

Better Home Living

The Newsletter That's Both Informative and Fun!



hello
AUGUST

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!

Mari and Staff

Back to the land with unused commercial space

Growing plants and animals can be fun, but it does take space.

Interestingly, in communities throughout the country, new space is emerging. Small stores are disappearing, to the chagrin of many, but space is appearing. The question is how people will use this space.

One possible outcome from the internet shopping revolution: urban areas in cities large and small could be used for small farming.

Since the 1980s, cities have reserved green spaces for city gardening with varied success. One urban garden in Washington D.C. called North Columbia Heights Green started in the early 2000s after the owners of a quarter-acre lot shut down their business and left it vacant. The city agreed to sell the lot to a non-profit group for one dollar, and today about 25 residents actively farm the plot, growing fresh produce for themselves and to sell at local farmers markets.

Some experts say this experience could well be replicated in towns and cities as people take advantage of properties once used for shopping.

Another use of land may be hobby farms, a past-time once reserved for high-income people with time on their hands.

With a little space, nearly anyone can raise chickens for eggs and goats for milk. Or even keep honeybees. While the average small family farm has 231 acres, it takes little more than an acre to raise chickens and a goat.



Getting rid of household germs can help you avoid colds, and more

The word is out about hand washing. If you do it right and often, you can get rid of bacteria that could make you sick. But attacking germs where you pick them up makes it less likely you'll get them on your hands in the first place.

In the kitchen: Sink handles, sinks, and counters are the biggest offenders. Clean sinks, sink drains, and counters with antibacterial soap at least once a day. Wash your sponge in the dishwasher to kill germs.

Fresh vegetables and fruits: They may carry salmonella, campylobacter, or E. coli, say microbiologists at New York University. Rinse them thoroughly.

In the laundry: Add bleach to a load of white clothes that includes underwear. It kills virtually all of the germs on underwear so they don't spread. Move the load immediately to the dryer and dry at a high temperature.

In the bathroom: Use a disinfecting cleaner on the bathtub weekly. If someone with a skin infection uses the tub, wash it with bleach right away so you don't pick up the germs.

Shared devices: Use antibacterial cleaner frequently on telephones, TV remotes, door handles, and shared keyboards,

Travel Bag

Rules on support animals tightening

Airlines like United and Delta are tightening their rules on emotional-support animals kept in the cabin due to a rising number of complications that are impacting their passengers' safety, according to USA Today. United carried around 76,000 such animals last year, and a few high-profile incidents such as their refusal to allow a peacock onboard a flight and a support dog biting another passenger in the face have forced them to act before things get more out of hand, according to a spokesman.

Starting in March, all passengers were required to notify the airline about the animals 48 hours in advance and provide a note from a medical professional substantiating their need for the animal. The animals also need to be trained to behave in public to avoid issues like urination or attacking other people. These rules will help protect those truly in need while preventing fraud.

Future airplanes could have 'virtual windows'

Emirates airline is experimenting with removing the windows from their planes and replacing them with high-definition video displays, according to USA Today. Their President, Tim Clark, said the change would allow aircraft to be built lighter, fly faster, and use less fuel because engineers wouldn't have to work around the structural weaknesses of windows. Special cameras on the outside of the plane would pipe in the actual surroundings to the screens and prototypes

Free Cleaning Tips and Specials at www.MyWebsite.com

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 6th cleaning!

If you would think of 3 or 4 people that could use our services, then don't 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!

"Sue and her team have been cleaning our home for the past two years and they've always done a great job for us. The quality of service is at a much higher level than our previous cleaning provider."

*Tom Johnson
Sandy, UT*

*A special thanks to all these fine folks who referred us...
Kathy Jackson, Dan Lundgren, and Marcy Cantrell.*

A dollar by any other name

Clams, dough, bacon, bread, lettuce. If you're talking food, you could also be talking dollars.

On August 8, 1786, Congress adopted the monetary system of dollars, with a value based on a Spanish coin that popularly was called by the Dutch word: daler.

Over the next 232 years, the dollar and its larger denominations gained other names too. In fact, while low denomination bills often have food names, higher denomination bills have the names of things.

These special slang dollar words have been coined, you might say, by gangsters and gamblers. The words often end up in popular culture. For example, Tony Soprano, lead character in the hit series *The Sopranos*, often referred to a million dollars as a rock, as in: "This whole thing is going to cost me close to a rock." That's not the same as roll, which just means you have a lot of scratch.

