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#### OCTOBER 2011

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#### VOL. 3 • NO. 4

by Brenda Dwyer Going on four mornings in a row now I have managed the same routine ... wake up, stretch, get out of bed and WHACK; hit my toe against a beautiful wood table that has been sitting in the same spot for weeks. Really?! Again?! (I declare in my brain.) How is it that I keep doing this? I know it's there!!! And ... why now ... could it be that I have so much on my mind that even upon waking the thoughts that race inside of my head are that distracting? Imagine that (I think quietly, yet sarcastically). I am worse than a small child ... so much excitement ... so much energy and all because of the change in seasons. So silly, I suppose, and yet I do this every single year and have for as far back as I can remember. The woods in the house will glisten from elbow grease, the oven will sparkle and the glass will gleam. All of our puppy dogs will lay contentedly by the fire (okay ... only in my imagination ... they can't hold still for anything!!!) and life will



cal???) Well, it may not be perfect by your standards but it will be perfect by mine, you see all of the things I love in this life, all of the people I love and all of the unexpected events that intersperse every day will make for a very content existence and I am Sure, there are thankful. bound to be bits of bad news here and there and obstacles to overcome and hurdles to jump but that's life. Attitude makes all of the difference in the world. Since I have begun to concentrate on balance in my life I have found that the simple little things I do for myself make the biggest dif-

ference in my attitude. Here are just a few

that I try to sprinkle throughout my week: 1. Take time to read the Bible (I know, it sounds so cliché to some but it offers HUGE impact). 2. Pray/meditate every day

... in a place where you can separate yourself from everyone and everything else and just be at one with God for 20 minutes or more ... let your mind connect with your spirit (also makes a HUGE impact). 3. Sprinkle your home environment with sentimental mementos and pictures of those who are most special to you. 4. Spritz

your

favorite perfume/cologne on when you're feeling low ... it's an instant pick-me-up. 5. (For girls only) As my Aunt Ruthann used to say ... Lipstick - a little goes a long way (it helps you feel pretty!) 6. Take a walk outside and open your eves to the beauty around you. 7. Tell the people you love that you love them every day ... even when you don't "feel" it. 8. If someone blesses you, tell them. 9. Make it a point to compliment someone – we all deserve to feel good about something. 10. Be kind. (And last but not least) 11. Make it a point to learn something new every single day. These things may seem super simple but they make a drastic difference in how I approach my day, every day. I'm

not saying that these things will have the same result with you, but there are things that you can do, things that you really enjoy, that you can mix into your weekly routine that will nourish the goodness within. Everyone can use a bit of pampering in their lives and there is no reason why you shouldn't be pampered - even if you have to pamper yourself. Insuring balance in our lives by weighing the good against the bad helps us to be the best we can possibly be. You know what one of the best benefits of all of this is ... good health! It is wonderful to be on a path that promotes being spiritually, emotionally and physically sound. Making room for the simple pleasures in my life enables me to approach my day with a fresh outlook, a heightened expectancy and a clear mind. Having said that ... it is time for me to excuse myself and go get out the pails, sponges, floor wax and mop. I feel the "crave to clean" coming on. I can't wait to smell the polish and see the shine!



#### COLOR ON BRIING

by Brenda Dwyer

One of my favorite past times is decorating our home. There is nothing quite like the smell of fresh paint or should I say there "was" nothing like it because now the paints I use are odorless. Odorless or not I love fresh, clean, newly painted walls. The great thing about paint is that you can change a wall out every season if you want to so that the aesthetic

that you are trying to achieve is more pronounced. It is fun to paint a wall to tie into the pillows and other accessories that you may be bringing into the room for the season; it is like the punctuation mark on your design. Different paint techniques are also fun to try and



they lend a sense of "place" sometimes; think Italian, Venetian or Tuscan plasters. Paint brush striations also create texture on a wall and can really energize a room. I have a friend that uses wallpapers instead of paints

to incorporate new design into a room. Wallpapers are absolutely beautiful today ... they are nothing like the wallpapers you may have see in great grandmother's house. (I tend to change my paint colors much more often than our wallpapers due to the price point differential). Paint helps to cre-

## Continued to Page 5

## LOOK INSIDE FOR VALUABLE COUPONS FROM THESE MERCHANTS Jerry's Standard Service • Shipshe Pizza • Rulli's • Video Visions • Keeping Tabs • E & S Sales

