



# AROUND THE HOUSE

FEBRUARY 2014

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS



## Our Services Include:

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

## Inside This Issue:

- **Why Take Part in National Wear Red Day?**
- **Don't Hire an MBA - Rent One!**
- **Impress Your Sweetie With a Sumptuous Steak**

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

## Who Needs a Valentine? Celebrate Quirkyalone Day!

Like birthdays, Valentine's Day celebrations become repetitive after a few years. If you've grown disenchanted with fancy dinners, chocolates and roses, worry not, because there are plenty of unconventional Valentine's Day ideas to combat the season's predictability. After all, what's romance without a little adventure?

**1. Get cultured.** Every culture celebrates the day of love a little differently. For instance, in Japan, women give men chocolates on February 14th, while some parts of Britain serve buns baked with caraway seeds and raisins. After checking out YourTango's feature on Valentine's Day around the world, try mixing a couple of fun new traditions into your date night.

**2. Throw a Quirkyalone Day party.** As much as we love battling heart-shaped piñatas during "Singles Awareness" parties, hating Valentine's Day can be just as trite and obnoxious as the day itself. Instead of throwing an anti-Valentine's party, participate in International Quirkyalone Day, where singles around the world throw feel-good parties celebrating empowerment, romance and gratitude. Sometimes, these get-togethers encourage mingling; other times, they're just an excuse to enjoy Valentine's Day without the collective self-pity that often accompanies other singles' parties. For ideas, check out the movement's website, which recommends hosting an event at a public place, such as a library, and advertising for it a few weeks ahead of time on Craigslist or Flavorpill.

**3. Do touristy things in your own town.** Since plenty of people already dismiss Valentine's Day as corny, plan a few touristy activities that you and your honey have never gotten around to doing, and don't be embarrassed to take a zillion couple-y pictures while visiting those attractions. For example, if you live in New York City, ride a carriage through Central Park, have dinner at Serendipity, and play arcade games at Dave & Buster's in Times Square. Actually sounds pretty romantic, eh?

**4. Have a group date at someone's house.** Gather a bunch of people for a stay-at-home group date and split the duties. For instance, the men buy flowers, cook and serve the women dinner, while the women plan games, decorate or provide gifts (we suggest baked goods!). Keep in mind that if your party consists of both singles and couples, there should be an even number of single men and women so that no one ends up feeling like a third wheel.

**5. Volunteer.** Valentine's Day is a celebration of love, so consider branching out from romance into charity and friendship. Volunteer at a soup kitchen, send flowers to nursing home residents, or check online listings for Valentine-themed fundraisers for reputable non-profits. Contact local women's and domestic violence shelters to ask how you can best show love to those who live and work there. Baking cookies or sending letters of appreciation to caregivers can make all the difference for people who have suffered because of corrupted relationships.

## Presidents' Day or Washington's Birthday?

According to the federal government, the holiday observed on the third Monday in February is officially **Washington's Birthday**. But many Americans believe that this holiday is now called "Presidents' Day," in honor of both Presidents Washington and Lincoln, whose birthdays are Feb. 22 and Feb. 12, respectively. It turns out that whether you honor one or the other or both of these presidents may depend on where you live.

### States Decide on Holidays

The states are not obliged to adopt federal holidays, which only affect federal offices and agencies. While most states have adopted Washington's Birthday, a dozen of them officially celebrate Presidents' Day. A number of the states that celebrate Washington's Birthday also recognize Lincoln's Birthday as a separate legal holiday.

### When Was the First Public Celebration of Washington's Birthday?

Washington's Birthday has a history as old as our country. It was celebrated publicly for the first time in the late 18th century, while George Washington was still president.

Washington's Birthday became official in 1885, when President Chester Arthur signed a bill making it a federal holiday. Meanwhile, there was President Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12, which never became a federal holiday but was celebrated as a legal holiday in many states outside the old Confederacy.

### Origins of the Monday Holiday

In 1968, Congress passed the Monday Holidays Act, which moved the official observance of Washington's Birthday from Feb. 22 to the third Monday in February. Some reformers had wanted to change the name of the holiday as well, to Presidents' Day, in honor of both Lincoln and Washington, but that proposal was rejected by Congress, and the holiday remained officially Washington's Birthday.

Nevertheless, there was a popular misconception that the day had been officially renamed, a misconception only reinforced by the fact that the third Monday in February can only occur between Feb. 15 and Feb. 21. This means that the holiday is always after Lincoln's birthday and before Washington's Birthday, without ever coinciding with either. Furthermore, some states which had previously celebrated Lincoln's Birthday dropped the observance after the federal holiday reforms, supporting the notion that the two presidential birthdays had been combined.

While the name change has never been authorized by Congress, it has gained a strong hold on the public consciousness, and is generally used on calendars, in advertising, and even by many government agencies. There have been attempts to introduce legislation requiring federal agencies to call the day Washington's Birthday, but these have never gotten very far. No matter what's in the law books, the popular usage is now well established.

