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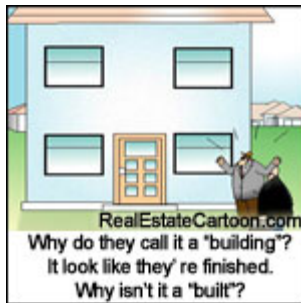
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Fun Fact:

Blue eyes are a genetic mutation. Before the mutation occurred, all humans had brown eyes.

Randall Brennan's

NEWSLETTER

Green home improvements that can make a real difference in home value

(BPT) - What your home is worth to you is one thing; what it's worth to someone else may be totally different. If you want to boost the value of your home for yourself and in the eyes of others, one of the best ways to do that in today's real estate market is to make green home improvements.

Going green can mean a lot of things, and it's easy to start with small changes like switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs and unplugging appliances when they're not in use. Not only will you be doing good for the environment, you might end up saving on utility bills and, ultimately, increasing your home's value when the time comes to sell.-

Green projects aren't all necessarily in the do-it-yourself category, and making an investment to have the bigger jobs done right will pay off in the long run.

* Windows: Caulking and putting up energy-saving window film is a great start, but a more dramatic change might make a world of difference if you want to make a sale. Replacing your existing windows with high-efficiency versions can be an expensive proposition, but the return on your investment can be dramatic, particularly if you're hoping to attract buyers.

Landscaping: Consider adding trees that will bring shade to the sunniest spots, like the west side of your home, to cut summertime electric bills. Trees that lose their leaves in the fall will let light in during the winter, as opposed to evergreens which will block it throughout the year.

Most homeowners put a lot of effort into making their homes attractive, welcoming spaces. With green updates, you can make your home not only more comfortable and more energy-efficient, but also more appealing to buyers. Add the potential energy savings and the possible boost in home value and you have even more reasons to bring your home into the green age.

- Courtesy of Brandpoint-

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.

Eudemonia

\yoo-di-MOH-nee-uh\ , *noun*:

1. Happiness; well being.

Example:

We all seek eudemonia, but he thinks that it takes a great deal of reflection and education to get a clear enough conception of it really to aim at it in our practice.

-Robert Campbell
Roberts, Intellectual
Virtues

Quotes to Live by:

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

-Gandhi

Say What?

A Picture Paints a Thousand Words:

A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.

Home improvements for the love of spring

BPT) - Improved value, curb appeal and livability are the benchmarks for any smart home improvement. But some upgrades you do for the sheer joy of it. The best home improvements deliver all those smart qualities and speak to your heart at the same time. With spring home improvement season approaching, here are some home improvements that you can do for the love of spring - and the love of your biggest investment:

Abundant natural light and fresh air are among the joys of spring, and replacing an old, energy-inefficient skylight, or adding one where none existed before, is a great way to welcome sunlight and spring breezes into your home. Sunlight's positive effect on mood is well-documented, and adding a venting skylight, which comes with a screen, offers other health benefits as well.

If you don't already have a deck, adding one - whether wood or composite - not only enhances your home value, it will be a great place to celebrate the arrival of spring. If you already have a deck, consider value-enhancing upgrades like new balusters, lighted post caps, built-in seating and even planters.

Great kitchens sell homes, and the room is one of the most-used in any home. Upgrading your kitchen is almost always a good investment, one that improves resale value and your enjoyment of your home.

Bathroom renovations are also popular and a minor bathroom remodel can return more than 65 percent of the cost at the time of resale, according to the Cost vs. Value Report. While replacing countertops and fixtures are common remodeling tasks in a bathroom, don't overlook the biggest surface in the room - the floor.

This year, celebrate spring by replacing an old worn wooden door with a sturdy, decorative steel door. To really celebrate spring, add a screen door. You'll be able to let in fresh air and spring breezes while keeping insects out. Plus, a screen door is essential Americana, creating a welcoming openness that epitomizes the joy of spring.

- Courtesy of Brandpoint-

Movie Trivia: Which candy did the boy in E.T. use to lure the extraterrestrial?

