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Randall Brennan's

NEWSLETTER

Go green and live comfortably all year long

(BPT) - Milder temperatures and longer days mean winter is fast becoming a distant memory. However, environmentally conscious homeowners know that the arrival of warmer weather also means the likelihood of increased air-conditioner use and higher energy bills.

With more green solutions available on the market, homeowners can make informed decisions of how to "green" their home while living comfortably all year long and saving money.

While these eco-solutions can help homeowners make the transition to living green, one area that homeowners usually do not consider is their home's envelope - that is the home's walls, windows, ceiling and floors. The U.S Department of Energy Savers suggests that air leakage from these areas can account for up to 40 percent of the energy lost by your home. When considering the amount of energy lost daily due to air leakage, homeowners are potentially losing thousands of dollars annually on air that is escaping their home.

Another effective consideration is replacing a home's traditional batt insulation with a high-performance spray foam insulation. Spray foam insulation, such as Icynene, is a valuable solution for homeowners who want to make eco-friendly improvements to their home.

As a modern insulation solution, spray foam insulation expands rapidly to completely seal a home's walls, floors and ceilings to prevent air leakage. Insulation experts from Icynene note that quality spray foam insulation can noticeably reduce heating and cooling costs, in some cases by up to 50 percent. Additionally, spray foam insulation helps minimize random airborne moisture and pollutants from entering the home, ideal for anyone currently suffering from seasonal allergies. More information on how spray foam insulation can help homeowners minimize air leakage is available online at www.icynene.com.

- Courtesy of Brandpoint-

Fun Fact:

Dell Computers was started by a 19 year old with only \$1,000.

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.

Haimish

\HEY-mish\ ,
adjective:

1. Homey; cozy and unpretentious.

Example:

By late afternoon the house looked at least haimish, with the season's last roses cut and opening in jelly jars.

-- Sally Koslow, With Friends Like These

Quotes to Live by:

"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."

—Halford E. Luccock

Say What?

At the Drop of a Hat:

Willing to do something immediately.

Kitchen updates that won't break the bank

(BPT) - Take a look around your home and think about which spaces you use most. If the kitchen made the list, you're not alone. For most homeowners, the kitchen is the heart of their home, and all the time spent there likely causes a fair amount of wear and tear. If this sounds like your kitchen, it might be time for a remodel.

While the National Association of Home Builders finds that home remodeling is at its highest level since 2005, homeowners are still being understandably cautious with their investments. The good news is that no matter the size of your budget, there are cost-effective ways to update your kitchen to revitalize the center of your home.

The most dramatic change you can make in your kitchen is to update the cabinetry. But for many, the thought of new cabinetry equates to a budget breaker. According to Sarah Reep, design lead for QualityCabinets, it certainly doesn't have to be. "The key is to do your homework and find a brand that offers the trifecta of style, function and affordability," says Reep.-

Another affordable way to make a statement is by updating or adding a backsplash. "A backsplash is a subtle way to update your kitchen. Choose clean white subway tiles or add some drama with interesting patterns or colorful glass tiles," advises Reep. Home improvement stores like Lowe's or The Home Depot carry DIY tile kits in a variety of colors that are fairly simple to install yourself. Additionally, stylish, removable tile decals can help jazz up your walls quickly without the cost and commitment of tile.

The sink is one of the most frequently used features in a kitchen but easily ignored. Updating your kitchen sink to serve as a focal point of the room can do wonders for your space. A beautiful apron-front sink or sleek new faucet can create a dramatic update to your kitchen and provide that attention-grabbing "wow" factor. Pair it with a new coat of paint or light fixtures that complement your design vision and you'll be amazed by what you can accomplish.

- Courtesy of Brandpoint-

Movie Trivia: Which film's plot is centered around hit songs by The Beatles?

