



# AROUND THE HOUSE

APRIL 2014

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS



*Our Services Include:*

- *New Roof Installation*
- *Roof Repairs*
- *Metal Roofs*
- *Tile Roofs*
- *Flat Roofs*
- *Shingle Roofs*
- *Energy Efficient Roofs*
- *Roof Diagnostics & Evaluation*
- *Ventilation*
- *Fascia*
- *Gutter Repair/Installation*
- *Skylight Repair/Installation*
- *Insurance Claims*

**Inside This Issue:**

- **Get Your Outdoor Areas In Shape for Warmer Weather**
- **Trim Your Budget Painlessly**
- **Make Your Home a Stress-Free Zone**

**Plus much, much more!!!**

## April Showers Bring ... Lots of Opportunities for Fun!

April showers may bring May flowers, but they can also bring on a case of cabin fever. Don't let a damp forecast rain on your parade. Whether it's barely drizzling or raining cats and dogs, make the most of the wet weather with these outdoor activities designed especially for rainy days.

### Make a Splash

Grown-ups usually discourage kids from jumping in puddles, so youngsters will be surprised and excited when you start a carefree splash contest. Gear up in raincoats and galoshes to head outside and stomp through pools of water. See who can create the biggest spray of water or give kudos for the most stylish tap dance routine.

### Color Yourselfs

Put on bathing suits and then color all over yourselves with bathtub crayons or other washable colors (we recommend that whatever you use washes off easily). Draw silly faces on your stomachs or write funny messages. Go wild. Then get out in the rain and wash yourselves off. It's nature's shower! Ready for more? Dry off and start all over again.

### Wet and Wild Relay Race

Don't let a little drizzle keep the kids cooped up. Use waterproof toys to create the ultimate obstacle course for a fun family race. Split into teams (so what, if there's only two of you — compete against each other) and take turns kicking a beach ball around cones, hula hooping, spinning in circles while resting your forehead on a plastic bat, and competing in a water- balloon toss. In this race, laughing at the goofy challenges is more important than rewarding a winner.

### Document the Day

Give your young photographers disposable waterproof cameras so they can capture the stormy weather on film. Spring showers provide a perfect opportunity to capture rare images of water droplets, colorful cloud formations, reflections in puddles, and beautiful rainbows. Shoot away, then drop off the cameras at a same-day photo processing center and send your shutterbugs home with the prints for lasting memories.

### Paint With Raindrops

Use spring sprinkles to create a work of art. Start by putting several colors of powdered tempera paint into empty containers with plastic shaker tops. Give each of your little artists a sheet of heavy white construction paper and allow them to sprinkle two or three colors onto the paper. Lay a plastic trash bag on the ground, and help your grandchildren gently place their powdered papers on the plastic. Watch the light rain turn the powder into beautiful art, and then take the pictures inside to dry.

**Spring Cleaning For the OUTside!**

Spring is the perfect time to take care of all those minor tasks you kept putting off during the colder months. It's often hard to feel motivated enough to clean the gutters, and weed the garden when you see a layer of snow and ice covering every area of your home. Once spring arrives, there are a few important things you need to take care of outside.

**Weed Gardens**

As soon as the snow melts, you'll notice weeds popping up around your lawn, and in your garden beds. Those weeds can include crabgrass, prickly lettuce, dandelions, and dozens of other plants. While you can always pick those weeds by hand, using a pesticide is a better option. You can find pesticides that will target the weeds without damaging your lawn, or other plants and flowers. Before you plant any new types of vegetation, make sure that you give the grass a dose of healthy nutrients and that you lay down a smooth layer of mulch.

**Take Care of the Driveway**

If you live in a cooler climate, winter can wreak havoc on your driveway. The snow and ice can penetrate below the surface, and cause cracking, or you might notice that the chemicals you used to remove that ice left pits on the driveway. After sweeping away any debris from the driveway, use a combination of dish soap, warm water, and a little distilled vinegar to clean the driveway. If you notice any cracks, chips or other damage, make some minor repairs yourself, or hire a professional company to repair the surface to keep it polished for the next winter.

