



# AROUND THE HOUSE

DECEMBER 2013

NEWS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS



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- *Insurance Claims*

**Inside This Issue:**

- **Better Safe Than Sorry When Decorating For the Holidays**
- **Repay Friends Through Your Smartphone**
- **Decluttering Made Easy**

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

## Oh Christmas Tree!

Thomas Edison was known for his wacky publicity stunts, but during the Christmas of 1880 he went for the sentimental by bringing us the first electric Christmas light display.

By the time 1880 rolled around, Edison had his incandescent bulbs pretty well figured out, and was on the lookout for a way to advertise them. Brian Murray's article "Christmas Lights and Community Building in America" describes Edison's marketing trick during that holiday season. To display his invention as a means of heightening yuletide excitement, he strung up incandescent bulbs all around his Menlo Park laboratory compound so that passing commuters on the nearby railway could see the Christmas miracle. But Edison decided to make the challenge a little trickier by powering the lights from a remote generator eight miles away.

Two years later an Edison crony named Edward Johnson displayed the first electrically illuminated Christmas tree at his home in Manhattan. The then-impressive 80-light display girded a very unimpressive Charlie Brown Christmas tree. Of course, as you might expect, Johnson's feat was also intended as an advertising tool.

The tradition of stringing electric lights may have started with Christmas trees in America, but it is now a global phenomenon used for all kinds of winter festivals. It is a practice we take for granted – by December they are everywhere. The evolution of the Christmas light parallels that of the light bulb, with some remarkably ornate, downright tacky variations. But regardless of how they look, it is by far a better option than sticking a candle in a tree.

The basic foundation of the Christmas light, the incandescent bulb, hardly changed for nearly a century, and is only now undergoing its first major revolution, as we start replacing our old tungsten lights with energy-efficient LEDs. Yet, in the same amount of time, we've gone from the 17<sup>th</sup> century disaster of sticking burning candles in a tree to creating massive, computer-controlled light displays.

One thing is for sure: No matter what the technology at hand, no matter what the reason to celebrate, the human desire to light up trees and houses in the cold darkness of winter months will forever be a source for amazing innovation.

Source: Gizmodo

## Deck the Halls With Ample Caution (FaLaLaLaLa)

You may think you know all about safe decorating, but the Consumer Product Safety Commission asks you to take this refresher course.

First, before crawling up on the roof to string the Christmas lights, you should know that every year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 12,500 people for injuries, such as falls, cuts and shocks related to holiday decorating.

\* Candles: They start about 11,600 fires each year, causing hundreds of injuries and deaths. Always keep burning candles in sight and put them out before leaving a room or going to bed.

\* Trees: When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." It indicates that the tree will resist burning and any fire should extinguish quickly. When purchasing a live tree, check to see if it's green, needles are hard to pull off and they don't break when bent. Christmas trees cause 300 fires annually and \$10 million in damage.

\* Setting up a tree: Place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Place the tree away from foot traffic and don't block doorways.

\* Lights: Use only lights that are approved by a testing laboratory and that have fused plugs. Discard any set that has broken or cracked sockets, frayed wires, or loose connections. Always replace any burned-out bulb with a bulb of the same wattage.

\* Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Make sure the extension cord is rated for the intended use. Multiple cords should be plugged into a power strip that has a circuit breaker.

\* Outdoor lights: Be sure they are certified for outdoor use. Fasten them to trees or other firm supports to protect them from wind damage. Use insulated staples. Or run strings of lights through hooks, which can be left up for next year's decorating. Turn them off when you go to bed or leave the house.

\* Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.

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"But what if I am from the year 3000! Are you really going to risk mankind's entire future for a simple holiday meal!?"

1. Wagon - Ferris - Cart
2. Love - Chain - Dear John
3. Hot - Chili - Corn
4. Bricks - Eggs - Carpets
5. A Skyscraper - Ernest Hemingway - Mark Twain
6. Tone - Zest - Dove
7. Door - Grand - Nobel
8. Pillow - Dog - Fist
9. Dinner - Straight - Leather
10. Labor - Columbus - Ground Hog

### 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 snowman say to the customer?

Answer page 8

## Precision Roof Crafters, Inc.

### December Is:

- **Hi Neighbor Month**
- **National Stress Free Family Holiday Month**
- **Bingo's Birthday Month**
- **Read a New Book Month**
- **National Made in America Month**
- **Universal Human Rights Month**
- **Learn a Foreign Language Month**
- **Art and Architecture Month**

### How Big is Big Enough?

Want a really big TV? Check out the Sony 4K!

