

Sensational Summer

Summer Lawn Care Tips

To keep your summer lawn looking ball park great, just employ these four proven care tips:

1. Water to a depth of 3 - 4 inches to encourage deep rooting
2. Mow no more than 1/3 of the grass height during summer. During heat spells, don't cut it at all. Keep your lawn mower blades sharp to avoid grass damage.
3. Fertilize your lawn with a natural fertilizer. Try to use pesticide-free products which contain non-burning natural nitrogen. The slow-release formula releases just the right amount of food to keep your lawn looking fantastic.
4. De-thatch and aerate your lawn. This loosens compacted soil and improves air, water and fertilizer penetration.



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Following these tips will result in a very healthy lawn, which in turn prevents weeds from getting established.

Making Your Summer Something...

Make your summer something! Whether you get a break from it all with a planned vacation or just hours here and there to escape, make it a priority to put some playtime in your summer. Life is short enough and work, laundry, cleaning and cooking will invariably always be there. Take some time for yourself and your family. Be it a quick trip away, a picnic in the park, or a big backyard barbecue, spending time with the people you love is a very large part of why we are all here. Take pictures, capture the moments, laugh out loud and make as many memories as possible. After all, we get one chance to live the life we dream. Dream big, and live fully. Happy Summer!



"And summer's lease hath all too short a date." ~ William Shakespeare

This newsletter is brought to you by Mandie M. Spudich
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Pack Some Fun on Your Summer Road Trip!

Bringing along games and activities is a great way to keep kids busy and happy on a long car trip or plane ride. Make a VACATION BOX! Don't let the kids peek until you are on the way! The excitement of opening the surprise will be worth the wait! Some suggested items to pack:

Magna Doodle - Etch a Sketch - Coloring books and crayons - Pad and paper for drawing - Tic Tac Toe - Hangman - Crossword puzzle book - Mad Libs - Travel versions of popular board games (Scrabble, Yahtzee, bingo, chess and checkers) - Hand held electronic versions of popular games (Candy Land, Connect Four, Boggle and Battleship). Also consider Playing cards, UNO cards, and Old Maid. A variety of children's books are available on CD or cassette, and try getting a children's ATLAS so they can keep track of where you are!



Trip Games!

These favorites have been keeping families entertained on the road for years!

License Plate Game: Find the License plates for as many states as possible. The one with the most - WINS!

Road Scavenger Hunt: Prepare a list of items for family members to look for on the road such as:

Convertible	Star	Red Truck	Cow	Barn	Shoe in Road
Dog in car	Nest	RV	Bridge	Baseball Field	Welcome Sign
Car Transport	Green VW	Fire Engine	Cemetery	Water Tower	Car Like Yours!
Dice in Mirror	Boat	Deer	State Flag	Tractor	Detour Sign

Simple Shrimp Scampi

- 1 1/2 pounds large shrimp (about 16 to 24)
- 1/3 cup clarified butter
- 4 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice, fresh if possible
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- salt and pepper, to taste



PREPARATION:

Rinse shrimp and set aside. Heat butter in large skillet over medium heat. Cook garlic 1 or 2 minutes or until softened but not browned. Add shrimp, wine and lemon juice; cook until shrimp are pink and firm, about 1 to 2 minutes on each side. Do not overcook. Add chopped parsley, salt and pepper before serving. Garnish with lemon slices.

Real Estate Tips brought to you by Mandie M. Spudich

WHEN AND WHAT TO REMODEL:

When remodeling your home, any major repairs must yield increasing returns. For example, if you spend \$1,000 to enhance part of your home, it must yield more than \$1,000 when you are ready to sell your home. These areas show increasing returns:

- Bathroom remodeling
- Master suite addition
- Bathroom addition
- Family room addition
- Roof replacement
- Window replacement



Hiring A Remodeling Contractor

- Get written estimates from at least three contractors
- Check references, including past clients
- Call local Chamber of Commerce or Better Business Bureau to ensure there are no complaints
- Make sure your contract is clear and specifies what the job entails, including time, price and changes

- Do not pay in full. Make a down payment on services rendered.
- Check that all permits, licenses and insurance needs are met by the contractor
- Many contracts have a 3-Day Rescission to protect you should you change your mind!
- Ask who will do the work. Will it be the contractor or what portion will be sub-contracted?
- Ensure that all work completed complies with local building codes and/or regulations.
- Hold contractors responsible for clean up and any damage that occurs during work completed
- Guarantee that materials used are what you requested
- Once you are satisfied, then make the final payment

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE:

- Comparative Home Analysis
- Merchandising Review
- List of Properties
- Mortgage Options Analysis
- For Sale By Owner Kit
- LISTING GUARANTEE

TAKE FIVE! Five Handy Household Tips

- Kitchen odors? Boil lemon and orange slices in water on the stove with a few cinnamon sticks and cloves for added scent.
- Is your garbage disposal smelly? Throw some baking soda and citrus peel in the garbage disposal and grind away.
- Double bag your trash can to add strength—place a dryer sheet in the bottom for deodorizing.
- Smelly Shoes? Simply fill a tube sock with kitty litter, baking soda, or tea leaves; tie the end closed; and place the in shoes when you're not wearing them. These sachets can be used over and over in any kind of shoe.
- Dust the television with a sheet of fabric softener. The static guard in the sheet will keep dust from re-settling.

Sitter Safety Tips!

In situations where you're in charge, such as baby sitting or caring for someone with a health condition, you need to be prepared in advance for emergencies. Here are some things you can do so you can respond quickly if something happens:

- Make sure there's a list of emergency numbers near each telephone in the house. Most areas in the United States are covered by 911 service. If not, be sure that Police, Fire, Rescue, and Medical and Poison Control numbers are listed.
- Make sure you have the phone number and location where the child's parents will be and, if possible, a cell phone or pager number. If it's a true emergency - a child you're caring for has stopped breathing, for example -always call 911 first and then call the parent.
- Make sure the home or building you're in has working smoke alarms.

- If you're looking after someone with a health condition, know when the person needs to take any medications - particularly medicines for breathing or heart problems. Have the person's insurance information on hand in case you need to rush to the hospital. It's a good idea to keep all this information written down near the phone so that you can find it quickly if you need it.
- Make sure your family or the family you're caring for has a fire escape plan and that children know their outdoor meeting point in case of an emergency.
- Take a first-aid class to learn CPR so you'll be prepared to help someone in an emergency.
- Keep a first-aid kit in the house and know how to use it.



REAL ESTATE SERVICES

I'm here to take your dreams from Concept to Close!

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BABY SITTER'S GUIDE

Form with fields for Address and Phone #, Closest Intersection, Parent's Names, Emergency Contacts (call 911), Insurance Provider, Group #, Policy ID #, Birthdate, Hospital ER Phone, Closest Hospital & Address, Medical Notes & Guidelines for Child, Medications and Dose, Allergies, Restrictions, Special Needs, Meals/snacks, Acceptable TV Program Viewing, Bedtime, Chores, Friends: Yes or No, Homework, Activities, Special Instructions.



An Equal Housing Opportunity Broker. If Your House is Currently Listed This is Not Intended As a Solicitation. This newsletter is intended for informational purposes only. No reader should rely solely on the information contained herein, as it does not purport to be comprehensive or to render specific advice.

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