

When it comes to home improvement, small projects pay off

Current economic conditions have forced many families to re-evaluate their spending habits and cut back in certain areas that are no longer deemed necessities. Dining out, family vacations and the purchase of that new TV are all being postponed until the economy makes it out of the red - but some things, like home improvement projects, can't be pushed off quite as easily. And while you may not be ready to invest in a whole new set of tools to begin your home improvement project, a trip to your local rental store provides a cost-effective solution to help you tackle those jobs that just can't wait.

Protect your largest investment

Your home is your largest investment and no matter what the economic conditions, you don't want to cut corners on projects around the house. Taking the time to do these projects right the first time will not only ensure the safety and well being of your family, but it will also ensure your financial security for years to come. Investing some energy and money into fixing little problems, like a crack in your home's foundation, will prevent larger repairs down the road. Even something as unassuming as a clogged drain or leaky faucet can lead to much more costly problems if not addressed properly, and can negatively impact the overall value of your home.

Simple 'refresher' projects, like a fresh coat of paint or a little landscaping work, will not only make your home feel more warm and inviting, but will also yield a large return on investment when it comes time to put your house on the market. Other projects, like adding a skylight or fireplace, can make your home more energy efficient and help reduce bills in the long run - and with most family budgets still in survival mode, projects that can produce long-term savings are a smart investment.

Upgrade your house without upgrading your bills

Although many home improvement projects appear to be simple, they often require tools that most weekend warriors don't have just lying around. This is when it makes sense to enlist the help of your local rental store. And since you will most likely only need the tools or equipment once, renting is a much more cost-effective solution than buying new or hiring a handyman. Plus, you get the added satisfaction of knowing that you had a hand in sprucing up your home and increasing its value.

Stocked with pressure washers to clean off your siding or deck, jackhammers to tear out that uneven front walk and concrete polishers to give your garage floor a distinctive new finish, your nearby rental store is like the ultimate workshop - filled with professional grade tools. Your local rental professionals will make sure you get the right tools for your job, and they will teach you how to properly use the equipment you will need. And no need to worry about storing the tools once you are done with your project; just return them to the rental store and let them handle the storage and maintenance.

Find your local rental store

Don't go running all over town to find the tools you need - save your time and energy and make one stop at your local rental store. To make finding the rental store nearest you even easier, the American Rental Association (ARA) offers RentalHQ.com, the world's largest and most comprehensive rental store locator. Here, people planning a home upgrade can find the rental store nearest them, read how-to tips and get ideas and inspiration for their project.

Source: <http://helloelizabethtownftknox.com/tls/?action=article&itemId=3743>

Happenings in Somerfield

June 2010

Donna J. Hahn

Cell: (630) 319-8602
Efax: 630-778-4139

E-mail: donna@donnahahn.com



Donna

Hahn

"Professionalism with a Personal Touch"



Infinity

Bookmark your favorite road

Planes and trains may have their place in our society, but for the dedicated traveler there's still nothing like getting in your car and taking a trip along America's highways.

Half the fun of road trips, in the minds of many, is getting home and telling friends and family about the adventure - and the roads they traveled.

In the past, drivers' road stories were largely told by word of mouth to a few people at a time. Now drivers can tell their tales to millions via the Internet. FavoriteRoad.com is a new Web site that features America's favorite highways and byways.

The site encourages you to post your favorite roads and explain why you like them. Simply log on to submit a photo and story of your favorite road. Use links posted on the site to share your road via popular social networks such as Facebook and Twitter. Your submission may even win a prize in contest giveaways.

The past year's economic downturn has reintroduced the word 'infrastructure' to our vocabulary. As a result of stimulus legislation passed in 2009, the federal government has allocated millions of dollars to specifically improve state roads and highways. And, with more affordable gasoline prices, people are increasingly using America's roads for leisure travel.

By posting on FavoriteRoad.com, you're doing more than just 'telling a good story.' Your testimonials may help encourage lawmakers to push for increased infrastructure spending to keep America driving smoothly and safely for years to come.

What's your favorite road? Log on and tell the world at FavoriteRoad.com.

Source: <http://helloelizabethtownftknox.com/tls/?action=article&itemId=3714>

Neighborhood Real Estate:

Homes currently active on the market in your Neighborhood with the MLS are:

Address	Bedrooms	Model	Bath	Price
♥ Coming Soon Ranch	3+	Lakewood	2.1	Call for Details
♥ 1575 Somerfield Dr	3	Brentwood	2.1	PCHG - \$247,907
792 Glenside Cr.	4	Durham	2.1	\$275,000
779 Glenside Cr.	4 +	Durham	2.2	\$315,000
1472 Sage Dr.	4	Ravinia	2.1	BO - \$269,900
1484 Schoenherr Ave.	3	Brentwood	2.1	\$234,999
1473 Schafer Ave.	3	Newberry	2.1	\$267,000
♥ 787 Sapphire Dr	4 +	Durham	2.1	PCHG - \$290,000
1513 Schoenherr Ave.	3	Brentwood	2.1	\$249,900
1468 Schoenherr Ave.	4	Savannah	2.1	\$265,000
1538 Somerfield Dr.	3	Brentwood	2.1	\$249,000
1598 Glenside Dr.	4	Hanover	2.1	F - \$265,000
♥ 1482 Glenside Dr.	4	Durham	2.1	SS - \$244,900
♥ 748 Dalton Lane	4	Monticello w/ Morning Room	3.1	PCHG - \$374,504
♥ 1401 Glenside Dr.	4	Ravinia	2.1	\$339,900
♥ 1412 Waterside Dr.	4	Monticello	3.1	\$399,000

Homes that are currently under contract in your Neighborhood with the MLS are:

Address	Bedrooms	Model	Baths	Price
3 Scarlet Ct.	3	Brentwood	2.2	SS - \$219,000
1433 Sage	4	Williamsburg	2.1	\$274,920
1513 Schafer Ave.	4	Durham	2.1	\$279,950
756 Dalton Lane	4	Morgan	2.1	\$324,900

Homes that have sold in the last month in your Neighborhood with the MLS are:

Address	Bedrooms	Model	Baths	Price
---------	----------	-------	-------	-------

♥ Are My Listings

PC = Price Change, BOM = Back on Market, NEW = New Listing on market, SS = Short Sale, BO = Bank Owned, TEMP = OFF Market Temporarily, F = Foreclosure

Source Multiple Listing Service Of Northern Illinois - June 1st, 2010

Do you have a Buyer for these Homes?



Somerfield - 787 Sapphire Dr. - Durham Model - \$290,000 - for more details, virtual tour and photos go to: <http://787saphiredr.ePropertySites.com>
So Many extras with this one, you need to see inside to appreciate. Full Finished Basement, 4ft. Extension in Family Room, 5 Bedrooms, 3/4 fenced Yard.



1717 Avalon Ave. Joliet - Cute Little Ranch - Priced at only \$189,917 - for more details, virtual tour and photos go to: <http://1717avalon.ePropertySites.com>



Somerfield - 1575 Somerfield - Brentwood Model - REDUCED PRICE \$247,907 - for more details, virtual tour and photos go to: <http://1575somerfield.ePropertySites.com>



Somerfield - 1401 Glenside Dr. - \$339,900 - Ravinia Model - for more details, virtual tour and photos go to: <http://1401glensidedr.ePropertySites.com>



Somerfield - 1412 Waterside - Monticello Model: priced reduced \$399,000 - for more details, virtual tour and photos go to: <http://1412watersidedr.ePropertySites.com>



Somerfield - 748 Dalton Lane - Monticello Model with Morning Room Priced at \$374,904 - for more details, virtual tour and photos go to: <http://748daltonlane.ePropertySites.com>



3810 Adesso, Joliet - Priced at only \$199,900 - for more details, virtual tour and photos go to: <http://3810adessolane.ePropertySites.com>

Also check out 1482 Glenside Dr. Somerfield - Short Sale - for more details, virtual tour and photos go to: <http://1482glensidedr.ePropertySites.com>

COMING SOON: Sought After Ranch: 3 Bedroom with another bedroom in basement, 2.1 Baths, Finished Basement, Fenced yard and more. Call me for details

Happenings in Somerfield will be getting a new look. Check it out next month and let me know what you think. Also if you would like to receive this newsletter by email rather than mail please email me your address and I will be happy to make the change.

If your property is currently listed with another Real Estate Broker, Please disregard this notice



Eric Hamilton
 Phone: (630) 728-7918
 Fax: (630) 375-5862
 Website: qualifywitheric.com
 Email: eric.hamilton@wellsfargo.com



Mortgage Watch

Courtesy of: Eric Hamilton Mortgage Consultant
 Well Fargo Home Mortgage
 Information Only, Rates subject to change without notice

CONV. 30 Year fixed	4.875%
CONV. 15 Year fixed	4.250%
CONV. 5/1 Arm	3.750%
FHA 30 year fixed	4.875%

Rates are down take advantage, buy NOW!

APR's vary with each individual loan.



Connie J. Butcher
 Law Offices of Trent & Butcher
 Email: cjbatty@aol.com
 Website: trentbutcherlaw.com
Office: 630-682-3100
Cell: 630-605-7781
Areas of Practice
 Real Estate, Personal Injury,
 Worker's Compensation,
 Wills/Trust, Family Law

Easy ideas for elegant outdoor summer entertaining

To really impress your guests this summer, give your outdoor soirees a little extra elegance that goes beyond the usual grill-out. The good news is that it's easier than you'd imagine to create an ambiance that is welcoming and sophisticated.

