

FREE



A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

"STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY"

NOVEMBER 2011

www.agoodneighbornews.com

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Thoughts from my mind & heart

From my mind:

It was one simple act ... I put my gloves on this morning and a thought popped into my head that made my heart beat just a little faster. "You are so blessed." It was stirring and I thought to myself, yes, I am. You see, I have gloves to put on when it's cold outside and my hands need protection; there are so many people who don't and I should not take this for granted lest I miss a very important truth. I realized that when I showered earlier in hot steamy water and later brushed my teeth with a toothbrush that rotates & vibrates to remove plaque and followed that with brushing my hair and decorating my face, eyes & lips with makeup that these are things I take for granted every single day but shouldn't. I don't intend to sound like an extremist here, however, we both know I could go on and on – and so could you about the many things we use or do every single day that we somehow take for granted when there are people in this world, even right here in this town, that would consider it all pure luxury and yet ... I find ... that somehow ... I always want more. Please allow me to demonstrate in a very exaggerated sense: Perhaps I saw a new dress in the

shop downtown that I know will make me look slimmer, taller, more polished ... and that bracelet there on the velvet display paired with those sparkling earrings on the mannequin will just be the icing on the cake and those exquisite shoes – oooh, those shoes would be the cherry on top. Maybe there are moments that I think about that new car I've had my eye on for quite some time ... it has technology that is far more advanced than any other car that precedes it. It is sleek and fast and has Italian leather seats that recline, heat, cool and vibrate. Let's not forget the 3 carat diamond displayed on the beautiful new Christmas display at Sorg's or the breathtaking tennis bracelet I saw this summer at Tiffany's in Chicago; I can just feel that little blue box in my hand. (You get the idea.) Listen ... this is what's become of us; where ever we go, no matter what we gaze upon – we can always find more things to desire – to want – to lust after. Why can't we just be satisfied with all of the "things" we already have and why can't we consider the needs of those around us instead of always wanting more for ourselves? We all know that anything we buy new today is just old tomorrow. It will all wear out, lose its appeal and become what we would consider "trash" eventually. Perhaps this is why we are to lay up our treasure in heaven – where nothing will ever rot or turn to ashes. The material things we wish for

are here "for a day" and then they are dust in the wind. As you grow older you realize just how fleeting it all really is ... and how you wasted so much time wanting when you could have, instead, spent so



much time being giddy with thankfulness for the things you have (and always had) that time can never decay.

From my heart:

The love of friends and family is so gratifying. There is no love greater than the love our Father in heaven has for us and yet he blesses us with the people in our lives who enrich our life experience. The very fact that I have what I need physically to be able to accomplish the tasks that I assign myself daily is in and of itself a huge blessing. The things in my world that bring untold beauty to my life such as the inundating waves of an open lake (which I have a deep down fondness for), the grazing horses and cows that dot the countryside here, the brilliant hues of the fall colors that decorate my world these days and the way the Lord paints the evening skies are all there for the "taking in" and the only thing I have to pay is attention. When a

stranger bestows an act of kindness upon me ... free, yet priceless. When I clean the house or tend to the yard ... the result makes my heart soar and it makes me feel so good inside. When my chil-

dren and grandchildren rush into my arms for as many hugs and kisses as they can possibly stand I find I am rich with love and I am content. When someone I don't even know shares a smile I am blessed by it. When a bulb I planted in the fall bursts from the ground in the spring you would think I had just given birth because I am so jump-up-and-down happy. When my mom calls and tells me she loves me and is proud of me ... it feels like glittery sparkles being gently sprinkled on my heart. When I recall precious



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INSIDE THE TEA ROOM



THANKFUL FOR YAMS!

by Brenda Dwyer

The table had a shimmering gold tablecloth laid diagonally across it with an antique lace topper; it was stunning and then the excess fabric pooled upon the floor. There was an antique

silver candelabrum with three long cream & gold tapered candles that were lit and casting a warm glow upon great-great grandma's anniversary china which had been carefully placed for a gathering of 42. The table (that only made an appearance twice a year) ran from the dining room all the way through to the living room. Boughs of greenery that had picks of baubles here and there ran from one end of it to the other on both sides of the centerpiece. (You would never have guessed that the table was nothing more than beveled plywood that had been set upon sawhorses to accommodate the large gathering.) The chairs were all dressed with huge gold and silver bows. I happen to know that everything on the table itself was more than 80 years old and had been handed to three generations of wives

to have their holiday dinners on. The only things that were "new" were the candles. You could smell wonderful aromas of cinnamon, turkey, sage and fresh cranberries heavy in the air. Christmas music played in the background; Thanksgiving day marked its arrival ... it would be played every day in this house until Christmas had come and gone. The doorbell began to ring as family and friends arrived to share in the feast of conversation and food. Conversation soon filled the house and created a most welcoming scene. Small children hugged their parent's legs until curiosity got the best of them and enticed them to join in the fun. It was like something straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting. The turkey

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A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

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CHILD'S PLAY



SALISBURY'S STAKE

by Stephanie J. Salisbury

There has been an infuriating trend over the past decade. I spoke of it a bit last year, but I'll bring it up again just for good measure. We are being inundated with Christmas music in November. Don't get me wrong, I can be jolly and happy and celebrate the season, but the problem is, we are bypassing something very important. In the scurry to start (or even finish!) our Christmas shopping in November, we're not focusing on Thanksgiving.

Not to sound like Andy Rooney, but do you know what really gets me upset? Pretty much everything. I live my life from day to day just trying to survive. I put so much emphasis on what's going wrong in my day that I forget to look at all of the things that are overwhelmingly right. I am pretty sure we're all guilty of this. So the fact that we're bypassing Thanksgiving where we focus on our blessings speaks volumes to the type of society we've allowed ourselves to become.

