

Better Home Living

The Newsletter That's Both Informative and Fun!



Don't let clutter rule your life

Boxes of papers. Shelves full of dusty salt and pepper shakers. Mountains of clothing. Bathtubs full of unsent gifts. Guest rooms where no bed can be found under tons of "stuff."

Turn on cable television and you're bound to run across one of the new anti-clutter programs wherein a team of cleaning experts confronts exceptionally cluttered families.

The shows, hugely successful on cable, let the viewer gawk at the excesses of everyday people whose interests (and disinterests) have led to household chaos. In each version of the anti-clutter programing, householders learn they must let go of their junk and, in return, the clean teams come in, clean up, and redecorate.

All this has spawned a new philosophy of neat. The commandments:

- Just because it was a gift, does not mean you have to keep it.
- Don't keep things because you think you might use them someday.
- Don't let your home be a dumping ground for someone else's junk.
- Let go of mementoes of the past so you have room for the future.
- Don't keep things that don't work, don't fit, or are no longer relevant.
- It's wasteful if you leave it on your floor or packed forever in a box. Give it away, sell it, or throw it away.

No flu for you!

Flu season is upon us and one shot could save you two weeks of suffering, says the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

This is recommended for everyone over the age of six months, except for those who may be adversely affected because of a weakened immune system.

There are a variety of vaccine options available to help individuals avoid the virus, or to lessen its impact, and they come in multiple forms - typically a shot, or a nasal spray.

This year, the CDC says that the nasal spray vaccine should not be used during the 2016-2017 flu season.

The CDC recommends the inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) or the recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV). There are vaccines with three components (a trivalent shot) or four components (a quadrivalent shot). No matter which you choose, it usually takes about two weeks for the vaccination to fully take effect.

If you're interested in getting a flu shot, there are a variety of places where you can go to get that vaccination, including your doctor's office. A local health clinic, a pharmacy or even a drive-through flu shot clinic, if you can find one, are all places where you can get a flu shot.

If you're going to get a flu shot, now is the time to do it - too early and you may suffer later on, from waning immunity around the time that flu peaks next January or February



We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!

Mari & Staff

The magical Rockefeller Center: Symbol of hope

Christmas in the US officially begins Nov. 30 when the 45,000 energy-saving LED lights on the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree burst into a dazzling display.

The American event began in 1951 when only 9 percent of Americans owned a television. By the end of the decade, 90 percent of Americans owned a television and the New York City Christmas celebration became a holiday tradition.

When NBC broadcasts the one-hour tree-lighting special every year, the cameras emphasize the tree, ice skating rink, and surrounding magical decorations. They don't reveal the marvel of the Center itself. Rockefeller Center itself is a complex of 19 commercial buildings, themselves icons soaring up on legendary streets with names such as Avenue of the Americas and Fifth Avenue, and 30 Rockefeller Plaza, headquarters of NBC. The buildings take up 22 acres in Midtown Manhattan and they were part of the largest private building project of all time, a project of glamor wrought in gloomy times.

In 1928, John D. Rockefeller Jr., had already leased land from Columbia University to build a new facility for the Metropolitan Opera when the stock market crashed in 1929. With a global depression underway, the Opera board backed out of its commitment. Other financing fell through. Rockefeller knew if the Art Deco 'city within a city' would be built, he would have to finance it himself.

And he did. Although Rockefeller suffered losses himself on Black Tuesday, he pressed ahead with the project that became a symbol of success and hope for the future, a public space where New Yorkers could appreciate art, and a commercial boon for the city.

... 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 \$50 off your cleaning after their 3rd 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 Bonus!

I had Mari's Cleaning Service come to my home to do a thorough cleaning. The person showed up on time, and was so pleasant. She cleaned my house so well and always asked if I had any questions. I will definitely use them again! I also love that Mari's Cleaning Company donates her services to women with breast cancer who are not able to clean their home. That says a lot about her! Great company, great heart!

~Corrie

Cable prices rise; cord cutting is a trend

The average monthly cable bill is now up to \$103.10, an increase of 4% from last year, according to the Consumerist. That rise surpasses the current U.S. inflation rate, which is about 1.1 percent.

Meanwhile, the cord cutter movement is slowly gaining steam. More than 82 percent of households subscribe to cable, satellite or fiber pay TV. But that number is down from 2011 when 87 percent were cable TV subscribers.

Cord cutters have more choices than ever. In metropolitan areas, a \$10 antenna can snag local TV digital signals out of the air for free, but it won't work very well for people in rural areas.

Hulu, at about \$10 per month, offers movies and network television shows one or two days after they air.

Netflix, \$10 per month, offers movies, television, and original programming.

Sling TV, \$20 per month, offers live sports and a variety of other channels.

These options depend on a high-speed internet connection, however, and that can add to the price of television.

One easy change consumers can make is buying their own DVR.

