

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

OCTOBER 2005

How To Carve That Perfect Pumpkin

Halloween's around the corner and it comes with one of the most popular October traditions: carving pumpkins and transforming them into jack-o-lanterns. Whether you're a professional or a rookie, these tips can help you create that ideal Halloween decoration:

- Select a pattern you'd like to carve. You can buy a pattern book; many come with the carving tools.
- Keep your selected pattern in mind when choosing the size of your pumpkin. Don't choose one with soft spots, browning spots or dents. Try to get one that stands up straight. Avoid small ones because they're difficult to carve.
- Carve a hole in the lid for a chimney if you plan to use a candle. After finishing, clean out the pumpkin with a large metal spoon until the wall thickness stands one inch around.
- Draw the pattern on paper and tape it to the pumpkin. Take a pointed object such as a pen, poker, or tip of a knife and poke holes along the lines of your pattern. Remove the paper.
- To support the pumpkin's wall structure, start cutting in the middle of the design and working outward slowly and carefully, connecting the holes in short up-and-down strokes.
- Don't leave lit jack-o-lanterns unattended or easily accessible to young children.
- During the day, leave the finished jack-o-lantern in a dry, shaded area. This helps prevent mold and decay.



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Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!

—Tara and April

Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time (DST) begins for most of the United States at 2:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of April. Time reverts to standard time at 2:00 a.m. on the last Sunday of October. Remember the old saying: **Spring Forward and Fall Back.**

Did you know that DST is NOT observed in Hawaii, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, most of the Eastern Time Zone portion of the State of Indiana, and the state of Arizona (not the Navajo Indian Reservation, which **does** observe). Navajo Nation participates in the Daylight Saving Time policy, due to its large size and location in three states.



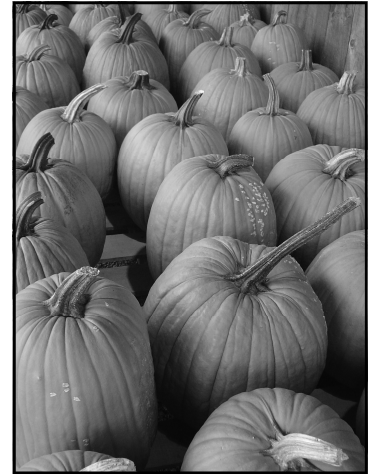
Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 30th this year!

Welcome to the Pumpkin Patch

Pumpkins are believed to have originated in North America. Seeds from related plants have been found in Mexico dating back to 7000 to 5500 B.C. References to pumpkins date back many centuries. Native American Indians used pumpkin as a staple in their diets centuries before the pilgrims landed. They also dried strips of pumpkin and wove them into mats. Indians would also roast long strips of pumpkin on the open fire and eat them. When the settlers arrived, they saw the pumpkins grown by the Indians and pumpkin soon became a staple in their diets.

Fun Facts About The Pumpkin...

- Pumpkins contain potassium and Vitamin A.
- Pumpkin flowers are edible.
- The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It contained 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake.
- In early colonial times, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling.
- The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,140 pounds.
- The Connecticut field variety is the traditional American pumpkin.
- Pumpkins are 90 percent water.



Did You Know...

That pumpkins are grown all over the world? Six of the seven continents can grow pumpkins, including Alaska! Antarctica is the only continent where pumpkins won't grow.

A pumpkin is really a squash? It is! It's a member of the Cucurbita family which includes squash and cucumbers.

That the "pumpkin capital" of the world is Morton, Illinois? This self-proclaimed pumpkin capital is where you'll find the home of the Libby Corporation's pumpkin industry.

Learning From *Jaws*

This year marks the 30th anniversary of *Jaws*, the film that kept people out of the water in 1975. The story, about a great white shark that terrorized a seaside community, tapped into the most primal of human fears: What lurks below the ocean surface?



To the dismay of many scientists, *Jaws* cemented a perception in the minds of many people that sharks were relentless killing machines. That reputation remains entrenched in the public's psyche 30 years after the film's release. "On the one hand, the movie did damage to sharks because people saw them as monsters," said Robert Hueter, Director of the Center for Shark Research at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida. "But for scientists, the whole *Jaws* thing started working in our favor because interest in sharks skyrocketed, resulting in increased research funding."

Since the movie's release, scientists have gained an immense amount of knowledge about sharks. Still, most people, when they hear the word "shark," think of a huge great white shark like the one in *Jaws*. In reality, there are more than 375 shark species and scientists only consider about a dozen dangerous. "In the final analysis, *Jaws* has been a positive thing for the science of sharks," Hueter said, "because it has elevated the public's interest."

— Adapted from *nationalgeographic.com*

Support The Fight Against Breast Cancer

"EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES." That's the simple, yet powerful message during October, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Throughout the month, the focus is to educate men (yes, men get this disease also) and women about breast cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment because studies show that the sooner doctors detect breast cancer, the more likely the person will survive the disease.