I was raised to be thankful. When a birthday or Christmas would come around, my mom would inevitably have the conversation with me before gift-giving with family and friends occurred. "Even if you don't like something, make sure to thank the person who gave it to you, because they went through the trouble to pick something out and they want you to be happy." It didn't make sense to thank my Grandma for giving me two silver sequined Michael Jackson gloves because everyone in the known universe was aware that Michael Jackson only wore one glove, and what was I going to do with a pair of them... but I thanked her and smiled. Then an amazing thing happened - Grandma smiled, too. Then a further remarkable thing happened - I stopped faking my smile, and actually smiled. It

was this little chain reaction of happiness. I was thankful for something, it made someone else happy, and their happiness made me happy, too!

It's funny how something I learned when I was in pre-school could be so difficult to practice today. At the end of the day, I don't feel like counting my blessings. I just want to bathe away the problems and try to tackle tomorrow after as much sleep as I can manage. But what if, instead of just surviving, I lived with that pre-school notion in my heart each day?

People are cranky and condescending to me at work. I should smile and thank them for coming in, anyhow - after all, it's their patronage that's paying my hourly wage and enabling me to have a home and feed our family. Kids are loud and obnoxious, singing at the top of their lungs or carelessly slamming doors in my house when I'm trying to sleep. I shouldn't get as angry as I do - at least they have limbs and voices, and they live at home instead of on the street. When the dogs refuse to go outside in the rain, then have an accident in the house, I should love them even when they fail. God knows they love me unconditionally, and I fail all the time!

This season, I am thankful for my job even when I want to run screaming to another country. I am thankful for my whole family, no matter how dysfunctional we might be from time to time. I am thankful for my kids even when their cooking attempts fill the entire house with thick smoke. I am thankful for my husband because, unlike the dogs, he actually knows everything about me and loves me anyhow. I am thankful to be alive, to be living in the United States of America, and that I have a way to express how I feel to others around me. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.



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THE CORNER OFFICE

A word from Bob Dwyer, Jr.



Every day we have visitors that stop in to see what our store front is all about. Every day we hear the same exclamations, "I didn't know you sold this here!" and every day I wonder what we can do to improve our advertising so that we can increase the foot traffic here. Sure, I started my own HVAC business in my home after my dad sent me out to make it on my own and as much as I loved it, I always had my eyes open for something to add to it. I would be the third generation of a heating and cooling business that started in my granddad's garage back in 1919. My dad had prepared me well for this new

endeavor and I looked forward to seeing what I could do. But it wasn't long before I began to incorporate other interests into my business, indoor air quality being the one I am most passionate about. Leaving Chicago several years into it was a decision that I have never regretted. I wanted my children to be raised in a more wholesome environment and Middlebury answered that end. Since my arrival in 1999 I have made many friends in the community and have been blessed repeatedly by your kind words and the references you have sent my way. 2010 saw us as one of the top 3 residential HVAC contractor finalists in the country named by the ACCA. When we purchased the property on Main Street I wanted to expand my product line and carry things I have had a long-term interest in outside of the HVAC industry but have never had the opportunity for. So 2011 finds us with new BBQ grills and smokers on our showroom floor. We

have such an array of everything from furnaces and air conditioners in our showroom to top of the line outdoor grills (made right here in the USA) along with every condiment your taste buds could desire. I'm talking a large array of seasonings, rubs, sauces, jams, jellies, marinades, etc. There's even more that Brenda has managed to squeeze in here and there. Come see for yourself. Don't be put off by the Heating & Cooling sign that hangs on the front of our store ... some things are just worth being proud of and I'm proud of that sign because every time I see it I can still hear my dad and my granddad schooling me on everything heating and cooling all of those years ago. I would like to invite you in to see what we have. It's been many years in the making and I think we have a lot of good product that you would like. You are the reason we have a store on Main Street now and I hope we did you proud with the design of the shopping experience here.

THE CAT'S MEOW



by Brenda Dwyer

Ma Cody shocked the fur balls right out of me! I was sitting under the roof of the barn porch minding my own business. I was really just passing time and enjoying the wind blowing through my fur. All of a sudden I heard a loud squawk and saw something fairly good sized pass by me in a blur and go up the tree not four feet away from me so fast that for a minute I thought I was seeing things. Then complete silence. Rusty Rooster came around the barn rearranging his feathers all the while glaring at the tree. I watched as he proceeded to the foot of the tree where he began to make such a fuss as he was looking up into the branches. Naturally my curiosity got the best of me and I had to get up and go see for myself what all of the fuss was about. There on a limb about 6 feet or so over our heads sat a very contented and happy Ma Cody with a big black feather hanging out of her mouth. Oh my. I couldn't believe my eyes! Ma Cody let go of the feather and it came falling ever so softly towards us. Rusty looked at me ... I looked at him (very sheepishly)

and apologized for Ma Cody's seemingly ill behavior. "I don't need you apologizing for me" a very surly (yet playful) Ma Cody yelled down ... "I'm just having some fun." Wow ... has she finally lost her mind, I wondered? What in the world did she think she was doing racing around that fast and practically flying up that tree? Rusty told me he was around back with Goldie, Ravin, Bit Bit and Hennie Penny when they spotted Ma Cody lying low in the grass creeping up on them. He had no idea what to think ... Ma Cody had never behaved this way before. Well, all of a sudden according to Rusty, Ma Cody sprang out from the grass and practically landed on top of him. She screeched and the chase was on. He could feel her pluck a tail feather from his behind and then she took off "fast as a rocket" towards the front yard. We all

know what happened next. When I asked Ma Cody what she could possibly have been thinking she said that while Rusty was around back he was trying to teach Bit Bit the difference between friend and foe. He said the cats and opossums were friends and that everyone else are foes. Well, Ma Cody couldn't stop herself ... she felt she had to intervene so that Rusty would stop with the half-truths and Bit Bit would be armed with the whole truth and be able to better protect herself in the future. That's Ma Cody for you ... always looking out for the little ones. Well, Ma Cody has gone off with Rusty to oversee the rest of his lesson for Bit Bit so I guess I can get back to what I was doing. Now where was I before all of this started ... oh yes, I'm going to head back to the porch. It's time for a nice long (hopefully) peaceful nap. Prrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

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This 'n That



WINTERIZING AROUND YOUR HOME

1) FURNACE INSPECTION

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- * Call an HVAC professional to inspect your furnace and clean ducts.
- * Stock up on furnace filters and change them monthly.
- * Consider switching out your thermostat for a programmable thermostat.
- * If your home is heated by a hot-water radiator, bleed the valves by opening them slightly and when water appears, close them.
- * Remove all flammable material from the area surrounding your furnace.