# **INSIDE THE TEA ROOM**



by Brenda Dwyer Words can be warm, kind and loving. Words can be cold,



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#### **CURRENT READERSHIP:** 35,000 AND GROWING!

angry and hateful. Words can teach or they can belittle, they can build up or tear down, they can encourage and give hope, they can scold and discipline. Words are our mainstream line of communication and they are powerful. This is why we need to give thought to what we say. We need to respect words and carefully choose them with wisdom. Words that spew off of the tongue in a hurried, angry rush are almost always regretted. When my children were young I would often wonder what they thought about the example I set. Did they feel loved and cherished with my words? Did they see someone who treated others with kindness and respect even in trying situations? Did they learn how

to offer encouragement from my teachings? Even when I scolded or disciplined them ... did the words seem harsh and stay on target (deed vs. consequence) or did they seem hurtful and careless? All of us have spoken words that we wished we could take back. Careless words spoken are a hard "wrong" to "right". Words reflect what is on our minds and in our heart. I hope my words encourage, build up, offer hope and give the people around me a bit of joy. My 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Walker, often encouraged us to "think before we speak". It has served me well over the years and I can tell you this ... the times I didn't take time to consider my words I have almost always regretted.



I love everything about October. I love the crispy crunch of the maroon and orange and golden leaves beneath my feet. I love when it's just cold enough in the morning to have a tiny bit of frost and I have to wear gloves and a hoodie on my way to work, but it's just warm enough in the afternoon that I can rake and burn the leaves without having to bundle up. This time of year is so evocative of nostalgic moments in my life, but the majority begin and end with carving pumpkins.

Few things in life bring me as much joy as sitting on the ground amidst a sea of newspapers strewn about with a knife and a huge spoon. I don't possess the artistic talents that my mom and my sister have, nor the ability to sculpt things like my middle son, so I never attempt to draw or paint or mold things. However, when it comes to carving, regardless of the outcome, I throw myself into the process wholeheartedly.

When I was thirteen, I put down my usual carving knife in order to try one of my dad's fish filleting knives. I had a knobby, oblong pumpkin that was screaming at me to carve the most perfectly narrowed eyes. I placed my left hand on the side of the pumpkin to keep it steady and ignored my mom's usual warnings to be careful (since she'd been telling me that every October for the last near-decade). I knew exactly what I was doing. I punctured the orange flesh slightly left of center, knife slicing up and to the left as through butter, drew it to the correct place and then, accidentally, about another inch further – an inch which led the knife directly through my left hand. Unbelievable, I thought. Apparently when she said 'be careful' each year, my mom actually had a reason. After

an hour or so in the emergency room and a few stitches, I was ready to go back home, somewhat more humble, but also pretty certain I could finish the perfectly narrowed eyes if only I'd be allowed to get that knife back in my hands. My attempts were quickly shut down.

This did not quell my desires. Over the years, I've tried using kits to create full scenes on pumpkins, carved words, lit candle after candle when they inevitably burn out, and even made perfectly narrowed eyes (avoiding, of course, the cursed filleting knife). There's something cathartic about it that I've never quite been able to put my finger on until recently when I read a story that gave me a new perspective and fueled my desire to carve even more.

The story said that the process of carving a pumpkin is something akin to what God does to our own lives. He takes something plain and ordinary, removes all the junk inside, turns us into a work of art, and places a light within us to shine for all to see. With this view, how could I not want to keep up with this ritual, one of my first loves?

My "Journey of Reinvention" is a constant, personal process of allowing God to do this within me. I am more than ready to have all of the junk inside of me removed! Sometimes I make mistakes because I am not paying attention to the warning signs along the way, thinking I know best. Sometimes the candle goes out because I'm smothering it with my own agenda. But I know that, in the end, He will make me His masterpiece and I'll feel His light inside of me, shining for the world to see.

You can read more of Stephanie's "Journey of Reinvention" at www.sjstowe.com





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# THE CORNER OFFICE

A word from Bob Dwyer, Jr.



