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Good Neighbor News

SATURDAY, January 23, 2010

FREE

“Strengthening our local economy”

AGNeighborNews@aol.com

1st Year, No. 10

NOT JUST ANOTHER DAY...

-By Senior Writer Brenda Dwyer



to get to “greatness”. If one person is capable of greatness ... think how much greater the result would be if several people were involved. This is why we try to diligently encourage others (our family, our friends, our readers) to give ... every day ... make it a point to give a part of yourself, a part of your day to someone else ... to benefit someone else. If you do, you will reap accomplishment. It’s such a wonderful feeling & it is fulfilling. Every time we conscientiously make an attempt to be good stewards of our day wonderful things follow!

As a result of starting this little paper we have been blessed and blessedly humbled. Some of you approach us in public and share your own stories with us, joys, trials and triumphs! We adore these times! It is wonderful to hear about you and what’s happening in your lives! We don’t get out much but when we do these types of experiences are precious to us. The sense of connection to our community has enriched us on so many levels.

Okay ... so there I was sitting at my desk and trying to get through all of the work in front of me. Bob was out of the office seeing to his scheduled estimates. As within any office you can be sure that at any given time there are a myriad of tasks to be completed and that’s a mighty fine thing because here in our office we love a good challenge! Bob is a constant study ... that man just doesn’t shut down; idea after idea flow from him. Some we set aside, some we act on, others we discard. The recent launching of the A Good Neighbor Club (one of his latest ideas) has been amazing! The reaction and overwhelming response of both consumers and merchants

has been nothing less than wonderful! The Club has become a platform for so many other new ideas that we are looking forward to implementing; as a result we have had to be very creative with our schedules, both personal as well as professional.

This past year’s successes have taken us into a growth spurt and we are now in the process of opening an additional shop on Main Street right here in Middlebury! We will be moving our showroom so that you can conveniently walk in at your

was with the ACCA. The ACCA is the Air Conditioning Contractors of America, the nationwide association of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) contractors. They are the “leader of the pack” the nation’s top, foremost authority in the heating & cooling industry. My first thought was; oh no ... Bob’s not here ... my next thought (as she continued to convey the reason for her call) was OH NO! BOB’S GOING TO MISS THIS! (We had entered

TEAMWORK



Together we can.

leisure to talk over your heating and cooling concerns with Bob. Bob will “man” the shop and is looking forward to being able to offer a more centralized location! (Look for our new shop at 509 South Main Street where Banners Unlimited used to be ... right across from Harding’s). The A Good Neighbor News will remain in our original location along with our offices and all things new with the Club. How exciting!

The phone was ringing again. I answered on the second ring. The young lady on the other end introduced herself and said she

the ACCA Contractor of the Year contest which is the highest, most prestigious, most sought after award given to HVACR Contractors. Every year they ask that every HVACR contractor in the nation write in and tell them about their companies and what fresh new ideas they are implementing in their business practices. Well, so many wonderful things had happened to us this past year and we were just bursting at the seams to tell them. Bob sat down and filled in all of the required information via email and then poof off it went into cyberspace.

Look inside for valuable coupons from these merchants:

- A Good Neighbor Heating & Cooling
- E & S Sales
- Jerry’s Standard Service
- Keeping Tabs Tax and Accounting
- Mancino’s Restaurant
- Middlebury Hills Restaurant
- Quality Optical
- Rob’s Barber Shop
- Rulli’s Italian American Restaurant & Catering
- Varns & Hoover Hardware Store
- Video Visions

Story continued on page 4

Inside The Tea Room

-By Brenda Dwyer



There is a page titled "The Ye Ol' Quilt Rack" ... it is a series of my memories ... the following is a small excerpt.

He was the most magnificent animal I had ever seen.

Jay. I had mentioned one evening that I longed to have a horse of my own. Little did I know all of the work involved in owning a horse. None of that mattered. The only thing I could think of is how much I would be riding him. How we would fly across open fields and walk lazily down country roads. I dreamt of his mane flying thru and mix-

ing with my own hair as the wind kept me crouched low on his back.

