

JANUARY 2021

Neighbors Union

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The Harrisons

Jerry and Kim Harrison

**PROVIDING ROOMS
WITH LOVE**

Cover photo by
Nicole Grosser



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November 30.....	January
December 30	February
January 30.....	March
February 28.....	April
March 30	May
April 30.....	June
May 30.....	July
June 30.....	August
July 30.....	September
August 30.....	October
September 30	November
October 30.....	December

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By Dana Skulan, Content Coordinator

Hello Neighbors!

The New Year 2021 is here! Many of us have already been saying "Good riddance 2020! I'm glad this year is over!" But wait! Don't rush too quickly to say goodbye to what is likely for most of us, one of the most pinnacle and historic years of our lives. For some it has been devastating, for some it has been enlightening, for others it has been a time of enduring, and others a time of reprioritizing what matters most.

However this past year and its crazy circumstances have impacted you, let us take a moment to be grateful for whatever odd and unexpected blessings it has brought us. And let us look forward to how it can make us better. We get to choose. That in itself is a blessing.



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Happy New Year!



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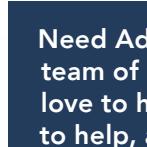
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Remodeling Tips for the Inexperienced Homeowner



Contributed by Christon Belden,
Expert Realtor, Huff Realty

Q: Is there any prep work homeowners should do before renovations begin?

A: Yes! Make your selections before you demo.

If you are not hiring a professional to help you select finishes and furniture, make sure you get everything selected and ordered beforehand. This way, you aren't holding up a bathroom project because your vanity is back-ordered for six weeks.

Also, measure for everything! If you are not doing drawings, then measure out spacing using blue tape. Then, you can see how everything will look in real-time and see if you need to make any last-minute adjustments or reselections.

Q: What should homeowners consider when choosing a contractor?

A: When hiring a contractor, the first thing I always say is make sure you like and trust them. Your living space is very personal. It's important that you feel comfortable asking questions and even pushing back if need be. That is always

easier if you have a good rapport with the person you've enlisted to run the project.

Also, don't automatically go with the least expensive person because you assume it's the best deal. Oftentimes, contractors are not bidding apples-to-apples. Make sure each person who is bidding knows what you want up front and can give you accurate (and realistic) pricing from the get-go.

Here are some Dos and Don'ts of remodeling:

DO set a budget. It's a great way to see where you are and if you have room to add along the way—since you undoubtedly will want to!

DO hire a general contractor. They will manage all of the trades in the most efficient manner and in the right order. Hire a professional and it will save you time, energy, and money in costly mistakes.

DO be patient. The truth is that most projects take longer than anticipated, and that's usually because homeowners add things along the way. So be patient with your trades and



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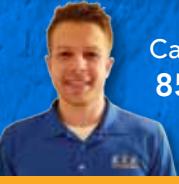
know that if you are adding to your scope of work, you need to add to your timeline as well.

DON'T wait to select or order your tile, plumbing, lighting, appliances, etc. It's much better for you and your team if the materials are already onsite when they start work.

DON'T forget to space plan! Lay out those lights and mirrors with blue tape in the bathroom, or tape out the furniture and rugs so you can see how it feels with the new kitchen layout and fireplace. This will save you time and money in the long run!



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The Harrisons

PROVIDING ROOMS WITH LOVE

By Dana Skulan Content Coordinator | Photos by Nicole Grosser

When our Publisher, Mike Murphy was preparing to move into his new home in Union, he knew some of his furniture wasn't going to work. Rather than try to sell the furniture, he looked on the Nextdoor app to see if there was someone locally who could really use it, or somewhere he could donate it to. Meet Kim and Jerry Harrison, who just happened to be looking on the same app for some furniture for a young woman named Tara who was moving out of her sober-living home to her own apartment and needed everything. Mike donated a bunch of needed items and Kim and Jerry began to explain about their growing ministry. Mike thought it was a story worth sharing with our readers. It was a connection nobody saw coming. "And that is part of the gift for us," Kim smiled, "the connections we make with so many people."