Presumably, Tony's rock was filthy lucre, big lolly, loot or plunder. In other words, OPM, other people's money.

Now if you have a frog, you're probably a gambler who just put \$50 on a horse. That is if you have a lot of frog skins.

If you have a rack, a yard or a stack, you've got at least a thousand smackers.



"Sorry. We just assumed that since you were picking up his waste, he was the intelligent life form."

A "sophisticated" Poptart

Preheat oven to 375°. Roll out dough on a floured surface to a 15x12-inch rectangle. Cut into 6 rectangles.

Toss blueberries, lemon zest, lemon juice, sugar, and salt in a medium bowl. Brush edges of rectangles with water; mound some blueberries in center of each. Fold dough over, and press edges to seal. Place on a parchment-lined baking sheet, brush with egg wash, and sprinkle with raw sugar. Cut slits in tops.

Bake hand pies, rotating sheet halfway through, until juices are bubbling and pastry is golden brown, 35–40 minutes (juices will run onto parchment). Transfer to a wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

INGREDIENTS

- Buttery Pie Crust ([click for recipe](#))
- All-purpose flour (for dusting)
- 2 cups blueberries (about 10 ounces)
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 large egg, whisked with 1 teaspoon water
- 1 tablespoon raw sugar



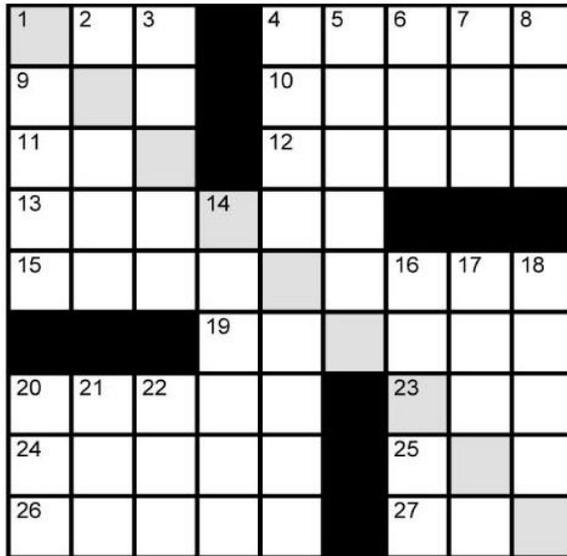
Peppy Craft

Across

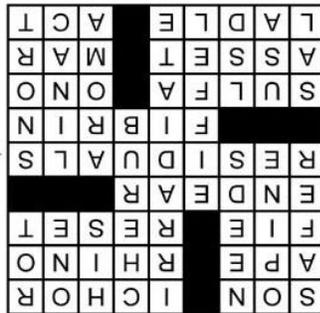
1. Prince, to a king
4. Blood of the Greek gods
9. "Tarzan" extra
10. Zoo heavyweight
11. "A pox on you!"
12. Change, as a clock
13. Make beloved
15. Left overs
19. Coagulating protein
20. Bacteria-fighting drug
23. Plastic ___ Band
24. Money in the bank, say
25. Blemish
26. Soup server
27. Part of a play

Down

1. "60 Minutes" correspondent
2. Express
3. Has to have
4. Cast rays of light upon
5. Little angel
6. Part of O.H.M.S.
7. "A Chorus Line" number



8. Decay
14. Tower in Paris
16. Fragrance
17. Physics lab device, for short
18. Sound of contempt
20. Bando of baseball
21. Dos Passos trilogy
22. "Acid



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

Mesh Wi-Fi can dramatically improve home internet performance

Weak signal and dead zones inside a large home or awkwardly shaped apartment can be remedied quickly, if a little expensively, with a mesh Wi-Fi system, according to Make Use Of.

A mesh system uses multiple devices to connect to a network and expand the coverage farther than a traditional router by rebroadcasting the same network signal to each unit set up around the home.

Mesh systems work differently than Wi-Fi range extenders that create a new network with each additional unit, causing users to constantly switch networks as they change locations.

Built for the modern age of connectivity, premium systems from companies like Google, Eero, and Velop cost about \$300 to \$500 for 3 Wi-Fi points.

Although Google claims their 3-point mesh system can cover a 3,000-foot house, don't be surprised if it takes six or even nine points to cover that area. The Wi-Fi points must all be within sight range or the signal is disrupted. Furniture and walls also disrupt the signal, so homeowners may well find whole-house coverage costs much more than advertised.