We would sprout wings! Well, I'm sure you've all heard of the "be careful what you ask for" warning. I just didn't heed it. I asked and I received and oh my goodness ... what was I doing? Those first few weeks together found us almost inseparable. I would lay out a blanket and lie, for long hours, in his pasture reading a book as he would quietly chew the grass around me and once in a while nuzzle me with that big long face of his. He was always so careful not to step on me and I was so "green" that I never realized that he could do me great bodily harm without even meaning to. To me he was like a big overgrown puppy. We became so very close.

His name was Jay when he came to me. I asked him within a few days of bringing him home if I

could change his name. He gave me a very penetrating look and then turned his back on me. Just like that. I got the message loud and clear and told him so. He then turned back to face me and brushed my arm with his neck.

Jay would forever be Jay. I spoiled him and fed him so much grain and food it's a wonder he didn't get sick. I had no idea that horses were supposed to be fed just a tiny bit of grain a day. He didn't though ... no matter what I did with the best of (uneducated) intentions, he survived it. Apple treats, salt licks, mineral licks, alfalfa, sweet feed ... he loved it all and always begged for more. I always obliged him. I didn't know any better. It makes me smile to think back on those days. I bet I fed him 5 buckets of grain a day. Maybe a month or two into having him I moved him to a stable here in Middlebury. Jay loved being with the other horses



and it worked out great for me. Now he was fed by someone else, someone else called the ferrier, someone else made sure the vet was there when he was needed. Jay and I had a very happy and full first year together. Sometime into the second year I began traveling more than ever and rarely found time to visit him. I missed him horribly but life at that point had me swept away on a current I couldn't escape. The years flew by and circumstances dictated our new schedule of seeing one another.

Today he belongs to someone else. In 2006 my life took an unexpected

path and I had no idea how I was going to be able to keep him. I asked my friend who boarded him at the time to put the word out that he was for sale. She did and within mere days he was sold. Just recently he left Middlebury to go to his new home in South Bend. I long for him to be mine again but his presence in my memories will have to suffice. I love Jay. It was a "love at first sight" that endured the test of time and circumstance. I owe him so much for he taught me many things that only a magnificent animal like that can.

Child's Play

Valentine's Day will be here February 14th. Do you have Valentine cards ready for all of your family and friends? Color and decorate the Valentine picture below with glitter, paints or anything you choose!



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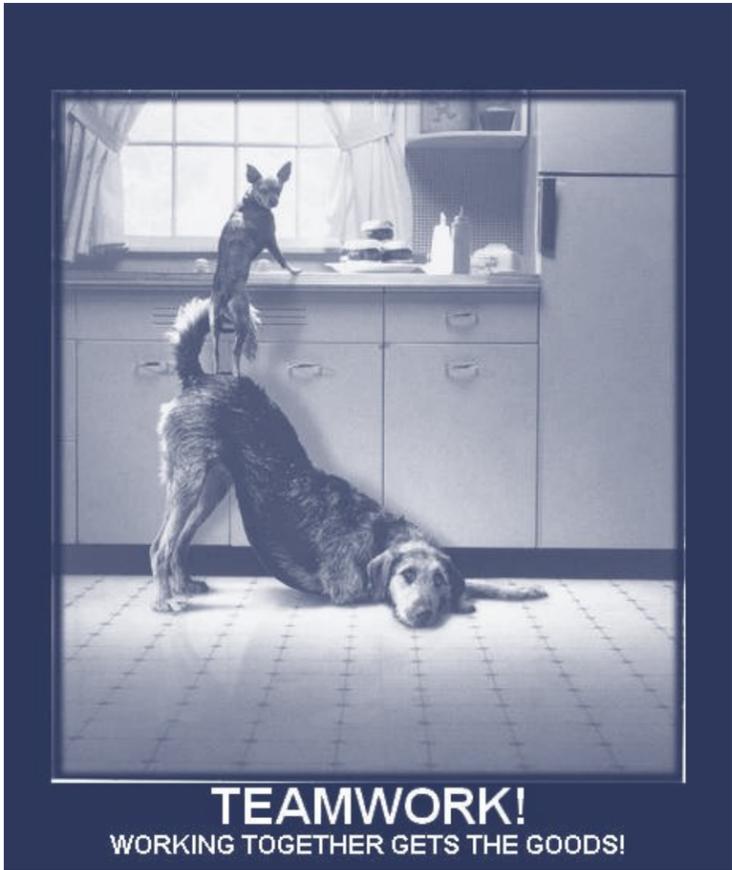
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 Co-Owner: Karlene Christianson