I hear this all the time, why, I even had a customer tell me the other day that my company was ripping people off because we offer an \$89.00 furnace check. It just so happens she was shopping for a new furnace and was getting estimates from a few heating companies. She called us because she wanted to see for herself how we were going to answer to the accusation. One of the contractors pointed out to her how we at A Good Neighbor Heating are ripping people off because we advertise furnace checks and not furnace cleanings, he explained to her how it's \$89.00 just to look at the furnace and not clean or do anything else to it ... what a rip off ... right?

I was very happy this lady took the time to call us to her home for a free estimate and I was happy she asked me about the misleading ad. This made me realize a lot of consumers just don't understand. How will the average person compare the terminology when it is blazingly apparent that some contractors don't even understand it all? Allow me to interject my 3rd generation Heating & Cool-

## FURNACE CLEAN & CHECKS: "WHAT A SCAM AND RIP OFF!"

ing expertise here and break it down for you. Furnace checks, furnace cleanings, 21 point furnace tune ups, clean and checks ... these are all different terms used to describe a service and they certainly can mean different things. How do you really know what you're getting for your money and do you really get what you're paying for?

Let me share with you what I told the nice lady and her husband about the \$89.00 furnace check ... The reason we advertise furnace checks and not cleanings is because we want to give people the most for their money. The biggest concern for us is this ... is your furnace safe? For the \$89.00 sale price I send a certified experienced technician to your home (no extra trip, service or labor charges). He checks your electrical connections looking for loose or burnt wiring. He takes measurements of voltage and amperage. He checks for gas leaks and checks gas pressure for proper operation and safety from fire or explosions. He checks the condition of the furnace heat exchanger for damage or cracking. Now please pay special attention here because this is one of the things that separates our company from almost every other company ... this exam is done with a very special infrared camera designed specifically for this reason only; it has a large screen that you, the

customer, can see while the technician is doing the inspection. These cameras are so strong they can even detect hairpin cracks. This procedure erases all doubt ... there is no question if there is damage to one or more of the chambers of your heat exchanger or not. These are results that can only be achieved with the type of camera we use. Think of it as a scope ... with a normal camera (the type you and I use to record special family events) you may be able to see the outside front, top or side of the heat exchanger but with a scope you can now snake that camera all around the heat exchanger as well as down into each chamber. This is the same infrared camera that the military uses to inspect aircraft for defects and weak spots in the metal. Most companies do not invest in these cameras because they feel they are cost prohibitive. We feel that we owe it to our customers to use it ... what price can you place on someone's life? While there, our tech will also check manufacturer's settings for temperature and air flow.

The lady in front of me couldn't understand how we could do all that for \$89.00. I assured her we do. She asked why we don't advertise cleaning ... she said the other company told her we charge for everything we

Continued to Page 13

## THE CAT'S MEOW



ing in the woods yesterday my Rusty Pumpkin saw a doe for the very first time. I told him to take a good long look. He will be going to his new home this week and may never see one again. Tags will be staying behind with me. She was stubborn and less than compliant when her prospective new owners came to take her home. They could tell how scared she was and how much she wanted to be with me so they left without her. I am selfishly happy that she will remain here although I should be sad that she won't have new adventures in a place that I will never travel to or experience. Oscar went to his new home this week. Ebie and Brittle will go soon too. It is better to go now before the weather turns cold. They will all be house cats at their new homes. It is better to become accustomed to the indoors when the weather outside is less than friendly ... they will settle in easier. Now for a word from my mom Cody who I lovingly

call MaCody: The pumpkins have been lined up on the back porch, the candles inserted and illumination begins! Fall is truly here! The bales of straw will arrive this weekend and I can't wait for Bob and Brenda to prepare my little hovel as they do every year. I am such a spoiled old gal. Cleo told me that Tags will be staying with us and this warms the recesses of my heart; she is a precious one. Brenda came out on the porch last night and found me shivering (just slightly). True to form she dashed back inside of the house and brought out a wonderful plump blanket to wrap me in. She promised to lay it inside of my hovel for the final layer. I feel as if I am having the time of my life ... how strange for it to come now. May you be happy in all you do and may your home be blessed with fall's beautiful illuminations! I am going to go curl up in my blanket and sleep now. Prrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr



## NATURAL CLEANING PRODUCTS

By making and using natural cleaning products it reduces the chemicals used in your household. Here are some natural cleaning products you make with either white vinegar or baking soda.

#### WHITE VINEGAR

White vinegar is a great natural disinfectant that removes mineral deposits and stains and does many other cleaning jobs.