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| a. Gummy Bears | b. M&M's |
| c. Milk Duds | d. Reese's Pieces |

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	Dec 2012	Jan 2013	Feb 2013
<u>Unemployment Rate</u>	7.8	7.9	N/A
<u>Change in Payroll Employment</u>	196	157	N/A
<u>Average Hourly Earnings</u>	23.74	23.78	N/A
<u>Consumer Price Index</u>	0.0	N/A	N/A
<u>Producer Price Index</u>	-0.3	0.2	N/A

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

US Population Clock

315,455,869

World Population Clock

7,070,888,535

-March 1, 2013

Moving or improving? Tips for Flawless painting projects

(BPT) - Did you know spring is the best time to sell your home? And now that the housing market is bouncing back, there's never been a better time to do it. But even if you're planning to stay put for the long haul, chances are there are some much-needed touch-ups you could be doing to keep your home in tip-top shape. Adding a new coat of paint is a quick, affordable, and possibly the most impactful, way to get your project done.

First, move furniture out of the room and place drop cloths to protect the floor. Remove any picture frames, outlet covers and wall decor. Then, gently scrub the walls with a mild detergent and water mixture using a soft sponge to remove any dirt, grime or lint. Don't forget to prime your walls before applying color to ensure the best end-results.

When applying paint, start at the top and work your way down. For superior results, you'll want to fill the well of your roller tray with paint, dip the roller in half-way and then roll it back onto the tray's angled platform to easily remove excess paint. This will reduce dripping and improve overall paint cover. The best approach for applying paint? Use your roller cover to make an overlapping "W" pattern in a 2-foot by 2-foot area; then fill in and repeat.

For smaller interior paint projects or tight spaces, Purdy also has a variety of innovative mini roller choices that are versatile, lightweight and can quickly and easily deliver a perfect finish with smooth rolling action. These combined features make them the ideal applicator for a variety of projects like painting doors and cabinets, to freshening up tables, chairs and even bedroom furniture.

If you're still feeling deprived of color after your painting project is complete, never fret. There are several ways to add a pop of color throughout your home without slathering the walls with offensive paint colors. Try incorporating fun accent pieces in your favorite colors - think lamps, frames, pillows and rugs.

You can even include larger focal pieces like royal blue armchairs or a patterned couch to make a bolder statement. By keeping the overall aesthetics of your home neutral and inviting, and enhancing them with a few sight-provoking embellishments, house guests will be asking you for home decorating tips. And if your end goal is to get your home sold, consider these minor improvements a step in the right direction.

-Courtesy of Brandpoint-

Food Fact:

-Fresh apples float because 25 percent of their volume is air.

-Bananas are about 99.5% fat free!

Weird Laws:

North Carolina- It is illegal to plow a cotton field with an elephant.

California- It is illegal to pick up and throw used confetti.

Nevada- It is illegal to pawn your dentures.

Kentucky- It is illegal to carry an ice cream cone in your back pocket.

U.S.A. Facts

- The United States has paved enough roads to circle the Earth over 150 times.

- The United States consumes 25% of the world's energy.

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,
copyright 1996-2009, ARAcontent-
<http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm>

DIY home improvement fixes to create a healthier home

(BPT) - You might not be aware that your home may pose some hidden risks for you and your family. But you don't need a fat budget to give your home a safer and healthier boost. After all, there is nothing more important than keeping your family safe.

Hazards may be lurking in your home, and for \$100 or less, you can make the home improvement precautions needed to protect your family from common household dangers. Danny Lipford, home improvement expert and host of the nationally syndicated show "Today's Homeowner," recommends these budget-friendly DIY projects for a safer and healthier home:

* Mount smoke detectors: There should be a smoke detector on each floor and in or near every bedroom in the home. Installing them is as simple as mounting them 4 inches from the wall on the ceiling. Smoke rises, so opt to place the detector at the highest point of the ceiling if you have an angled ceiling. Estimated cost: \$30.

* Install a water filter: If you're concerned about lead, VOCs, microbial cysts and pharmaceuticals in your tap water, or even if you just don't like the taste or smell of it, install a DIY water filtration system. Filtrete Brand makes a full line of them, such as the High Performance Drinking Water System that comes with a dedicated faucet and will provide your family with cleaner, better tasting water. Estimated cost: \$100.

* Install carbon monoxide alarms: Carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas, is a result of improperly vented or defective home systems such as heaters, furnaces and fireplaces. Carbon monoxide does not rise to the ceiling like smoke, so the alarms can be mounted anywhere, such as plugged into wall outlets or affixed to walls and powered by batteries. Estimated cost: \$50.

* Install a bathroom vent fan: Poor ventilation in the bathroom can lead to a buildup of excess moisture, which is a breeding ground for mold and mildew. Install a bathroom vent fan to push the moist air outside the home to avoid creating unhealthy conditions in the room, as well as fogged-up windows, steamy mirrors, and eventually ruined walls and ceilings. Estimated cost: \$100

-Courtesy of Brandpoint-