The systems are all controlled by smartphone. The Google app maps the network, keeps track of passwords, and lets you pause network connectivity if the kids should be at dinner and not online.

Trivia Teaser – In the Year 2000

1. Which comedian joined the booth crew on Monday Night Football in 2000? a-Carrottop, b-Dennis Miller, c-Mike McCoy, d-Conan O'Brien.

2. Which actor interviewed President Bill Clinton for a 2000 Earth Day TV special? a-Alec Baldwin, b-Al Pacino, c-Ed Begley Jr., d-Leonardo DiCaprio.

3. In 2000, which European country voted to shorten its presidential term from seven years to five years? a-France, b-Poland, c-Spain, d-Italy.

4. Who was Ralph Nader's running mate on the Green Party ticket in the 2000 presidential race? a-Steve Forbes, b-George Steinbrenner, c-Winona LaDuke, d-Angela Davis.

5. Which tennis player won both Olympic gold and the Wimbledon singles title in 2000? a-Martina Hingis, b-Venus Williams, c-Monica Seles, d-Serena Williams.

6. Which musical received the most Tony nominations in 2000 with 12? a-Aida, b-The Music Man, c-The Real Thing, d-Kiss Me, Kate.

7. The remains of the Adventure Galley were discovered in shallow waters off Madagascar in 2000. This ship belonged to which famous pirate? a-Captain Kidd, b-Blackbeard, c-Calico Jack, d-Henry Morgan.

8. The lyrics of which 2000 song make reference to Halle Berry, Angelina Jolie, Cindy Crawford, and Janet Jackson? a-We Didn't Start the Fire, b-Who Let the Dogs Out?, c-Miss Jackson, d-Liquid Dreams.

9. Which Russian nuclear submarine sank in the Berents Sea in August 2000, killing all 118 seamen aboard? a-Granit, b-Antey, c-Belgorod, d-Kursk.

10. Juliette Binoche, Leslie Caron, Lena Olin, and Judi Dench all appeared in which 2000 movie? a-Chocolat, b-Scary Movie, c-Requiem for a Dream, d-Traffic.

- 1-b, Dennis Miller
2-d, Leonardo DiCaprio
3-a, France
4-c, Winona LaDuke
5-b, Venus Williams
6-d, "Kiss Me, Kate"
7-a, Captain Kidd
8-d, "Liquid Dreams"
9-d, Kursk
10-a, "Chocolat"

Answers to 'In the Year 2000'

Safe ways for children to use smartphones and tablets

The sea of inappropriate content available on the internet makes it incredibly difficult for parents to ensure that their children are staying safe while they are using smartphones and tablets, but moderated options exist that can help solve the problem, according to The New York Times. While age-specific filters and apps have existed for a while, the recent backlash over the YouTube Kids service illuminated the more significant issue with dependence on automated methods of curating children's content.

Over time, the algorithm had begun suggesting videos that included conspiracy theories, violence, and even sexual themes that were often created by users to look appealing to minors. Since those issues, YouTube Kids has moved to a system that allows parents to limit their children to a selection of 'trusted channels' that have been vetted and verified by actual humans to ensure that there is no inappropriate content. This team of moderators will allow for more personal accountability within the company as well as a safer overall network.

Other options, such as Amazon's FreeTime subscription service, allow a tablet to lock itself into a kid-safe environment with curated TV shows, apps, books, games, and more of which children will have unlimited access, according to Make Use Of. They have even integrated the app into their Alexa AI and Echo devices so that kids can interact with their voices without having to worry about accidental purchases or explicit songs playing. Parents can manage the total amount of time that FreeTime is used during the day and can even set limits on when Alexa is available to talk so that their little ones can sleep without distraction.

You will love being in jail

Chances are you are one of the billion or so people who have played Monopoly since its introduction in 1935.

And chances are you went to jail because of all the places you can land in Monopoly, Jail (plus Illinois and GO) ranks high as the most frequent landing place.

But that can be a good thing.

One winning strategy of Monopoly is to land in jail -- at the end of the game. By that time, you should have all your hotels in place. When you land in jail, put your feet up and pray you stay there and just collect money from the hapless souls who land on your properties.

Take the Trivia Challenge

How many years has turmeric been spicing things up?

- a. 1000
- b. 2000
- c. 3000
- d. 4000

HINT: The answer is hidden somewhere in this newsletter.