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JANUARY 2013						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 <small>NEW YEAR'S DAY</small>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 <small>MLK, JR. DAY</small>	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



HOUSE FIRE PREVENTION TIPS:
 Use the tips on the back page for preventive measures to help ensure your household is safe and prepared in the event of a house fire.

The Frontside Features a Larger Calendar New Backside with Easy to Read Instructions

Frontsides

JANUARY 2013

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 <small>NEW YEAR'S DAY</small>	2	3	4	5
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HOUSE FIRE PREVENTION TIPS:
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Backsides

HOUSE FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

- Do not leave the stove unattended while cooking. Do not use water on grease fires. Replace or repair faulty appliances. Keep multi-purpose fire extinguishers available in the home.
- Avoid overloading extension cords and circuit breakers. Flickering lights and fuses that blow often are indications of problems. Keep electrical cords out of high-traffic areas.
- Use a metal mesh screen on your fireplace to contain hot embers, and leave glass doors open while burning a fire. Have your chimney inspected and cleaned once a year.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them regularly to ensure they are working, and replace the batteries with new ones twice a year.
- Have an evacuation plan in the event of a fire or emergency. Be sure to designate a meeting place outside the home.

Frontsides

FEBRUARY 2013

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BATHROOM ENERGY SAVING TIPS:
 Use the tips on the back page for easy ways to conserve energy and water usage in your bathrooms that will help you save money.

Backsides

BATHROOM ENERGY SAVING TIPS

- Retrofit or replace outdated water fixtures. Low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators save valuable water and energy without sacrificing comfort.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaking toilets. A leak of just one drop per second can waste 3,000 gallons of water per year.
- Take showers instead of baths. Showers, especially with water saver shower heads, use about half as much hot water as a bath. Limit your shower time to 10 minutes or less.
- Replace older toilets with a new low-gallon flushing toilet which uses much less water each time the toilet is flushed.
- Make your bathroom more energy-efficient by purchasing ENERGY STAR® qualified light fixtures. Switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs can save energy and money since they generate less heat than standard lighting.

Frontsides

MARCH 2013

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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SPRINGTIME MAINTENANCE TIPS:
 Use the tips on the back page for spring cleaning tasks at home. Set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 10, 2013.

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SPRINGTIME MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Inspect your roof for leaks, missing or broken shingles or tiles from winter damage. Also, check your attic to ensure there are no leaks in your ducts.
- Give the interior of your home a facelift with a new coat of paint. Choose a room and paint it with a new color for an updated look for much less money.
- Refresh and revitalize your home with a good spring cleaning inside and out. Clear away any remaining dead foliage and weeds from beds and lawns. Prepare new beds by clearing the planting area, and spread a 4-inch layer of compost over soil.
- Clean or replace your air heating/air conditioning air filters to keep your home comfortable. Remove dust from all grills and ducts. Also, change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

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APRIL 2013

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WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING TIPS:
 Use the tips on the back page to maintain your yard while saving time and money as well as conserving water.

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WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING TIPS

- Select plants wisely, and group them in zones according to their watering needs. Choose trees, shrubs, ground covers, perennials and annuals that grow well in your local climate. When possible, use drought-tolerant or native plants as they will require less watering and maintenance.
- Improve soil quality by adding organic matter such as compost. Fertile soil will improve drainage, moisture penetration, and water retention. Aerate compacted soil to reduce water runoff.
- Use mulch to retain soil moisture, reduce water use and prevent weeds. Place a two- to three-inch layer of mulch such as pine bark or shredded chips around trees and planting beds.
- Install sprinklers, drip emitters or soaker hoses to water your lawn and garden. Plan your irrigation schedule to allocate the appropriate amount of water to each zone of your garden.

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MAY 2013

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LAWN AND GARDEN TIPS:
 Use the tips on the back page to help you conserve energy for your lawn and garden, and save some green in the process.

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LAWN AND GARDEN TIPS

- Use organic gardening products and natural fertilization techniques whenever possible. Recycle your yard and garden waste and turn them into compost. Using compost helps plants grow strong, reducing the need for fertilizers.
- Trees can help cut your heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees on the south side of your home to provide shade during hot months, and evergreen trees on the north side to block winter winds.
- Reduce your landscape watering schedule or water only when your grass or plants show signs of needing it. Water during the coolest part of the day to avoid excess evaporation, and use drip-irrigation systems or soaker hoses directly at plants.
- Apply mulch around shrubs and garden plants to retain moisture in the soil and reduce the need for more water.

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JUNE 2013

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EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE TIPS:
 Use the tips on the back page to help you maintain your home's foundation and walls to avoid major repair bills later.

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EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Clean gutters and downspouts to prevent them from clogging with leaves and other debris. Make sure the downspout outlet drains water away from the house.
- Make a quick visual inspection around your foundation to make sure there are no cracks or gaps. Inspect the foundation walls for loose or cracked mortar. Replace any damaged bricks and fill in cracks.
- Check the base of your foundation walls all the way around the structure for evidence of termites. If you find small, papery wings around windows and doors, it's a sign you likely have a termite infestation.
- Check driveways and walks for cracks, breaks or erosion damage. Patching a hairline crack in concrete with a sealer can help prevent the crack from expanding.