One of the keys to throwing an upscale backyard get together is to plan in advance. Once you have an idea of what you'd like to do, it's time to start letting people know. And we all know how busy summer schedules are, so informing your guests as much as a few weeks ahead of time is a courtesy they'll appreciate.

Here are some of the elements you'll need to create the perfect atmosphere for outdoor entertaining this summer.

* Decor: Having a jumble of mixed and matched chairs can be either charming or a visual distraction. If you have an assortment of old wooden chairs, it gives things a rustic feel; if it's decades-old folding chairs in clashing colors and styles, it looks mismatched. Aim for a consistent look, whether it's shabby chic or modern. If your tables and surfaces don't tie in perfectly, there's an easy fix: simply cover them with a tablecloth that has the same feel as the rest of your decor. Add planters of flowers in colors that coordinate with your theme.

* Comfort: Swatting at insects during a party is almost impossible if you're holding a beverage and a plate of hors d'oeuvres and uncomfortable even if your hands are free. Warm summer evenings often mean bare legs and arms, and the last thing you want your guests to remember is how many bug bites they got. To add beautiful, soft lighting while discouraging bugs, opt for mosquito blocking candles. Place them on tables or around your patio. The Conceal line from Yankee Candle will not only block mosquitoes, it also has a pleasant, garden-fresh scent that will add to your party's ambiance.

* Menu: Food does not need to be elaborate to be both beautiful and delicious. Take a cue from the rustic food traditions of Italy, France and Spain, where simple foods like garden vegetables, artisan breads and grilled meats make a major impact with surprisingly easy preparation. Keep the focus on vegetables and fruits, with one or two meat, poultry or fish options, to create a beautiful, healthy arrangement of dishes.

* Music: Depending on the mood you want to establish, you can choose from an endless supply of music available for download. Try salsa music for liveliness, flamenco guitar for dramatic artistry, Malian kora music for serenity or updated bossa nova for an unmistakably summery, beachy feel.

Outdoor entertaining is one of the best things about summer, whether you're a host or a guest. When you're hosting, the main goal is to create a relaxing, lovely environment during which your guests can forget their every care, whether it's the stress of work or the usual summer annoyances of mosquito bites. For more information about the Conceal line of outdoor mosquito candles from Yankee Candle, go to www.yankeecandle.com. When you provide your guests with a perfect escape for one evening, you've mastered outdoor entertaining.

Source: <http://helloelizabethtownftknox.com/tls/?action=article&itemId=3762>

ALEX'S TOTAL LAWN CARE

We offer a variety of services that are listed below:

- ✓ Weekly Lawn Care
- ✓ Fertilization Package
- ✓ Grub / Insect Control
- ✓ Trimming Hedges / Shrubs
- ✓ Core Aeration
- ✓ Spring / Fall Clean up
- ✓ Paver Patio / Retaining Walls
- ✓ Landscape Maintenance Residential & Commercial

Call Alex Morelli Today For Your FREE Estimate
 630-392-3427 or 630-554-1528



Small indulgences for busy lives!

Donna Hahn
Tastefully Simple
Consultant
630-319-8602
soldalot@comcast.net
Spring Catalogs just arrived, with 25 new products included!

Call me today to book your next party, or to place an order!

Looking for a Tax Advisor you can trust?

Look no further than your own neighborhood!
 Call Alyssia Benford of Benford Brown & Associates for all your tax needs.

(630) 679-9424

Or visit our website at: www.benfordbrown.com



BENFORD BROWN & ASSOCIATES
 Certified Public Accountants

- Services include:
- Individual and corporate tax return preparation
 - Payroll tax returns
 - W-2 compilations
 - And much more...



Alyssia Benford Partner



HECTOR MARTINEZ



AERATE - 1
 LANDSCAPING & PONDS
 "Landscaping with Water"
(630) 759-8005
 Cell (630) 514-2592

- Water Ponds & Streams • Patios
 - Putting Greens • Walkways
 - Stone & Mulch Work • Dethatching
 - Sod Service • Retaining Walls
 - Professional Lighting
 - Spring & Fall Clean Ups
 - Weekly Mowing • & More
- www.Aerate1Landscaping.com

Connie J. Butcher Attorney at Law

Areas of Practice

- Real Estate
- Personal Injury
- Worker's Compensation
- Wills/Trust
- Family Law

(630) 682-3100 Work (630) 605-7781 Cell

QUALITY CARPET CLEANING

Professional Carpet & Furniture Care
(630) 759-1190



Anthony Voitovich
 Owner • Operations Manager

Visit us online www.quality-carpet-cleaning.com



We offer custom colors and finishes including
STAMPED CONCRETE

- patios ★ driveways ★ sidewalks ★ pressure washing
- sealing ★ acid staining

Call for quote Larry Wehner 630-334-4692

If you would like to advertise in this spot give me a call for details