Kim and Jerry Harrison, who make Christ Chapel in Erlanger their church home, began working with their outreach team throughout Northern Kentucky. But when COVID hit, all the shelters shut down. Christ Chapel partnered with Urban Outreach and Welcome House, both in Covington, to help the homeless, some of whom were being housed in a hotel in Hebron, KY. "We went to volunteer by serving meals, taking temps, and we were attending bible studies", Kim said. "Friendships were forming, and connections were being made."

They quickly learned that when people are transitioning from homeless shelters or recovery centers to stable housing, the support often stops there. They get moved to an apartment but there is no furniture, no beds to sleep on and no dishes or utensils to eat with.

"Welcome House called us about Sheena. She and her four kids were getting a home quickly and needed furniture. We meet them and fell in love with her, and her kids, and you just want to do more. You want to help them," Kim shared softly. "She has no family, and you can see she has her hands full. And you say to yourself, how can we bless them more?"

Kim is also a team member of Cincinnati's ISP (Ignatius Spirituality Project). The Women's Team provides retreats to women that are homeless battling addiction. From the friends Kim meets at ISP and the work she and Jerry both did together with the homeless, they started seeing a need where they could help more by collecting furniture.

Kim said, "When it all started, we thought, we're going to collect furniture, post it on the Nextdoor app, explain what we're doing, who we're trying to help, and added if anyone has anything they want to donate, let us know. Then it all blew up - so many people responded and now we're making all these connections."

After having conversations with people from different organizations/agencies, word got out, and before they knew it their garage was filling up with donated furniture. Working through these different organizations/agencies they learned who needed what pieces and how to get it to them.

"I am also in recovery," Kim shared candidly. "My thing was alcohol, and it's been six years, so I've always wanted to give back and that was when I became a part of the ISP Group. I started meeting girls from Brighton Center. It was from these two experiences that we saw the need to do more."

Jerry and Kim were experiencing a new beginning in their own lives as well. They are practically newlyweds having met on a dating app in 2018 and marrying that same year. They settled in Silver Creek in Florence near Oakbrook. They each have grown children. Jerry has two daughters, Alexis Harrison and Samantha (Harrison) Drew and her husband Alec. Kim has two sons, Karl Luken and Kurt Luken. Together they found a family of faith at Christ Chapel where the outreach ministry has led them to help people make the transition to stable housing with the furniture they need to make it their home.

"Never in our life did we think at our age we'd be moving furniture," remarked Kim. And Jerry laughed, "We just moved into our house two years ago and I said then, I never want to move again." Kim chuckled, "And now we hunt things down for people!"

But this young ministry seems to have had a life of its own and Kim and Jerry are the first to admit that they are not sure where it is going to go, but it has already become larger than they ever expected and they see the need just growing.