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| a. Mamma Mia | b. Across the Universe |
| c. Rock of Ages | d. Almost Famous |

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 2013	Feb 2013	Mar 2013
<u>Unemployment Rate</u>	7.9	7.7	N/A
<u>Change in Payroll Employment</u>	119	236	N/A
<u>Average Hourly Earnings</u>	23.78	23.82	N/A
<u>Consumer Price Index</u>	0.0	0.7	N/A
<u>Producer Price Index</u>	0.2	1.1	N/A

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

US Population Clock
315,601,687
World Population Clock
7,076,245,010

-April 2, 2013

Entice buyers into your home with aromatic scents

(BPT) - When a home smells good, it makes a favorable impression on visitors. This is exactly what home sellers want when they put their house on the market.

The concept of ambient fragrancing started to trickle into the real estate market years ago. Savvy real estate agents advised sellers to bake cookies or cinnamon rolls in the homes they were showing to create a comforting, deliciously scented atmosphere meant to entice buyers. If you're trying to sell a home in today's challenging real estate market, you may have tried this technique. However, with the excess of available homes, you may need to think a bit more creatively to make your home stand out.

Aromatherapy expert Tom Havran has several ideas to help you sell your home. He crafts blends for Aura Cacia, purveyor of 100 percent pure and natural essential oils and aromatherapy products. A passionate expert on the properties of essential oils, he has been crafting essential oil blends for 15 years.

Because essential oils are so concentrated, a little goes a long way. An initial investment in a small 1/2 ounce bottle of oil will provide you with enough applications to conduct dozens of open houses.

Fresh flowers and bergamot vacuum powder make a light and transparent floral/citrus scent that will create a cheerful, friendly and clean atmosphere to impress visitors. Since you need to vacuum before each property showing anyway, this is a great way to turn the chore into a smart real estate marketing move.

Using essential oils to craft your own bit of psychological scent marketing might provide a good return on a small investment. Aromatherapy may give you that much-needed unique and surprising edge-up on the competition. Learn more at www.auracacia.com.

-Courtesy of Brandpoint-

Food Fact:

-Blueberry juice can boost your memory.

-Watermelons can cost up to \$100 in Japan!

Weird Laws:

Oklahoma- It is illegal to hit a baseball over the fence or out of the ball park.

Alaska- It is illegal to look at a moose from an airplane.

Florida- It is illegal to imitate an animal.

Georgia- It is illegal to slap a man on the back or front.

U.S.A. Facts

- The Statue of Liberty has a US women's show size of 879!

- The United States has the highest minimum drinking age in the world!

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](http://ARAcontent-http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm)
<http://idiomsite.com/>
<http://dictionary.reference.com/>

Backyard trends:

Save money installing your own vinyl fence

(BPT) - If you want the maintenance-free benefits of a vinyl fence but are intimidated by the price tag, you're not alone. Many homeowners are initially surprised at the cost of a vinyl fence, particularly since the installation costs are generally as much as the materials. Recent trends show that more and more homeowners are saving money by installing their own vinyl fencing.

In the past few years, the market has surged with DIY-friendly fencing products, making it much easier for a homeowner to install a vinyl fence without the use of specialized equipment. In the past, heavy auguring and cement mixing equipment was required to install a fence, making the project much more intimidating, time consuming and dirty.

The modern way is to install a vinyl fence post much like you would a chain link fence post - by driving a pipe anchor deep into the ground. After leveling the pipe, a vinyl post is sleeved over top. The result is a level fence post installed without the labor-intensive process of digging a deep hole and pouring concrete to set the post.

"The no-dig installation method makes vinyl fence installation so much easier and cleaner," says Denise Esser of WamBam Fence, a company that ships no-dig vinyl and aluminum fencing to homeowners all over the country via www.wambamfence.com. "You manually drive the posts with a pounder, but for those who don't like the idea of manually driving pipe, there are new gasoline powered pounders on the market. Although certainly not required, renting one for an afternoon makes the job even easier."

The no-dig way of installing vinyl fence has been used in Western Canada, where weather conditions are particularly harsh, for almost 20 years. In the past decade or so, it has also gained traction in the States as fencers and homeowners embrace the simpler installation method, particularly after the method passed wind load tests withstanding the class 1 hurricane category winds of up to 75 mph.

In a day when consumers everywhere are looking to save money, it's refreshing to see that this is one home project that just got a lot easier for homeowners to tackle.

-Courtesy of Brandpoint-