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\$5.00 OFF any perm or foil w/Bethany
 Must present coupon. Coupon expires Feb. 20, 2010.

NOT just another day ...continued from page 1



NEVER in our wildest imagination did we think anything would come of our entry. After all, countless HVACR Contractors across the country vie for this award. Three finalists are chosen in each category; three for residential contractors and three for commercial contractors. One in each category will be picked as the ACCA Contractor of the Year for that category. The three finalists are catapulted to a whole new level of awareness and recognized accomplishment within the industry. We thought we could only dream that

something like this could ever happen to a tiny little company like ours.

The ACCA rep on the other end of the line was about to change my day in a very surreal way. She told me that the "powers that be" had chosen the top three finalists for the Residential Heating & Cooling Contractors in the country and lo and behold "A Good Neighbor Heating & Cooling has been chosen as one of the top three!"

Oh, I think my brain was REELING at that moment ... trying to take it all in ... WE ARE ONE OF THE TOP 3 FINALISTS FOR

CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR!!!

Wow!

The finalist will be announced in March at the 2010 ACCA Conference. All of our stories are now before a panel of judges and one of the top 3 will be chosen to move to the very top. How exciting! We find we are pinching ourselves every day because we are having a hard time grasping that this is all really happening.

One of the TOP 3 HVACR Finalists for Residential Contractor of the year!!! Right here in Middlebury, Indiana ... in the middle of Amish Country ... in Elkhart County (held the title for highest unemployment in the U.S.) ... all of the cards were stacked against us and yet ... we came out on top ... in the face of adversity!

What they don't know is what we, who live here have known for some time ... our towns may be small but the people who make up our small towns are no strangers to knowing how to accomplish great things!

On Thursday, January 14th, we received the 1st ACCA press release and were encouraged to print it in the paper and share the news with all of you ... how could we say "no"? We were excited to finally be given the "go ahead" to tell everyone.



News Release

From the Air Conditioning Contractors of America

For Immediate Release
January 14, 2010

ACCA Announces 2010 Contractors of the Year Finalists

The Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA), the nationwide association of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) contractors, has announced the finalists for the association's 2010 Contractors of the Year.

"Contractors from across the country of varying size and with many different business models threw their hats into the ring in our re-designed Contractors of the Year program," said Paul T. Stalknecht, ACCA President & CEO. "These six finalists represent some of the most unique business approaches in the industry, and our panel of past chairmen who are judging have a solid group of finalists from which they can select the winners."

The winners in each category—one residential and one commercial—will be announced at the 2010 ACCA Conference, scheduled for March 7-9 in Tampa, Fla. The finalists in the two categories are:

2010 Contractors of the Year—Residential

A Good Neighbor Heating & Cooling (Middlebury, Indiana)

Service Legends (Des Moines, Iowa)

Conditioned Air Corp. (Naples, Florida)

Certainly you can see why we are so humbled by our presence on the "short list". Out of all of those who were competing, we rose to the top as a little "David" in the presence of two "Goliaths".

What is especially nice is that we are already winners ... all 3 of the Finalists are considered winners in their league just by the fact that they are all considered by the ACCA to be at the very top of their class.

Well, life sure can be surprising sometimes and I must say that just when we

were feeling a certain measure of excitement with everything that is going on in this little ol' office ... that measure sure got bumped up to a lot of excitement and it has been great to see how everyone's hard work is paying off and to be reassured that a little imagination, a tad of ingenuity and the support of a strong team can go a long, long way.

