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Fun Fact:

People spend about two weeks of their lives at traffic lights!



Randall Brennan's

NEWSLETTER

Give grass a fresh start this spring

(ARA) - Grass is an extraordinary plant, the unsung hero of backyards everywhere. With proper care and feeding, grass can help clean the air, cool the ground, reduce erosion and provide one of the softest outdoor play surfaces. With all of these amazing benefits, it pays to start the spring season off right by giving grass a boost.

The heat of last summer, combined with uncharacteristic winter temperatures in many regions, may have taken a toll on the lawn, but getting it back on the road to recovery is easy. Moderate temperatures and increased precipitation in spring are perfect for repairing, seeding and feeding grass. Well-nourished grass withstands harsh conditions better, and provides a lush, durable place to play while squeezing out unwanted weeds by blocking access to sunlight. Follow these tips to take your grass from tired to terrific.

Seed: Fill in bare or thin spots with grass seed to encourage a thick lawn, helping prevent weeds from invading your lawn by blocking access to sunlight. Use a high-quality seed appropriate for your region.

Feed: Grass needs nutrients to grow strong, deep roots that can endure harsh conditions and grow in thick to help block access to sunlight for weeds. Use a starter fertilizer when planting new grass to promote root growth and seedling development.

Mow: Set your mower at the highest setting and leave grass clippings on the lawn. Mow frequently to avoid removing more than one third of the grass height, and do so when grass is dry to avoid damp clumps that could smother grass. Leaving clippings on the lawn recycles nutrients stored in the clippings keeping the soil cooler, encouraging deeper root growth and enriching the soil with organic material.

Water: Grass that is fed and kept at a taller height develops deep roots which are better able to conserve water and withstand periods of heat and drought. Rely on rainfall as the primary source of water. During periods of drought, the lawn can go without water for an extended time. Even though the lawn may look brown and wilted, it will recuperate after the rain returns.

- 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.

Sanguine

\SANG-gwin\ , noun;

1. cheerfully optimistic, hopeful, or confident

Example:

I had now arrived at my seventeenth year, and had attained my full height, a fraction over six feet. I was well endowed with youthful energy, and was of an extremely sanguine temperament.

-- Henry Bessemer

Quotes to Live by:

"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude."

-Thomas Jefferson

Say What?

Last but not least:

An introduction phrase to let the audience know that the last person mentioned is no less important than those introduced before him/her.

Small, quick repairs have a big impact on your home's curb appeal - and value

(ARA) - As the weather continues to warm, you might be thinking about some of the home improvement projects you put on the back burner during the winter. As you once again consult your to-do list, it's the perfect time to think about a few small projects that can greatly enhance your home's curb appeal.

Where does a smart homeowner start? The answer: Begin with a few small projects that are guaranteed to greatly enhance your home's curb appeal. Whether you're preparing to sell your home, or are simply trying to protect your investment and make it easier on the eyes, there are a few common improvements that can give the exterior of your home a quick and easy facelift.

Start with the driveway: If you neglect your driveway, cracks can quickly grow into potholes, which can cause it to lose its aesthetic appeal and pose a safety concern. A few hours work each year can greatly extend the life of your driveway.

In addition to maintaining your driveway, here are a few other projects that can greatly contribute to your home's curb appeal:

Add some landscaping features along the edges of your driveway. This adds a point of distinction between the pavement and your lawn, giving it a more inviting look.

Check your mailbox for winter wear. If it's seen better days, consider replacing it. Otherwise landscaping around your mailbox can add extra appeal. If you live in a colder region, be sure to use resilient plants, as this area can take a beating from the snowplow.

While cleaning out your gutters is a necessary spring ritual, power washing the exterior of your home can add a little extra life to the look of your house, especially the front porch.

Replace your house number and worn hardware on the front door, and consider a fresh coat of high-gloss paint on the door in a classy color, such as black.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-

Movie Trivia: Randall Boggs, James P. Sullivan and Mike Wazowski were in which Pixar film together?

- a. Wall-E
- b. Monsters Inc.
- c. A Bugs Life
- d. Toy Story 2

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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	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012
<u>Unemployment Rate</u>	8.3	8.2	N/A
<u>Change in Payroll Employment</u>	227	120	N/A
<u>Average Hourly Earnings</u>	23.31	23.39	N/A
<u>Consumer Price Index</u>	0.4	0.3	N/A
<u>Producer Price Index</u>	0.4	0.0	N/A

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

US Population Clock
313,464,376
World Population Clock
7,010,604,683

-May 1, 2012

Tips for a secure home and peace of mind

(ARA) - Homeowners often worry about keeping their homes safe and secure for their families. And it's no wonder: nearly 70 percent of home break-ins are in the form of kick-ins to a door, according to the U. S. Department of Justice.