2) GET THE FIREPLACE READY

- * Cap or screen the top of the chimney to keep out rodents and birds.
- * If the chimney hasn't been cleaned for a while, call a chimney sweep to remove soot and creosote.
- * Buy firewood or chop wood. Store it in a dry place away from the exterior of your home.
- * Inspect the fireplace damper for proper opening and closing.
- * Check the mortar between bricks and tuckpoint, if necessary.

3) CHECK THE EXTERIOR, DOORS AND WINDOWS

- * Inspect exterior for crevice cracks and exposed entry points around pipes; seal them.
- * Use weather-stripping around doors to prevent cold air from entering the home and caulk windows.
- * Replace cracked glass in windows and, if you end up replacing the entire window, prime and paint exposed wood.
- * If your home has a basement, consider protecting its window wells by covering them with plastic shields.
- * Switch out summer screens with glass replacements from storage. If you have storm windows, install them.

4) INSPECT ROOF, GUTTERS & DOWNSPOUTS

- * If your weather temperature will fall below 32 degrees in the winter, adding extra insulation to the attic will prevent warm air from creeping to your roof and causing ice dams.
- * Check flashing to ensure water cannot enter the home.
- * Replace worn roof shingles or tiles.
- * Clean out the gutters and use a hose to spray water down the downspouts to clear away debris.
- * Consider installing leaf guards on the gutters or extensions on the downspouts to direct water away from the home.

5) SERVICE WEATHER-SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT

- * Drain gas from lawnmowers.
- * Service or tune-up snow blowers.
- * Replace worn rakes and snow shovels.
- * Clean, dry and store summer gardening equipment.
- * Sharpen ice choppers and buy bags of ice-melt / sand.

6) CHECK FOUNDATIONS

- * Rake away all debris and edible vegetation from the foundation.
- * Seal up entry points to keep small animals from crawling under the house.
- * Tuckpoint or seal foundation cracks. Mice can slip through space as thin as a dime.
- * Inspect sill plates for dry rot or pest infestation.
- * Secure crawlspace entrances.

From Our Kitchen

BEST EVER SUGAR COOKIES



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 cups butter, softened
- 2 cups white sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Stir in the flour, baking powder, and salt. Cover, and chill dough for at least one hour (or overnight).
2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Roll out dough on floured surface 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick. Cut into shapes with any cookie cutter. Place cookies 1 inch apart on ungreased cookie sheets.
3. Bake 6 to 8 minutes in preheated oven. Cool completely.

Grandmas



by Brenda Dwyer

Illness can strike out of the blue and within an all too brief time find young parents having to make decisions that cause them to re-think their ability to do the right thing for their child. My granddaughter, Yzell Yvonne, is only 3 years old. She is forever smiling; a girly girl that is rarely seen without her jewelry. Pink and purple adorn her bed-

room and are the colors that paint most everything in her world. On Thursday, the 13 of October she began to feel a tummy ache coming on. By Thursday evening she wasn't able to keep dinner down. Friday morning found her at the pediatrician's office complaining of a bad tummy ache and looking a bit pale. Her Dr. diagnosed the flu and sent her home to wait it out. Friday evening she "took a sudden dive" and within "what seemed like seconds" lost all color and took on a grayish hue ... for the past few hours she hadn't been able to keep anything at all down and was now lethargic and "out of it" which had Cory and Zenia bundling her up and rush-

ing her to Hospital IL. The ran all tests but unable to determine the cause of her symptoms. Around 2am in the morning on Saturday the pediatricians in charge of her case determined that she needed to be moved ASAP to Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL. The awaiting pediatrician at Children's Memorial knew in an instant what was wrong and had one of her staff brief Cory and Zenia and get their consent as they rushed Yzell into surgery. Yzell's appendix had burst and was poisoning her; after several hours of surgery Cory and Zenia were informed that Yzell had made it through surgery and



St. Joe's in Joliet, hospital was doing much better than expected. Until that time when they could both "exhale" and cry in each other's arms with relief and thankfulness did they realize that it was October 15th ... Zenia's birthday. Zenia realized that God had just blessed her with the best birthday gift she could have ever hoped for! Yzell was just released from the hospital this past Sunday and is still recuperating at home. She told me on the phone that she has new babies at home now. A Dr. Teddy Bear, a patient Teddy Bear, a Ty turkey and a small stuffed monkey, "Boo Boo" that the hospital gave her to help her get well. She is as joyous as ever and we are all so humbled and thankful, once again, for answered prayer.