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JULY 2013

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HOME REPAIR SAFETY TIPS:
 Use the tips on the back page to reduce your risk of injury when performing repair or improvement projects around your home.

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HOME REPAIR SAFETY TIPS

- Dress for the job. Always wear protective eyewear, clothing, boots and gloves as appropriate.
- Check drill bits, saws, and cutters regularly. Keep them sharpened to maintain efficiency, and to avoid unsafe conditions due to dull cutting edges.
- Keep products with electrical cords away from water. Check power tools before each use for frayed cords or broken plugs.
- When working at heights or climbing, position your ladder on a level surface. Keep your weight centered on the ladder, and don't lean out.
- Do electrical work only if you have the knowledge. Shut off circuit breakers, and make sure all circuits are dead before you start the work.

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AUGUST 2013

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KITCHEN ENERGY SAVING TIPS:
 Use the tips on the back page for ways to reduce energy consumption in your kitchen while saving you money.

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KITCHEN ENERGY SAVING TIPS

- Use the microwave whenever possible to prepare your meals as it consumes considerably less energy than stoves and conventional ovens.
- Cook smaller meals with electric pans or toaster ovens instead of turning on your stove or large oven. Also, using a pressure cooker can greatly cut energy use due to its fast cooking times.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer fully stocked since it takes more energy to cool an empty fridge. Remove old foods regularly so you don't waste electricity keeping them cold.
- Clean the condenser coils regularly to keep your refrigerator running efficiently and to reduce your electrical costs. Make sure your refrigerator and freezer door seals are airtight.
- Always run your dishwasher at full loads, and skip the heat drying cycle. Allow the dishes to air-dry on their own.

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SEPTEMBER 2013

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OUTDOOR LIGHTING TIPS:
 Use the tips on the back page for lighting techniques that will improve your home's appeal as well as increase security.

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OUTDOOR LIGHTING TIPS

- Select a few focal points of interest to highlight such as the front entrance or beautiful trees. Use spotlighting to show off a focal point such as a fountain, statue, or beautiful plant.
- Try spotlighting which casts light downward from an elevated height to illuminate a certain object. The elevated light is placed out of view such as in a tree.
- Utilize uplighting to cast light upward to illuminate tall plants or trees. This makes them look impressive and grand.
- Experiment with moonlighting by placing lights throughout the inside of a tree. This creates the dramatic illusion of moonlight filtering through the tree limbs.
- Try using shadowing on statues and garden sculptures by placing a light behind an object so that it casts a shadow on your landscaping.

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OCTOBER 2013

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TIPS TO ORGANIZE YOUR FRIDGE:
 Use the tips on the back page to get your refrigerator organized while keeping foods fresher and lasting longer.

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TIPS TO ORGANIZE YOUR FRIDGE

- Sort through your fridge's contents, and group like items together. Discard any expired foods or condiments. Store hardy items such as salad dressings and condiments on the door as this is the warmest area of the refrigerator.
- Avoid keeping eggs, butter and milk on the door, as the fluctuating warmer temperatures can cause them to go bad faster.
- Store poultry, fish, and raw meats in the meat drawer, and dairy products and meal leftovers on the bottom shelf as these are colder areas in the fridge. Vegetables are best stored in the crispener drawers since the humidity level is higher to help prevent wilting.
- For your refrigerator/freezer unit, designate one shelf for each type of frozen food. Use thick, labeled freezer bags or wraps to ensure everything stays in top condition.

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NOVEMBER 2013

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TIPS TO ORGANIZE YOUR HOME:
 Use the tips on the back page to help you get your home organized. Don't forget to set your clocks back on hour on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013.

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TIPS TO ORGANIZE YOUR HOME

- When removing clutter, be scrupulous of the items and their purpose when deciding what to keep. Set small goals, so you'll feel less stressed to get things done all at once. Plan different days to clean each room.
- Discard or donate any old collection that you no longer treasure, books and magazines, broken equipment, and any other odds and ends for which you have no need.
- Start with an area of your home that needs the least attention, and leave the most important room until last. This will help you finish the project. Avoid going from room to room as you clean. Stay focused in one area until you are done.
- Clear your closet clutter by donating clothes that you seldom wear or no longer fit. At the end of a season, transfer clothes into clear plastic containers for storage.

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DECEMBER 2013

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HOLIDAY HOME SAFETY TIPS:
 Use the tips on the back page for ways to help ensure you and your family will have a safe and joyous time during the holiday season.

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HOLIDAY HOME SAFETY TIPS

- Lock all doors and windows when leaving the house, even if only for a short time. For an extended leave, have a neighbor or family member get your mail. Install an automatic timer for indoor an outdoor lights.
- Mount your tree on a sturdy base. Keep it at least 3 feet away from furnaces, radiators and fireplaces. For an artificial tree, make sure it is fire-retardant.
- Replace any strings of lights that are frayed or broken. Be sure the lights are certified for indoor or outdoor uses.
- Some holiday plants such as mistletoe or holly berries can pose risks to small children and pets. Keep them well out of reach.
- Never leave candles unattended or near flammable materials such as books, curtains and tablecloths. Open the flame before lighting a fire, and use a screen when the fire is burning.