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Fun Fact:

The average computer user blinks 7 times a minute, less than half the normal rate of 20.



Randall Brennan's

NEWSLETTER

Five simple steps to help homeowners ease into spring projects

(ARA) - Now, while the winter is still around, is the best time for homeowners to get a jump start on planning and prepping for their spring and summer home and garden projects; so when the weather really does warm up, it takes little effort to get the projects underway. In addition to fine-tuning home improvement and gardening plans, it is also a good idea to make certain the required tools are in tip-top shape, so the projects are not delayed.

Plans - Sketch out those garden plans, and pick the plants that can be purchased or grown from seed. Plans don't need to be drawn to scale, but they'll provide great background information for a shopping list. Research how early seedlings should be started, so they'll be ready for transplant when the time arrives.

Lawn tools - Check pruning shears for sharp blades - and either sharpen or replace them if they don't easily cut through a small stem of plant material. Also, review lawn mower blades. Check the oil, gasoline and starters on all gardening machinery to ensure they'll run correctly when needed.

House tools - A review of all home tools helps to determine if any new purchases - or replacements are needed. This is the perfect time to head to the store and purchase missing tools, add new blades to saws or replenish the sandpaper stash - eliminating wasted time running back and forth to the store.

Hand tools - A little care can go a long way in keeping your hands and in good shape after the long, dry winter months. These tools are vital to accomplishing everything on those garden and home project lists, and they are often forgotten. Start every project off with healthy hands, and keep them that way throughout the entire season of projects.

Materials - As the project season gets closer, start purchasing the materials needed ahead of time. This helps to spread the cost out, and can give an idea of how much time and effort the project will take to be completed. Get started now in matching colors, finding the perfect accessories and even price-comparing between different suppliers to help save money.

- Courtesy of ARA Content

Word of the Month:

Studies have shown that your income and wealth is directly related to the depth of your Vocabulary. Here is this month's word so you can impress your friends.

altruistic

\al-troo-İS-tik\
adjective;

1. Unselfishly concerned for or devoted to the welfare of others.

Example:

An altruistic act is an act performed for the welfare of others. It is unselfish, as opposed to an act performed for self, which is selfish.

Quotes to Live by:

“You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”

—By Martin Luther King Jr.

Say What?

A Dime A Dozen:

Anything that is common and easy to get a hold of.

Make your home stand out with a new exterior trim

(ARA) - With the housing market showing its first signs of improvement in years, many homeowners hope to attract interested buyers this spring. Replacing old or damaged exterior trim is a great way to freshen up your home today and make it stand out among others tomorrow.

After location and price, curb appeal is one of the top factors for choosing a home. Curb appeal sells 49 percent of all homes, according to the National Association of Realtors. In fact, even before putting your home on the market, your realtor often will recommend ways to make it look its very best from the street. The evaluation process starts as soon as buyers pull up.

Inspect your trim- Spring is an ideal time to inspect your home's exterior trim. Walk around your house and look at the trim around your windows and doors, at the corners, and near the roofline. Warning signs of potential problems include peeling or blistering paint, green algae, warped boards, and spongy or soft spots.

If the trim is damaged beyond repair, the only solution is replacement. Depending on your carpentry skills, replacing exterior trim can be a DIY project, but it is often best to hire a local contractor. One option that has become a preferred choice among homebuilders and remodelers is a treated exterior composite trim called MiraTEC. This engineered wood trim is ideal for nonstructural applications, such as roofline fascia, window and door trim, corner posts and porch trim.

Find the right trim- With a clear cedar, wood-grain texture on one side and a contemporary smooth finish on the other, MiraTEC trim is ideal for many home styles from historic to modern. It looks and handles like wood, and is coated with a mildew-resistant primer, making it easy to paint. MiraTEC is very durable and it resists moisture, rot and termites.

Before you put your house on the market, take a good look at your exterior trim. If it doesn't look inviting at first glance, replacing it now could help make your home stand out on the block.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-

Movie Trivia: What movie's signature line was “I'll be back”?
a. Star Wars b. Total Recall
c. The Terminator d. Predator

CALL ME NOW AT 303-909-2365

Would you like to know how much your neighbor's home listed for?

Maybe you're just curious. Or maybe you want to know how much equity you have in your home. Or perhaps you are thinking of selling soon and want to know how much your home increased in value. Either way, I can help...No "sales pitches" or runarounds. Just give me a call **303-909-2365** and I will give you the facts.

