



AROUND THE HOUSE

MAY 2016

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS YOURS



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- *Additions*
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Inside This Issue:

- **What Do You Get the Mom Who Has Everything?**
- **No Yard, No Problem! Grow Edibles in Containers**
- **For a Healthier Lawn Tomorrow, Aerate Today!**

Plus much, much more!!!

Not Your Run-of-the-Mill Mom's Day Gifts

Why not surprise Mom with something other than the flowers, candy and dinner out this Mother's Day? How about something that shows thoughtfulness and even an investment of your time, energy or creativity? We've compiled a quick list of 10 such items to spur your thought process.

1. Garden plants. Why spend \$60 on a dozen roses that will wilt in a week when you could buy a few rose bushes that will bloom for years? Or tomatoes she can enjoy all summer long? Of course, if your ma isn't a gardener, you could include taking care of her rose bushes or plants as part of your gift, if you live nearby. Time is the most precious gift most of us have to give.
2. A Skype video call with a distant old friend or relative. If your Mom isn't technologically savvy, she may not even be aware that teleconferencing is now a breeze. Although this might take some setting up on the other end, Mom might really enjoy a face-to-face chat with an old friend or relative in another state or even halfway around the world. Tip: Facebook makes it easy to find old classmates.
3. Her heritage. Though this is certainly not cheap, a study of Mom's DNA to trace her ancestry would serve you as well as her. For \$119, Genetic Genealogy will trace her maternal or fraternal lines back centuries to reveal who her ancestors were. She might even find she is related to someone famous.
4. Ready-made meals. Sure Mom's an incomparable cook, but even she might enjoy having some home-prepared soups in her freezer. Take the time to make a batch of you best and freeze it into meal-sized portions for her. She'll think of you every time she thaws one out.
5. A tiara. You mom is a princess, why not treat her like one? Every woman needs at least one tiara in her wardrobe.
6. Premium silk flowers. The best quality silk flowers look better than the real thing, especially a few weeks after Mother's Day. Make them even better with a vial of matching floral scent to sprinkle on them from time to time.
7. A digital photo viewer or iPod-like device preloaded with family photos. Sneak her favorite photo albums out of the house, scan the contents and load them onto a portable viewer (there are many options available). She'll be delighted to have them with her to share at a moment's notice. If you go the iPod route, preload some of her favorite tunes, too.
8. Buy a goat in her name. Through World Vision, for \$75 you can buy a goat for a Third World person in her name. Long after the flowers are gone, she'll have the satisfaction of knowing she'd helping make some distant mother's life better.
9. Buy her a nice pair of 3D glasses or even 3D clip-ons and take her to the movies. It's a 3D world now, and who wants to wear a pair of glasses that have been on thousands of noses? Not your Mom, I bet.
10. A locket with a photo of *her* mother inside. After all, even on Mother's Day, she's still the child of her own mother.

Happy Decoration Day!

Memorial Day isn't just an excuse to take a long weekend and loaf around eating grilled meats—although those are certainly among the reasons to love the holiday. So before you head out to your barbecues and pool parties, here are some facts about everybody's favorite summer kick-off holiday.

1. It was originally called Decoration Day

To honor the deceased, soldiers would decorate graves of their fallen comrades with flowers, flags and wreaths. Hence Decoration Day. Although Memorial Day became its official title in the 1880s, the holiday wouldn't legally become Memorial Day until 1967.

2. It wasn't always celebrated the last Monday of May

After the Civil War, General John A. Logan, commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, called for a holiday commemorating fallen soldiers to be observed every May 30. But due to the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which took effect in 1971, Memorial Day was moved to the last Monday of May to ensure long weekends. Some groups, like the veterans' organization American Legion, have been working to restore the original date to set the day apart and pay proper tribute to the servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives defending the nation.

3. It is legally required to observe a National Moment of Remembrance

In December 2000, Congress passed a law requiring Americans to pause at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day to remember and honor the fallen. But this doesn't appear to be common knowledge, or if it is, by 3 p.m. most people seem to be too deep into a hot dog-induced food coma to officially observe the moment.

4. James A. Garfield delivered a rather lengthy speech at the first Memorial Day ceremony

Of course then it was still called Decoration Day, and at the time, Garfield was a Civil War General and Republican Congressman, not yet a President. On May 30, 1868, he addressed the several thousand people gathered at Arlington National Cemetery. "If silence is ever golden," Garfield said, "it must be beside the graves of 15,000 men, whose lives were more significant than speech, and whose death was a poem the music of which can never be sung."

5. Several states observe Confederate Memorial Day

In addition to the national holiday, nine states officially set aside a day to honor those who died fighting for the Confederacy in the Civil War: Texas, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia. The days vary, but only Virginia observes Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of May, in accordance with the federal observance of Memorial Day.

6. Waterloo, New York is considered the birthplace of Memorial Day

According to the town's website, in 1966 Congress unanimously passed a resolution to officially recognize Waterloo as the birthplace of the holiday. However, it remains a contentious debate, with other towns, like Boalsburg, Pa., claiming the title of "Birthplace of Memorial Day" as well.