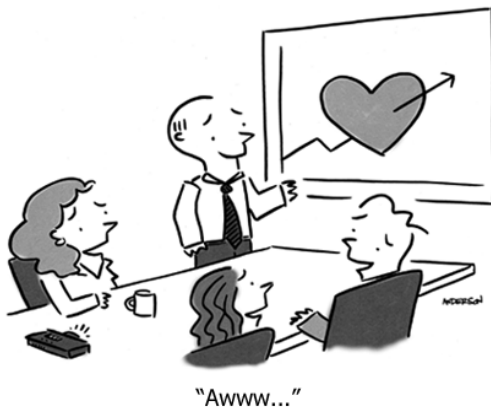
### You Can't Please All of the People...

Many people feel that Lincoln, the president credited with preserving the nation during the Civil War, has been short-changed. To them, having Presidents' Day is a sensible way to recognize both Washington and Lincoln. Others feel just as strongly that having an inclusive Presidents' Day diminishes Washington's importance in American history.

## Just for Fun

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1. Loan - Pool - Great White
2. Clog - Pump - Flat
3. Rain - Fur - Trench
4. Silver - Tin - Nickel
5. Coffee - Oil - Air
6. Tulip - Lamp - Onion
7. Saturn - Dirty Shirt Collars - Newlyweds
8. Date - Cook - Phone
9. Spock - Seuss - Phil
10. Fire - Soda - Safe

### 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 8

What did the big furry hat say to the warm woolly scarf?

**Precision Roof Crafters, Inc.**

**February Is:**

- American Heart Month
- Black History Month
- Canned Food Month
- Great American Pie Month
- National Cherry Month
- National Children’s Dental Health Month
- National Grapefruit Month

**National Wear Red Day is February 7th**

**National Wear Red Day** is a massive public awareness day urging everyone -- women, men, businesses, towns, schools, the media, buildings and landmarks - to **"go red"** to bring attention to the No. 1 killer of American women, cardiovascular disease. On **February 7**, wear something red and show your support of this groundbreaking national movement that helps raise awareness to empower women to reduce their risk.

An estimated one in four women dies from heart disease in the U.S., according to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. That's more deaths from heart disease than the next four causes of death combined, says the AHA.

But 80 percent of those deaths could be prevented if women eat right, exercise, and don't smoke. That's why the AHA spreads awareness through its Go Red For Women campaign so women "don't become a statistic."

Besides keeping themselves healthy, the AHA says women should look out for signs of a heart attack, so they call 9-1-1 and get to a hospital immediately - or at most within five minutes.

Women should be on the lookout for uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of their chest that lasts for more than a few minutes or comes and goes. Also, be on the lookout for pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach. Shortness of breath, with or without chest discomfort, is also signs of a heart attack, along with breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

Women are more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms besides chest pain and discomfort, particularly shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting and back or jaw pain, according to the AHA.



Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied-or even documented-when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

**Blacks Absent from History Books**

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population-and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

**Established Journal of Negro History**

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

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

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!**

Rosalyn Beaty, Sugar Land	Deborah Marr, Houston
Lewis Bonno, Houston	Roman McAllen, Houston
Louise Chehlaoui, Houston	Mario Mejia, Dickinson
Dian Chen, Missouri City	Malia Messina, Houston
Jinx Chiles, Houston	Justin Miller, Deer Park
Mary Cole, Houston	Amela Muharemovic, Pearland
Lynne Cresci, Katy	Rob Oberg, The Woodlands
BJ Dow, Sugar Land	Susan Pereira, Houston
Kolleen Drummond, League City	Alda Piliszek, Houston
Belinda Du Plessis, Houston	Diana Reeves, Houston
Jenny Ferraro, Houston	John Russo, Pearland
Presilo Galliguez, Sugar Land	Daniel Sanchez, Missouri City
Shirley Galvez, Houston	Tracy Sanders, Richmond
Beth Gammill, Houston	Beth Scribner, Galveston
Zena Gichana, Houston	Shauna See, Houston
Paul Haines, Houston	Mike Silvestre, Houston
Katherine Harvey, Houston	Natalie Slater, Missouri City
John Hopkins, Houston	Ryan Sytsma, Houston
Nicole Jabsen, Houston	Rick Taylor, Stafford
John Kievit, Conroe	Joe Walker, Alvin
Sonya Kitchens, The Woodlands	David Weimer, Houston
Lindsey Lampp, Houston	Suzanne Woods, Houston
Jeff Levy, New Caney	Margaret Worden, Houston
Sharon Linbeck, Houston	Craigie Young, Houston
Alan Lobo, Houston	Karl Zercoe, Houston
Collin Loewen, Houston	

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

### **Don't Hire an MBA – Rent One!**

A massive corporation can pick up the phone and call its Nerd Department and have 20 guys in blue jeans working a computer project in an hour.

In small business, a problem like that probably means the boss has to learn a new skill. Unless...

Unless the boss takes advantage of the fantastic new resources online that offer help from pointy headed nerds and MBAs for not so much money.

These days you can contract with an MBA to price your products, draw your logo, or do a variety of business calculating, including financial modeling, competitive analysis and marketing for a fraction of what a consulting company would charge.