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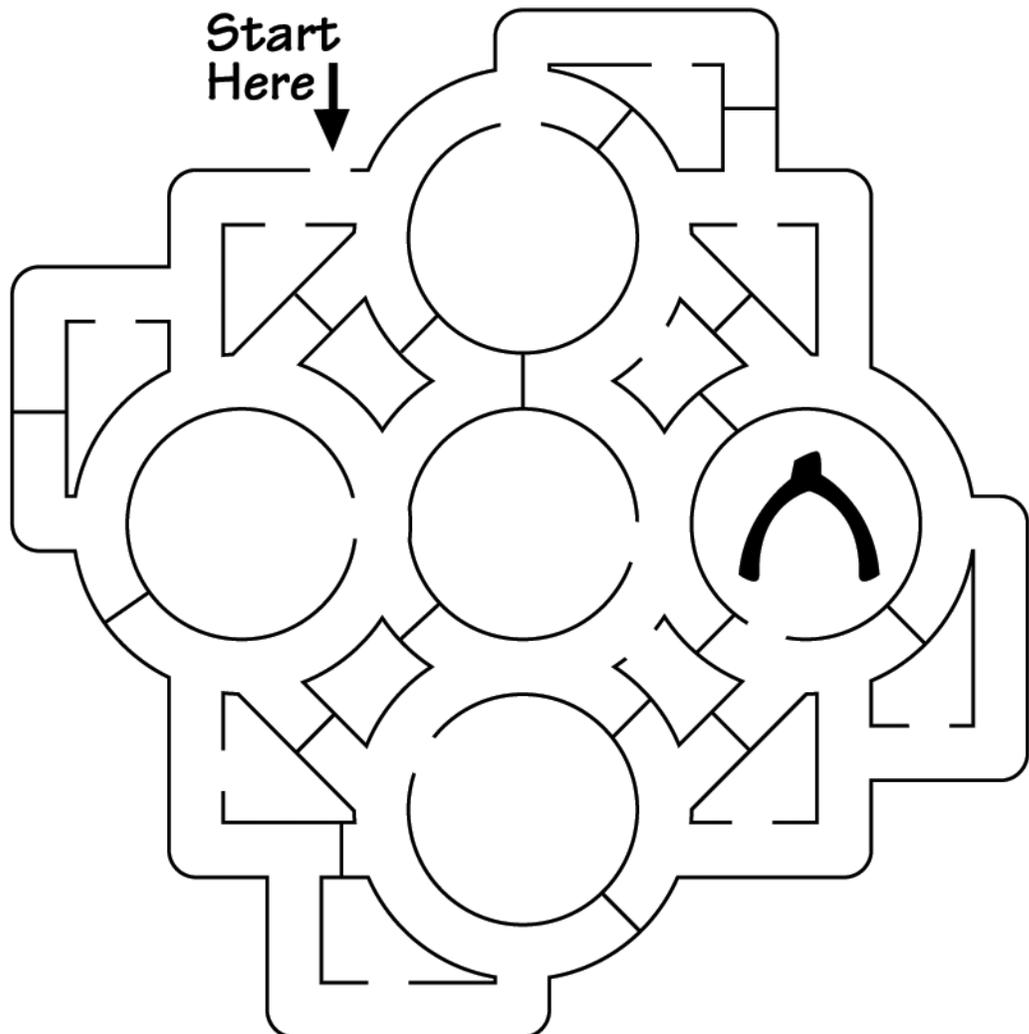
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 Shelter Website: www.elkharthumanesociety.org

ciety of Elkhart County
 Date/Time: Saturday, November 19, 11 am - 2 pm
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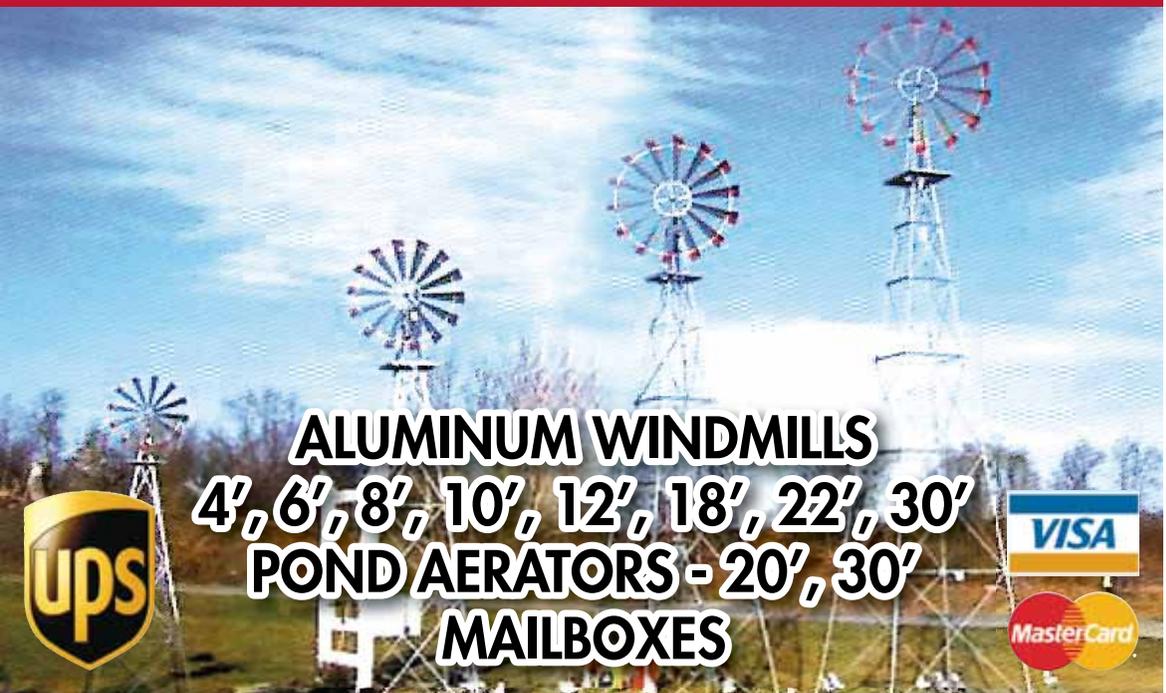
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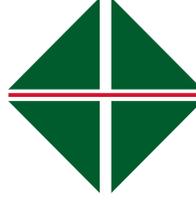
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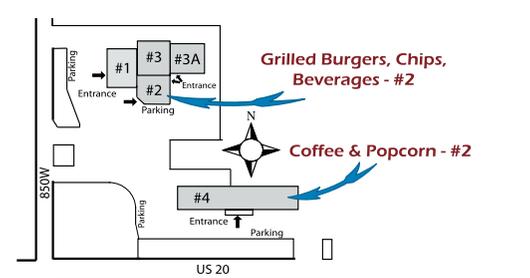
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 Bristol O'Hair Port - 102 N. Chaptoula Street
 Chocolate Sensations - 110 Division Street
 Curves - 118 E. Vistula
 Eby's Family Fun - 14583 State Road 120
 Fluid Fun Canoe & Kayak Sales - 609 N. Division Street
 J & J Lawn & Garden - 19976 CR 6
 Kruse Farm Supply - 19904 CR 6
 Rob's Barber Shop - 120 W. Vistula
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 Country Wood Creations - 11565 CR 116
 Crystal Valley Computers - 830 S. Main Street Suite A
 Crystal Valley Furniture & Floor Covering - 201 S. Main
 Crystal Valley Power Equipment - 11720W 250N
 Dairy Queen - 416 N. Main
 Dirk's Quality Automotive - 108 W. Wayne Street
 Fay Schwartz Attorney - 103 N Brown Street
 Fox RV, Inc. - 13431 CR 22
 Grand Rental Station - 131 Orpha Drive
 Healthy Pets - 851 US 20
 Hochstetler Roofing - 56781 CR 43
 Hoosier Tae Kwon Do, Inc. - 106 Wayne Street
 Indiana RV Connection - 503 N. Main
 Irongate Self Storage - 53070 SR 13
 Jenkins Automotive (NAPA Auto Parts) - 132 Orpha Drive
 Jerry's Standard Service - 101 N. Main Street
 Justrite Nails - 851 US 20
 Long's Convenience Marathon - 995 US 20
 Middlebury Hills Restaurant - 104 US 20 (Corner of SR13 &
 US20)
 Middlebury K.O.A. - 52867 SR 13
 Monteith Tire - 132 Orpha Drive Suite B
 Mr. Appliance of Elkhart County - 53855 SR 13
 Old Creamery Antiques - 333 N. Main
 Rullis Italian Restaurant - 851 US 20 Suite 2
 Shady Lane Welding - 56322 County Road 35
 The Cinnamon Stick - 102 S. Main Street
 The Getaway Tanning & Hair Salon - 426-1 N. Main Street
 The Market Place - 511 S. Main
 The Out Post RV - 57756 CR 37
 Unique Finds Resale Shop - 304 N. Main
 Varns & Hoover - 101 S. Main Street
 Village Inn Restaurant - 107 S. Main Street

