



Rob Paton Landscaping, Inc.

Around The House

OCTOBER, 2006

HONEST QUOTES & OLD FASHIONED WORKMANSHIP

Ladder Safety Can Prevent Serious Injury!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 5,800 people head to the emergency room each holiday season due to decorating injuries; the most serious of these injuries involved falling off roofs and ladders while hanging holiday lights.

"There is a potential for injury any time someone climbs a ladder," says Jeffrey Smith, MD, of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the Orthopedic Trauma Association (OTA). "While setting up and using a ladder may seem like a simple, everyday task, there are definitely safe and unsafe ways to do it." To help avoid injuries due to falls from ladders, the AAOS has developed the following tips for staying safe on a ladder:

- Make sure your ladder is sturdy and in good shape. Before using it, inspect it for any loose screws, hinges or rungs that you might not have fixed before you put it away last time..
- Be sure to place the ladder on a firm, level surface. Never place a ladder on ground that is uneven or on spongy, soft or muddy ground. Likewise, during colder weather, never set your ladder on slippery, frozen spots.
- Take reasonable safety precautions. Make sure to engage the ladder locks or braces before you climb. If you're working outside, make sure the ladder will not hit electrical wires, tree limbs or any other obstructions when it is extended.
- Remember the 1-to-4 rule: The bottom of the ladder should be 1 foot away from the wall for every 4 feet that the ladder rises.
- Always reposition the ladder closer to the work. Over reaching or leaning far to one side when you're on the ladder could make you lose your balance and fall. Your belly button should not go beyond the sides of the ladder.
- Get help if you need it. Ask someone to hold the ladder while you climb, stay in the center of the ladder as you climb and always hold the side rails with both hands.



Gardening can be therapy for worried minds. Being outdoors doing a variety of garden activities gives a psychological boost and makes people feel good.

Inside This Issue:

- **Keep your house warm!**
- **Is Clutter Stressing You Out?**
- **Client of the Month is...**

Plus much, much more!!!

Our Services Include

- *Landscape plantings*
- *Transplanting of existing Trees & Shrubs*
- *Sprinkler Head adjustment & Replacement*

Be A Good Neighbor On Halloween!

Be a good neighbor on Halloween

Many people enjoy handing out candy to their little visitors on Halloween. To make sure your visiting trick-or-treaters stay safe in your yard:

* If you have lighted jack-o'-lanterns, position them far enough away from where kids will stand so their costumes won't catch on fire. Better yet, use glow sticks instead of candles.

Before sending your children on their rounds, make sure they eat so they won't be tempted to dig into their goodie bags before you can examine them. If they are wearing masks, be sure they have a good field of vision. Face paint is better.

Tell them to walk, not run, stay on sidewalks, and cross streets only at intersections, not between parked cars.

Advise kids to approach only those houses with outside lights burning. Never go inside a house. They should wait at the door for their treat.

Young children should be accompanied by an adult. Older kids should travel with a group of friends.



Save Energy: Bulbs Save Money!

Energy-Star-qualified compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs use 66 percent less energy than a standard incandescent bulb and last up to 10 times longer.

According to Energy Star, replacing five high-use bulbs with CFLs would save \$60 a year in energy costs alone.

Is Clutter Stressing You Out?

If unexpected guests call to say they will be at your place in 20 minutes, will you be ready in that amount of time? If not, your home is too cluttered. The best test, of course, is how you feel when you look at your place.

If you find it's a stressful maze of stuff, taking action is a must. Organizing pro Donna Smallin, author of *Unclutter Your Home: 7 Simple Steps, 700 Tips and Ideas* says start by

vowing to spend 20 to 30 minutes a day decluttering.

- * Tackling one room at a time, decide what you can do without, what to keep, and what to trash.
- * Store the keepers where you use them. Put items on the kitchen counter that you use every day. Keep in-season clothes in the center of the closet.
- * Buy a basket for each room to store related items: towels in the bathroom, envelopes, stamps, and pens in the

kitchen, hats and gloves by the door. Books and magazines in the den.

- * Give away unneeded things to friends or charities.



"...and did you learn about us from our print ads, radio, TV or the Internet?"

Around The House Tip of The Month: "How to Clean Your Fireplace and Chimney"



Turkey Towns!

Three places in the United States are named after the turkey. Turkey, Texas, with 496 residents; Turkey Creek, La., 357 residents; and Turkey, N.C., 267. There also are 16 townships around the country named "Turkey," **Facts: U.S. Census Bureau.**

Hire a good chimney sweep or:

Lay out a tarp or sheet in front of the fireplace. Open the fireplace damper and make sure it operates.

Go outside to inspect the outside of the chimney for loose bricks or stones and deteriorating joints. Repair if necessary, following these brick maintenance tips. Climb onto your roof and remove the chimney cap and check it for weather damage. The chimney cap keeps sparks from escaping your chimney while keeping out the rain,

small animals and debris.

Run a chimney brush down the inside of the chimney to clean it out.

Go back inside to clean the lower portion of the flue with a brush.

Brush the fireplace floor, walls and damper with a stiff, dry scrub brush to remove the creosote. Don't scrub too hard or use a brush with metal bristles because the brick crumbles easily.

