

Better Home Living™

The Newsletter That's Both Informative and Fun!

Winterize now for a cozy December

Your home's exterior: Clean the gutters so ice dams don't form and cause damage.

-Replace cracked caulk around roof vents and around the chimney.

-Install a chimney cap to keep critters and objects from dropping in. A cap will also keep rainwater from dripping down into the fireplace.

-Put door sweeps on those that don't connect with the threshold. Use caulk around windows and doors as needed or masonry sealer on brick.

-Rake away debris and weeds from the foundation and seal any cracks. Install a plastic cover on the crawl space access door and seal some of the vents.

In the garage: Clear enough space to put your car inside on very cold nights. Check your snowblower and generator to be sure that they run. Buy a new snow shovel if you need one and have a bag of ice-melt on hand.

In the crawl space: Wrap exposed pipes with premolded foam rubber sleeves or fiberglass insulation. If frozen pipes are a significant problem for you, wrap the pipes with heating tape. Be sure it is activated in cold weather.

-Check heat ducts for air leaks, whether they are in the crawl space, attic or basement so all the heat goes through the vents. Fix any breaks or gaps with metal-backed tape.

In the house: Get the furnace checked and the central air conditioning unit winterized at the same time.

-Be sure the fireplace damper isn't open unless you make a fire. Woodstoves should have glass doors that are closed when the stove is not in use.

-Install socket sealers over unused electrical outlets on outside walls and reverse ceiling fans so they push warm air forward and force it to circulate.

Time to plant spring-flowering bulbs

Do you always admire spring-blooming flowers in your neighbors' gardens? If you want to see a profusion of blooms in your own yard next year, the work starts in the fall.

Late October and early November are the best times to plant spring-flowering bulbs. Here's how to do it.

First, select a site that has good soil and good drainage so bulbs will continue to flower year after year.

For tulip, daffodil and hyacinth bulbs, prepare the soil 8 inches deep or more. Plant them six inches deep, measured from the bottom of the bulb, and six inches apart.

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Free Cleaning Tips at www.mopsnbuckets.com



I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!

*Christopher Dunlap
Mops & Buckets, LLC*

Cemeteries aren't spooky! They were once like public parks

As the moon burns bright on All Hallows' Eve, maybe the spookiest place of all is a cemetery, but it wasn't always that way.

In the 19th century, there weren't many public parks. Folks who wanted to picnic outdoors didn't have many places to go. But there were some huge public tracts of peaceful lands -- the cemeteries.

And these were put to good use.

Folks came together in cemeteries dressed in their church clothes, gathered around the stones of relatives (or strangers), lounged on the ground and broke out the sandwiches.

According to Atlas Obscura, cemeteries began to be established away from crowded churchyards into large rural tracts of land with trees and grass.

Unfortunately, the pleasant vistas were soon laden with trash, according to one Nebraska observer in 1900, who said the gatherings left grounds scattered with sardine cans, beer bottles and lunch boxes.

After 1900, cities began building public parks, which probably put an end to the practice. Today, city cemeteries have rules against picnicking.



Want to Receive a FREE cleaning?

Do you know someone that could use our services? Perhaps a friend, family member, co-worker, or someone from church?

When a new client signs up for regular cleaning services at your recommendation; you will receive \$100 after their 4th cleaning!

If you would think of 3 or 4 people that could use our services, then do not hesitate to call them, and give them our name and phone number. Be sure to have them mention your name when they call so we can send your \$100 Bonus!

Thanks in advance for your help and we look forward to sending cash your way!

Thanks a Bunch!

A special thanks to all our customers who referred us!

The impact of inflation

Suppose it is 1950. You have \$5 in your pocket and you have to buy groceries. You've got plenty:

Gallon of milk: 83 cents
Dozen eggs: 60 cents
Loaf of bread: 30 cents
Chopped beef: 53 cents
Frozen green beans: 24 cents
Apples: 39 cents
Peanut butter: 29 cents
5lbs potatoes: 26 cents
3 lbs. hamburger: 89 cents
2 lbs. cabbage: 12 cents
1 lb. bacon: 35 cents
Total: \$4.80

If you lived in any of 10 states, there wasn't a sales tax, so you could pocket that 20 cents.

Today, you aren't going to make much of a dinner with your \$5. You can buy bread for \$2 and eggs for \$1.54. Five pounds of potatoes cost about \$3.

Of course, today you should have more than \$5 in your pocket, because wages eventually rise with inflation.