In this year alone, one in seven women will develop breast cancer. Since the inception of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, mammography rates have climbed, programs are in place at national, state and local levels to broaden access and improve screening, and funding for research has increased significantly. Breast cancer research is improving prevention, detection and treatment options, and death rates have declined. Thanks to these advancements, now there are over two million breast cancer survivors in the United States!

But even with new technologies, a yearly mammogram is still the single most effective method of early detection and doctors highly recommended it for women over 40 years old. In addition, breast self-exams every month help women know their bodies and look for any unusual changes.

To help support the fight against breast cancer, the third Friday in October each year is National Mammography Day, first proclaimed by President Clinton in 1993. On this day, or throughout the month, woman are encouraged to make a mammography appointment.



You can also wear a pink ribbon, the symbol for breast cancer awareness adopted in 1991 by Evelyn H. Lauder, founder and president of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and Alexandra Penney, then-editor of *Self* Magazine. Lauder says, "The ribbon stands for awareness. It stands for the sisterhood that will help women survive – and conquer – this disease."

– Adapted from nbcam.org

***Do you want to find
local businesses that give
outstanding customer service?***

*Request a free copy of our
service directory,
including plumbers, contractors,
painters, tutors, etc.
All of the businesses listed
have a proven track record
for providing the outstanding
customer service you deserve!*

The Vacuum Salesman...

An enthusiastic door-to-door vacuum salesman goes to the first house in his new territory.

He knocks, and a real mean and tough looking lady opens the door, and before she has a chance to say anything, he runs inside and dumps cow patties all over the carpet.

He says, "Lady, if this vacuum cleaner won't do wonders cleaning this up, I'll eat every bit of the cow patties."

She turns to him with a smirk and says, "You want ketchup on that?"

The salesman says, "Why do you ask?"

She says, "We just moved in and we haven't got the electricity turned on yet."

Welcome New Clients!

Here are some past clients, and new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" recently. We'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Matt Clements and Danel Vickerman (selling a home in the "Wood Streets")

Piotr Gorecki and Renata Dylewska

Anthony and Rita Hope (selling a home in the "Wood Streets")

Sean and Kay Pakenham

Brandi Sullivan (selling a home in the "Wood Streets")

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us.

October Quiz Question

What is the lowest point of elevation in North America?

Everyone responding by calling or e-mailing us with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for:

A \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

Drawing to be held on 11/05/05



September Quiz Answer

Question: Our planet is home to just two mammals that lay eggs. One is the platypus; what is the other?

Answer: Echidna, or spiny anteater.

Turn to page 6 for detailed article.

Congratulations to Carol Lazzaro

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

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Home Finder Service.**

Call Tara or April any time:
(951) 205-4428 or (951) 205-4429

We'll fax, mail or e-mail you the information on that listing within 24 hours.

The Pet Page

Halloween Can Be a Nightmare for Your Pet

Pets like routine, and Halloween is far from routine.

The doorbell keeps ringing, strange people chant "trick or treat," and chocolate candy is enticingly close by. Bags of chocolate candy, the most popular kind bought at Halloween, can be tempting to some pets. Most often, dogs will be the ones who scarf down the M&Ms. A couple of M&Ms won't be a problem, but a bagful can mean an emergency trip to the vet. Theobromine, a stimulant found in chocolate, can be toxic or even fatal to dogs and cats depending on how much they eat.

Don't leave your pet(s) outside unattended on Halloween (or on the days preceding or following this holiday). Halloween pranks committed against pets can be vicious, and black cats are particularly at risk.

Despite how much fun it is for people, many pets don't enjoy getting dressed up for Halloween. Avoid costumes held in place by rubber bands, which can be uncomfortable. More importantly, rubber bands mistakenly left on a pet can quickly burrow into the animal's skin and cause injury. If you do dress your pet, be sure that its costume doesn't interfere with the pet's ability to breathe, see, hear, move, or bark.

Be careful around pets because they may not recognize you in your scary costume, so consider shutting your pets in another room until you are back to normal. Dogs that are frightened or unsure might piddle on the floor, cower, shake, or some may even bite.

Consider keeping your pet(s) in a separate room, away from the door, when trick-or-treaters arrive. In case your pet does escape, make sure that it is wearing proper identification. Pets with identification are much more likely to be returned to their owners.

Shelters typically see a spike in runaways or reports of missing dogs and cats on Halloween, the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve, all times when scary or loud noises are traditional to the celebration.

For more information and tips about holiday safety for pets, call or visit your family veterinarian.



**Don't
buy,
while
shelter
animals
die.**

**Give
a homeless
shelter
animal
a forever
home!**



IMPORTANT NOTICE

"The Sister Team" is willing to donate money to help those who would like to adopt a needy (and doomed) pet from any animal shelter!