GOSHEN:

7 Eleven - 1000 S. Main Street
 Balloon Express - 125 S. Main Street
 BetterWorld Books - 118 E. Washington Street
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 Erv's Vac Shop - 906 Linway Drive
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 Goshen Antique Mall - 107 S. Main Street
 Goshen Farm & Lawn Center, Inc. - 2413 Lincolnway East
 Hoogies Sports House - 119 E. Lincoln Ave.
 Jenkins Automotive (NAPA Auto Parts) - 1028 Lincolnway E.
 Joselena Fashions & Alterations - 125 East Lincoln Ave

Maple City Hobbies - 102 S. Main
 Merle Norman - 125 S. Main Street
 Monteith Tire - 1021 N. Greene Rd
 Monteith Tire & Auto Service Center - 2613 Caragana Ct.
 North Side Appliance Inc. - 1920 Elkhart Road
 Once Upon A Child - 4024 Elkhart Road
 Rain Drain Seamless Guttering, Inc. - 57273 SR 15
 Schrock Mobile Power Wash - 574-312-1113 (Business is mobile)
 Snider's Leading Jewelers - 128 S. Main Street
 SRP Custom Graphics - 119 E. Lincoln Ave.
 Terri's Flower Basket - 617 W. Pike Street
 Town & Country Appliance - 215 S. Main Street
 Video Visions - 508 W. Lincoln Ave.

SYRACUSE:

Dairy Queen - 700S. Huntington



THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF AREA MERCHANTS THAT ARE DEDICATED TO YOU, OUR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

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SHIPSHEWANA:

Along the Pumpkinvine - 145 Harrison Street
 Alpha Building Center - 0855 N. SR 5
 Bread Box Bakery & Café - 120 Morton St.
 Classic Auto Detailing - 7020W 200N
 Classic Jewelers - 350 S. Van Buren Suite G
 Country Yard Outlet - 400 N. Van Buren
 Daily Bread Café - 255 E. Main Street
 Dutchman Hunting Supplies - 8435 W. US 20
 Hostetler's Health & Wellness - 260 N. Morton Street
 Hostetler's Hudson Auto Museum - 760 S. VanBuren St
 Hostetler's Main Street Shoppe - 275 E. Main Street
 Indiana Auto Connection - 805 N. SR 5
 J. Farvers Book & Gift Shoppe - 455 S. VanBuren Street
 JoJo's Pretzels - 205 N. Harrison Street 1st Floor (Mercantile)
 L & R Marine - 8435 W. US 20
 L.A. Enterprises - 8275W 050N
 Lasting Impressions Gift Shoppe - 165 Harrison Street
 Lighthouse Christian Bookstore - 225 N. Harrison Street
 Morton Street Coffee - 260N. Morton Street
 Pampered Pet Boutique - 230 N. Morton Street
 R&S Floor to Wall - 9551W 750N
 Red Wagon Toys - 225 Harrison Street
 Shipshe General Store - 420 N. Van Buren Street
 Shipshevana Harness & Supplies - 815 N. Van Buren Street
 Shipshe Pizza - 145 N. Village Drive
 Shipshe Rental Center - 0900 N. SR 5
 Shipshevana Fitness Center, LLC - 505 E. North Village Drive
 Simple Sounds, Inc. - 225 N. Harrison Street
 Splash Waterpark Resort - 800 S. VanBuren
 Wellspring Components LLC - 1085N 850W

ELKHART:

Bueters Sewing Center - 205 S. Main Street
 CD's Pool & Scuba - 23672 Old US Suite P
 Dapper Dog & Fancy Feline - 54595 CR 17
 Dumor Water Specialists - 4405 Wyland Dr.
 Hickory Meats & More, Inc. - 54595 CR 17
 Ink Cartridge Solutions - 1808 E. Bristol Street Suite G
 Insignia Promotions - 135 Easy Shopping Place
 Jenkins Automotive (NAPA Auto Parts) - 59045 CR 13
 Joshica's Planet Canine - 4411 Wyland Drive
 Martin's Pet & Garden Center - 116 W. Jackson Blvd.
 Paradise Pools - 655 CR 17 (Next to Lucchese's)
 Sautter's Floral & Greenhouse, Inc. - 1725 Toledo Road
 Sassi Tan - 56199 Parkway Ave Suite 10
 S-N-J's Heavenly Hair Salon - 23737 US 33 Suite F
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 Parkway Ave., Suite E
 Tip-n-Toe Nail Spa Parkway - 17 Plaza
 56199 Parkway Ave. Suite 10
 Tru Colors Hair Salon - 54595 CR 17 Suite 5
 Video Visions - 655 CR 17

HOWE:

Laura's Bakery - 1255 W. SR 120
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 R & S Carpet Cleaning - 7030N 575E
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 Twin Mills Camping Resort - 1675 W. SR 120

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TALK ACROSS THE FENCE

by Brenda Dwyer

Crunch, crunch, rake, rake, grumble, grumble ... crunch, crunch, rake, rake, ouch! So I don't like raking leaves. It's no secret and it's also no secret that I don't rake mine ... unless children are involved. You see, as a small child I would look forward to fall and the heaps of leaves that could be found raked into nice tidy piles just waiting to be jumped into. It was such a wonderful time of year and brings back really good

memories and so, yes, I will try to re-create the whole leaf pile thing just for my grandchildren when they visit. I use to love to jump into a pile and then take my time looking at all of the multi-colored leaves and even tenderly setting a few aside (along with some acorns and pinecones) so that mom could help me to make something with them later in the day. My dad never seemed to tire of raking those leaves into soft poof-y piles for us. Believe me

when I say that I do realize that I am a lot older than my parents were back then but it's okay ... in fact, it's wonderful that I still feel energetic enough to not only rake the piles together but to jump in a few myself. The reward of it all is the smiles on my grandbaby's faces and the excited re-telling of their experience at the end of the day! Nothing's better than spreading joy and creating traditions!



A WORLD OF WONDERS

by Monica Clark

Let's see, November, hmmm... it's drab, dull, brown and cold, but we have Thanksgiving to lighten the load—food, family, football, and fun. It's that time of year where we count our blessings and show our thankfulness. Okay, things for which I am thankful...

I know one! I am thankful for the people on U.S. 20 who actually drive the speed limit! I am not thankful for the people on U.S 20 who do not. United States 20 is a major highway stretching across this entire country--from sea to shining sea. The road actually connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. If ever a highway was meant to be driven the posted speed limit, folks, U.S. 20 is it! So, why, why do people insist on meandering, plodding, poking along without a care in the world, talking on cell-phones, messing with I don't know what? Drive, people, drive! For all of you who do pay attention and do obey the posted speed limit, thank you!

Well, that sounded more like a rant than a thankful prayer. Let me try again.

Things I am thankful for, well...I love the pumpkin colored sunsets on the corn stubble and the way the farmers

are busy, working hard to put their fields to rest for the coming winter. I am grateful for the feisty horses that nip and play and race with their tails straight up, chasing each other in the frosty grass in a certain meadow I pass on the way to work. I am even grateful for the brown skeletons of the dead leaves scuttling across the road like tiny, frantic sailboats caught up in the swirling November winds.

I am, of course, thankful for family and friends, but I am also thankful for Mrs. Bowen who for years has picked up trash along the country roads around Shipshewana Lake. I am thankful for the flowers she plants on the field edges and for her efforts to make the world a nicer, kinder and more beautiful place.

Another flower-lover is our neighbor down the road, Mr. Nisely, a retired farmer who spends a good portion of the growing season out in his yard weeding his zinnias and other blooms. Some years his garden looks like a bucket of spilled sunshine, all yellows and golds. Other years his flowers are a riot of color, like dollops of rainbow sprinkled about. He is out there in the fall, lying on the ground, harvesting by hand

the seeds for next year's crops. I guess once a farmer, always a farmer!

Oh, I just thought of another one! I am grateful for the Maples lining C.R. 350 N, just west of the Wolfe Field Airport, trees so old some of them are dying. I'm told they are the last survivors of a long line planted to border of one of the grand, old farmsteads. Now they stand like world-weary soldiers, some broken, some bent. In the summer, as you travel beneath their cathedral-like canopies, their limbs intertwined like fingers in prayer, you feel the solemnity in the leafy shade as sun and shadow mingle across the quiet road. The trees are magnificent. In the winter, their gnarled trunks break the wind and keep the snow from drifting across the road. This time of year, they stand bare and silent, fallen leaves piled thickly around their tangled roots, a row of lonely sentinels lining a very old path. I am glad they are still there.

And my last blessing to count, Good Reader, is you! Thank you for coming along, thank you for sharing this journey in a world of wonders!