**Clean Out Garage**

Many people find that they use their garages as a catch all during winter. Anything they have on hand that they don't have room for inside goes into the garage. By the time spring comes, you might find it hard to even walk through that space. Take everything out of the garage and place it on your driveway or in your yard. Use trash bags and cardboard boxes to differentiate between things you want to keep, things you want to donate, and things that can go in the trash. After donating and calling for a trash pickup, organize your garage, creating different areas for your gardening and landscaping, automotive and other needs.

**Just for Fun**



1. An Airline - A Dart - A Stairwell
2. A foot - Cinderella Fairytale - A Christmas Tree
3. A Compass - A Doctor - An Evergreen
4. Time - A Kite - A Flag
5. A Bottle - A River - A Guitar
6. Deer Antlers - A Horse - An Attack
7. A Whip - A Joke - A Safe
8. A Dog - A Kite - A Storyteller
9. A Golf Ball - A Nail - A Car
10. A Peach - A Long Jump - A Pole Vault

**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!

Answer page 9

**Why did the gardener plant a light bulb?**

Answer page 9

## Precision Roof Crafters, Inc.

### April is:

- Lawn and Garden Month
- National Humor Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- National Poetry Month
- National Pecan Month
- International Guitar Month
- Stress Awareness Month

### Trimming Your Budget Need Not Be Painful

Brian O'Connor, author of The \$1,000 Challenge, says you can find significant savings on expenses by eliminating some or finding cheaper alternatives.

A matter of percentages. Go through your credit card and bank statements to add up your monthly costs for must-haves. Determine what percentages of income go toward necessities and what percentage to wants. Ideally, you'd allocate at least 20 percent to savings, 50 percent for must-haves, and 30 percent for discretionary costs. Don't try to get every penny accounted for. Just go for the big picture.

Analyze the must-have column. Look at your home, car, insurance, and food. Search for bargains here. For example, carpooling could reduce travel costs by half if you drive 25 or 30 miles to work and back every day.

Trim automatic deductions from your checking account. If the cable bill is \$100 a month, you could switch to Hulu for \$7.99. Decide if you really want to spend \$75 a month on a storage unit for stuff you might never use again.

According to CNNMoney, decreasing discretionary spending could make you feel deprived. So maintain luxuries you really value, like that movie channel. Focus on items you don't care a lot about. If you're paying more for famous name merchandise, like toiletries or cigars, try less-expensive brands.

Avoid impulse buying. How many bargain-priced garments are in your closet that you wore just once or you've never worn at all?



This week has become the official time for our nation to celebrate the efforts of volunteers, who may serve at the local, state or national levels.

National Volunteer Week was started in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing it as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every president since has signed a proclamation promoting recognition of volunteers, as have governors, mayors and local officials.

As an individual, however, the main question you might ask is: "What can I do now? I don't really want an award, I just want to be part of it."

Almost every community has a service like Volunteer Match in Kokomo, Indiana. It matches people to important projects that are in desperate need of willing volunteers.

Could you help make repairs on the home of an elderly person who doesn't want to go to a nursing home?

In a children's hospital, you may work on the inpatient pediatric unit. You would check the patients, bring them things to do, play with them at the bedside or in the playground.

The classic volunteer role is helping to prepare food or serve it at a charity kitchen. They always need help.

You may not have a year of your life to donate, but projects abroad match each volunteer to a placement where their existing knowledge will have the greatest impact. By working alongside local partners as well as fellow volunteers you could use your skills to help improve the lives of some of the poorest people in the world.

### Think Like a Seal

Because of their intense training, Navy SEALs are not only tough but they're experts at setting goals.

\* Focus on one major thing, define it well and then focus until you make it happen. Ask yourself, "Does my schedule get me closer to my goal?" \* See your success. Imagine your goal in the most concrete terms: what it looks and feels like and what you need to achieve it.

\* Set wayside goals. On your path to the prize, set and achieve smaller wayside goals mark your way forward. These give you momentum.