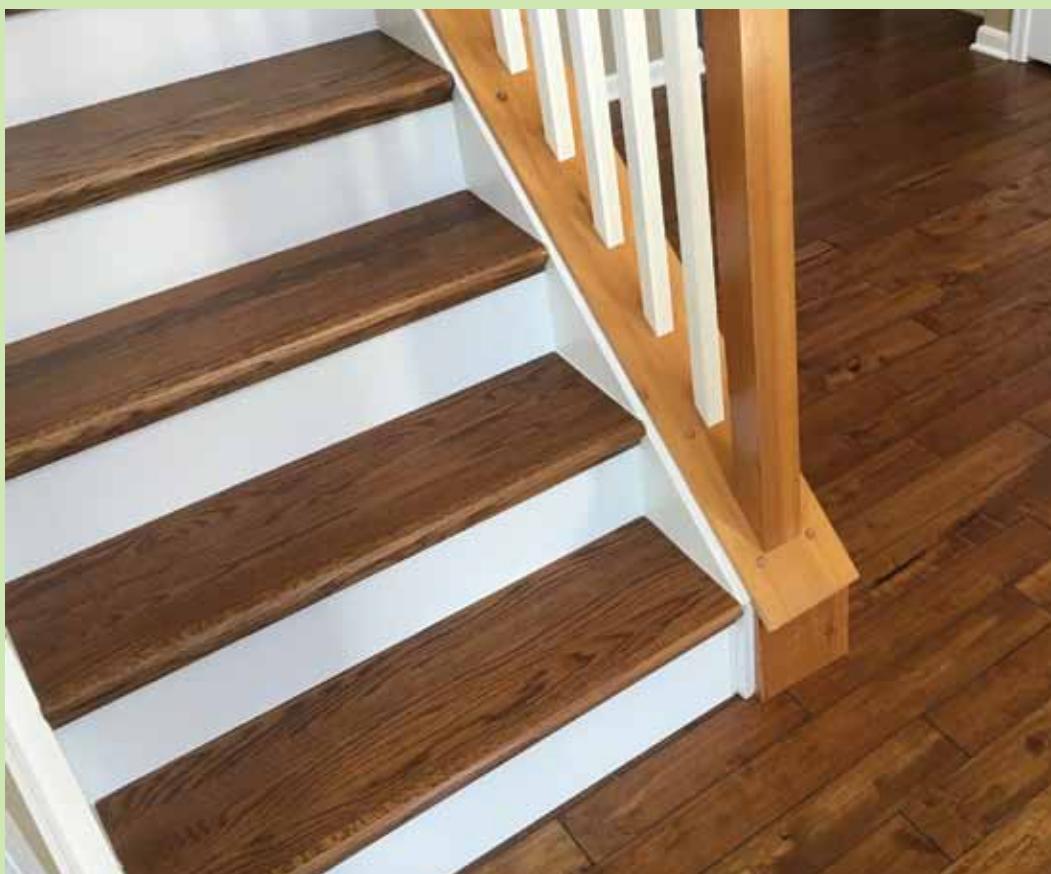
"We both were having dreams about what this ministry could be and Jerry heard the words 'Next Steps and New Beginnings and Leap of Faith' and then one morning I woke up with 'Filling Rooms with Love,' because we don't just want to fill their homes with furniture, we want to let them know we're thinking of them and sending love, we want to keep these connections going," Kim shared.

“

Friendships
were forming,
and connections
were being
made.

- Kim Harrison

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They have decided to call the ministry "Rooms with Love" because that is really what they are providing. They have outgrown their garage and rented a storage space and even that is filling up. They are looking to make even more connections to other programs that help people in transition as well as connect with other volunteers who have a heart for the homeless and those transitioning out of recovery. They are always on the lookout for small furniture pieces in good condition. The first item most people need is a bed, particularly when there are children and then they provide linens for them after that. Kim said, "One women didn't want a mattress, she wanted an air mattress, because she knew her situation wasn't permanent and she didn't want to have to move a bed." So air mattresses are uniquely helpful to people in transition. And Jerry added, "Microwave ovens are also needed because of the convenience." Sharing a meal together is so important for family bonding so it is not a surprise that there is also a need for utensils and dishes and small tables and chairs to sit on.

As Kim and Jerry work with different agencies they are reaching out to friends and neighbors and even people who are connected to the schools to find families in need. While they want to be able to help lots of people, storing the furniture until the need arises is an ongoing challenge. "There is an organization in Cincinnati called the 'New Life Furniture Bank,'" Kim said, "maybe we'll become that for Northern Kentucky. So, if someone has extra storage or warehouse space that would be great."

Kim and Jerry have always wanted to help people, and they have been drawn to help people in this particular circumstance. Jerry shared, "We've served in a lot of different ministries through church over the years. We've worked with kids, we've run services, we've served coffee, and then we started working in the outreach program. We were always a small part of what other people were doing. I felt good doing it, we both did, but I never felt like we were completely in the right area for us. This was the first thing we came across that felt right for both of us."

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We both felt pulled toward helping the homeless and Kim was already working with women in recovery. Kim added, "First you just want to share your love with them and let them try to see God through you. Sometimes we'll ask them if we can pray with them."

People can find themselves in transition for many different reasons and the issue of homelessness is too large for any one agency, ministry, or even government to handle. It takes many people, working with their gifts, to help people one at a time. "I don't think our hearts are to go to the streets, because we have been asked to do that with the homeless," Kim said. "But bring them to us and we're going to love on them; people need that, because we're all loveable, and I think I grew up always feeling like I wasn't. And it's not just the homeless that feel that way sometimes. We have helped those that have been leaving domestic violence, and those that have started over from battling addiction. And we would also love to partner with the schools, so no child is ever left sleeping on the floor."