And **remember**....spaying and neutering is the most important thing we can do to help dogs and cats!

We are willing and able to *confidentially* help those who are unable or unwilling to spay or neuter their companion (or stray) animals.

Please contact us and we will donate our time and money to this most-important cause!

Together, forever and always for the animals!

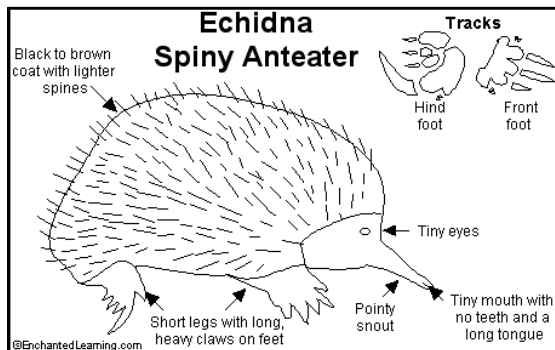
--Tara and April

What is an Echidna?

Most everyone knows about the platypus, that duck-billed, web-footed, fur-covered critter that's a warm-blooded mammal like us – only it lays eggs. But did you know there's just one other mammal on our planet that also lays eggs? Meet the echidna!

Like the platypus, echidnas are native to Australia. Commonly found in hollow logs, thick underbrush, caves or under piles of debris, the adaptable little echidna can live anywhere from hot, arid deserts to above the snow line in alpine regions. When threatened, the echidna pulls its head in and curls up, presenting adversaries with a ball of sharp spines.

An adult echidna – or spiny anteater as they're sometimes called – can weigh up to 15 pounds and reach 12-18 inches in length. It looks like a small porcupine with spines intermingled in its fur, and its snout is hairless, covered with sensory receptors that detect vibrations from the ground and lead it to prey. While echidnas dine mostly on ants and termites, they'll also eat earthworms, small beetles, and the larvae of moths. The echidna's long, sticky tongue flicks back and forth up to 100 times a minute to catch its meals.



About two weeks after mating occurs, a single soft-shelled egg is deposited directly into the pouch and hatches after 10 days — this happens only once or twice a year. The baby is called a “puggle” and clings to specialized hairs within the pouch, where it suckles milk that oozes from the mother's mammary glands for almost two months, or until it becomes too prickly.

Echidnas are rarely seen. However, extensive diggings at the base of termite mounds are a sure sign of their presence.

Airline Humor

All too rarely, airline attendants make an effort to make the in-flight safety lecture and announcements a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

- On a Continental flight with a very “senior” flight attendant crew, the pilot said, “Ladies and Gentlemen, we’ve reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants.”
- On landing, the flight attendant said, “Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you’re going to leave anything, please make sure it’s something we’d like to have.”
- After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced, “Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as heck everything has shifted.”
- “In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with more than one small child, pick your favorite.”
- And from the pilot during his welcome message: “Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!”



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**ELEGANT “WOOD STREET” BEAUTY
WITH RARE MASTER SUITE AND 4-CAR GARAGE!!!**



\$514,900

This “Wood Street” home boasts 4 bedrooms, 2.75 bathrooms, with 2004 square feet! The current owners transformed the breezeway into a master suite, complete with cathedral ceiling, track lighting, and huge walk-in customized closet, along with a new bathroom with tile flooring, clawfoot tub and separate “peek-a-boo” shower enclosure. The kitchen has new tile counter tops, fixtures, sink and gas range. The extra-deep garage can accommodate FOUR cars! Great corner lot on quiet street.



Hardwood Floors!

AVAILABLE

“Wood Street” classic English tudor 3 bed 1.75 bath for \$405,000

AVAILABLE

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Remodeled Kitchen



Guest house

IN ESCROW

“Wood Street” 2 bd 2 bth listed for \$372,000

IN ESCROW

“Wood Street” 3bd 1.75 bth listed at \$429,900

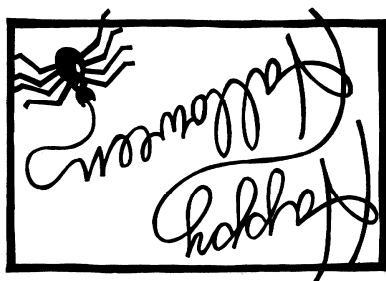


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Chit Chat

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We want to thank those of you who have participated in our Client Referral program! Marketing for new clients costs us tons of time, money and energy. Like any company, we need new clients to stay in business. Over the years we've found that looking for new clients takes away from the time we would rather be spending focusing on your goals, explaining your options, and providing the excellent service you expect.....*and deserve!*

If you refer your friends and relatives to us, everyone benefits. We can serve you better. We send you a nice gift. And we assure you that we'll take the very best care of anyone you refer to us.

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