7. More than 36 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home this Memorial Day

At least, according to AAA estimates. That's the highest total since the recession.



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



"Will this job require me to look up from my phone?"

Just for Fun

1. Morris - Felix - Garfield
2. Raffle - Parking - Movie
3. Multiple - Daily - Chewable
4. A Penny - Nebraska - Ford Motor Company
5. Minnesota - Siamese - Identical
6. Bridge - Memory - Hearts
7. Black - Bulk - Junk
8. Car - Home - Life
9. G.I. - Little - Sloppy
10. Thomas - John - James

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

Your mother's brother's only brother-in-law is asleep on the couch. Who is asleep on the couch?

Answer on page 8

Christie's Design/Build Remodeling

May Is:

- Foster Care Month
- National Barbecue Month
- National Bike Month
- National Blood Pressure Month
- National Hamburger Month
- National Photograph Month
- National Salad Month
- Older Americans Month

Real Men Do Laundry

In a fundamental shift, more men are doing laundry. Marketers are adapting washers and soap formulas for those who won't sort.

Whirlpool added a cycle to keep colors from mixing because the guys don't sort. According to The Wall Street Journal, Hero Clean detergent is geared for days-old stains because men tend to leave dirty clothes sit around.

Men and women do laundry differently, but the difference is particularly stark with men, age 18 to 34, with 67 percent saying they were "mainly responsible" for the laundry, up from 44 percent in 2013. Nearly 60 percent of men, age 35 to 54, are doing laundry. Among men ages 55 and older, just 35 claimed laundry responsibility in this survey.

Proctor and Gamble, the largest detergent maker in the U.S., has stopped using the word "she" in its internal discussions. P&G vice president Sundar Raman of P&G's North American fabric care unit, says because habits change they now talk about him and her.

In its ads, the company deliberately portrays men as confident launderers. Its online video campaign for Tide pods features NFL stars and other athletes who are on the short side along with a "small but powerful" slogan.

Who Needs a Yard to Grow Edibles?

Container gardening has grown rapidly in recent years. Burpee.com is offering compact and dwarf varieties intended to succeed in small spaces. Containers make it easier for you to control the soil, light, water and fertilizer.

Bigger containers are better. The greatest challenge of container vegetable growing is watering, since soil dries out faster in pots than in the ground. A larger volume of soil won't dry out as fast, but be sure that any container has holes so excess water can drain away.

Self-watering containers have a reservoir beneath the soil topped with a grid through which the roots can reach down to the water. With these containers you won't have to water as often, but you still have to fill the reservoir daily.

Spread mulch over the soil in pots just as you would in a garden.

Herbs are easy to grow, especially if you begin with transplants. They add a fresh-grown taste to almost any meal, but remember that all herbs need full sun. Some, such as rosemary, prefer dryer soil and fewer nutrients.

With pots, you may be able to finesse a sun shortage. Place a wheeled pot trolley (available in garden centers) under a large pot and move it to follow the sun.

Baby greens, such as lettuce and spinach, are simple to grow, Sow seeds right in the pot. They take a week to sprout, but then will quickly reach a harvest size of three to four inches.

Everybody loves tomatoes, but they take some work. For pots, find dwarf varieties that only grow to a certain size and bear all their fruit in a few weeks.

Buy transplants rather than trying to start them from seed. You need a large container, at least the size of a five-gallon bucket. Self-watering containers are wise because they even out the water and fertilizer supply and deter cracking, but you still will need to water frequently in summer. Provide a cage for all but the most dwarf determinate tomato varieties. Or install sturdy stakes when you plant and tie new shoots to the stakes.

Ready, Set, PAINT!

1. Clean the surface. Buy a 90-percent pure solution of rubbing alcohol and a self-wringing sponge mop with a scrubbing strip. Put a half gallon into a bucket and scrub the walls with an up-and-down motion. Wring the mop into an empty bucket so the solution isn't contaminated. Rubbing alcohol will remove dirt, fingerprints, cooking grease, nicotine stains and crayon.

2. Smooth the surface. Darken the room and put a halogen work light (\$15) on the floor next to the wall. Use a wall board sanding strip to remove anything that shows up. To fill any depression, use a vinyl surfacing compound and a drywall knife to smooth it out. Tap in nail heads and use the compound to fill the holes and depressions made by hammer strikes.

3. Apply the first coat. Use a sealer over any remaining stains, mold, mildew, and porous surfaces, such as unpainted plaster or drywall and large areas of joint compound or patching plaster. Use a primer on all other surfaces. If the top coat will be paint, have the primer tinted to match the finish color so you don't have to apply a second coat.

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

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!

Robert & Kim Christensen, Broomfield, CO

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

To Aerate or Not to Aerate

Two good reasons to aerate your lawn: tramped-on turf or the dreaded clay soil.

Greens keepers aerate fairways because the soil gets compacted from all the walking on it. Even a small dog or kids playing can compact your soil. If you have activities on your yard, you should aerate.