It has been more than four years since the end of analog TV. With your first HDTV, you probably reveled in the high definition at 720 pixels and a little later, at the 1070 pixels.

Today, not only are prices way lower than they were then, but most HDTV viewers are perfectly satisfied with the picture quality.

Sony's 4K will change their degree of satisfaction, but it probably won't happen for a while. The electronics industry is championing what it claims as the next be-all television. The 4K is so named because it boasts several times the picture resolution.

It's a thin, elegant 65-inch backlit LED set, with a magnificent picture that has more than 8 million pixels, a vibrant color palate and two powerful 65-watt front-facing speakers.

Getting customers to trade up isn't going to be easy. Right now, the set lists for \$5,499.99. Over time, however, the price will be much lower.

Sony also offers an 84-inch model, the XBR 4K for \$24,999. A 55-inch model will cost \$3,499.

The Consumer Electronics Association forecasts factory shipments of Ultra TVs will grow to 23,000 units in 2013. So someone is buying them, even if it's not you. Yet.

### Money Among Friends

The guys are out to dinner and they want to split the check. One says he'll pay by credit card, but no one else has cash. What's the solution?

Simple: Send cash through your smartphone.

With a quick email or a few taps on your cellphone, you can transfer the money, and your recipient will get it in a day or two.

The Federal Reserve says about one in four smartphone owners made a mobile payment in the last 12 months.

There are two good ways to make payment to another person. You can send cash through your bank. Most will let you transfer money using an in-house system, or you can use a service partner such as Dwolla, Google Wallet, or PayPal. You have to sign up if you don't have an account and so does your recipient.

To pay through your bank, sign up for the money transfer option online or via its mobile app. Then you can key in your recipient's cell number or email address and the amount to be sent. It will be debited from your bank account or credit card. He or she receives an email alert, then signs up to receive payments, basically providing a bank account where the funds can be wired, often within minutes if you're customers at the same bank, or within a couple of days if you're not.

### Operation Santa Paws December 1 - 21



During the holiday season extra help is needed for abused and abandoned animals in local animal shelters.

One grassroots organization, Operation Santa Paws, is helping by spreading the word about a canine-feline toy or treat drive to benefit less-fortunate pets this season.

Animal lovers are encouraged to purchase a new dog toy, cat toy, food or food treats that will be delivered in time for Christmas to a local shelter and rescue organization.

Think about a sad puppy who knows nobody loves him, a beautiful cat that has lost her family for some reason, or a mature dog that had a loving family until they had to move and could no longer care for him.

On Christmas, a toy or a food treat will make them joyful for the day, and you will feel joyful for making it possible.

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

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 CRAFTER'S" 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!

Jill Cude  
Houston

Amanda Bess  
Houston

Nick Shavers  
Humble

Ellen Safier  
Bellaire

Mindy Kaplan  
Houston

Stephen Newton  
Houston

Clyde Bradford  
Houston

Brett Wisler  
Houston

Rey Garza  
Missouri City

Claire Henkhaus  
Houston

Scott Vance  
Houston

Robert Kessler  
Houston

Tiffany Martin  
Houston

Ryan Morton  
Houston

Rolando Pelaez  
Humble

Cris Ebbinghaus  
Houston

Michele Panico  
Houston

Steven Swanson  
Houston

Elizabeth Dukes  
Houston

William Johnson  
Magnolia

Scott Westbrook  
Houston

Lauren Baker  
Houston

Pamela Hanks  
Tomball

Emma Haywood  
Houston

Tobias Hoenik  
Houston

Richard Buxton  
Houston

Tara Patterson  
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.*

## Make Room For Holiday Gifts



Decluttering will give you more space in your home and make it easier to move or sell in the future. Here's some advice on how to do it.

**Paper:** Gather all your papers in one place. Then divide them into three categories, Action, Save and Toss. The Action stack will have bills to pay and tasks to do.

The Save stack will include financial documents that are less than three years old. Always hold on to year-end statements showing the purchase price of your stocks and mutual funds so you can calculate cost basis when you sell them. Save all home purchase and home improvement documents, and all your tax returns. Keep other financial documents for a year.

Before you toss anything, put it through a shredder to make sure your account numbers can't be recreated.