• Vinegar and salt mixed together makes a great surface cleaner.

• Depending on how dirty your ceramic tile floor is, mix either a quarter or half cup of white vinegar into a gallon of warm water. This not only removes the dirt without having to scrub but there is no film left on the tiles.

• Apply warm vinegar to a cloth and squeeze the liquid onto stick-on hooks or bathtub no-slip decals to remove them.

• Mix a cup of vinegar into a gallon of warm water to remove grease and dull film from no-wax linoleum floors.

• Equal amounts of vinegar and water remove carpet stains, pet smells and clean ovens.

• To clean stone and brick floors, mix a cup of white vinegar into a gallon of warm water. Scrub the floor and then rinse it with clean water.

• To clean a dirty flower vase, add one or two tablespoons of vinegar and fill the base with warm water. Let this soak for half an hour and scrub with a soft cloth. Rinse and then dry and your flower vase will be clean and smell great.

• Into a spray bottle add one-quarter cup of vinegar and fill with water. Spray on windows or glass and use either paper towels or crumpled newspaper to dry and shine.

• On a damp cloth, sprinkle baking soda and then rub on your silverware to remove tarnish. Once you remove the tarnish, rinse and then dry.

#### **BAKING SODA**

•You can make a general cleaner by getting a quart of warm water and dissolving four tablespoons of baking soda into this.

• Make a paste using baking soda with a little water and rub on black heel marks to remove these from your floor.

• To deodorize and clean all your bathroom and kitchen surfaces, use baking soda on a clean, damp sponge.

• One half cup of baking soda added to the wash makes clothes and towels smell fresh and feel soft.

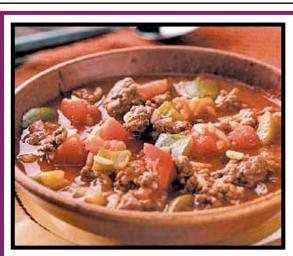
White vinegar and baking soda are natural cleaning products that are environmentally friendly and are great for cleaning.



by Brenda Dwyer There are thousands, if not millions of tadpoles in one of the ponds here. We have watched them grow from when they were just itty bitty little wiggly beings to the little tadpoles they are now. Most of them are just sprouting their back legs and I wonder what winter will have in store for them. Will they even have a chance to leave the pond before ice sets in? The kittens are fascinated by them but I've taught them well ... they know not to go too close to the pond's edge. While out explor-

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## **INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 (29 ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1 (29 ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 2 cubes beef bouillon cube

- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 2 cups cooked white rice

### DIRECTIONS

- 1. In a Dutch oven brown beef over medium high heat. Drain off any fat.
- 2. Add the peppers to the browned meat and saute for 3 minutes.
- 3. Stir in the tomato sauce, diced tomatoes with juice, bouillon cubes, brown sugar, salt, pepper and soy sauce. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 30 to 15 minutes. Stir in rise and heat through
- to 45 minutes. Stir in rice and heat through.

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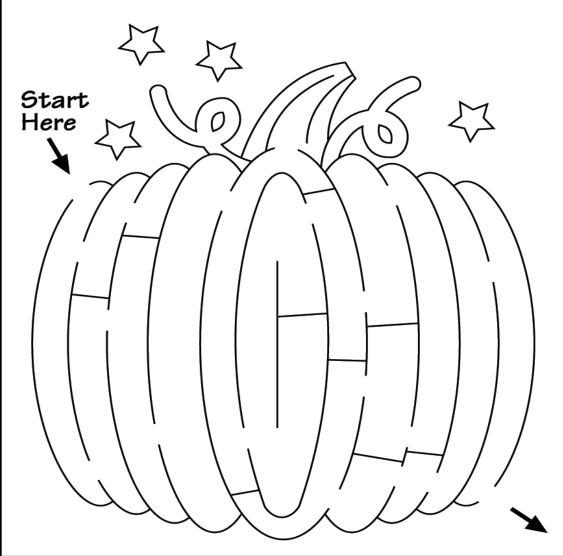