Vacuum up all of the dust and debris.

Close the damper. If it doesn't close tightly, purchase an inflatable fireplace draft stopper at any hardware store. (Leaks through the damper are drafty, and can increase your heating bills by 8%)

And lastly, take a shower. You're loved ones will thank you for it. And speaking of loved ones, remind them often of how much work it was to clean the chimney (although you and I know it wasn't too bad).

New Patio Doors Look Good, Save Energy!

Have you been thinking about replacing your old sliding glass patio door? Even without considering style, there is another good reason to do it.

Standard double-pane glass patio doors can be one of the biggest energy wasters in a home. Air leakage around the door is usually the cause. In summer, warm moisture-laden air leaks indoors through it.

New doors have a lot of great features. The energy efficiency of the glass is as high as R-10 and air tightness is higher than ever. Air tightness also reduces noise from the outside. The security of patio doors, a common target of thieves, has improved significantly.

French-style doors have wider rails and stiles on the door frame. The doors are strong and a lot like double-hinged ones. Optional matching grids can be added for more style.

When selecting a door, remember that the strength of the frame is important. Material options for the frame include fiberglass, vinyl, wood, aluminum, and vinyl- or aluminum-clad wood.

Fiberglass is one of the best materials. It is made with a process that combines long glass fibers with resins to create an almost indestructible frame for the glass. Some can be purchased with an oak veneer over the fiberglass.

Vinyl is a low-maintenance material. Its color goes completely through the frame, which means it looks good in spite of small scratches. Vinyl or aluminum cladding over a wood frame minimizes maintenance.

Select double-pane low-e glass for hot climates. It can be tinted as well. For cold climates, triple-pane low-e glass with krypton gas is best.

Easy Nine 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 larger grid and all the columns in the larger grid that have a 9 in them. We chose 9 because there are several of them in the puzzle. Finished?

Now observe. In the middle right region, what is the only possible location for the 9? There is also only one spot for the 9 in the bottom left region as well.

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

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

Answer Key on Page 5



Quickie Tip of The Month
"Shadings: New Window Treatment Has Advantages"

Drapes, curtains, and window shades have been around for a long time. Now there's something new and attractive in the field of window treatments: shadings.

They aren't curtains or shades but a combination of the two. Shadings are sheer fabric vanes encased in translucent fabric panels. The vanes rotate to give you various degrees of light control and privacy without shutting out the light.

Another advantage of shadings comes in the form of energy efficiency. They save heating and cooling costs because they fit snugly against the window. The multilayered, honeycomb shades have the highest R-value of any window covering.

One more attractive feature is their efficiency in noise control. The honeycombs reduce noise coming from the outside, whether from noisy neighbors or traffic.

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 **Dr. & Mrs. Longobardi of Old Tappan!**

Congratulations!

Keep Your House Warm, And Your Bills Low!



Keep your energy bill and your pollution output low this winter by taking a whole-house approach to heating.

Start with setting your thermostat as low as is comfortable. A programmable thermostat can help by adjusting the temperature according to your schedule—it can cut back heating at night, for instance, and turn it up again before you rise in the morning.

It's also important to weatherize your home—caulk and weatherstrip any

doors and windows that leak air. Make sure your equipment is properly maintained and cleaned, and that furnace filters are replaced regularly.

Finally, insulation is inadequate in many homes. Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area.

Water heating can be expensive, but there are a number of ways to lower your costs. One way is to

use less water.

Repair leaky faucets immediately and use low-flow shower heads. (A family of four, each showering for five minutes a day, uses 700 gallons of water a week; you can cut that amount in half by using low-flow aerating showerheads.) Insulate your hot-water storage tank and pipes, and drain a quart of water from your water tank every three months to remove sediment that impedes heat transfer and lowers the efficiency of your heater.



Take Advantage of The Holiday Mood In November

At this time of year, everyone else is going over the river and through the woods to grandma's house, but a brave few are headed into the real estate market. Is that a smart move?

Depends on how you look at it. There is no doubt that the real estate market slows down at the end of October. According to the National Association of Realtors, sales of existing homes drop about 30 percent between December and January. Home sales traditionally do not pick up until the end of January.

For sellers, the holidays

still can be profitable. Holiday home buyers are usually serious about buying quickly. The buyers are hitting open houses while the browsers are off at the mall. Plus, for sellers, there is no better time to show a house than the holidays when a tasteful Christmas tree, wreath, and sparkling lights can make a house feel like your future home.

For buyers, it's a great time, too, because with less competition from others, buyers have a good negotiating position with sellers who want to move quickly. If a buyer finds a house during the holidays, it is possible that he or she

will be able to come to an agreement with the seller to accommodate holiday plans.

If you are selling your home during the holidays, take this advice from home staging experts:

- Stick with simplicity. Take down your personal pictures and collections. Put up simple Christmas decorations that include a tree, wreath, and a few strands of lights outside. Put a few nicely wrapped presents under your tree.

- Build a fire in the fireplace. Play holiday music softly. Put potted evergreens in place of potted flowers

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

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.

Your Name: _____ Your 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 _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

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

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