



AROUND THE HOUSE

JANUARY 2014

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS



Our Services Include:

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

Inside This Issue:

- **Facts You May Not Know About MLK**
- **A New Approach to Giving a Speech**
- **Are New Windows in Order This Year?**

Plus much, much more!!!

Happy Hogmanay!

New Years Traditions Around the World

Hogmanay (Scotland)

The birthplace of "Auld Lang Syne" is also the home of Hogmanay (hog-mah-NAY), the rousing Scottish New Year's celebration (the origins of the name are obscure). One of the traditions is "first-footing." Shortly after midnight on New Year's eve, neighbors pay visits to each other and impart New Year's wishes. Traditionally, First foots used to bring along a gift of coal for the fire, or shortbread. It is considered especially lucky if a tall, dark, and handsome man is the first to enter your house after the new year is rung in. The Edinburgh Hogmanay celebration is the largest in the country, and consists of an all-night street party.

Oshogatsu (Japan)

The new year is the most important holiday in Japan, and is a symbol of renewal. In December, various *Bonenkai* or "forget-the-year parties" are held to bid farewell to the problems and concerns of the past year and prepare for a new beginning. Misunderstandings and grudges are forgiven and houses are scrubbed. At midnight on Dec. 31, Buddhist temples strike their gongs 108 times, in an effort to expel 108 types of human weakness. New Year's day itself is a day of joy and no work is to be done. Children receive *otoshidamas*, small gifts with money inside. Sending New Year's cards is a popular tradition—if postmarked by a certain date, the Japanese post office guarantees delivery of all New Year's cards on Jan. 1.

Spain

The Spanish ritual on New Year's eve is to eat twelve grapes at midnight. The tradition is meant to secure twelve happy months in the coming year.

The Netherlands

The Dutch burn bonfires of Christmas trees on the street and launch fireworks. The fires are meant to purge the old and welcome the new.

Greece

In Greece, New Year's Day is also the Festival of St. Basil, one of the founders of the Greek Orthodox Church. One of the traditional foods served is Vassilopitta, or St Basil's cake. A silver or gold coin is baked inside the cake. Whoever finds the coin in their piece of cake will be especially lucky during the coming year.

United States

Probably the most famous tradition in the United States is the dropping of the New Year ball in Times Square, New York City, at 11:59 P.M. Thousands gather to watch the ball make its one-minute descent, arriving exactly at midnight. The tradition first began in 1907. The original ball was made of iron and wood; the current ball is made of Waterford Crystal, weighs 1,070 pounds, and is six feet in diameter.

A traditional southern New Year's dish is Hoppin' John—black eyed peas and ham hocks. An old saying goes, "Eat peas on New Year's day to have plenty of everything the rest of the year."

Source: Gizmodo

Milestones: The Life of Martin Luther King Jr.

It's hard to believe but, was it not for the assassin's bullet, the iconic, legendary leader of the civil rights movement might still be alive today at age 85.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was murdered at the tragically young age of 39.

Here are some other facts about Dr. King:

His father was born "Michael King", and Martin Luther King Jr. was originally named "Michael King, Jr." The family traveled to Europe in 1934 and visited Germany. His father soon changed both of their names to Martin Luther in honor of the German Protestant leader.

- King sang with his church choir at the 1939 Atlanta premiere of *Gone With the Wind*.
- Growing up in Atlanta, he attended Booker T. Washington High School. A precocious student, he skipped both the ninth and 12th grades and entered Morehouse College at age 15.
- He married Coretta Scott, on June 18, 1953, on the lawn of her parents' house in her hometown of Heiberger, Alabama. They had four children; Yolanda King, Martin Luther King III, Dexter Scott King, and Bernice King.
- King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1954. He was 25.
- Inspired by Gandhi's success, King visited Gandhi's birthplace in India in 1959. The trip affected King in a profound way, deepening his understanding of non-violent resistance.
- King was influenced by Jesus, Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Mays, Hosea Williams and Bayard Rustin.
- On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. King helped organize The Montgomery Bus Boycott, lasting for 385 days. The situation became so tense that King's house was bombed and he was arrested at one point. Then, the United States District Court ruled to end racial segregation on Montgomery public buses.
- In 1957, King, Ralph Abernathy, and other civil rights activists founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). King led the SCLC until his death.

Just for Fun

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"The rest of us would appreciate it if you would leave the thermostat alone."

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

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

Answer page 9

Precision Roof Crafters, Inc.

January Is:

- National Blood Donor Month
- National Bath Safety Month
- National Braille Literacy Month
- National Hobby Month
- Hot Tea Month
- National Oatmeal Month
- National Soup Month

Rub-A-Dub-Dub – Be Safe in the Tub!