Cable boxes run about \$20 per box per month, but a DVR can be purchased for \$100 to \$175, according to cableboxandmodem.com. These boxes require \$3 cable card; which cable companies are required to sell.



"Let's go over this again. Anything that hits the floor is yours, with the following exceptions..."

53 years and counting: The enduring Doctor of the BBC

Even though it has been more than five decades since the BBC's hit Doctor Who took to the airwaves, this television program has enchanted fans of all ages, taking chances that have doomed lesser programs.

Four factors that could explain the inter-generational popularity of Doctor Who:

*The instantly recognizable theme song: Composed by Ron Grainer, this theme song was mixed in the BBC studio, by Delia Debyshire. No other television show has such a unique-sounding theme.

* Outstanding writing: Many of the themes and occurrences throughout the show are scary and thematically not meant for children. But, with sophisticated writing, and the doctor's typically nonviolent responses to danger, kids can watch and still sleep at bedtime. In fact, Doctor Who was originally meant for children, according to mentalfloss.com.

* The changing Doctor: What began as a problem, the original doctor's declining health, ended up as a trademark with a dozen new actors "regenerating" as the doctor during the series.

Piers Britton of the University of Redlands in California and author of TARDISbound told Forbes that the idea of change is central to the show. Even as popular culture changes, so does the show reinvent itself.

In addition, the very Britishness of the show anchors it in UK culture while attracting viewers from all over the world.

Television host Craig Ferguson once said that the show is a "triumph of intellect and romance over brute force and cynicism."



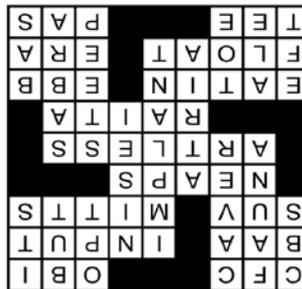
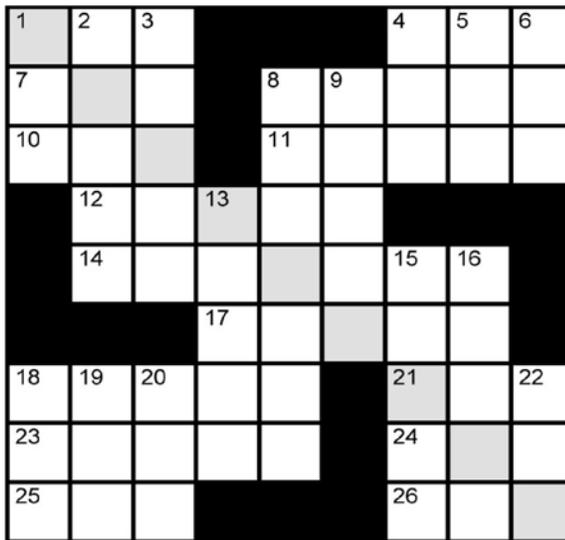
The King's Spaniels

Across

1. Ozone layer pollutant
4. ___-Wan Kenobi
7. Call to Bo-peep
8. Enter
10. Blazer, e.g.
11. Hands, in slang
12. Some tides
14. Naive
17. Indian yogurt dish
18. Dine at home
21. "Chicago" lyricist
23. Drink with a straw
24. Big time
25. Casual attire
26. Faux ___

Down

1. "60 Minutes" network
2. Flora's partner
3. Speleologist
4. Decide to leave, with "out"
5. On the other hand
6. "___ De-Lovely"
8. Artificial tooth
9. Japanese-American
13. Courtyards
15. Prepare, as tea
16. Mideast native
18. Newt, once
19. A pint, maybe
20. Little piggy
22. ___-relief



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

Trivia Teaser – Police Station

1. The RCMP is the national police force in which country?
a-Haiti, b-Canada, c-Russia, d-China.
2. What silent film producer created the zany Keystone Kops?
a-Hal Roach, b-Frank Capra, c-Samuel Goldwyn, d-Mack Sennett.
3. What Beatles song contains the line "Mister City Policeman sitting, pretty little policemen in a row"?
a-"I Am the Walrus," b-"Across the Universe," c-"A Day in the Life," d-"Dr. Robert."
4. Chief Inspector Morse of the Thomas Valley Police is the protagonist in a series of mystery novels by what author? a-P.D. James, b-Agatha Christie, c-Colin Dexter, d-Simon Brett.
5. What is the reggae theme song for the TV series "Cops"?
a-"Rise Up," b-"Watch Me Now," c-"Bad Boys," d-"I Shot the Sheriff."
6. Police scientist Barry Allen is the alter ego of what DC Comics hero?
a-Superman, b-The Flash, c-Green Lantern, d-Green Arrow.
7. Officer Dibble pounded a beat near the neighborhood of what cartoon character?
a-Daniel Tiger, b-Mr. Peabody, c-Top Cat, d-Touché Turtle.
8. What song was the debut single for The Police on A&M Records?
a-"Roxanne," b-"Every Breath You Take," c-"Message in a Bottle," d-"Every Little Thing She Does is Magic"
9. Police Chief Carl Kanisky was the head of the household on what sitcom?
a-"Uncle Buck," b-"Gimme a Break," c-"Family Matters," d-"The Good Guys."
10. In what Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera do singers complain that "A policeman's lot is not a happy one"?
a-"The Mikado", b-"Patience," c-"The Pirates of Penzance," d-"Trial By Jury."