The exception: Anyone who lives on fixed savings. For them, inflation can lower their standard of living. That's why when you retire, your savings and investments have to keep up with inflation.



Spooky good: Banana mummies and cookie spiders

Here are some Halloween-appropriate, kid-friendly treats that require just a few easy ingredients and give kids the chance to make a fun, tasty mess.

Kids can easily make these treats, although adults have to supervise melting chocolate and trimming banana skewers.

Banana mummies

1 bunch bananas or as many as desired (firm bananas work best)

White chocolate wafers for melting (candy coating is also fine)

Chocolate icing or chocolate wafers for melting

Candy eyes

Bamboo skewers

Peel bananas and slice in half. Carefully slide skewer into banana halves lengthwise, then set on a tray and place in freezer for at least an hour to harden -- note that long skewers may need to be trimmed. When bananas are frozen, melt white chocolate wafers or candy coating according to package directions, then carefully dip bananas in coating until covered. Place coated bananas in the refrigerator until coating is set, then decorate with melted semi-sweet chocolate or chocolate icing to create bandages and to glue on candy eyes. Freeze until set, then serve.

Cookie spiders

1 package sandwich cookies (we used Halloween Oreos, but Double Stuff Oreos will also work well)

White chocolate wafers or icing -- any color or flavor is fine, but we used leftover melted white chocolate from the Banana Mummies

Mini pretzel rods

Candy eyes

Carefully twist cookies apart. Count out eight pretzel rods for each cookie -- these are the legs. Dip just the tip of each pretzel rod in the melted white chocolate or icing, then press into the frosting side of the sandwich cookie. Be careful not to press too hard, or the cookie itself might break. Repeat for each of the eight legs. Replace the top of the sandwich cookie before the white chocolate or frosting sets. Use the white chocolate or frosting to glue on the candy eyes. Spiders are ready to eat almost immediately.



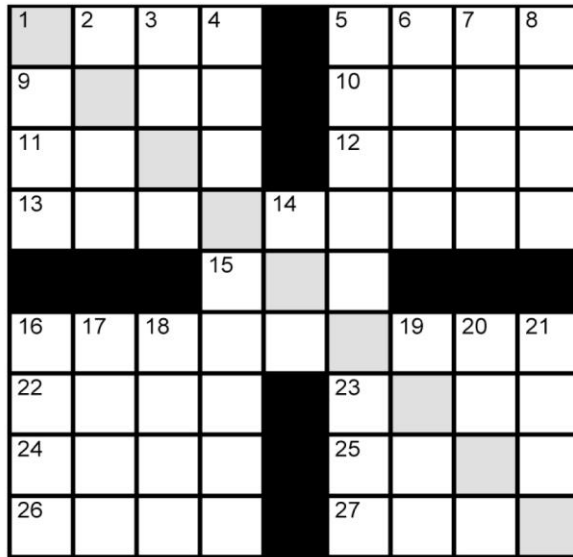
Devil's fire add-on

Across

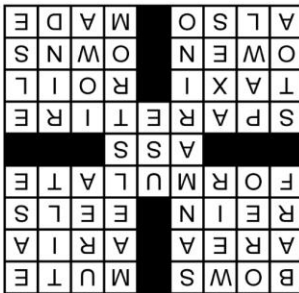
1. Acknowledges applause
5. Silent
9. Region
10. Song for Carmen
11. Bridle part
12. Congers
13. Devise
15. Biblical beast
16. Trunk item
22. It's hailed by city dwellers
23. Aggravate
24. "A Prayer for ___ Meany"
25. Possesses
26. ___-ran
27. Earned

Down

1. John Candy role
2. Snack often twisted apart
3. Small dam
4. Tiny republic of Europe



5. Vortex
6. Fertilizer chemical
7. Slant
8. Comfort
14. "What's the ___?"
16. Greek portico
17. Ratchet bar
18. Hatchets
19. Corn Belt state
20. Peel
21. Alternatively



The headline is a clue to the answer in the diagonal.

Trivia Teaser – Mind Your Ps and Qs

1. Which word refers to an athletic shoe with a canvas upper and rubber sole?
a-Poulaine, b-Plimsoll, c-Prunelle, d-Panton.

2. Which word refers to a nosy and gossipy person?
a-Quokka, b-Quince, c-Quidnunc, d-Quixote.

3. Which word refers to a piece of glittering material used to ornament clothing?
a-Paillette, b-Plumbago, c-Pavonine, d-Pexity.