- Never allow a young child to take a bath or shower without adult supervision.
- Some parents think using a baby bath seat will keep their child safe, but baby bath seats do not prevent drowning.
- Injury experts recommend NOT using baby bath seats.
- Check the water temperature before placing your child in the bathtub or shower. Hot water scalds are the most common and most severe type of childhood burn.
- Set the water heater thermostat to no higher than 120°F. Consider installing anti-scald devices on faucets to stop the flow of water if it gets too hot.
- Install handholds inside of the bathtub or shower.
- If your shower has a glass door, make sure it is shatterproof.
- Get rid of sharp points and edges by using cushioned or rounded edges on all bath or shower fixtures.
- Use slip-resistant mats inside and outside of the bathtub or shower.



Giving Blood Does Not Have to be Draining

Blood is essential for life: it carries oxygen and nutrients throughout the body, fights infections, and helps heal wounds. And everyone has this self-generating resource that can be generously given to others—when and where it is needed most.

If not personally in need, at some point we will all know a friend, neighbor, family member, or co-worker who needs a blood transfusion. In fact, 1 out of 3 people will need blood in their lifetime. From natural disasters to unforeseen catastrophes, emergency hospital procedures to life-long battles with chronic diseases such as sickle cell, the demand for blood is constant. The supply is not. And since there is no substitute, only volunteer blood donors can roll up their sleeves and save lives.

The process is easy. There are only four steps – and one of them is relaxation!

Registration

You will be asked to verify your name, address and birth date, present your photo identification to verify age eligibility, and review thoroughly the educational materials provided. Students 16 years old must provide a completed and signed Parental Consent form.

Mini-physical

Your pulse, blood pressure, temperature, and hemoglobin count will be checked. A confidential interview conducted by a trained specialist from Memorial Blood Centers, will gather information about your general health, medical history, foreign travel, and risk behaviors, as required by the FDA. Your answers help determine your eligibility to be a blood donor.

Blood donation

Collecting a unit of blood—about one pint out of the 10 to 12 your body contains—takes approximately 10 minutes. You will sit in a comfortable chair and answer a few questions. Blood is drawn for your donation, along with several small tubes that are collected for laboratory tests. The equipment used is sterile, used only once, and then discarded.

Relaxation

After your donation, refreshments and a snack are yours to enjoy in the Donor Café as you relax, for as long as you feel necessary. You will be encouraged to drink plenty of liquids. If you feel faint or experience any unfamiliar sensation that concerns you, a staff member or volunteer will be available to assist you immediately.

Once you are ready, you can enjoy the rest of your day knowing that you just helped save lives! You will want to avoid strenuous physical activity or heavy lifting for a few hours and continue to drink plenty of fluids for the remainder of the day.

1					5	6		
9		2						
		5				1	2	4
				9	6			7
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!

**Annette Walsh
Spring**

**Brett Rutledge
Houston**

**Sharon Dent
Houston**

**Edgar Wood
Houston**

**Helen Hubenak
Friendswood**

**Amy Deutsch
Houston**

**Ellen Safier
Bellaire**

**Rene Magdaleno
Houston**

**Michael O'Reilly
Houston**

**John Galinski
Humble**

**Lisa Halili
Dickinson**

**David Rivet
Humble**

**Robert Sheltz
Magnolia**

**Sam Chase
Houston**

**Suzanne Woods
Houston**

**Cathy Coon
Houston**

**Todd Welda
Katy**

**Kim Gapinski
Humble**

**Janet Juban
Houston**

**Candice Wells
Houston**

**Hal DeHaven
Tomball**

**Brandon Holcomb
Houston**

**Erika Nielsen
Houston**

**David Hampton
Houston**

**Linda Stanek
Houston**

**Sharon Moritz
The Woodlands**

**Larry Rennell
Houston**

**Mary Cox
Port O'Connor**

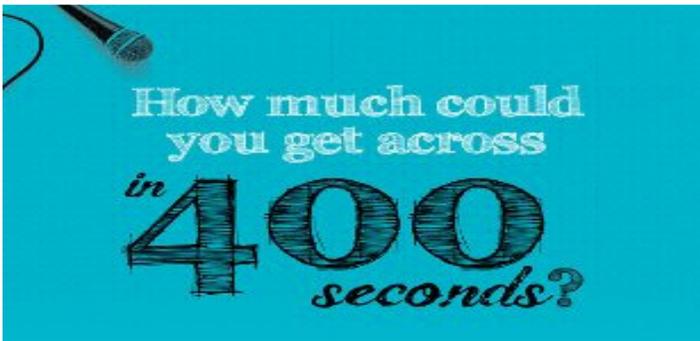
**Brad Tolbert
Houston**

**Doug Strand
Richmond**

**Charles Skeen
Cypress**

**Mike Olson
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.



Presentations the PechaKucha Way

Next time you will give a speech or presentation, consider the Japanese PechaKucha format. You'll give the audience what it wants: more information in less time and with less talk.

The rules are simple. A speaker must display 20 slides and spend 20 seconds speaking on each one, and speak only within those parameters.