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KIDZ KORNER



## OCTOBER PUMPKINS



When I was a small child we would take our annual trip to the pumpkin patch to pick out our October pumpkins. My brothers and I were fascinated by this process. Finding the perfect pumpkin was quite the challenge for me ... I always wanted a round, chubby and not too tall pumpkin - one just right for carving eyes, nose and mouth into. When it came to my brothers, however, it seemed that the process to find an acceptable pumpkin didn't take nearly as long. We would take our selections home and mom

would sit out the tools for us to use and the fun would begin. If was probably around 11 or 12 before I was actually allowed to use a knife to carve my own pumpkin; prior to that I was allowed to scoop out the insides with a big spoon and draw a face on my pumpkin that mom or dad would then carve out for me. We would put small white candles inside for lighting. Mom would display our carved works of art out on

Continued to Page 14



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# **BRING ON THE COLOR**



#### Continued from Page 1

ate flow and can be the catalyst for a dramatic focal point or it can be a simple accent ... perhaps you use paint merely as a backdrop to an already lavish interior. Design in our homes can set a mood and can create a peaceful (or not) environment. Hue is vitally important in the "vibe" you want to achieve in your room(s). Thankfully, there is no intimidation factor when it comes to paint because it is eas-

ily changed out and (take a deep breath) to help you achieve your desired outcome the local hardware and paint stores are full of helpful personnel to assist you in your choices! Bon voyage my friends ... embark on this adventure ... go grab a can of paint and release a beautiful "attitude" into your home! To close, I would like to offer a few tips ... 1. Do not scrimp when it comes to your paint brushes (you get what you pay for) - and make sure you are purchasing the right brush for the

job – ask if you aren't sure. 2. Do not scrimp on the quality of your paint – here again, you get what you pay for and good paint won't fade in bright sunlight, it won't wash off when you are trying to remove scuff marks and its color will stay remarkably true. 3. I can't say enough about preparation! That's right ... get your painters tape out and start framing the area you want to paint ... being especially diligent at the ceiling, in the corners and around trim or windows. 4. Cover your floors!







#### A Good Neighbor News



## FROM YOUR A GOOD NEIGHBOR CLUB MERCHANTS

**BRISTOL:** 7 Eleven - 102 W. Vistula Brass Eagle Sport Bar & Café - 909 S. Division (SR 15) Bristol Automotive Parts, Inc. - 403 E. Vistula Bristol Community Food Pantry - 101 W. Vistula Street Bristol O'Hair Port - 102 N. Chaptoula Street Chocolate Sensations - 110 Division Street Curves - 118 E. Vistula 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 Rodgers Auto LLC - 302 Chestnut Street Spectrum Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Co. -(574) 848-5804 (Mobil Merchant)

MIDDLEBURY: Affairs to Remember Bridal Shop - 113 E. Warren Street Amis Chiropractic - 611 Wayne Street Awnings Unlimited 825-9768 "We've got you covered!" Backroad Crafts - 11262 CR 116 Bill's Collision Service - 1302 US 20 Cargo Plus Sales - 304 N. Main Cell Phones Plus / Verizon Wireless - 851 US 20 Suite 5 Classee Vinyl Window LLC - 59323 CR 35 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 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 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 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 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

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:

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**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 Spectrum Eyewear Gallery – Dr. David Britzke, O.D. - 56028 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

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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 DQ Grill & Chill - 723 W. Pike Street Erv's Vac Shop - 906 Linway Drive From Scratch Pet Bakery - 107 W. Washington Street 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

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Laura's Bakery - 1255 W. SR 120 Laura's Country Store - 1255 W. SR 120 R & S Carpet Cleaning - 7030N 575E The Gathering Place Restaurant - 407 3rd Street Twin Mills Camping Resort - 1675 W. SR 120

## LAGRANGE:

Dale's Dependable Handyman Service - 2420S 250W

**LIGONIER:** Dairy Queen - 909 Lincolnway S.

**MISHAWAKA:** Once Upon A Child - 5936 Grape Road

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## TALK ACROSS THE FENCE AUTUMN DOOR **DUST BUNNIES** HANGER



#### by Brenda Dwyer

Let's put to rest, once and for all, the notion that dust bunnies are pure myth. I beg to differ. My son's wife, Gigi, who had been busily preparing their home for the holidays which will arrive sooner than you think, was finding that their dust bunnies had given birth. How does this happen? She cleans regularly and I know for a fact that she is fairly thorough in her routine. (Not OCD ... more of a perfectionist). She claimed that it was always disconcerting and just a tad disheartening to find another family of dust bunnies hiding behind a TV or a refrigerator. They have a beautiful home that always smells so good and