4. Which word refers to a type of bet in horse racing?
a-Quidditch, b-Quitrent, c-Quirly, d-Quinella.

5. Which word is a synonym for a high-status muckety-muck?
a-Purificator, b-Panjandrum, c-Peragate, d-Perruquier.

6. Which word refers to a state of dormancy?
a-Quiescence, b-Quotennial, c-Quadratory, d-Quaresimal.

7. Which word is related to money matters?
a-Persiflage, b-Pardine, c-Pecuniary, d-Peccable.

8. Which word refers to someone's unusual personal opinion or habit?
a-Quatsch, b-Quinsy, c-Quiddity, d-Quatenus.

9. Which word refers to fodder fed to animals?
a-Pabulum, b-Pannage, c-Poltroon, d-Provender.

10. Which word refers to a puppet leader supported by foreign power?
a-Quetzal, b-Querulist, c-Quisling, d-Quintroon.

Time to plant spring-flowering bulbs cont.

For small bulbs such as crocus, glory-of-the-snow and grape hyacinth, prepare the soil six inches deep. Plant bulbs three inches deep and three inches apart.

Lastly, broadcast a tablespoon per square foot of 12-12-12 or 13-13-13 analysis fertilizer and water well. When the ground freezes, mulch with two inches of fine mulch or straw.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1-b, Plimsoll | 5-b, Panjandrum |
| 2-c, Quidnunc | 4-d, Quinella |
| 3-a, Paillette | 9-d, Provender |
| 8-c, Quiddity | 10-c, Quisling |
| 7-c, Pecuniary | |
| 6-a, Quiescence | |

Answers to "Mind Your Ps and Qs"



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About Our Company

Mops & Buckets is a full-service residential cleaning company that operates in both Miami Dade and Broward Counties.

Services include general cleaning, deep cleaning, carpet cleaning, construction cleaning, move-in/out cleaning, and window washing.

Owner Christopher Dunlap has been in the cleaning industry for 10 years and feels it is important to provide cleaning services that place the utmost importance on the health and safety of his clients and employees. For that reason, Mops & Buckets is an active participant in the industry association ISSA (International Sanitary Supply Association). They also use Green Sealed Certified products to minimize toxins being released both in the environment and your home.

Should you bathe every day?

The hot new discussion on social media: Do you really need to bathe every day? That depends, say the experts. According to London-based dermatologist Derrick Phillips in an interview with Healthline, washing daily is nice for social reasons, but not absolutely necessary to protect our health.

According to CNN, kids only need to bathe when they get dirty, while teenagers might start to stink after just a day. And the answer varies for adults, depending on skin sensitivity, exercise schedule and other factors. The only non-negotiables, the experts say, are daily oral hygiene and regular handwashing.

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Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start.

~ Nido Qubein

Solve that slippery shower problem

Arthritis, back pain or breathing problems might make the shower an ordeal, and one problem that we don't need is a slippery shower surface.

Even if you use a bath chair, you still have to stand up on the tub surface, and a slippery surface can cause falls.

Conventional bathmats sometimes don't help because:

- * The mat itself can still be slippery.
- * The mats can move on the tub floor.
- * They don't cover the entire tub surface.

Suction cups on bathmats only work if the mat is placed on a dry surface.

There are mats that solve all these problems.

One is a no-skid cushioned vinyl mat from Briggs Healthcare. At 40 inches long, it provides more coverage of the tub floor. Drainage holes throughout the surface make it useful even in showers with a center drain. Many small suction cups prevent the mat from moving. You can order the Briggs Healthcare mat for about \$30 from many medical supply companies.

The Gorilla Grip shower stall mat solves the problem of suction cups that don't stick to the floor once water gets underneath them. This mat has 324 small suction cups distributed over the 21-inch by 21-inch surface. Get two for full tub coverage. About \$20 on Amazon.com.

On textured tub surfaces, bathmats with suction cups are sometimes unreliable. But one mat from Refinished Bath Solutions solves this problem by using reverse suction cups. When you stand on the mat, the pressure pushes the raised rings on the mat down and prevents slides. Made of heavy natural rubber, the mat measures 30 inches long and 16 inches wide, and usually retails for less than \$50 on Amazon.

Fall Cleaning Special!

**FREE Refrigerator Cleaning
with Whole House
Deep Cleaning**

\$150 Minimum Purchase

Schedule appointment by October 31st

**Mops & Buckets, LLC
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