



Rob Paton Landscaping, Inc.

Around The House

APRIL, 2007

HONEST QUOTES & OLD FASHIONED WORKMANSHIP



Here's how Money Can Buy Happiness!

Leave it to a Princeton University Economics professor to nix the common belief that money can't buy happiness.

When asked what we can do to achieve greater happiness, Professor Alan Kruger suggests that we try "buying memories." They don't have to be memories of an experience that cost a great deal of money, but of things that brought you joy.

He tells of taking his father to an important football game, the Super Bowl. The anticipation of the game as well as the game itself was very memorable. He framed his ticket. He bought the memory and it still makes him happy.

Money can buy photos and souvenirs of happy times. Whether they will remind you of a vacation or a day in the park, souvenirs are worth the price.

Professor Kruger says some people are inherently less happy and some more so. It's just their temperament. Still, you may be able to boost your level of happiness by thinking carefully about how you spend your time.

Being with friends and family is a good way to increase your level of happiness. Sometimes you have a choice between working for a longer time at home or at work, and just being with your family. Many surveys suggest time spent with friends and families are among our happiest times.

And spend a little money on celebrations. Celebrate small things, not just big ones. If you just celebrate big events, you won't celebrate much at all.

Our Services in April Include

- *Spring Cleanup*
- *Mulching*
- *Weed Preventative*
- *Lawn Treatment – Slow release Lawn Fertilizer*
- *Lawn Treatment - Crabgrass Preventative*
- *Lawn Maintenance*

Inside This Issue:

- **Tips On Remodeling Your Basement!**
- **Weird Beauty Tips From The Past**
- **Customer of the month....**

Plus much, much more!!!



"I drew it in school. Can I hang it on Dad?"

Remodeling Your Basement

Basement remodeling is a great way to improve your home. Do it for yourself, your buyers or your wallet.

If you currently have a basement in your home, you know it can either be an asset or an annoyance. Basement remodeling can't turn your dark, wet basement into a warm livable space for your family. Add a new family room to your home with basement finishing or create a new bedroom for your older child with an exciting new basement renovation.

Thinking about selling your home? Add value to your home with basement remodeling. Home improvement means

improvement to your profit when all is said and done. Giving your basement a facelift will not only entice buyers, but it will make your home's living space larger and more comfortable.

Considering the value of adding a basement apartment? If your basement is just sitting there, you can turn it into a monthly check by renting it out to tenants! With a modern basement design and the right contractor, your basement apartment will be a comfortable home for a single person or small family.

When you think of home improvement, basement remodeling is a great

place to start. Basements can be a great hangout for teenagers and young children alike. Create a home office, game room or a child's play room in the newly acquired space. You'll appreciate how it will warm up your home and expand your living space. The right basement remodeling will make a huge difference in your house.



Vitamin D Fights Cancer!

A study published in the *Journal of Public Health* concludes that taking vitamin D pills could substantially reduce the risk for breast, colon, prostate, and ovarian cancer. The University of California, San Diego researchers contrasted the nickel-a-day cost of a vitamin D supplement with "the high human and economic costs of treating cancer attributable to insufficiency of vitamin D."

Other evidence shows that vitamin D is as important as calcium for building bone and preventing osteoporosis.

Are You Ready To Downsize?

About 78 million baby boomers are entering their empty-nest years. Many are already there, and there's a whole cadre of people who have had the empty nest for several years. Many are wondering whether they should sell their home and get something more in line with their current needs.

With interest rates for mortgages still at a 40-year low, some think this could be the time to do it. Others are confused by the real estate market. They may be attracted by a bargain price or two in the area of their

choice but wonder how much they could get from their present home.

Daniel Kadlec, author of *The Power Years: A User's Guide to the Rest of Your Life* (Wiley), says the most important question you need to answer is this: Are you truly ready to downsize?

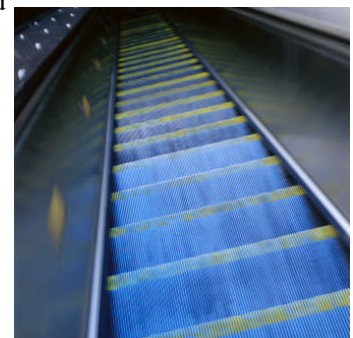
It's not easy to give up the home where you raised your children, one that is filled with many years of memories.