Ah, dreams really do come true!

From our Kitchen

Homemade Lasagna

Ingredients:

1 pound sweet Italian sausage
3/4 pound lean ground beef
1/2 cup minced onion
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 (28 ounce) can crushed tomatoes
2 (6 ounce) cans tomato paste
2 (6.5 ounce) cans canned tomato sauce
1/2 cup water
2 tablespoons white sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons dried basil leaves
1/2 teaspoon fennel seeds

1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1 tablespoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
4 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
12 lasagna noodles
16 ounces ricotta cheese
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 pound mozzarella cheese, sliced
3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese



In a Dutch oven, cook sausage, ground beef, onion, and garlic over medium heat until well browned. Stir in crushed tomatoes, tomato paste, tomato sauce, and water. Season with sugar, basil, fennel seeds, Italian seasoning, 1 tablespoon salt, pepper, and 2 tablespoons parsley. Simmer, covered, for about 1 1/2 hours, stirring occasionally. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook lasagna noodles in boiling water for 8 to 10 minutes. Drain noodles, and rinse with cold water. In a mixing bowl, combine ricotta cheese with egg, remaining parsley, and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).

To assemble, spread 1 1/2 cups of meat sauce in the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish. Arrange 4 noodles lengthwise over meat sauce. Spread with one half of the ricotta cheese mixture. Top with a third of mozzarella cheese slices. Spoon 1 1/2 cups meat sauce over mozzarella, and sprinkle with 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese. Repeat layers, and top with remaining mozzarella and Parmesan cheese. Cover with foil: to prevent sticking, either spray foil with cooking spray, or make sure the foil does not touch the cheese. Bake in preheated oven for 25 minutes. Remove foil, and bake an additional 25 minutes. Cool for 15 minutes before serving.

And They Lived Happily Ever After ... The End.

-By Brenda Dwyer



There's a chill that blows through my heart now and again. When I see someone suffering I feel their pain ... in my heart. There is no other way to explain it. I don't have to know them to feel it. I just have to be aware of their story or perhaps not even that. Sometimes when you look

into a person's eyes you can see the suffering there. Sometimes you can see it from far away ... in posture, in action. There are calamities that will come, tornados, earthquakes, devastation ... yes, these things are of a grand scale and are intensified because of their size and yet, I tell

you this for certain, every day if we just look around we can see it ... the suffering ... of many, many people. Every one has a story. Every story begs for a happy ending.

I saw what appeared to be an old woman hunched over on a park bench. She looked very frail all wrapped up in her winter coat, scarf, gloves and boots. She seemed especially weary. A small child ran up to her and pulled at her collar ... I thought for sure she was the child's grandmother until she turned to her child's voice calling her "mommy" ... my heart lurched and I felt that old stabbing feeling ... when her face turned to look at her little girl I could see the circles under her

eyes ... her posture was no indicator of her age for she couldn't have been much older than 20 yet already her burdens were heavy; heavy enough to make her appear at least 60 years older from a distance. Suffering. The child before her eyes managed to take

her mind off of her troubles for in brief seconds you could see years fall away and she was transformed. That, to me, is God's grace ... it sometimes comes in the smallest of packages but it is always so perfect. Every story begs for a happy ending.



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Visit us on the web



Participating **A Good Neighbor Club Merchants**

Club Members ... every month you can check back right here to see your updated list of Merchants! If you'd like to view the list as it is updated daily or to get more information on the club go to

www.agoodneighborclub.com and see how you too can start saving with the following merchants:

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 Bill Evans Insurance Inc 306 E. Elkhart
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 J & J Lawn & Garden 19976 CR 6
 Kruse Farm Supply 19904 CR 6
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 Rodgers Auto LLC 302 Chestnut Street
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MIDDLEBURY:

Affairs to Remember Bridal Shop 113 E. Warren St
 Backroad Crafts 11262 CR 116
 Bill's Collision Service 13024 US 20
 Cargo Plus Sales 304 N. Main
 Cell Phones Plus 851 US 20 Suite 5
 Classee Vinyl Window LLC 59323 CR 35
 Country Wood Creations 11565 CR 116
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 Crystal Valley Furniture & Floor Covering 201 S. Main
 Crystal Valley Power Equipment 11720W 250N
 Dairy Queen 416 N. Main
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 Grand Rental Station 131 Orpha Drive
 Healthy Pets 851 US 20
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 Jenkins Automotive (NAPA Auto Parts) 132 Orpha Dr.
 Jerry's Standard Service 101 N. Main Street
 Justrite Nails 851 US 20
 Long's Convenience, Inc. 995 US 20
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 Montieth 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
 The Cinnamon Stick 102 S. Main Street
 The Getaway 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

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Along the Pumpkinvine 145 Harrison Street
 Alpha Building Center 0855 N. SR 5
 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 St
 Hostetler's Hudson Auto Museum 760 S. VanBuren St
 Hostetler's Main Street Shoppe 275 E. Main St
 Indiana Auto Connection 805 N. SR 5
 JoJo's Pretzels 205 N. Harrison St., 1st Floor (Mercantile)
 L & R Marine 8435 W. US 20
 L.A. Enterprises 8275W 050N
 Lasting Impressions Gift Shoppe 165 Harrison St
 Lighthouse Christian Bookstore 225 N. Harrison St
 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
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 Sautter's Floral & Greenhouse, Inc. 1725 Toledo Rd
 Sassi Tan 56199 Parkway Ave Suite 10
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 Goshen Farm & Lawn Center, Inc. 2413 Lincolnway East
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 Maple City Hobbies 102 S. Main
 Merle Norman 125 S. Main Street
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE GOOD NEIGHBOR CLUB GO TO WWW.AGOODNEIGHBORCLUB.COM OR CALL US AT (574) 825-1677!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



It seems as if every newspaper you have ever opened has a section that invites their readers to participate on some level. We felt that a "Letters to the Editor" section would be a good place for us to start. We invite you, our readers, to either submit comments on current events and/or the paper itself, or ask questions on a topic of your choosing.

Please keep it light and uplifting whenever possible. We look forward to hearing from you. We reserve the right to limit and/or edit any submissions at our discretion. Submissions must include author's legal first and last name. Please email all inquiries to AGNeighborNews@aol.com.



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Seeking: Pinball Machines in good to excellent condition. 1950's to current. Please send pictures, information and price to AG-NeighborNews@aol.com

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Place YOUR classified AD here!
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Insertion deadline for the Feb. 20 issue is Feb. 15.

Call 574-825-1677 or email:
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Current Circulation:
11,200

~A Good Neighbor News~

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Senior Editor & Writer: Brenda Dwyer

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What our Classified AD Section can do for you:

A picture is worth a thousand words! Add your picture to your classified AD!



The Good Neighbor Newspaper goes out to every business, church, organization and household in Middlebury, Bristol and Shipshewana! It is a full saturation mailing that consists of a circulation of over 11,000 addresses! For a small fee of \$5 or more, you can have your advertisement in the hands of well over 11,000 people, depending on how many individuals are at each address.

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Buffet**
11AM - 2PM
ONLY \$5.66!

**No coupon
necessary!**

851 US 20, Middlebury, IN PH: 574-825-7222
OPEN: Sun - Thurs 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Friday & Saturday
11a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Web site: www.rullispizza.com



Jerry's Standard Service

574-825-5040

101 N. Main St. • Middlebury, IN

FREE TIRE ROTATION w/any service

MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Feb. 20, 2009

\$10 OFF COUPON FOR TAX PREP

KEEPING TABS

TAX & ACCOUNTING

INSTANT REFUNDS!