The plan forces speakers to organize their thinking and it keeps the audience fresh. Most speakers think more about what they have to say than how much the audience wants to hear.

PechaKucha originated in Japan in 2003. Architects in Tokyo wanted to create excitement about their arts space called SuperDeluxe. They considered hiring the architects who built the space to explain it. The problem was architects love to talk. The principles of the company worked with the timing and calculated that at six minutes, 40 seconds, they could squeeze in 20 presenters. Most of them said it would be impossible to talk about the building in 20 seconds, but it was not.

According to Inc magazine, PechaKucha Nights are now staged in cities around the world with subject matter varying from funny to serious.

Business is paying attention.

Mark Dytham, a principle at the architectural firm, says presenters appreciate the format's approach.

"It forces you to edit. Whether you're the boss or an intern, you've got the same 20 slides and 20 seconds," Dytham says.

At another company, every new employee has to give a PechaKucha presentation about themselves.

PechaKucha can't prevent people from giving a bad presentation but, the good news is, they only last for 6 minutes and 40 seconds!

New Year New Windows

Nothing is more satisfying than beautiful new windows -- a joy to look at both inside and out.

If windows are on your list of home improvements, you might be surprised at how affordable they really are.

Replacements windows come in two main types. If the original framing is sound and square, you can install a glass into the original framing, replacing sashes, side jams and trim.

If the original frame is rotted or significantly out of square, a new-construction window must be installed, which can cost 50 percent to 100 percent more than a replacement window.

Your new windows could cost from \$200 to \$700 depending on what has to be replaced and what options you take.

When selling your home, you'll recoup a large percentage of the cost. Some estimates say new windows return about 72 percent of their cost at sale.

You will immediately reduce your energy bills, but be sure to seal up a leaky house and insulate it for further savings.

Y-Not Charge Two Devices While Driving?

The Y-Charge is a modernized device that will fill your need to juice up two devices at one time while you're driving on the road.

Plug it into your cigarette lighter and connect two gadgets via USB cords. Your devices will revive while you drive. It's as easy as that.

You can order the \$49.95 charger, which comes with one USB cord, over the Internet at shop-tylt.com.

It's shaped like a Y, of course, with 4 fun colors to choose from.



Hearty Winter Vegetable Soup

Ingredients

- 3 each parsnips, carrots, celery root, butternut squash and sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into ½ inch pieces
- 2 turnips, quartered
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1.2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 stalk celery, diced
- 1 quart vegetable broth
- ½ cup half-and-half



Directions

1. Preheat an oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C).
2. Combine parsnips, carrots, celery root, turnips, sweet potato, and butternut squash in a large roasting pan. Drizzle with olive oil, and season with 1 teaspoon of kosher salt and 1/2 teaspoon of pepper. Toss vegetables to evenly distribute seasonings.
3. Roast in the preheated oven until the vegetables are easily pierced with a fork, 30 to 45 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Stir in the celery and onion; cook and stir until the onion has softened and turned translucent, about 5 minutes. Pour in the vegetable broth and bring to a simmer, uncovered. Stir in the roasted vegetables and continue simmering for 10 minutes. Puree the soup using an immersion blender. Stir in the half and half, and season with salt and pepper, if necessary. If the soup becomes too thick, add more vegetable broth.

Banana Oatmeal Bars

2 large, very ripe bananas 1 teaspoon vanilla (*optional*)
2 cups rolled oats 1/2 teaspoon salt (*optional*) 1/4 cup pitted, chopped dried dates
1/4 cup chopped nuts — such as walnuts, hazelnuts or pecans
Grated nutmeg or cinnamon (*optional*)

Heat the oven to 350°F and lightly grease a 9x9-inch square baking dish with olive oil or butter.

Peel the bananas and mash their flesh in a medium mixing bowl. Mash very thoroughly until no large chunks remain; the bananas should be essentially liquid. (You will have between 1 cup and 1 1/4 cup.) Stir in the vanilla, if using. Add the oats and stir them in. Stir in the salt, dates, and nuts.

Pat the thick mixture evenly into the baking pan. If desired, sprinkle the top lightly with nutmeg or cinnamon. Bake for 30 minutes or until the edges just begin to crisp.

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(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 **Tareq Dreiza of Houston!** Congratulations! **And thank you, Tareq, for referring Paul Mansfield to us!!!**

Tareq wins a **FREE DINNER** from Carrabba's Italian Grill and will bring, as our guests, a guest of his choice. 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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1	4	7	2	3	5	6	8	9
9	6	2	1	8	4	5	7	3
3	8	5	6	7	9	1	2	4
4	3	1	8	9	6	2	5	7
7	9	6	5	4	2	3	1	8
2	5	8	7	1	3	9	4	6
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 flights
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:

You hang around while I go on ahead.

Precision Roof Crafters, Inc. Money Saving Coupon

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$Take Advantage of Our \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

OUR JANUARY 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 February 15, 2014



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