Financial planners say

giving up a large house is always a profitable decision in a financial sense. Living in a house that's too big ties up capital and imposes extra taxes and upkeep costs.

The large house can also involve a great deal of yard work and housework.

Your decision should have little to do with an up and down market, say these planners. The right time to downsize is whenever you are emotionally ready.



"How To Fix Your Sliding Door"

When a sliding door is off track, the result is usually a battle of wills... you want to get through the door, but the door doesn't want to move!

The main reason most sliding doors seize up and come off track is because dirt and debris get caught in the wheels and get embedded in the grooves of the track.

Using a bent wire hanger and an old toothbrush, remove the dirt and debris from the track. Using the toothbrush, remove the dirt from the wheels of the door. Vacuum the debris and wash the wheels and track with paint thinner. You can even lubricate the track and wheels with some WD-40. This should get you rolling in no time!

Around The House Tip of The Month: "Buying Outdoor Furniture"

If you feel like you've been stuck in the house for the past few months, have no fear because spring is here!

To help you make the most of this beautiful time of year, here's how to choose the best outdoor furniture for your home. Today's new features in furnishings and accessories will make the outdoors the place to be!

The latest trends in outdoor furniture are comfort and low-maintenance. With all the options at your disposal, the first thing you'll want to consider is how you plan on using your outdoor space.

Will you use it for cooking? Entertaining guests? Pool parties? Or do you want to use the area as a quiet family retreat? The furniture you choose should fit your needs and run true with your indoor decorating style.

When you're ready to

begin looking for outdoor furnishings, you'll want to thoroughly examine each piece you're considering buying.

Check the construction. If choosing metal furniture, be sure the joints are welded and attached smoothly.

As far as seating goes, there are three kinds of seating surfaces: sling, strap, and cushion. Sling is a mesh-like material that will keep you cool, dries quickly, and can be cleaned with mild soap and water. Sling works great poolside! Strap is thick vinyl bands, typically fashioned across a metal frame. Similar to sling, it offers easy care and it comes in a variety of colors. Cushion provides the most comfort, but requires more care. Cushion needs to be protected from the elements.

Now let's take a look at the styles that are available:

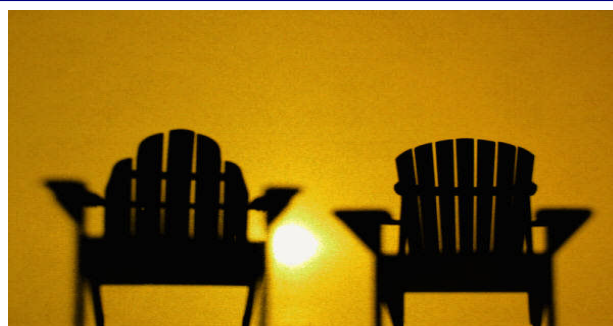
Teak – teak is a hard,

stable, and durable wood that requires very little care. Teak is also highly resistant to rotting and corrosion.

Aluminum – is tough and rust-proof. It requires almost no maintenance and holds up well in the elements. Aluminum furniture comes in two forms – tubular and cast. Tubular is lightweight and cast is solid and heavier.

Resin – is low-cost plastic furniture that can be found everywhere from drug stores to home improvement stores. It's lightweight and durable and easy to care for.

Wicker – this furniture is mainly designed for covered porches and patios. If you like wicker and want to use it outdoors, your best bet is to go with wicker that is woven over an aluminum frame and is weather-coated. It will require some degree of care and maintenance, but it will serve you well!



Three's a Crowd Sudoku

Sudoku is gaining popularity all across Europe. Only logic and patience are required. No math is involved. Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has a number 1 through 9 and that the number only occurs once. Each column and row of the large grid must have only one instance of the numbers 1 through 9.

Here's a tip for playing. We'll call the 3x3 squares "regions." With a highlighter, color in all the rows in the large grid and all the columns in the larger grid that have a 3 in them. We chose 3 because there are several of them in the puzzle. Finished?

