



DILWORTH
windows & doors inc.

"News You Can Use Around Your Home"

www.dilworth.com

(630) 960-4300

March 2005 Issue

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S HOME & FAMILY NEWS:

- **The Legend of St. Patrick's Day – Fact or Fantasy?**
- **How Wired Are You? – Make the Connection with Home Networking**
- **Kids and Money – An Investment in the Future**
- **Pretty Up Your Path – Give Your Old Concrete a New Look**
- **Little Known Facts – Sweet Lips and Baby Ruth?**

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Shallow men believe in luck. Strong men believe in cause and effect.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803—1882)

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**"Yes, you've done an excellent job of keeping our computer safe.
But sooner or later you'll have to plug it in."**

KIDS AND MONEY

Studies show that many adults who incur credit problems and huge debt were never taught proper money management principles in their childhood. Teach your children early how to handle money and the benefit will continue for a lifetime. Teaching children fair compensation for tasks performed is important to establish the work ethic they will practice as adults.

One way that children can learn to manage money is by receiving an allowance. An allowance should be distinguished from "earned" money. A small allowance, given each week as a benefit of living in the family, is great and can be started as early as five years of age. Each family must decide what is appropriate. One suggestion is to give an allowance of one dollar per year of life. Under this plan, a five-year-old receives five dollars per month.

Earned money is paid in return for tasks completed around the house that are above and beyond normal chores. Children need to contribute to the running of the household by completing assigned chores on a regular basis.

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KIDS AND MONEY

Responsibilities such as setting the table, clearing the dishes, putting laundry away and sweeping the floor are all part of unpaid chores. Even a two-year-old child can be given a small broom and turned loose on the kitchen floor!

Paid chores are those bigger jobs that are assigned in addition to normal chores. These may include the bigger cleaning projects, washing the car, mowing the lawn and other outdoor work. The older the child, the more he or she can do. Post a list of jobs that can earn money and assign each child age-appropriate duties.

Pay only for quality work. Your employer expects the best from you. Expect your children to work to the best of their ability. Keep in mind that your best and their best may be two different things. Reward honest effort and completed tasks. An amount of \$2.00 per hour for a fully completed hour of work is a good starting point.

Instill good money management principles in your children. Some basic guidelines are:

- 10% for charitable donations or tithing if you belong to a church
- 25% for short-term savings (for that item that they just can't wait to have)
- 25% for long-term savings (teenagers can save for that car insurance)
- 40% for spending money

By staying within these guidelines, you will establish habits in your child's behavior that will stay with him or her for a lifetime.

Pay day should be a regular day per week or month. Use your own pay day to pay your children. Mark it on the calendar so everyone looks forward to it! Give your younger child four containers marked with the categories above. Help your child separate the money into each container on pay day. Older children can open savings accounts at the bank or use the container method at home.

Begin these habits early—and stay consistent over time—to ensure that your child has a solid foundation for future financial success.

CLAIM YOUR \$50 REWARD

In the past, many of you have graciously referred your friends and neighbors our way. For your generosity, we thank you. And now, in addition to our gratitude, you'll also get a token of our appreciation!

For every referral you send our way that becomes a client, you will receive YOUR choice of the following:

- ☺ **Quality merchandise gift booklet**
- ☺ **\$50 donation to the charity of your choice**
- ☺ **\$50 credit toward your next purchase**

By referring your friends and neighbors to us, you've helped our business grow. Offering these special rewards is our way of saying, **"Thank you. You're the best!"**

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!

MARCH'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

Author, Dr. Seuss March 2, 1904

Actress, Sarah Jessica Parker, March 25, 1965

Former Vice-President, Al Gore, March 31, 1948

CROCK-POT IRISH STEW RECIPE

2 lbs boneless lamb, cubed, browned and drained
2 teaspoons salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
2 cups water
1 small bay leaf
2 medium carrots, peeled and cut in ½ inch slices
2 small onions, thinly sliced
4 medium potatoes, peeled and quartered
¼ cup quick cooking tapioca (optional)
10 oz. frozen peas OR frozen mixed vegetables

Place cubed lamb in slow cooker and season with salt and pepper. Add remaining ingredients except peas. (Do not add tapioca if you do not want gravy thickened.) Stir well. Cover and cook on LOW 10-12 hours. Add peas during last 1-2 hours of cooking.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS...