Jerry shared humbly, "Over the years we've had a lot of interests, we've gotten involved in a lot of things, but for me, I feel like this was the first time where I felt like God was saying, this is what you are supposed to be doing. You've done all these things and that's great, but this is the plan I had for you." Kim added, "Most couples like going out to movies, we love just going out and getting furniture."

Only time will tell where "Rooms With Love" will go but in this season of challenge for the whole world, it seems this couple has found a way to provide some comfort to people who may not have always felt like they were a neighbor to anyone, because they didn't have anywhere to call home. Certainly, we all have the opportunity to be a good neighbor to one another and this may be a good place to start.

"We're being cautious at this point, because its already gotten bigger than we imagined," Kim said, "we just have to trust God. We could choose to worry, but we just have to trust, because it's all going to work out. It's all for Him. There is some discernment of course, but again, just listen and trust."

If you would like to learn more about Rooms With Love, contact Jerry and Kim Harrison via email: teamharrison120118@yahoo.com or by phone: Jerry Harrison @ 513-512-3517 or Kim Harrison @ 513-305-6918



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10 Car Care Tips to Keep Your Vehicle Running Safely



Contributed by Abe Tallon,
Owner, AutoMasters, Florence, KY

We have all heard these stories of cars and trucks lasting 200,000, 300,000, even 500,000 miles. What's the secret? Three words: maintenance, maintenance, maintenance.

Listed below are 10 maintenance tips to make the engine, transmission and other expensive parts of your vehicle last longer. Most importantly, read the owner's manual to avoid thousands of dollars in repairs.

- CHECK THE OIL:** The simplest task to increase the life of your vehicle is to maintain the proper amount of oil in the engine. Additionally, change the oil and filter at the intervals recommended in the owner's manual, for example, every 5,000, 7,500 or 10,000 miles. Oil lubricates the engine parts. Second, oil is a fluid that disperses heat. Some of the oil is burned off by the engine so it needs to be replenished when the level drops. Make sure it is the proper weight oil for your engine. "An engine runs hotter with less oil in it. The hotter it runs the more strain, stress that is put on the engine parts. You could blow the engine eventually, meaning it will need to be rebuilt or replaced, it's very expensive. It will not blow up if the engine is a quart of oil down, but when they start getting a couple of quarts down you can run into some interesting issues," Moritz said.
- FIGHT SLUDGE:** There's a big downside to short trips, stop-and-go traffic, as well as long trips when there is a heavy load on the engine, for example, pulling a trailer. The enemy: Sludge. Sludge is a petroleum byproduct that is a gooey,



black-colored substance that builds up in an engine. It is a major contributor to engine problems. Changing the engine oil at prescribed intervals or more frequently will reduce the probability of sludge buildup and extend the life of the engine. To avoid sludge, follow the owner's

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manual for oil and filter changes or switch to synthetic oil, which is not petroleum based. Many fleets use synthetic oil.

- 3. TIMING BELT REPLACEMENT:** Your car's engine has either a rubber composite timing belt or timing chain. The device connects the crankshaft to the camshaft, which is synchronized with the opening and closing of the engine's valves. If your car has a timing belt, follow the owner's manual to determine when the belt should be replaced. "Rubber belts break and when they do that's the end of the engine, it is catastrophic, you are done," Moritz said. To avoid disaster, the timing belt should be replaced at intervals recommended by the automaker, usually between 50,000 and 110,000 miles. The cost to replace the timing belt isn't cheap but it is thousands less than rebuilding the engine.
- 4. CHECK POWER STEERING FLUID:** Older vehicles and some new models have a hydraulic power steering pump that is lubricated by power steering fluid. The pump's reservoir has a screw-type cap that lifts off, so the fluid level can be checked. If the pump runs dry, it can fail and require a replacement costing hundreds of dollars. A few symptoms of a power steering problem are squealing noises when turning the steering wheel or heavy or stiff steering. Newer vehicles have electric power steering; there are no fluids.
- 5. TRANSMISSION FLUID REPLACEMENT:** Having the proper amount of fluid is critical because it cools the transmission, lubricates moving parts and smooths the shifts between gears. However, the fluid deteriorates over time. Frequent stop-and-go driving or pulling a trailer accelerates deterioration. Under those conditions the transmission's operating temperature rises, putting a strain on the transmission's components and the fluid. Automakers recommend more frequent fluid replacement under those conditions. Check the owner's manual for details.
- 6. RADIATOR COOLANT FLUSHING:** Coolant has rust inhibitors that break down over time. Rust and corrosion can build up and harm an engine, plug a thermostat and damage a water pump. Some automakers recommend a coolant change every 30,000 miles, some suggest over 100,000 miles. Again, check the owner's manual.
- 7. TOP OFF BRAKE FLUID:** While you are under the hood checking fluids, it's a good time to check the brake fluid level. Place the vehicle on a level surface, then unscrew the reservoir cap. The brake fluid level should be between the minimum and maximum marks in the fluid reservoir. Use the automaker's recommended fluid and add to the proper level. Replacing the brake fluid will not increase the longevity of the brake system but it might save your life.
- 8. TRANSFER CASE MAINTENANCE:** This is a very expensive repair when things go wrong. The fluid inside the transfer case on all-wheel and four-wheel-drive vehicles needs to be replaced at prescribed intervals. Follow the recommendations in the owner's manual.