presents like something out of a magazine. They have no pets in the home to add to the bunny situation but apparently the little bit of carpet and fibers in the home did just fine on their own. The only remedy I could offer was for them to think about purchasing a filtration system (which we just happen to have in stock here at the shop). You see, our home is a log home and even with three dogs and a bird we rarely get a visit from Peter Dustytail (Peter Cottontail's distant cousin) because of the air filtration systems we have in place. Good air filtration doesn't give dust much of a chance to collect, let alone give birth. Well, after talking to my son, they didn't hesitate and

had the system installed and are now living in a bunny-free environment. It's a good thing

... at last count before the installation Gigi had counted 38 bunnies in all (and some looked suspiciously big in the belly) ... she was horrified thinking she might have to name them all and adopt them as pets. Ha ha. (Family humor!) ((Sorry.)) In conclusion, yes, dust bunnies do exist and are known to multiply rapidly and yet they can be evicted from the home never to return. Now that's good news! Oh ... did you know that even the tiniest of dust bunnies are known allergens ... shame on them!



#### WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

• 1 large piece of art paper or 2 sheets of white construction paper Acrylic craft paint in fall colors such as red, orange, brown, yellow, gold and green • Scissors

- 15" twig or branch
- 4- 15" lengths of jewelry cord
- White craft glue
- Football-shaped cookie cutter (optional)

#### HOW TO MAKE IT:

1. Using a paper plate or paint palette, squeeze out about a quartersize dollop of each color of paint.

2. Finger paint the entire piece of art paper with the different colors. Let children be creative, just guide them if they start to blend colors too much as you can end up with a brownish gray color. Let the paint dry completely.

3. When the paint has dried, turn the paper over and do the same thing on the other side. Let dry.

4. When paint has dried, use a football-shaped cookie cutter to draw out as many shapes as you can on the painted paper. If you don't have a cookie cutter, draw out simple leaf shapes.

5. Cut out the leaf shapes and set the scraps aside to use for another project.

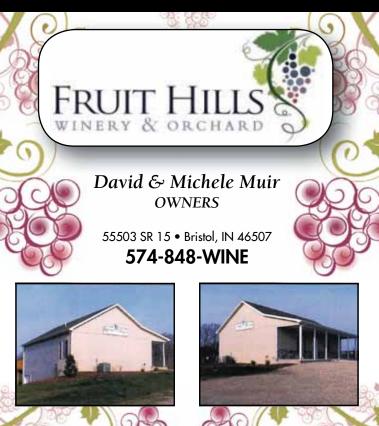
6. Set a bug-free branch on the work surface. (See the tips section for methods of ridding branches from bugs.) Line up three pieces of the jewelry cord, evenly spaced from each other, along the stick. 7. Glue the leaves onto the cord, placing one under the cord, and then overlapping a second leaf over the first leaf and the cord. Repeat until all three cords have leaves.

8. Tie the top end of the cords to the stick. Secure with some white craft glue.

9. Tie the remaining piece of jewelry cord to both ends of the stick to create the hanger. Secure knots with some glue. Let glue dry. 10. Trim the excess cord ends.









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- 40. Become friendlier
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   46. Tokyo, formerly
   47. Indic language of Orissa
   49. Ocean's surface used in reckoning land elevation (2 wd) 51. Biblical shepherd
- 52. Next month (abbrev.) 53. Deceptive maneuver
- 57. Breath sweetening lozenge 61. "Franksy Island" prop
- 62. Sinful
- 64. "Much \_ About Nothing"
- 65. Apprehensive
- 66. Taste, e.g. 67. "My boy"

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- 26. Engine parts 27. A Muse
- 28. Union of several states29. Kind of wool31. Screen from light
- 34. Veranda
- 36. Missing from the Marines, say
- 38. Accused's need
- 42. Hottie
- 44. Third month
- 45. Swells 48. Set in a straight row
- 50. Go over
- 53. "Ah, me!" 54. Change
- 55. Algonquian Indian 56. Cork's country
- 58. Better
- 59. Yorkshire river 60. Brought into play

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- 63. Cheat

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## A WORLD OF WONDERS I LOVE THE FALL

"I love the fall, the mist and all ... " begins one of my favorite poems. Third-graders at Meadowview Elementary School will recognize it. The poem is just one of the many they will memorize this year for their poetry unit. They will stand up in front of their classmates and recite holiday poems, poems about friendship, school poems, silly poems and serious poems. Each child has his or her own style. Some kids are born performers and relish in this ritual. Others are shy and stammer at first, but all are experts by the end of the year. It is amazing to watch as they grow more confident with each new poem. But, I digress. Back to "I love the fall..."