Economy at a Glance:

Data Series	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012
<u>Unemployment Rate</u>	8.3	8.3	N/A
<u>Change in Payroll Employment</u>	243	227	N/A
<u>Average Hourly Earnings</u>	23.29	23.31	N/A
<u>Consumer Price Index</u>	0.2	0.4	N/A
<u>Producer Price Index</u>	0.1	0.4	N/A

Information from <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm>

US Population Clock
313,297,676
World Population Clock
7,004,717,378

-April 3, 2012

Simple projects to spruce up the look of your home

(ARA) - As the days get longer and things get a little brighter inside your house, it becomes easier to notice the places that could use a little extra TLC. It's also the perfect time to work on simple home improvement projects as you wait for warm weather to come. Here's a checklist you can work on now so your home will be vibrant and welcoming once long summer days roll around.

Floors- Once the light begins to reflect off your floors, you really start to notice some imperfections. If you've been waiting to screen and recoat your hardwood floor to give it a new shine, now's the perfect time to do it. If you're replacing tile, vinyl or linoleum flooring, a heat gun is a great tool to help soften the adhesive for easy removal. The Wagner HT3500 digital heat gun offers 12 precise temperature settings, making it an easy-to-use tool for do-it-yourselfers.

Painting- One of the easiest ways fill your rooms with warmth is to give them a fresh coat of paint. Increased sunlight will help you choose the color that works best with your room, and you can finish painting before the weather gets really nice and you want to spend more time outside.

Windows- Spring is a great time to take a look at your window treatments and see if they could use a little love. Cleaning your blinds and washing your curtains can give your indoor space a little extra life. If you're repainting, you may also want to consider repainting or re-staining your window frames. You can also use a heat gun to help you remove old paint or varnish from your frames.

Deck- As the weather warms up and you're again ready to use your deck, you'll probably notice plenty of debris that's collected over the winter. Start by giving it a good spray with the hose to clear away everything. If you plan on staining or repainting your deck, mild temperatures are ideal. If you get it done in the spring, you'll have plenty of time to enjoy it throughout the year.

Bathrooms- Since you're freshening up the rest of your house, don't forget the bathrooms. Besides simply scrubbing your tub, cleaning bathroom tile and re-grouting is an easy way to get your bathroom looking clean and bright. This project can be done over a weekend and is simple enough for most homeowners to handle.

By taking some time to tackle these projects now, you'll give yourself a whole summer of relaxing in the warmth of your newly refreshed home.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-

Food Fact:

- Cranberries are sorted for ripeness by bouncing them: a fully ripened cranberry can be dribbled like a basketball.

-Honey is the only food that doesn't spoil.

Weird Laws:

Alaska- No one may tie their pet dog to the roof of a car.

California- Nobody is allowed to ride a bicycle in a swimming pool.

Florida- Doors of all public buildings must open outwards.

Kansas- Riding an animal down any road is against the law.

U.S.A. Facts

- The average snowfall in the mountains near Salt Lake City is 500 inches.

- The Pentagon has nearly 68,000 miles of internal telephone lines.

And... Whether you are thinking of buying, selling, or financing real estate, or stop by and say "hi", I'd love to hear from you...

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References:-aracontent.com,
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Save money with an 'enlightened' roof - and decorate

(ARA) - Enlightenment isn't just a state of mind - it can also be an important energy-saving state of being for your home's roof. By "enlightening" your roof, you can use less energy, save money, and dress up the interior of your home at the same time.

All roofs protect us, and the interiors of our homes, but they can do so much more. They can be the collection and distribution point for an inexhaustible supply of free natural light and energy:

A roof that uses Energy Star qualified venting skylights, for instance, admits healthful natural light while providing passive ventilation through the natural "chimney effect" of rising air. This is not an insignificant consideration especially in kitchens and baths that have higher moisture and humidity levels than other areas of the home.

Areas of the home where traditional skylights with blinds might not work - such as hallways, closets and small, interior baths - can still admit natural light through less expensive Sun Tunnel tubular skylights. And optional light kits turn these units into 24-hour sources of light. Low-profile flat glass models that blend unobtrusively with the roof, and domed models, all offer a fast, easy, less expensive way to transform a home with natural light.

Skylights offer room-changing drama and decorating flair while adding natural light from above. And skylight blinds are now available in colors and pattern choices to mix and match with room decor giving homeowners another interior design tool. Blinds not only dress up a room but also provide light control while increasing the energy efficiency and usefulness of skylights.

According to skylight manufacturer, Velux America, the addition of blinds can increase the overall energy efficiency of the units by 37 percent. They recommend closing the blinds on high heat/sun days in the summer to reduce potential solar heat gain and, on cold winter nights, closing them to provide an extra layer of thermal insulation to keep warm air indoors. Skylight blinds, as well as the units themselves, can be controlled manually or with a remote.

Modern, low profile skylights are unobtrusive and are as dependable as vertical windows. There's also a free mobile phone app there to help homeowners see how skylights and blinds would look in rooms in their own homes.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-