How to sell your stuff:

Go to eBay and create an account. Focus on small items that are easy to price and pack, such as designer clothes, small collectables and jewelry. It costs nothing to list up to 50 auction items each month and add "Buy it now," say advisors at Kiplinger's Personal Finance.

Use Craigslist for larger items such as furniture and appliances. Buyers will come and haul them away. Listings are free for a week in big cities or 45 days in smaller cities. Insist on payment in cash.

Specialty sites will take expensive books. Enter the ISBN number and you'll receive online price quotes.

Or you could have a yard sale. Put a price tag on everything large or small and collect the money.

Making a donation of your clutter is an easy solution. Give your stuff to the Goodwill or the Salvation Army. If there's a lot, they'll send a truck to pick it up. Get a receipt if you want to take the donation as a tax deduction.

## Predict Employee Behavior

If you've ever had a key employee suddenly announce he has found a new job, you already know the value of retaining employees -- and being able to predict if and when they'll leave.

For big employers, huge stores of data are being compiled into 'predictive analytics,' a fancy phrase for the new Human Resources' crystal ball.

Big employers are looking at patterns of behavior that might tell them who will stay with the company, whether that person is promotable, and when the person is likely to quit.

One example from NBC news: A manager has a key employee who is pregnant with her second child. The manager begins to worry that the key employee will have to be replaced. How valid is that concern? Predictive analytics would analyze data from many sources and could come up with an answer for the manager: More than one factor goes into an employee leaving.

At ConAgra, predictive analytics found that high performing managers who were born between the late 60s and early 80s (Generation X) are least likely to leave the firm. On the other hand, Generation Y employees (born after the 1980s) are more likely to leave.

ConAgra also used data to see if it was true that the younger the worker, the more ability to adapt to changing work conditions. They found age was not a factor and the ability to learn can be present at any age.

Pay was not among the top 10 reasons people leave. Their relationships with their supervisors and whether they are recognized for their work were two of the stronger factors. Understanding those factors in a present employee can help companies make changes and retain people.



## Christmas Breakfast Sausage Casserole

### Ingredients

- 1 pound ground pork sausage
- 1 teaspoon mustard powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups milk
- 6 slices white bread, toasted and cut into cubes
- 8 ounces mild cheddar cheese, shredded



### Directions

- Crumble sausage into a medium skillet. Cook over medium heat until evenly brown; drain.
- In a medium bowl, mix together mustard powder, salt, eggs and milk. Add the sausage, bread cubes, and cheese, and stir to coat evenly. Pour into a greased 9x13 inch baking dish. Cover, and chill in the refrigerator for 8 hours, or overnight.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- Cover, and bake 45 to 60 minutes. Uncover, and reduce temperature to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Bake for an additional 30 minutes, or until set.

Recipe Source: Allrecipes.com



### Cracker Candy

- ¼ (16 ounce) package saltines
- ½ pound butter
- ¾ cup sugar
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- ¾ cup chopped walnuts

- Preheat oven to 425 degrees
- Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir in sugar and bring to a low boil. Continue boiling, stirring constantly to prevent burning, about 3 minutes.
- Arrange crackers on a cookie sheet in a single layer. Drizzle with sugar mixture. Bake for 5 minutes or until edges begin to brown.
- Remove from oven and spread chocolate chips evenly over the top as they melt. Sprinkle with nuts, gently pressing into the chocolate. Cool until chocolate has hardened and break into pieces. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

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Learn How To  
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Home Project**

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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 **Jean Schulman!** Congratulations! **And thank you, Jean, for referring Antje VonHaefen to us !!!**

Jean Schulman wins a **FREE DINNER** from Alberto's Delicious Italian Grotto and will bring, as our guests, a couple of their 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**



3919 Jeanetta St.

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10	4	2	1	7	8	9
2	1	2	2	4	2	7
7	6	2	2	4	2	1
4	2	1	2	7	4	2
4	2	7	4	1	2	2
1	2	4	2	2	2	7
2	7	2	4	2	5	1
2	2	7	1	2	2	4

Commonym Answer:

1. wheels
2. letters
3. types of dogs
4. they are laid
5. they have stories
6. names of soap brands
7. prizes
8. fights
9. jackets
10. days

Riddle Answer:

Have an ice day!

## Precision Roof Crafters, Inc. Money Saving Coupon

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

### OUR DECEMBER SPECIAL

Get 5% off with any roof repair, installation or replacement.

As always you have our 100% Personal Satisfaction Guarantee

Offer expires January 10, 2014

(Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.)

Must present this coupon to receive offer



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