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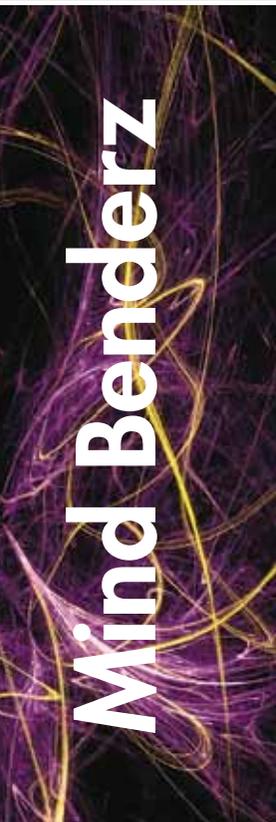
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WORD SEARCH

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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ACROSS

- Arctic native
- "... or ___!"
- "Halt!" to a salt
- Hurting
- Swindles
- ___ Abzug, Women's Movement leader
- Book of snapshots (2 wds)
- Portugese Mrs.
- Senescence
- "Look here!"
- Brothers' keeper?
- Language conversion
- ___-relief
- Con
- "___ go!"
- At attention
- Corpulent
- Crumb
- Bristles
- Colorless watery fluid of the blood
- Caper
- Links rental
- Dusk, to Donne
- Bacterial disease transmitted by infected meat or milk
- Go downhill, maybe
- Afflict
- Buttonhole
- Nonmetamorphosing salamander
- National language of Malaysia (2 wds)
- Be theatrical
- Bookbinding leather
- Ball of yarn
- Halfhearted
- Blows it
- Conflicted

DOWN

- Pool exercise
- Advil target
- Unit of loudness
- Female soothsayer
- Chinese appetizer (2 wds)
- 100 krus
- Marienbad, for one
- Clairvoyance, e.g. (acronym)
- Source of mother-of-pearl
- South African grassland
- Goya's "Duchess of ___"
- Wallop
- Break
- ___ and aahs
- Bindle bearer
- Draw close
- Pigment made by boiling wood soot
- Figure of speech
- 100 kopecks
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (acronym)
- God of the winds
- Greek letters
- Mites
- Notations to ignore corrections
- Remember
- Embellished with a raised pattern
- Loud electric horns
- Pro ___
- Animal with a mane
- Cousin of a raccoon
- Assist, in a way
- Amounted (to)
- Hack
- Jewish month
- Christiania, now
- Ticket info, maybe
- Bowling green
- Anger
- "___ any drop to drink": Coleridge

- | | | | |
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NO COMPLAINTS

by Brenda Dwyer

I sit alone before a table
 laden with my Thanksgiving treats
 Crackers and bologna
 the feast I am blessed to eat
 and I don't complain



I call an old friend
 but the phone rings and rings
 no one answers
 sadness is what silence brings
 but I don't complain



out in the street
 "street's dead" the holiday said
 everyone has something to do
 and again I wish for you
 yet I don't complain



then thru a distant window
 I see a family sit to eat
 a big turkey with trimmings is their fare
 and I wish I wasn't here but there
 but I don't complain



I know I am here alone
 but it's only for a season
 here; getting by with less
 I know it's all for a reason
 so I don't complain



I have hope that soars
 and strength in times of need
 prayer is my comrad
 that the Lord doth feed
 and I don't complain



for my God is ever near, ever dear
 and I am safe and have no fear



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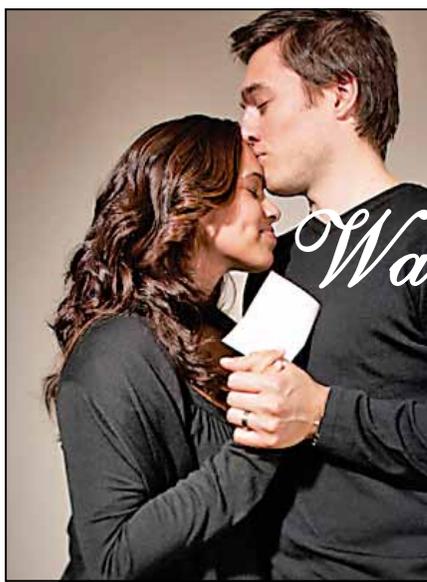


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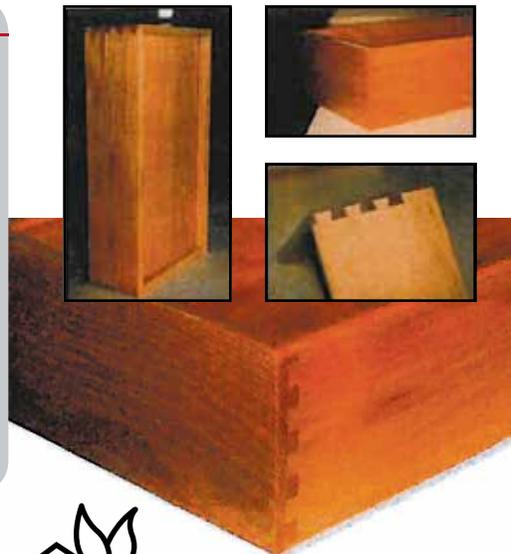
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INSIDE THE TEA ROOM THANKFUL FOR YAMS!

Continued from Page 2

and ham were brought in and set in their place of honor at the head of the table so grandpa could carve them. The green bean casserole, the stuffing, the corn, the rolls and breads,

the creamed and flavored butters, the sauces and gravies, the baby potatoes ... it was all there except for the yams. It was a beautiful spread but where oh where were the yams? The yams are always the sweet that marries so well with the meat and other fare. There is nothing

quite like seeing the browned marshmallow meringue crust on top of them. Just when I felt a tiny wave of disappointment begin to swirl in my heart my grandma came in carrying two heaping pans of yams and once again, at the ripe old age of 7, I was thankful.

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Thoughts from my mind & heart

memories of my dad, my Grandma & Grandpa Berkel and my Grandma Janie and others I have loved who are no longer in our midst ... the memories bless me beyond reason yet cost me nothing. Who needs anything more?

We are so over inundated with marketing that lures us into believing that we NEED more than we have and that we NEED the best of everything and that we shouldn't be satisfied or feel fulfilled until we get it. Is it

any wonder, therefore, why we would – while living in a country suffering an economic slump - be surrounded by those who are depressed, aggrieved, hopeless and miserable? Now more than ever we need to open our eyes, take a good long look at where we are in this life and take a stand to be committed to being thankful for the little (and sometimes big) things we already have in our lives ... if we can't be thankful and take time for the small things how do we

ever hope to be happy? This thanksgiving, when you are gathered with friends and/or family my prayer for all of us is that we will think about what we are thankful for, speak them out loud to our loved ones, and find it in our hearts to be thankful for the priceless gems – the ones that will never turn to dust and never be destroyed. From our hearts to yours ... May our gracious God bless you with every little thing you need.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Humane Society of Elkhart County Volunteer Association Meeting

The Humane Society of Elkhart County Volunteer Association will meet Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at 7:00 pm in the Education Room of the Humane Shelter, 54687 County Road 19, Bristol.