One of the new companies is Skillbridge. Two-thirds of the 300 freelancers listed on Skillbridge have an advanced degree. To get listed on Skillbridge, professionals submit their resumes to be evaluated. When a company lists a job, the site comes back with a list of specialists who have been singled out because of their experience. Companies pay a commission of 10 to 20 percent. For smaller companies this is gold. One company estimated that a small consulting company would have charged him \$20,000 for work done in 35 hours by a Skillbridge MBA for \$1,500.

Their services are especially popular with startups, small businesses, and companies on lean budgets.

The companies can choose someone who is hyper specialized and work with them only for the exact amount of time they need.

HourlyNerd charges \$25 to \$75 an hour to rent out one of their investment bankers, MBAs or nerds.

For even lower prices, try Odesk.com for contractors based around the world.

### **Car Sales Affecting Economic Recovery**

The big increases in both new and used auto sales are having one effect on the economic recovery not many economists have thought about: the increase in personal debt.

The average car loan, new or used, was for about \$17,000 at the end of 2013, and is expected to climb another \$1,000 by the end of 2014.

The credit-reporting firm TransUnion says consumer confidence is pushing the trend, but another reason is that consumers have fewer borrowing options, so they're turning to auto loans in greater numbers.

That's good news for auto lenders, who generate profits from interest charged on the loans. Dealers often get a cut on the interest rate for arranging customer loans.

The average amount financed for a new-car purchase increased by about \$750 in 2013, to \$26,710, according to Experian data.

### **Cabinets, Countertops, Appliances – Oh My!**

When it comes to updating the kitchen, your goal is probably to make cost-effective changes that suit your needs.

Buying new appliances is often the first step, but there are important decisions to be made. Will you have a built-in cook top, oven and, microwave? If so, you'll have to plan cabinets around them.

New countertops will set the tone for other decisions, such as new backsplash tiles, types of lighting and modern touches. You'll also have to choose a new sink and decide what style you want and then sift through the many choices available in kitchen faucets.

If cabinets will be involved, you would have to make these decisions first. The same is true for the next step, which are typically new countertops.

They would accommodate the cook top but also involve making a decision about the backsplash and coordinating the colors with other aspects of the kitchen.

## Smothered With Love Filet Mignon

### Ingredients:

- 4 (6 ounce) filet mignon steaks
- Seasoned salt to taste
- Cracked black pepper to taste
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons dried rosemary
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 cups sliced onion
- 1 teaspoon granulated white sugar
- 4 ounces crumbled blue cheese



### Directions:

1. Season steaks with seasoned salt and black pepper and arrange in a single layer in a large baking dish. In a bowl, whisk together olive oil, balsamic vinegar, mustard, and rosemary. Pour mixture over filets, and turn to coat. Marinate for up to 30 minutes.
2. While you are marinating the meat, melt the butter in a skillet over medium heat. Cook onion slices in butter until soft, then stir in sugar. Continue cooking until onions are caramelized. Set aside.
3. Preheat grill for high heat on one side, and medium heat on the other side.
4. Lightly oil the grill grate. Place steaks on the hot side of the grill, and cook for 10 minutes, turning once. When the steaks are almost done, move to the cooler side of the grill. Top each filet with a quarter of the caramelized onions and bleu cheese. Close the lid, and continue cooking until the cheese is melted.

Recipe Source: Allrecipes.com

### Easier Than Pie Cherry Crisp

2 (21 ounce) cherry pie filling  
 ½ cup rolled oats  
 ½ cup brown sugar  
 1/3 cup whole wheat flour  
 ½ teaspoon baking powder  
 1 cup chopped pecans  
 ½ cup butter

- ♥ Heat the oven to 350°F and lightly grease a 9 inch square baking dish.
- ♥ Pour pie filling into baking dish. In a medium bowl stir together rolled oats, brown sugar, flour, baking powder and chopped pecans. Pour over cherries. Drizzle melted butter over the top.
- ♥ Bake in pre-heated oven for 40 minutes or until lightly browned.
- ♥ Serve on its own or with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

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**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 Beardon!** Congratulations! **And thank you, Kam Jordan, for referring Susan Beardon to us!!!**

**Susan Beardon** wins a **\$50 Gift Certificate** from **Carrababba'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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2	3	9	4	5	8	7	1	6
1	4	7	2	3	6	9	5	8
8	6	5	7	1	9	4	2	3
7	5	8	3	2	4	1	6	9
6	2	4	9	8	1	3	7	5
3	9	1	5	6	7	8	4	2
9	1	3	6	7	5	2	8	4
4	7	6	8	9	2	5	3	1
5	8	2	1	4	3	6	9	7

Commonym Answer:

1. Sharks
2. Shoes
3. Coats
4. Metals
5. Filters
6. They have bulbs
7. They have rings
8. Books
9. Doctors
10. Crackers

Riddle Answer:

You hang around while I go on ahead.

# Precision Roof Crafters, Inc.

Money Saving Coupon

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**OUR FEBRUARY SPECIAL**



Coupon Must Be Presented at Time of Service.  
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