9. ROTATE YOUR TIRES: Tires are expensive, so you want them to last. The owner's manual will say when the tires should be rotated and alignment checked. Equally important is maintaining the proper air pressure to get more miles out of each tire. A sticker on the driver's door frame lists the tire pressure for the front and rear tires.

10. HAVE A CLEAN ENGINE AIR FILTER: A dirty air filter can reduce miles per gallon, hurt engine performance and contribute to higher engine emissions.

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PENDING

Address	Price	Beds	Baths	Address	Price	Beds	Bath
10759 Omaha Trace	\$1,800,000	4	8 (5 3)	851 Hancock Court	\$385,000	4	3 (2 1)
10817 Silver Charm Lane	\$775,000	5	5 (4 1)	599 Savannah Drive	\$360,000	4	3 (2 1)
10638 Pegasus Court	\$699,900	4	5 (5 0)	10745 War Admiral	\$350,000	4	4 (3 1)
1608 Big Brown Court	\$690,500	4	4 (4 0)	463 Mustang Drive	\$350,000	3	3 (2 1)
1308 Oxley Court	\$525,000	5	5 (4 1)	10085 Cedarwood Drive	\$349,000	5	4 (3 1)
910 Whirlaway Drive	\$474,800	4	4 (3 1)	1192 Del Mar	\$335,000	4	3 (2 1)
1400 Cordero Court	\$439,900	4	4 (3 1)	10088 Cedarwood Drive	\$330,000	4	3 (2 1)
1237 Monarchs Ridge	\$415,000	4	3 (2 1)	1307 Scottish Lane	\$305,000	4	3 (2 1)

SOLD

Address	Price	Beds	Baths	DOM	Address	Price	Beds	Baths	DOM
10600 Laurin Court	\$800,000	4	5 (4 1)	52	1395 Ponder Court	\$506,500	4	4 (3 1)	19
10729 Meadow Stable	\$745,000	4	4 (3 1)	462	1044 Aristides Drive	\$483,000	4	3 (2 1)	3
13031 Barbaro Drive	\$715,000	5	5 (4 1)	29	1046 Spectacular Bid Drive	\$439,000	3	3 (2 1)	157
10617 Secretariat Run	\$697,000	4	5 (4 1)	2	10602 Mountain Laurel Way	\$435,000	5	4 (4 0)	2
1342 Prado Drive	\$640,000	3	4 (3 1)	88	521 Termar Court	\$410,000	5	4 (3 1)	5
11011 Arcaro Lane	\$545,000	3	3 (2 1)	17	892 Keeneland Green Drive	\$395,000	4	3 (3 0)	85
2574 Twin Hills Court	\$510,000	4	4 (3 1)	11	9765 Cobalt Way	\$380,000	3	3 (3 0)	2

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Natural Remedies Using Honey

By Beth Dunphy

Sometimes, when you're looking for a natural alternative to over-the-counter medications, the cure could be closer than you think!