I do love the fall, I do! The sounds and the smells: the crisp crunch of leaves underfoot; the nutty, soft smell of hickory; the tangy acrid smell of walnuts, their sweet rich meats hidden inside that rough, tennis ball-sized shell. (The smell and the grit of Lava soap as I try scrubbing the dark inner husk stains from my hands

### by Monica Clark

simply because I refuse to wear gloves!) Autumn is defined by the rich white puffs of smoke that signal a burning leaf pile; a smell that tickles the senses and makes you feel alive, nostalgic and lonesome all at the same time.

And, don't get me started on the colors! All summer we've watched as splendid greens play across the trees and marshes and fields. As the days shorten, color kisses the tree tops. Frost paints the land with delicate strokes, outlining each blade of grass, etching the lines of a spider's web, coating the windshield in swirls and whorls. The English walnut trees in our backyard drop their big, oval leaves and squirrels scamper up and down all day, harvesting nuts before they ever fall to the ground. I think they actually laugh as they race away with their stolen treasures.

Scarlet reds and rich maroons flare in the blueberry bogs along State Road 5. Hickory trees blaze yellow. Maples can't decide. Red? Orange? Yellow? Hmmm...

Pumpkin pyramids stacked in roadside stands wait to be carved into faces by childish hands or baked into pies by more experienced hands. Some pumpkins still lie in the fields, nestled among the withered vines that sustained them through the stifling summer heat, slowly melding back into the rich soil.

Rain comes, straight and steady, and silver rings dot the lake like fish kisses. Metal gray skies, low cloud ceilings, mists and fogs can last for days. But, some days are perfection. Blue cloudless skies, awesome in their beauty, a color so rich it hurts the eye. Wistful winds flutter and sing, murmuring through the swaying trees. Tall tufts of wild grasses roll and dance in the fields. You find yourself caught between the urgency to hurry and prepare for winter, and the desire to just laze around and enjoy the gifts and the wonder of an autumn day.

"I love the fall, the mist and all..." I do!



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OCTOBER 2011

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**A Good Neighbor News** 



## SUPREME HARVEST

by Lori Poolerr Luscious smells of turkeys and hams alongside lie marshmallowed candied yams. Fluffy mashed potatoes drizzled in gravy stuffing & baked beans, pinto or navy. Various veggies; peas, carrots & corn ... cornucopia brimming from belly to horn. Overflowing with plums, peaches, apples & grapesmatching the décor on tablecloth & drapes. Cakes, cookies, candies & jellos colors of reds, greens, orange & yellows. Pies of puddings, fruits & crèmesmy belly smiles with these wonderful scenes. Saying grace before we devour for it'll all be too much after an hour. Our bellies shall bloat & clothes feel too tight, plenty of leftovers to indulge on tonight!

This wonderful feast comes round once a year heralding Christmas to come bringing cheer! Until next year we'll consume our fill ...

while mom cleans the mess and hands us her bill!

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# **OMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **Humane Societ 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.elkharthumanesociety.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!

### **Holiday Open House** at Joshica's Planet Canine

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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air conditioning system. I was very thankful when their very next question was "when can A Good Neighbor could go ahead and install our new system." Education is key. Know what you're paying for. Perhaps one day we will welcome you to the A Good Neighbor Family too!



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## THE MEMORY BANK by Bill Raybuck

I remember one Halloween as a child in Middlebury, walking down Main Street with my Dad who said, "Now Billy, we only go to houses that are lit up and the Porch light is on". My heart was pounding out of my chest, I almost couldn't speak... that house is HUGE I thought! Oh boy, the candy is going to be good from there; I mean look at all the cars! I remember stopping, my Dad looking at me and me pointing at what I thought would be the greatest stop of all time! My Dad smiled, laughed a little, and said "Billy... that's a Funeral Home, and you DON'T want any of that candy.