Now observe. In the top right region and the top left region, what is the only possible location for the 3?

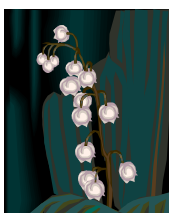
This technique is called "scanning" and you usually do it with your eyes and not a marker.

The difficulty rating on this puzzle is medium.

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

Weird Beauty Tips from The Past

History shows that noblewomen swallowed arsenic and dabbed on batsí blood to improve their complexions; 18th-century Americans prized the warm urine of young boys to erase their freckles; Victorian ladies removed their ribs to give themselves a wasp waist. The desire to be beautiful is as old as civilization, as is the pain that it can cause. In his autobiography, Charles Darwin noted a universal passion for adornment, often involving great suffering.



Answer Key on Page 6

Perfumed, Nodding Bells – Lily-of-the-valley

COLOR & VARIETIES

Lily-of-the-valley features sprays of waxy, bell-shaped flowers, dangling from 4-6 in. stem in spring. These sweet-sensed blooms of white or pink are followed by red berries. From early spring through summer, Lily-of-the-valley's stiffly erect, dark green leaves provide blankets of attractive foliage.

'Rosea' is a variety with pale lavender-pink flowers, in contrast to the typically white flowers of Lily-of-the-valley. Pink varieties tend to be more expensive than the common white varieties, but they will provide an unusual look to a

Lily-of-the-valley also comes in variegated forms. These showy varieties feature thin, light green or white stripes along their leaves.

WHERE TO PLANT

Lily-of-the-valley is standard for any shade area. It grows and spreads quickly. It will naturalize, filling in the space around the original planting and spreading outward within a few years.

As a lush groundcover

In a woody garden, Lily-of-the-valley is in its natural habitat. The moist, hummus rich soil will make Lily-of-the-valley thrive.

At the edge of a shady rock garden, these compact plants offer a delicate color in contrast to the louder hues of most alpine plants

At the base of a tree, Lily-of-the-valley will act as living mulch, keeping weeds down while conserving moisture. Do not plant under a shallow-rooted tree or the two will compete for water and nutrients in the soil.

- Perennial
- Flowers in Mid-spring
- Easy care
- Disease resistant
- Zone 4-9
- Partial to full shade
- Rich, well-drained soil
- Spread 8-12 inc
- High 6-8 inc

Ten Rules To Building Fortune



1. Start early. By saving \$1,000 a year at age 25, you could end up with five times what you'd have if you started at age 45.
2. Use your 401(k). You put in pretax dollars so it's a great savings plan. Passing up employer contributions is giving up free money.
3. Keep it simple. Choosing three or four index funds and a small-cap stock fund will give you broad exposure.
4. Don't try to beat the market. Even the best fund managers have trouble beating the S&P 500.
5. Don't chase trends. If you hear about a "hot" stock, investigate it. Go to investopedia.com.
6. Make saving automatic. If you are maxing out your 401(k), get payroll deductions transferred to a Roth IRA or a high-interest savings account.
7. Go heavy on stocks. The simplest formula: subtract your age from 120. That's the percentage you should have in stocks, the rest should be in bonds.
8. Hold down fees. Be wary of any mutual fund charging a management fee higher than 1 percent. Or stick with an index fund.
9. Get rid of credit card debt. Rank them by their interest rate and pay off those with the highest rates first. For low-interest student loans, consider making minimum payments and investing in your 401(k) instead.
10. Defer taxes. In a taxable account, you'll pay 15 percent in capital gains taxes every time you sell a winner you've owned for more than a year. At tax time, sell losers to take advantage of the annual \$3,000 capital loss deduction.

HOW SECURE IS YOUR BACK DOOR?

Nice weather makes it much more convenient for thieves to break into your home.

Though front doors are usually sturdy and may have bar locks, people often neglect to take the same precautions with back doors. Some have glass that can be easily broken to gain entry.

All outside doors should be made of metal or solid wood.