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

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 "PRECISION ROOF CRAFTERS" FAMILY**

**Here are some of our new clients that became members of the "Precision Roof Crafters Family" this past month. I'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!**

Salvador Alvarado, Houston

James Autin, Tomball

Tara Beck, Tomball

Sabrena Belz, Katy

Sonya Bradley, Houston

Richard Branca, Houston

Jean Pierre Branchut, Houston

Melva Cantrell, Houston

Paul Cornett, Houston

Susan Dally, Magnolia

Rodrigo Daud, Houston

Belinda Du Plessis, Houston

John Evans, Katy

Joy Ezekiel, Magnolia

Mario Garcia, Pearland

Kim Garges, Friendswood

Mireya Garza, Houston

Doug Ginger, Houston

Connie Gough, Houston

Bethany Hebert, Houston

Francisco Hernandez, Houston

John Hopkins, Houston

Bruce Jeffries, Houston

Mary Jones, Pinehurst

Jo Ann Judzis, Houston

Charles King, Rosenberg

Norm Kober, Cypress

Greg Kubala, Houston

Shannon Lang, Houston

Collin Loewen, Houston

Jennifer Major, Houston

Rebecca Marek, Houston

Morris Masters, Houston

Marjorie Meyer, Houston

Frederick Nwoko, Pearland

Dennis Otineo, Pearland

Donna Oveson, Sugar Land

Alda Piliszek, Houston

Marti Powers, Houston

Tommy Ramsey, Houston

Alan Reed, Houston

Laurie Reid, Jersey Village

Chris Seat, Cypress

Terry Standlee, Spring

Rakinder Syal, Kemah

Moses Vasquez, Cypress

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

## The Future of Grocery Shopping

Somewhere between visiting the supermarket and ordering groceries to be delivered to you (if you live in a city), a new choice is evolving across America.

The hybrid grocery shopping model is taking form: you can order your items online and simply drive to a nearby depot to pick them up.

So is it really a time saver if you have to start your car to go pick up at the grocery depot anyway? Yes. Proponents say you won't have to find a place to park, walk through the store, and search through the aisles.

The depot system is especially helpful for those who are physically less capable of the supermarket routine. As for driving to the depot, you can schedule your pick up for a convenient time, like on your way home from work or after your kid's ball practice.

The depots are already popular overseas at distributors like Tesco. In the US, chains like Whole Foods and Harris Teeter are starting pilot programs.

Relay Foods is the leading startup in the U.S. According to Time it has expanded from its home in Charlottesville, Va., to Williamsburg, Va., and Baltimore.



## De-Stress Your Home

Modern life is high-tech, fast-paced and stressful. It's a jungle out there!

Turning your home into a sanctuary from the always on, always-connected world we live in is not only good for your mind, it's good for your health!

Make your home a relaxation zone with these design fixes.

### Let in light.

Sunlight is nature's stress-buster, because it positively impacts both physical and mental health.

Lift the blinds and lift your mood. If you're lacking in the natural light department, mirrors can be used to brighten up a room, instead.

### Dim down at night.

While light boosts energy levels, darkness can soothe the soul, so balancing the two is key. In the evening, keep certain spaces (such as your bedroom) low-key by reducing overhead lighting and using a candle or two. The low light will help transition your system to a relaxed state and prepare you for sleep.

### Frame your loved ones.

Remember that fun vacation with those amazing people? You should. Every day. Reliving happy memories breeds an upbeat outlook and framed photos will do the trick. Surround yourself with snapshots of friends, family, places and pets for a daily jolt of positivity.

### Simplify.

Clutter is the enemy of calm.

Pick one especially disorderly space in your home (the kitchen, closet or living room are three good options) and spend ten minutes sorting your clutter into three piles: keep, discard and relocate.

Eliminate the "discard" pile and move the "relocate" items to their proper places in the house.

### Add nature.

Plants are a great way to make any room feel tranquil and peaceful.

Whether you make a statement with a single staghorn fern or scatter jars of wildflowers throughout your home, you can't go wrong.

In addition to the high-traffic display spots, we recommend placing plants in obscure places (like the kitchen, home office or your bathrooms) to keep the natural vibe alive through and through.