PRESIDENTIAL PARTICULARS

Some things you may not have known about our past Commanders-in-Chief:

- George Washington had a dog named “Sweet Lips.”
- Washington has one state, seven mountains, eight streams, ten lakes, 33 counties, nine colleges and 121 towns and villages named after him.
- Both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on July 4, 1826.
- James Madison was the smallest president at 5’ 4” and less than 100 pounds.
- Andrew Jackson raised 11 children, none of them his own.
- Zachary Taylor never lived in one place long enough to register to vote until he was 62 years old.
- James Buchanan threw sauerkraut and mashed potato parties.
- Abraham Lincoln grew a beard because a little girl told him he would look handsome that way.
- Ulysses S. Grant’s favorite breakfast was a cucumber soaked in vinegar.
- The Baby Ruth candy bar is named after Grover Cleveland’s daughter...the first child to be born in the White House.
- Benjamin Harrison was the first president to attend a baseball game.
- Harry Truman considered a career as a pianist before entering politics.
- Gerald Ford’s birth name was Leslie Lynch King, Jr. Later, he was adopted by his stepfather and renamed Gerald R. Ford after him.

THANKS FOR THE KIND WORDS

“It is nice to see that a company these days still takes pride in their craftsmanship. We really appreciate all the work you did. Thanks!”

- Albert & Donna R. - Downers Grove, IL

“Excellent service from start to finish! Our new entry system adds both beauty & value to our home.”

- Brian & Monica D. – Darien, IL

How Wired Are You?

Home networking. What is it? Why should I have it? Do I need it? Many homes now have multiple computers. One is for the adults who use it for financials, shopping, business and – yes, games! Another is for the kids to use for school work, research and – yes, games! Having multiple computers able to run at the same time is convenient, efficient and quickly becoming a trend in this technologically savvy age. Children now use computers in preschool and kindergarten. Some four-year-olds can “surf the net” better than mom or dad!

There are some great benefits of networking home computers:

- All PCs in the house can run on only one internet connection. Everyone can be online at the same time using multiple computers. This applies whether you have dial-up access through your phone company or a speedier connection like DSL from your cable provider. No more waiting in line to sign on one computer at a time!
- Wireless networking allows you to work wherever you want to take your laptop or notebook and be truly portable within the limits of your signal. You can cook dinner, fold laundry or sit outside under the shade tree and still be online. However, there are some serious security issues with this setup. Always use signal encryption to protect your network.
- File sharing is easy with a home networking system. When two people need access to the same documents or files, there is no need to copy and save the file to a floppy disk for someone else to use. The system can be configured so all files can be accessed from all computers in the network. Everyone can even share the same printer. If you own multiple printers, you may want to set one up to print envelopes, one for letterhead and so on.

Security issues can arise in home networking. A device known as a hub or a switch (sometimes integrated with a router) connects all your PCs together. Unless precautions are taken, it is possible for neighbors or passersby to access your network if it is wireless. However, most routers also incorporate a firewall that separates your home network from the outside, preventing access to your PC from others on the internet. If you have children in your network, investigate safeguards to enable parental controls or other limitations you can place on the network.

Always monitor your children’s use of the internet. Know what sites they visit and with whom they chat. Make safety a priority!

DID YOU WIN THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA CONTEST? FIND OUT!

Dilworth Windows & Doors didn't have a contest winner to the trivia question in the February issue of Home & Family News. (Sorry!!)

What percentage of men say they would enjoy receiving flowers for Valentine's Day? _____

If you guessed (c) 61%, you are correct!

Better luck next time!

GARDENING PREPARATION FOR SPRING BEAUTY

Spring is right around the corner, and with it come thoughts of gardens, flowers, blooming trees and visiting birds. It is a wonderful time of year and so much fun. But there is work to be done before we enjoy the fruits of our labor!

The least favorite job in the garden is clean up. Raking old leaves and debris from flower beds and trimming larger plants or trees is a great place to start. To prevent mold from settling on your plants, remove old mulch from around the crowns of new sprouts. Save all of this debris in a pile. You can begin a compost heap to put back onto the beds as fertilizer later in the season.

Spring bulbs will soon push their way through the earth. Planting of annual plants typically begins some time after Mother's Day in much of the country. Decide now which plants you will buy to save time later. Draw a map of your flower beds and indicate where you want certain groups of flowers to bloom. Ask a consultant to help you plan what will grow best in your location. Know which areas of your beds receive the most sunshine and shade. Note where your drainage problems may be. This will help in your decision of what to plant where.

A beautiful garden goes a long way to enhance the enjoyment of your home. It is relaxing and can reduce stress at the end of the work day. Soon you will be able to sit back with a drink, a book or some friends for company and watch your garden grow.

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE AT A \$25 AMC MOVIE PASS

OR

\$10 BLOCKBUSTER GIFT CARD

Your Choice!