Any adult interested in volunteering at the Shelter or with various fundraising projects, adopt-a-pet events or educational programs is invited to attend this monthly meeting.

For more information, contact Bernice Simms, Chairman, at 264-7264.

Website: www.elkharthumane-society.org

Furry Friends Fashion Fair

On Thursday, November 3, 2011, The Humane Society of Elkhart County along with Stephenson's will present the eighth annual Furry Friends Fashion Fair and Luncheon at the Matterhorn Conference Center, 2041 Cassopolis Street, Elkhart, from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM.

The purpose of this event is to raise money for the care and feeding of the homeless animals at the Shelter.

Tickets for the event are \$25.00 each. Ticket price includes a buffet lunch followed by a fashion show featuring models escorted by their "furry friends." Other activities include raffles and a silent auction.

To purchase tickets, contact the Shelter at 848-4225 or Bernice Simms, Fashion

Fair Coordinator, at 264-7264. Tickets can also be purchased on line through the Shelter's web site www.elkharthumanesociety.org.

Join us for this worthwhile fundraiser and make a difference for the homeless animals of the Humane Society of Elkhart County!

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THE CHANGING SEASONS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

by Matt Cummins

I love the changing seasons!! I am so thankful that I live in an area that allows me to experience the four distinct and very different seasons. With each of the changing seasons, I like to take time to reflect on the past and make plans for the upcoming season. When I think of spring, I think of new beginnings, growth, and awakenings. Summer is time for sunshine, playtime, vacations, and fun. Fall brings with it change as we prepare for the colder months to come. As winter approaches, my focus will shift from the warm, playful thoughts of summer to indoor activities like board games, snuggling and blazing fires in the fireplace. I feel lucky to live in this corner of the world where I can enjoy

the awesome shifts in the seasons. Each new season gives me the opportunity to purge the old and start with a fresh perspective.

When I get the feeling of change in the air, usually at the start of a new season, I clear out the old. I get in these moods where I'll get rid of old clothes and other things that we, in my household, are no longer using. Whether I'm donating old items or throwing out odds and ends, I'm decluttering every aspect of my life. Decluttering my home is a gateway for me to proceed into decluttering my life. Reflecting on old patterns or beliefs that no longer serve me and old behaviors or habits that interfere with my goals in life will allow me to declutter

my lifestyle. I purge the old so I can make room for new growth to take place.

Since we are at the beginning of a new season, I have become more attuned to nature and its changes. I choose to begin this fall season with a sense of rejuvenation and promise. From all the recent decluttering, I feel refreshed physically, emotionally and spiritually. I need this in my life because, as we all know, life has a way of de-energizing the soul. I suggest taking a long weekend to yourself or with someone special in your life and do things you don't normally do. I recently spent three days away from home and the "normal" routine. I found this to be very therapeutic. I feel more organized. Organization does wonders for your life. It simplifies, energizes, and generally makes life run a lot smoother. Take a look around you and ask yourself what could be better organized.

This fall is an opportunity for me to regain and refresh my focus on something different. I like to think the reason I do this is because this will allow me grow and stretch myself in ways that will bring about positive change in my life. It's amazing to me that a simple thing like the seasons changing inspires me to change. Whatever it is I change, I know it will be a new beginning. With that I am making a commitment to educate myself, engage in personal discovery and mature in my new focus.

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Date/Time: Sunday, November 6, 1 – 5:30 pm

Location: Joshica's Planet Canine • 4411 Wyland Drive, Elkhart, IN

Description: The Holiday Open House will include good food, canine massage, holiday photos, vendors, prizes, samples, canine swimming and shopping at the new Planet store!

Proceeds: All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Humane Society of Elkhart County.

For more information call: Planet Canine at 574-522-5854
Website: www.planet-canine.com

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This 'n That

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

10 TIPS FOR WINTERIZING AROUND YOUR HOME

- 7) INSTALL SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS**
 - * Some cities require a smoke detector in every room.
 - * Buy extra smoke detector batteries and change them when daylight savings ends.
 - * Install a carbon monoxide detector near your furnace and / or water heater.
 - * Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they work.
 - * Buy a fire extinguisher or replace an extinguisher older than 10 years.
- 8) PREVENT PLUMBING FREEZES**
 - * Locate your water main in the event you need to shut it off in an emergency.
 - * Drain all garden hoses.
 - * Insulate exposed plumbing pipes.
 - * Drain air conditioner pipes and, if your AC has a water shut-off valve, turn it off.
 - * If you go on vacation, leave the heat on, set to at least 55 degrees.
- 9) PREPARE LANDSCAPING & OUTDOOR SURFACES**
 - * Trim trees if branches hang too close to the house or electrical wires.
 - * Ask a gardener when your trees should be pruned to prevent winter injury.
 - * Plant spring flower bulbs and lift bulbs that cannot winter over such as dahlias in areas where the ground freezes.
 - * Seal driveways, brick patios and wood decks.
 - * Don't automatically remove dead vegetation from gardens as some provide attractive scenery in an otherwise dreary, snow-drenched yard.
 - * Move sensitive potted plants indoors or to a sheltered area.
- 10) PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT**
 - * Buy indoor candles and matches / lighter for use during a power shortage.
 - * Find the phone numbers for your utility companies and tape them near your phone or inside the phone book.
 - * Buy a battery back-up to protect your computer and sensitive electronic equipment.
 - * Store extra bottled water and non-perishable food supplies (including pet food, if you have a pet), blankets and a first-aid kit in a dry and easy-to-access location.
 - * Prepare an evacuation plan in the event of an emergency.

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