### Power down.

The electronics in our lives can [drain more than electricity](#). Surrounding ourselves with screens – computers, TVs, tablets – can take a toll on our sleep habits, too. Hide them if you can, at least an hour or so before bed. The blue light emitted from most electronics actually affects your REM cycle, so you don't sleep as well. And nothing knocks your stress levels up a notch like a poor night's sleep!

***BrightNest is a free site that provides tools and tips to homeowners to help them save money, get organized and keep their homes in great shape. Sign up for a [free BrightNest account](#) today!***

**Free, Start Now! »**

## Think Spring Penne with Chicken and Asparagus

### Ingredients

- 1 (16 ounce) package dried penne pasta
- 5 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves cut into cubes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Garlic powder to taste
- ½ cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 bunch slender asparagus spears, trimmed and cut on a diagonal into 1-inch pieces
- 1 clove garlic, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup Parmesan cheese



### Directions

- Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to boil. Add pasta, and cook until al dente, about 8 to 10 minutes. Drain, and set aside.
- Warm 3 tablespoons olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Stir in chicken, and season with salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Cook until chicken is cooked through and browned, about 5 minutes. Remove chicken to paper towels.
- Pour chicken broth into the skillet. Then stir in asparagus, garlic, and a pinch more garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Cover, and steam until the asparagus is just tender, about 5 to 10 minutes. Return chicken to the skillet, and warm through.
- Stir chicken mixture into pasta, and mix well. Let sit about 5 minutes. Drizzle with 2 tablespoons olive oil, stir again and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Source: AllRecipes.com

### Pecan Crackers

- ½ (16 ounce) package graham crackers
- 2 cups chopped pecans
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup margarine

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- Line a baking sheet with graham crackers. Sprinkle evenly with pecans.
- In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine sugar, butter and margarine. Bring to a boil and boil 3 minutes. Remove from heat and spoon mixture over pecans, coating well.
- Bake in preheated oven 12 minutes, until golden. Cool completely before serving.

Source: AllRecipes.com

**Call Today  
To Learn  
How To Save  
On Your Next  
Home Project**

**(800) ROOF-PRO**

**(800) 766-3776**

**Client of the Month!**

Every month we choose a **Precision Roof Crafters' Client Of The Month**. It's just our way of saying thanks and giving a little recognition to our good friends and clients who help support us!

This month's client of the month is the **Susan & John Thompson!** Congratulations! **And thank you, Susan & John, for referring Richard Thompson to us!!!**

**Susan & John Thompson** win a **Gift Certificate** from **Carrabba's Italian Grill**. You can be the client of the month too! Watch for your name here in an upcoming month!

**SEND A REFERRAL: GET A PRIZE**

For every referral you send our way that becomes a client, you will receive a gift from our company:

"A \$25 Pre-Paid American Express Gift Card"

By referring your family, friends & neighbors, you've helped our business grow. Offering these special rewards is our way of saying, **"Thank you, you're the best!"**

Without you, we couldn't do what we do. To take advantage of our Referral Reward Program, just fill out the enclosed referral sheet and either fax or send it in. That's all there is to it!

**ROCKET REFERRAL REWARD PROGRAM!**

If you use this form, we will be able to make sure you get credit for all of your referrals when they become clients. If you have any questions, just give us a call at (insert your phone number).

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

**Referrals: If you run out of room, please feel free to use a separate sheet of paper.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_



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

**Fax To: 713.334.4458**

**Email To: info@roofprohouston.com**

**Mail To: 3919 Jeanetta St., Houston, TX 77063**



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

Commonym Answer:

1. they have flight
2. they have balls
3. they have needles
4. they all fly
5. they have necks
6. they are mounted
7. they are cracked
8. they have "tails"
9. they are driven
10. they have pits

Riddle Answer:

The gardener wanted to grow a power plant!

## Precision Roof Crafters, Inc. Money Saving Coupon

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Take Advantage of Our \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$  
**OUR APRIL SPECIAL**

**\$20 OFF**  
**Diagnostic & Evaluation**

**Service Call**

**As always you have our Personal  
100% Satisfaction Guarantee!!!**

Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.  
Must present this coupon to receive offer.  
Offer expires May 15, 2014



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