The other main reason to aerate is if you have clay soil. Although lots of trees and shrubs can grow well in clay, the roots of most annuals, perennials, and vegetables just aren't strong enough to make their way through the stubborn clay.

Aerating will improve the health of the clay soil, introducing essential nutrients and providing more favorable growing conditions.

At mowersdirect, lawn product expert Jose Castellanos says that no matter the implement you use, aeration is essentially just putting holes in the soil to improve the flow of oxygen, water and other nutrients to the roots in the grass.

Aeration actually causes initial damage to your yard, as it puts holes in the soil and may tear some roots, but in the long term it improves the overall health.

Typically, an aerator is a tow or walk-behind implement with lots of spikes on it. As it's towed across the grass, the spikes pull out 1 to 3 inch cylinders of soil. These holes allow for the extra moisture and air to penetrate.

When should you aerate?

Generally, you'll want to aerate your lawn in the spring. This is usually done in April, prior to plants blooming. However, in years with long winters or cold springs, aerating in May is fine too.

Remove all the weeds from your lawn before aeration. Otherwise, aeration can spread the weed pores.

Disabilities? How About a Tax-Free Savings Plan?

States across the nation are beginning to offer an investment account for people with disabilities. It's similar to the 529 college savings plans. The first states to offer the plans were Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, Virginia and Nebraska.

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts allow those with disabilities and their families to invest money and withdraw it later, with tax free earnings, for housing, education, transportation, health care and employment training.

A key feature of the plans: having the savings won't disqualify people from valuable federal benefits, such as Medicaid.

Before ABLE, people with disabilities became ineligible for federal benefits, such as SSI and Medicaid, if they had more than \$2,000 in cash and property, \$3,000 for couples.

An ABLE account allows tax-free withdrawals for a wide range of expenses, but if withdrawals are used for unqualified purposes, the earnings will be taxed as regular income.

To qualify for ABLE, the beneficiary's disability must have begun before age 26. Up to \$14,000 can be deposited in an ABLE account yearly. If the savings account balance reaches \$100,000, the owner will no longer be eligible for federal benefits.

I Want to Ride My Bicycle (To Work)



This year, Bike to Work Day is celebrated on Friday, May 20, 2016 in the USA. It's an annual event held in the United States and Canada. It promotes the bicycle as an option for commuting to work.

Biking to work keeps miles off your car's odometer and the fresh air makes you feel great.

Leading up to Bike to Work Day, bicycle advocacy groups encourage people to try bicycle commuting as a healthy and safe alternative to driving. They provide route information and tips for new bicycle commuters.

On Bike to Work Day, a wide variety of bicycle-related events are organized. Bike to Work Day was originated by the League of American Bicyclists in 1956 and is a part of Bike-to-Work Week, which is part of National Bike Month.

Roasted Sweet Potato and Rocket Salad

Ingredients

- ½ cup +1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and ground black pepper to taste + 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into wedges
- 2 red bell peppers, halved and seeded
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 shallot
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 dash hot pepper sauce
- ½ cup walnut oil
- ½ pound baby arugula leaves
- 1 (2 inch) piece Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese



Directions

1. Preheat an oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C).
2. Whisk the 1 tablespoon olive oil, salt, and pepper together in a bowl; toss the sweet potato wedges with the olive oil to coat. Place the bell pepper halves with their cut-sides down onto a baking sheet; arrange the sweet potato wedges around the peppers.
3. Roast in the preheated oven until the potatoes are slightly charred and crispy and the the bell pepper skin is blistered, about 45 minutes. Shake the pan once mid-way through the cooking time to keep the mixture from sticking to the pan. Set the potato wedges aside to cool. Place the pepper halves into a bowl and cover with plastic wrap; allow to sweat until cool, about 20 minutes. Peel the skin from the peppers and discard.
4. Mince the garlic and shallot together in a food processor. Add the peeled peppers, lemon juice, mustard, hot sauce, salt, and pepper; puree until smooth. Slowly stream the 1/2 cup olive oil and the walnut oil into the mixture as it blends. Transfer to a large bowl; add the arugula leaves and toss to coat.
5. Divide the potato wedges between 4 salad plates; top the wedges with equal amounts of the dressed arugula leaves. Shave the Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese over the salads to serve. Serve immediately.

Source: allrecipes.com

Decadent Truffles



- 1(8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 3 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted
- 3 cups semisweet chocolate chips, melted
- 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla
-

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until well blended. Stir in melted chocolate and vanilla until no streaks remain. Refrigerate for about 1 hour. Shape into 1 inch balls.

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****\$1,100 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!

THANK YOU FOR THE REFERRAL

John Christensen, Broomfield, CO

\$1,500 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!

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 (12/31/2015), 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.

Call: (303) 833-4715

Fax: (303) 325-7344

Email: Office@ChristiesCompleteServices.com

****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.**

Home Phone _____

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

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

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1. cats
2. tickets
3. vitamins
4. they all have Lincolns
5. twins
6. card games
7. mail
8. insurance
9. joes
10. disciples

Riddle Answer:

Your father!