Ah, October... my favorite time of year. The leaves are starting to fall, and the weather is just cool enough for long sleeves. The food changes from burgers, steaks and chicken on the grill, to soups, stews and casseroles. Hazy memories of days gone by race through my mind, and I reminisce. This time of year to me feels different than any other... while some people mourn the loss of summer; I look around in wonder at the changing leaves. The colors are the best... dulling greens, vibrant reds, and bright yellows. To me, it's not a passing, it's a short rebirth.

How many of you take the time to see more than just the colors of the leaves? The sun shines differently, and even though the days begin to shorten, there's still so much to see. Take the time out your schedules to take a walk and look around. Use this time to give yourself back what you give away freely everyday... perspective.

Now... it's time for me to dig out the family cookbooks. Having both German and Polish heritage in my blood, I like to cook as much, if not more than eating. I would love to share some of these delicious recipes with you, but I was threatened with action from beyond the grave, and while you might think that's just silly... I'm not taking any chances! I use the time cooking and baking to talk to my family that has passed, and think back on times when I stood by the stove, mouth watering, waiting for a taste. I'm looking forward to filling up a crock pot and bringing it in to share with Bob and Brenda. Shhh, now don't tell them I said this, but I'm hoping they're so impressed, that they tell me to enjoy the rest of the day off.

Until next time, I wish you all peace and love, and remind you to take time to make memories that you can deposit into your own Memory Banks.



the front porch and light them at night. I always carved a pumpkin with a traditional face (I was so young at the time and back in the 60's that's pretty much all you would see where we lived). Pumpkin and gourd carving today is nothing like what it was all those years ago. Sure, I still see the traditional pumpkins with their toothy grins but the pumpkins I yearn to see year after year now are the ones that are delicately carved into 3D pieces of art and beautifully illuminated unlike anything I ever could have imagined as a child.





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or call Debbie @ (574) 262-

4478 for a registration form.

PHONE: 574-848-0026 COMMUNITY EVENTS ADOPT-A-PET ADOPTION EVENT

Sponsored by: The Humane Society of Elkhart County Date/Time: Saturday, October 15, 11 am – 2 pm Location; Family Video, 1126 Johnson Street, Elkhart For more information call: The Humane Shelter at 848-4225 Shelter Website: www.elkharthumanesociety.org

#### PET TOE NAIL TRIM FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by: The Humane Society of Elkhart County Date/Time: Monday, October 10, 3:30 - 5:30 pm Description: Pet toe nail trims provided for a donation. Proceeds to benefit The Humane Society of Elkhart County Location: Martins Pet & Garden, 116 W. Jackson Street, Elkhart For more information call: The Humane Shelter at 848-4225 Shelter Website; www.elkharthumanesociety.org

#### ADOPT-A-PET ADOPTION EVENT "WOOF-O-WEEN"

Sponsored by; The Humane Society of Elkhart County Date/Time: Saturday, October 29, 11 am – 2 pm

Location: Humane Society of Elkhart County 54687 CR 19, Bristol Description: A special Halloween adoption event (Woof-O-Ween) will be held at the Humane Shelter. Select a pumpkin from the wall for a discount of 10% - 50% on the adoption fee (with an approved adoption application). There will be a pet costume contest for the scariest, cutest and owner/ pet duo. Prizes will be awarded for all categories. Janet Graham will be available to take pet photos. The Red Barn Resale Shop will be open and offering a 10% discount on all sales during the Woof-O-Ween event. For more information call: The Humane Shelter at 848-4225 Shelter Website: www.elkharthumanesociety.org

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## From Our Kitchen POPCORN BALLS

## **INGREDIENTS:**

- 3/4 cup light corn syrup
- 1/4 cup margarine
- 2 teaspoons cold water

- 2 5/8 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup marshmallows
- 5 quarts plain popped popcorn

### DIRECTIONS

16

In a saucepan over medium heat, combine the corn syrup, margarine, cold water, confectioners' sugar and marshmallows. Heat and stir until the mixture comes to a boil. Carefully combine the hot mixture with the popcorn, coating each kernel.
 Grease hands with vegetable shortening and quickly shape the coated popcorn into balls before it cools. Wrap with cellophane or plastic wrap and store at room temperature.





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