260 D North Village Dr.
Shipshewana, IN 46565
Devon Weaver CTP, CQPA
Office: 260-768-4760

CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE TODAY!
Offer good with coupon only.
Coupon expires April 30, 2010

**Individual &
Business Tax
Preparation**

This is your personal invitation to come see us at our offices in the Troyer Saddlery building. We are located next to Shipshe Video, across from Country Corral Restaurant. Let us put 14 years of accounting & 9 years of tax preparation experience to work for you. We offer tax prep for individual & business (including S-corps & LLCs), as well as full service accounting & payroll services.



VARNS & HOOVER HARDWARE

101 S. Main St. • Middlebury, IN
PH: 574-825-2705

FREE

1 Single sided Key or 1 pkg. of Light Bulbs
w/any purchase at V & H Hardware.

MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Feb. 20, 2009



**Buy 1 Pizza
Get 1 Free
Mon & Tues.**

Free pizza of equal
or lesser value.
Cannot be combined
with any other
coupon or offer.

422 S. Main St. Middlebury • PH: 825-2561 • Fax: 825-4242

All Day every Day— 14" 1 item Pizza: Only \$5.99!

Open: Sun-Wed: 11am-8pm, Thurs: 11am-9pm, Fri & Sat: 11am-10pm



Locally
owned for
21 years



**Good for 1
FREE**

DVD rental anytime!
With coupon. Expires 2/20/10

**2 DVD rentals
for \$3.99!**

With coupon. Expires 2/20/10

508 W. Lincoln • Goshen
(In front of Linway Plaza) 574-534-5150
655 CR 17 • Amberwood Terrace
(Behind Bullard's Market) 574-293-1777



Quality-Optical

PH: 825-3818 • 424 N. Main, Middlebury

**Value
Coupon**

-Eye Examination: \$49 (dilated exam extra)
-Eyeglass Special: (a Complete pair of frames &
lenses in select frames) \$89 single vision • \$ 109 lined
bifocals • \$149 lined trifocals and standard progressives.
-Must present coupon at time of exam/purchase.
Cannot be combined w/Insurance programs.

MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Feb. 22, 2010



Rob's Barber Shop

Down Town Bristol (Vistula St.) 574-370-1361

\$5.00 Haircut
SENIORS ONLY!

Reg. \$11.50

MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Feb. 20, 2010



E&S Sales
1265 N. SR 5
Shipshewana, IN

SPECIALIZING IN BULK FOODS

Candies • Spices • Snacks • Nuts
Cooking Supplies • All Kinds of Flours
Dried Grains & Beans
Soup Mixes & Dried Potatoes
Over 50 Kinds Of Cheese

Hours: Mon - Fri 8am - 5:30pm • Sat 8am - 4pm

**Buy 1 Get
1 Free**
**1# Bag
of Dutch
Country
Noodles**

E & S Sales is Open: Mon- Fri: 8am-5:30pm, Sat: 8am-4pm

Limit 1 offer. MUST present coupon. Expires Feb. 20, 2010

AIR DUCT CLEANING SPECIAL PRICING!



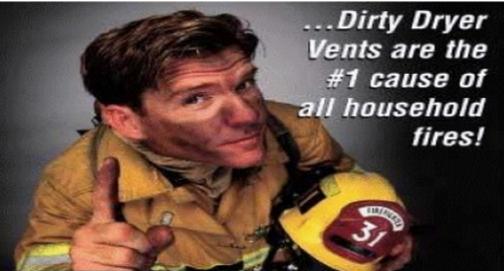
Call us **\$189.00**
Today at: **+ registers**

574-825-1677

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES!

A Good Neighbor Heating & Cooling Middlebury, IN 574-825-1677

MUST present coupon. Coupon expires Feb. 20, 2010



**...Dirty Dryer
Vents are the
#1 cause of
all household
fires!**

Dryer Vent Cleaning

Don't wait until it's too late!



Dryer vent cleaning and safety check

A Good Neighbor
The Neighbor you
can depend on



Dryer vent

\$129.00

574 825-1677

Each year more
than 17,000 fires
are caused by lint
buildup in dryer
vents. Make an annual
cleaning of your dryer vent
part of your safety checklist.