

Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

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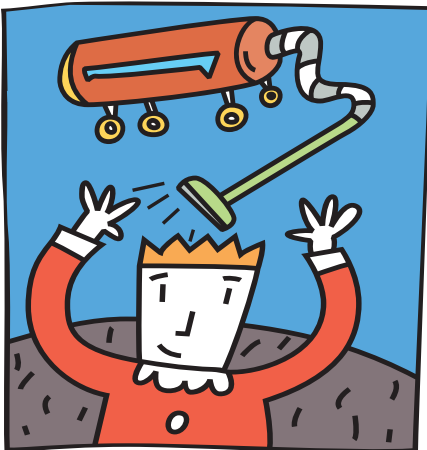
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"Happy St. Patrick's Day"

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Everyday Home Products Getting a High-Tech Upgrade

(ARA) You may not have noticed it because of larger technological breakthroughs such as hybrid cars and solar energy, but a new class of home conveniences is emerging to make day-to-day activities easier and more time efficient. Every day new products are developed and old ones are given high-tech makeovers.

Luxe Laundries

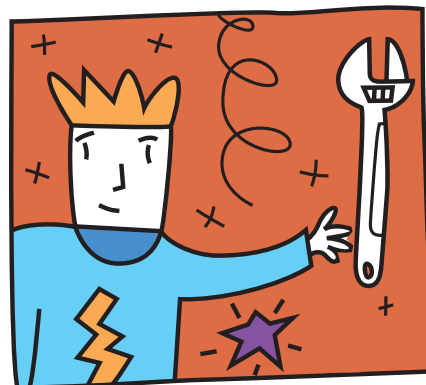
Sophisticated new washers allow users to select their settings with digital displays that can be programmed for specific washing needs -- individual stain removal, fabric choice, dry cleaning, wrinkle removal, and even to run at a certain time of day.

Cutting the Cord

The central vacuum system concept is simple; in-wall tubing leads to inlet valves strategically placed throughout your home. When it's time to clean, you just plug in a lightweight hose and attachments to get started. You don't have to carry a heavy standard vacuum unit with a tangle-prone cord up the stairs, down the hall or around the rooms.

A "Three-Second Clean"

No longer do you need paper towels, sponges or brooms. Vroom brings powerful built-in vacuum suction to quick-clean jobs in kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms, mudrooms and other high traffic areas of a home. Vroom is installed directly into the cabinetry of a room and combines speed, convenient location and the ability to clean up dry spills to give its user a "three-second clean." Check out www.Vroomyourroom.com for more information. Vroom can be used with or without a central vacuum.



Simple Solutions for Saving Hundreds at the (Toilet) Tank

(ARA) – Water conservation is becoming a household necessity due to more states declaring drought emergencies each year. Plus, not only does water conservation help the environment, but it also puts less strain on the pocketbook.

Repairing a leaky toilet can save up to 200 gallons of water a day or more than \$365 a year on your water bill, depending on the varying cost of water in your area and the severity of the leak.

One way to identify a leaky toilet is to add a few drops of food coloring in the

toilet tank. If the toilet is not running and the coloring seeps into the toilet bowl, it signals a leak at the flapper.

Another simple way to recognize toilet leaks is to install a Fluidmaster Leak Sentry Fill Valve or Leak Guard Fill Valve on your toilet. After detecting a leak, these valves "lock" the refilling of a tank without disabling the toilet. Homeowners are made aware of the leak because they have to push the lever twice to flush the toilet.

Other signs that a toilet is leaking include the sound of running water and the toilet turning on and off without being flushed. You may need to replace the flapper, the handle, or adjust the water level in the tank to make sure water isn't being wasted in your toilet.

For additional tips on toilet repairs, water conservation and information on products that save water, money and make an environmental difference, go to www.fluidmaster.com/waterconservation.



MARCH

March 8th

Daylight Savings Time begins.

Spring forward and don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detector too!

March 17th

St. Patrick's Day

March 20th

First Day of Spring

Also known as the vernal equinox, occurs on or about March 21 in the northern hemisphere. On that day, day and night are evenly divided.





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Be sure to visit my web site for information on how you can benefit from the Stimulus Package in buying a home. Also get the latest Real Estate News from the trenches, and so much more. This is now a good time to sell and buy something else. Give me a call to represent you. Until then, take care. Joanne



Repair, Replace, Relax with Fidelity National Home Warranty (FNHW). A home warranty from FNHW provides both the home buyer and seller with "peace of mind" when it comes to repairs and/or replacement of a home's major systems and appliances. FNHW prides itself on superior customer service, including quick response time and efficient solutions for homeowners' problems and needs. The homeowner only needs to make one call and pay one small service fee when a problem or a repair need arises.



If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.



This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another agent. These materials contain information and articles obtained from third parties. FNHW does not endorse the recommendations of any third party nor guarantee the information provided is complete or correct.



The Yolk's on You!

Has anyone ever told you that you can balance a raw egg on end on the first day of spring? They think that somehow the pull of gravity is more equal on this day because the sun is more directly overhead. There is no scientific support for this.

The truth is that if you can get a raw egg to balance upright on the spring equinox, you can get it to balance any other day of the year. The pull of gravity or the position of the sun in the sky has nothing to do with it. So don't spread this unscientific rumor, or you'll end up with egg on your face!

Other puzzling questions:

- Why does a shipment go by car and a cargo go by ship?
- Why are they called stairs inside but steps outside?
- Why is abbreviation such a long word?
- Did you know that 'verb' is a noun?
- Why do fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?



*For each petal on the shamrock
 This brings a wish your way
 Good health, good luck, and happiness
 For today and every day.—Irish Blessing*



IRISH CHEESE AND HERB SCONES

Ingredients:

- 8 ounces self-raising flour (preferably self-raising soda bread flour)
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 ounce butter or hard margarine
- 1 egg, beaten
- 5 fluid ounces buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 2 ounces cheese, grated
- 2 tablespoons fresh herbs, chopped (basil or whatever you like)



Preparation:

Preheat oven to 450°F. Sift flour with salt and rub in butter or margarine. Add mustard, cheese and herbs to the dry ingredients

Make a well in the centre and pour in the egg and most of the buttermilk. Mix quickly to form a soft dough, adding a little extra buttermilk if necessary.

Turn out onto a floured surface and roll out lightly until 1" thick. Working quickly, cut into 2" rounds. Glaze with egg or milk and set on a floured baking sheet. Before baking, sprinkle a little grated cheese on top of each scone

Bake for 15-20 minutes until light brown. Makes 8 scones