MARCH

TRIVIA CHALLENGE!

What holiday was celebrated in America for the first time in March of 1737?

- (a) Easter (b) St. Patrick's Day
(c) Mother's Day (d) Thanksgiving

The first correct answer faxed to (630) 960-4336 or phoned to (630) 960-4300 will be the winner!

BIZARRE NEWS

GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA – A man pleading his case in court told the judge that he had a great excuse for traveling ninety mph in a 25 mph zone. He had taken a laxative that day and was in a great rush to get home!

DALLAS, TX – Charles D. McKinley, 25, of Brooklyn, N.Y., had four weeks of vacation coming, so he decided to visit his parents in DeSoto, Texas. Rather than buy a plane ticket for \$320, McKinley, a shipping clerk, packed himself into a shipping crate and air-expressed himself home, charging the fees to his employer. When the crate was delivered to his parents' front step, McKinley pushed out of the box and shook hands with the "shaken and frightened" delivery driver. The driver called the police. After an investigation by the FBI, the U.S. attorney, postal inspectors, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Transportation Security Administration, McKinley was charged as a stowaway – a federal misdemeanor. (Dallas Morning News)

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN – February 2005 – A 43-year-old man has pled guilty to breaking into a cafeteria. Reportedly, after finding nothing of value, the man hastily fled the scene leaving behind clues to his identity. Police identified the man by his false teeth. The teeth, engraved with his social security number, were left behind in his rush to leave the scene.

MARCH'S CLIENT OF THE MONTH WINS A FREE DINNER!

Every month we choose a Dilworth Windows & Doors *Client of the Month*. It's just our way of acknowledging good friends and saying "thanks" to those who have supported our business with referrals, word-of-mouth, and repeat business! March's *Client of the Month* is **Jeff & Anne K!** Congratulations! **We appreciate you doing business with us once again!**

Jeff & Anne K. win a **FREE DINNER** from their choice of restaurants, **Pappadeaux, Cucina Roma or Amber's** in Westmont. You can be the *Client of the Month*, too! Watch for your name here in an upcoming edition of the *Home & Family News!*

WHO IS ST. PATRICK ANYWAY?

With so many myths and legends surrounding the history of St. Patrick, it is difficult to separate fact from fantasy. Some say Patrick was born in Wales to a wealthy English family in the fifth century. Others site his birthplace as Scotland. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was captured by a band of marauders and sold into slavery. During his captivity, Patrick served as a shepherd for an Irish Chieftain. While tending the sheep, he dedicated himself to religion.

Six years into his captivity, Patrick fled his captors and returned to his family's home country of England. Driven by the idea of converting the Irish, he studied in an English seminary for fifteen years and was ordained as a priest. Patrick returned to Ireland as a missionary.

Legend surrounds St. Patrick. One of the most popular is that Patrick charmed the snakes of Ireland into the sea using a drum. Yet another has him standing on a hill and, using a wooden staff to drive the serpents into the sea, he exiled them forever from the Irish shores. One legend says that a persistent old snake resisted, but the saint overcame it by cunning. Patrick is said to have made a box and invited the reptile to enter. The snake insisted the box was too small and the discussion became very heated. Finally, the snake entered the box to prove he was right, whereupon St. Patrick slammed the lid and cast the box into the sea.

While it is true there are no snakes in Ireland, chances are that there never have been. As in many old pagan religions, serpent symbols were common and possibly even worshipped. Driving the snakes from Ireland was most likely symbolic of putting an end to that pagan practice.

Patrick is said to have died on March 17 in the late fifth century. Legend has it that he passed away in England and was buried there. Some say that his jawbone was dipped in silver and used as a holy relic.

Fact or fantasy, St. Patrick's Day is a popular Irish holiday that heralds the beginning of spring and the wearing o' the green.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THE NICEST HOME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Do you know we are experts in a variety of home improvement projects? If you're considering a new remodeling project for your home, please feel free to give us a call.

We'll be happy to answer all of your questions and provide you with our expert advice for free. As a VIP client, you'll be treated with the kind of service you deserve.

Here's a list of some of the projects we specialize in:

- ✓Windows
- ✓Bays & Bows
- ✓Garden Windows
- ✓Entry Doors
- ✓Storm Doors
- ✓Patio Doors

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks to YOU the word is spreading! Thank you to all of our clients who graciously referred us to their friends and neighbors last month!

Our success is because of good friends like you. We just couldn't do it without *you!*

Thank You For Your Referrals:
Joseph & Kathleen P. – Downers Grove, IL
Frank P. – Westmont, IL

LET'S WELCOME NEW CLIENTS THIS MONTH INTO OUR "DILWORTH WINDOWS & DOORS FAMILY" (AND THANK YOU TO OLD FRIENDS!)