Answers to "Police Station"

- 1-b, Canada
- 2-d, Mack Sennett
- 3-a, "I Am the Walrus"
- 4-c, Colin Dexter
- 5-c, "Bad Boys"
- 6-b, The Flash
- 7-c, Top Cat
- 8-a, "Roxanne"
- 9-b, "Gimme a Break"
- 10-c, "The Pirates of Penzance"

Six documents every homeowner should keep on hand

As a homeowner, you may find yourself with a lot of paperwork. While you don't have to keep all of it, it is a good idea to keep certain files for tax or mortgage purposes. There are several documents that you should keep as long as you own a property and some after you sell the property. Those include:

1. House deed: A house deed is a document that transfers ownership of a house from one party to another. Keep this for as long as you own a property, to have proof that you own it.
2. Closing documents: Keep documents related to closing the sale of your new home or property as long as you own the property, and three years after the sale.
3. Receipts for home improvements: Keep these for three years after you sell a property. It will help to show an increase in home value, help to justify a sales price during the sales process, and can be useful when it comes to your property taxes.
4. Mortgage payoff statements: Keep mortgage payoff statements indefinitely. These are documents from your lender that both parties sign when you've successfully paid off your mortgage. Keeping them indefinitely offers you a defense if your lender tries to come back to you later and say that you still owe money on your mortgage.
5. Private or primary mortgage insurance statements and cancelled checks: Keep these for three years after the tax year in which you've claimed this deduction. This payment is part of your monthly mortgage payment.
6. Property tax payment: Keep your tax bill and statements showing payment for three years after you've made the payment.

The minimum time to keep important household documents is three years after payment is made, although it doesn't hurt to keep many of these for longer. This is because the IRS can audit individuals for specific years for up to three years after the tax year (they can audit your 2015 tax return until the end of 2018.)

Gifts for the ungiftable

Weird ice: Molds for ice are big. Ice molds come in shapes like round, skull, geometric, slanted, giant, tiny, Star Wars, golf ball, hand grenade, heart, bullet. A variation on the theme is rocks that keep your glass cool. Pair the perfect ice mold with a suitable bottle of refreshment.

Free passes: You can get passes for parks, museums, movies, car washes, even railroad trips.

Breakfast food: Try Zabars.com for breakfast baskets (and much more, of course). You can get a crate full of bagels, cream cheese, coffee, orange juice, and pastry. Can be pricey, though.

For the bacon lover, try the Sir Francis Bacon sampler pack. For \$30, you get a selection of bacon peanut brittle, bacon chocolate, and bacon toffee. Check it out on Amazon, where you will find other bacon gifts too.

Subscription boxes: You can order subscriptions to snack boxes, cosmetics, projects for kids, coffees, dog treats, dinners to make, strange food, and anything else possible to ship.

Crazy candles: Lots to choose from here: Some candles melt away to reveal a bronze sculpture. A pretty, swirled candle gives 60 hours of fragrance. See uncommongoods.com

Crafty stuff: A 3-D pen that oozes out a plastic that hardens within seconds. Your crafty friend will not just draw but sculpt, too. See it at hammacher.com. You can also buy 3-D puzzles.

Funny stuff: How about a custom bobble head? Upload your photo at 1minime.com and you can get your friend or loved one's head on a variety of bodies.

Or, go all the way and put your loved one's face on ancient art. Be Napoleon at society6.com.



Millennials fall for online scams, study says

The most tech-savvy group in the world are the most likely to have lost money in scams, according to the Better Business Bureau.

Millennials fell for scams for online purchases, employment, and debt collection.

In fact, this 25- to 34-year old group was more likely to fall for online scams than 75-year-olds. About 30 percent of the younger group surveyed by the BBB admitted to losing money in scams. But only 5 percent of the older group lost money.

The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Isaiah 42:21

Produce

- 1/3 cup Pumpkin, canned unsweetened

Baking & Spices

- 1/8 tsp Cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp Honey or brown sugar
- 1 cup Topping, whipped

Snacks

- 1 Single serving package nature valley crunchy oats & honey granola bars

Dairy

- 1 container Yoplait greek 100 yogurt

<http://thesoccermomblog.com/2015/09/30/festive-fall-greek-yogurt-pumpkin-parfait/>