A Dangerous Time to Drive: 3pm to 6pm

It's interesting to note that in spite of the huge increase in traffic, the number of fatal road accidents per licensed driver is less than half of what it was 40 years ago, says the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Death, however, still occurs every day on our streets and highways. The deadliest days to drive are Friday through Sunday, with Saturday coming out on top. There's more traffic on the weekend, and alcohol plays a role.

Rushing home from work after a stressful day takes its toll. The time between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. is very dangerous. The most dangerous time to be on the road is around 2 a.m. The good news is that the early morning rush hour seems to be safer than any other time of the day. Drivers are more alert.

For teenagers, the after-school hours between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. are almost as dangerous as weekend nights, according to data from the American Automobile Association. On weekend nights, some 44 states limit driving by new drivers.

When you plan a holiday trip, keep traffic levels in mind. The days around Independence Day, July 4, are the most deadly of the year. December 23, is the third most deadly, and January 1 is in 5th position. August 3, 4, 6, and 12 are also in the top ten most dangerous days. Many people are driving on vacations.



ANSWER KEY

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

April Songs Could Make You Love (The Weather)

While February may be considered the month of romance with Valentine's Day on its agenda, April and love seemed to be a pairing of words gentle on the minds of musical composers through the years.

In the 1920s, Broadway goers could hear the raspy voice of Al Jolson belting out the old standby, "April Showers," while the 1950s crowd swooned to the boy-next-door, Pat Boone, making "April Love" his trademark. It was written for the movie of the same name. The Jolson favorite was penned in 1921 by Buddy G. DeSylva and

Louis Silvers while Boone's tune was written by Sammy Fain and Paul Francis Webster.

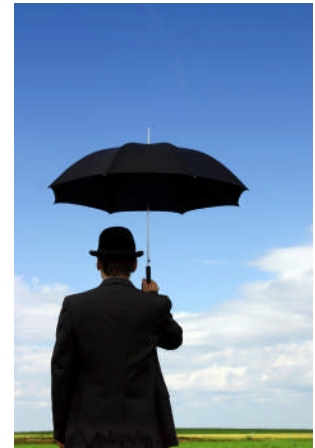
"April in Paris" dates to 1932 and was written by Vernon Duke and E. Y. Harburg. If anyone knows which month pairs up love and Paris, it would be the French. That is, unless you live a couple of countries away and would rather have "April in Portugal."

In 1986, Prince discovered that "Sometimes It Rains in April." If he had just asked or listened to a few old records he would have already known. A 1991 piece took things a little too

far with the chilly ditty, "The Unexpected Snow of April."

Add to these "April Moon" and "I'll Remember April" and the list goes on and on.

The reason for all this romanticizing about the fourth month may be just because you have to stay inside, dodge the showers, and do something. Or if you are Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown maybe you throw caution to the wind and go "Singing in the Rain."



Buying History? Federal And State Incentives Help Pay For Repairs

If you love those stately old homes but cringe at the cost of refurbishing one, here is good news: You may be eligible for state and federal tax incentives.

Tax credits are only one option. Some homeowners qualify for property tax reductions. Others can get a federal income tax write-off if they don't make changes that are not incompatible with the property's historic character.

About two dozen states are offering tax credits. Visit the National Trust for

Historic Preservation's Web site, nationaltrust.org/funding. To see if local incentives are also available, check with your county or municipality.

The federal government also offers assistance for income-producing properties (not residences). There is a tax credit for 20 percent of the cost of rehabilitating a government-certified historic property, or 10 percent for any structure built before 1936.

If you buy an historic home for \$100,000 and turn it into one worth a million, there will be a big property tax hit. But some states offer abatements. Georgia, for example, freezes real estate taxes for eight years on historic properties that have increased at least 50 percent in value.

Most people who fix up an historic property do it for personal satisfaction and to preserve our architectural heritage.



Client of the Month!

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 the **Mr. & Mrs. Lichtenstein of Harrington Park!**

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:

“\$100 Credit to your account”

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: 201-391-9471.

You're Name: _____

You're 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 _____



Yes! Feel free to use my name as a reference when you contact the referrals!

Fax To: 201-391-8875

Mail To: 69 Broadway, Park Ridge, NJ.07656

Email To: rpatonland@optonline.net

www.robpatonlandscaping.com