You have many easy and affordable options for ensuring a safer home, and ultimately, greater peace of mind. Here's a home security checklist to get you started.

Assess the perimeter. Walk around your yard at different times of the day to judge lighting and shadows. Do you have sufficient exterior lighting to ensure that they can enter your home, can see and can be seen? Install better lighting near every entrance. Plant some thorny or prickly shrubbery below the windows and next to entrances so there's no place for someone to hide.

Add an alarmed lock. Most alarm systems trigger after a door has already been opened. However, if you don't have an alarm system, an alarmed lock is a great alternative, and will allow you to instantly hear what's happening at your door. "An alarmed lock provides an added layer of security that many homeowners' are looking for and can put their minds at ease," says Chris DeSchamp, Schlage portfolio leader, electronic security.

Enhance security of glass and wooden doors. Make sure all your sliding glass and patio doors have at least one of the following to prevent them from being opened: a track lock, a hinged door bar, an insertion pin lock or a metal or wood dowel inserted into the track that allows it to be opened only when you wish. It's also a good idea to equip each wooden door with a wide-angle eye viewer so you can identify who may be at the door before opening it.

Monitor home security while you're away. With today's technologies, it's easier and more affordable than ever to monitor and control your home's security even if you're not home. For example, the Schlage LiNK System lets you use any computer connected to the Internet or Web-enabled cell phone to turn lights on and off, check the status of the door, grant entry into the home, open and close blinds, and many more functions.

By making these easy steps to upgrade your home's security, you'll not only gain more protection for your family, but you'll also gain the best security of all - total peace of mind.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-

Food Fact:

- The pound cake got its name from the pound of butter it contained.

- The hottest pepper in the world is the Habanero.

Weird Laws:

Alabama- It is illegal to wear a fake moustache that causes laughter in church.

Kansas- It is illegal to put ice cream on cherry pie.

Alaska- It is illegal for a moose to walk on the sidewalk downtown.

Connecticut- You are not allowed to walk across a street on your hands.

U.S.A. Facts

- Washington, D.C. has one lawyer for every 19 residents!

-50% of the state of Florida is covered in swamp.

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

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References:-aracontent.com,
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Five smart steps to maximize bathroom space

(ARA) - As today's housing market has homeowners fighting the itch to move, many turn to renovation projects to improve their existing spaces. Look at a homeowner's wish list, and the bathroom often tops the list. With its frequent use and endless potential, easy changes offer a big payoff.

In spite of its heavy use, bathrooms are often some of the smallest areas in a home. Adding function doesn't require changing your bathroom's footprint. To maximize your bathroom storage and make it work best for you, consider these design and organizational tips.

Tip 1: Install a floating vanity. A big trend in small bathroom design is the floating vanity; its wall-mount installation leaves floor space below open and uninterrupted, which tricks the human eye into reading the space as larger than it actually is. Floating vanities come in a variety of materials and designs that offer plenty of countertop space and storage solutions.

Tip 2: Make your mirror work harder. Is your bathroom sporting an old bulky medicine cabinet? Replace it with a smarter option designed with innovative storage that makes life easier.

Tip 3: Use hidden space to your advantage. In a small bathroom it might be hard to imagine where you might find even an inch of extra space, but there's one secret area you can access and use to your advantage. If you have a blank wall, the space between the studs offers a plethora of potential storage space. You can build shelves directly between the studs, which adds lots of extra space for items like washcloths and toiletries, all within the existing footprint.

Tip 4: Get wired for modern practicality. Your morning routine charges you for the day ahead, so make sure items like electric razors and toothbrushes are fully charged, too. Cabinets equipped with outlets keep personal care items fully juiced and concealed, leaving countertops and sink surfaces clutter-free for a clean and organized space both you and guests to enjoy.

Tip 5: Revamp the storage drawer. Vanity drawers in disarray steal precious time from your morning and evening routine. First step to function: Purge. Toss old or unused cosmetics, personal supplies, grooming tools or other items you don't use. Next, reorganize with inserts that transform drawers into organizational powerhouses. Look for inserts that will streamline how you use your bathroom, such as options with different sized compartments or even one made specifically for your hair dryer.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-