a problem everywhere and mainly because people are so nice.

The most common causes of unauthorized entry into a building are piggybacking or tailgating.

Tailgating occurs when one person properly enters a secure door but another follows, unbeknownst to the first person.

Piggybacking is a bit different because the piggybacker gets permission. Either the piggybacker actually asks for access (Hey! Hold the door!) or he gets access as a courtesy. Holding the door for someone is a deeply ingrained habit. If that person is carrying something large, like computer equipment, it is virtually seen as a requirement to hold the door. But the latter is a typical ruse.

"If you ever used your access card to get into a building, then held the door open so someone who looked like he might work there can enter, you have participated in a security breach," says Mark Borto, CEO of Boon Edam, the leading manufacturer of security entrance solutions in North America.

Quoted in Bloomberg Businessweek, Borto also says, "The best access control systems in the world can be defeated by exploiting the fact that people are nice and will allow others to follow them through doors."

They have put themselves, their colleagues, and the business at risk.

It's also not just doors that can be tailgated or piggybacked. Computers are at risk. When you sign in on a secure computer, be sure you also sign off when you leave the desk.

There are many hacking situations that the average user can't control, but the one thing every user can control is basic sign-on and sign-off security.

Housing Options for Older Adults

Aging in place is a fantastic solution for some seniors. With a little home modification and support, many people can remain in their homes, even with medical and personal issues.

Even if you need help with cleaning, grooming, and medications, home health care aides can be the solution to staying in your home.

But aging in place is not always possible when a person is isolated, in a bad neighborhood or without transportation, friends or relatives.

In that case, independent living is a great solution. These are small retirement communities, made up only of senior apartments or smaller homes. This is a great solution for seniors who want to live independently, but without major concerns of keeping up a home. It can also be the solution to concerns about loneliness and boredom, since these communities frequently have activities and groups. In addition, seniors can also have home health aides help with living tasks.

Assisted living is a residential solution that offers more support in terms of 24-hour staffing, medical care, and emergency care. Some arrangements afford seniors an apartment situation and most offer rooms with group dining and social opportunities.

Finally, nursing homes are for those who need 24-hour care and intense medical care. These days, nursing homes are often a short-term option after surgery, with many people going home to be cared for by home health aides.

Hot 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, sliced into circles
- 1 pound frozen green peas, thawed
- 4 slices bacon, fried and crumbled



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 Crisp

4 cups fresh blueberries ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 cup all-purpose flour ½ cup mayonnaise
¾ cup white sugar

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- Place the blueberries into an 8 inch square baking dish. In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, sugar, and cinnamon. Stir in the mayonnaise until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over the top of the berries.
- Bake for 35 to 40 minutes in the preheated oven, until the top is lightly browned.

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

Commonym Answer:

1. things you raise
2. sticks
3. chairs
4. dogs
5. purples
6. boats
7. they are stuffed
8. shells
9. boxes
10. bombs

Riddle Answer:

Catch it in the winter!



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