- **Brian T. & Joan B. of Darien – Thanks for choosing Dilworth again!**
 - **Michelle K. of Clarendon Hills**
 - **David & Betty F. of Darien – Thanks for choosing Dilworth again!**
 - **Robert & Katherine S. of Downers Grove (Referred by Joseph & Kathleen P!) Thanks!**
 - **Robert & Ann R. of Clarendon Hills**
 - **Gail L. of Oak Brook – Thanks for choosing Dilworth again!**
 - **Bob & Chris P. of Woodridge – (Referred by Frank P!) Thanks!**
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PRETTY UP YOUR PATH

Unightly dull, gray, cracked and stained concrete can be a thing of the past. There are now many new techniques in finished concrete that add texture, color and beauty to this most basic material.

Textured Overlays

Existing concrete must be power-washed and acid-etched to remove any excess dirt and debris. Remove cracked or damaged sections of concrete and repair or fill in with new concrete. Apply a thin, color-tinted polymeric concrete finish over the prepared surface. Apply the coating with a trowel at a thickness of about 20 mm. Once the overlay is applied, it can be textured using stencils, stamps, rollers or any other decorative tool.

Sand Blasting

Create a design in your sidewalk, patio or driveway. Design your own stencil or buy one "off the rack." Custom corporate logos have a special appeal. You may even decide to create your own personal message. When you have decided on your pattern, tape or mark it off on the surface. Using sand blasting equipment, etch the desired pattern into your existing concrete. Once finished, the etched surface can be left as it is or stained for an even more bold effect.

Staining

Two types of stains are generally used for this custom treatment. Chemical stains are used for acid-etching. Surface colorants create a basic stain. The decision of which method to use will be based on the condition of the intended surface and the composition of the materials originally used.

It is impossible to guarantee a precise color using staining techniques because of the variables at work in the procedure. The concrete must be fully cured (approximately one month) before processing. Thoroughly wash the surface with detergent and water and rinse well. Apply the stain with a sponge, brush or spray it on, depending on the desired effect. After staining procedure is completed, wash the surface again. Let dry for at least two days before applying the sealant.

Chemical staining works through the reaction of the chemical compounds with the elements of the concrete. The chemicals react with the lime and result in a permanent color change of the concrete itself. Some stains are acid-based; others are water-based. Acid stains eat their way into the concrete, while water-based stains soak into the surface.

If you are not pleased with your path, you now have options. Choose your path wisely.

IF YOU ENJOY THIS NEWSLETTER, WHY NOT SHARE IT WITH PEOPLE YOU KNOW?

If you would like any of your friends, co-workers, relatives, business acquaintances, etc. to receive a **FREE** subscription to this newsletter, please fill out the free subscription information on page 8. We'll see to it that they receive a copy each month! We'll also send them a note with their first issue letting them know that you were the thoughtful person who suggested they receive this newsletter and to contact us if they would like to stop at any time.

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HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO WIN! WIN! WIN!

Simply fill out the following information, fax or mail it in, and you'll be entered to win our monthly Trivia Challenge.

Your Name: _____

Your Phone: _____

Your Answer (check one): ___ (a) ___ (b) ___ (c) ___ (d)

And don't forget the:

REFERRAL REWARD PROGRAM!

Fax To: 630-960-4336 Mail To: 223 N. Cass Ave., Wesmont, IL 60559

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 630-960-4300.

Your Name: _____ Your Phone # _____

Referrals: If you run out of room, you can use a separate sheet of paper.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

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!

CURIOUS ABOUT AN UPCOMING HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT?

To get all the "insider information" you need, simply call our office at 630-960-4300 or fill out the form below and mail or fax it to the office.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

I'm interested in more information on the following types of projects:

- New Windows
- Bay, Bow or Garden Windows
- New Entry Doors
- New Storm Doors
- New Sliding Patio Doors
- Other Improvement _____
- Please contact me to set up a planning session regarding my home remodeling plans.

- Please call me with more details on the referral reward program.
- Please provide a **FREE** subscription to your monthly newsletter to the following person(s). I understand you will send them a note explaining I suggested they get this FREE subscription and all they have to do is contact you if they don't wish to receive it. (If you would like to send to more than one person, just write their names on a separate sheet of paper.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

Fax this form to: 630-960-4336

Or mail this form to: 223 N. Cass Ave., Westmont, IL 60559

Questions? Call the office at 630-960-4300