We're a beekeeping family, so honey is plentiful, and we use it for everything. Not only does it go on top of toast, yogurt, oatmeal, and fruit...we also use it for some common ailments. Before you run to the grocery store, though, remember that not all honey is created equally. Oftentimes, supermarket or store-bought honey is processed and devoid of nutritional or medicinal value. Local, raw, unprocessed honey straight from the hive is the golden ticket.

COUGH A spoonful of honey will coat your throat and soothe irritated nerve endings, making it a perfect nighttime routine. You can also add a teaspoon to your nighttime tea or a mug of hot water to help make it a cough-free night.

SLEEP Honey causes a rise in insulin, which triggers the release of serotonin, a neurotransmitter linked to mood and happiness. Serotonin is then converted to melatonin (a chemical in our brains for regulating sleep). This safe and effective "sleeping aid" can be given to children (one year and older) or adults before bed.

BURNS Applying a coat of this golden goodness to wounds or burns, and then adding a bandage, has been proven to speed up the healing process. Honey has an antibacterial property as well as naturally occurring hydrogen peroxide, making it perfect for healing.

BREAKOUT When applied as a mask to acne-prone areas – and allowed to sit for 15 to 20 minutes – raw, unprocessed honey may reduce inflammation and redness. The natural antibacterial properties can improve your skin's overall appearance.

BITE RELIEF Honey's natural anti-inflammatory properties may also help with itch relief. Try a drop on an irritating mosquito or spider bite to speed up the healing process and relieve some of the itching.

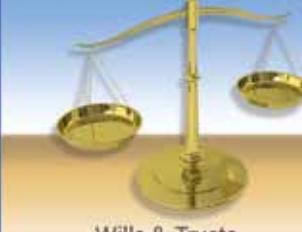
IMMUNE BOOST Because of honey's natural healing and antibacterial properties, a daily teaspoon of honey (with a sprinkle of cinnamon on top) may help give your immune system the winter boost it needs. The fact that it's a delicious combo is just a bonus.

Honeybees are some of the most fascinating creatures on planet Earth. The fact that they make this amazing golden product – which not only tastes delicious but offers so many health benefits to humans – is truly remarkable. Find a local supplier to purchase your own raw, unprocessed honey and add it to your family's medicine cabinet. Save the bees!

Source: The Old Farmer's Almanac



Thomas Collins
Attorney at Law



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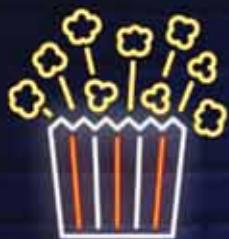
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MOVIE NIGHT

SWEET 'N SALTY SNACKS

By Roberta C. Nelson

Movie theaters might be a thing of the past. Luckily, streaming services and online movie rentals are available to solve the problem. Watch movies at home! You can even serve buttered popcorn or make some snacks. You won't even have to leave the house! Here are a couple of our favorites.



HOMEMADE CRACKER JACK

- ¾ cup dark molasses
- 1½ cups dark brown sugar, or mixed light and dark brown
- 1 Tbsp. vinegar
- ½ cup (two sticks) butter
- ½ tsp. fine salt
- A big batch of lightly salted popcorn
- 1 cup Spanish peanuts (skins on)

Mix the molasses, sugar, vinegar, butter and salt in a saucepan. Using a candy thermometer, heat at 280°F, stirring frequently, until sugar is dissolved. Use parchment paper to line a sheet pan large enough to hold the popcorn and peanuts in one layer. Pour the sugar-butter mixture over the popcorn and peanuts. Stir around a little to try and cover it all. Serve when cool.



SNACK MIX

- 1 cup rice square cereal
- 2 cups wheat square cereal
- 1 cup toasted oats cereal
- 1 small package of pretzel sticks
- ¾ cup peanuts without skins

Melt:

- 6 Tbsp. butter
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- ½ onion salt
- ½ tsp. seasoned salt
- ½ tsp. garlic salt (optional)

Preheat oven to 250°F. Add the melted butter mixture to the cereal mix. Spread in a sheet pan. Place in the preheated oven for 45 minutes, stirring every 4 to 5 minutes.

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Senior Vice President, Investments

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Senior Investment Management Specialist

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Spring Lawn Care Tips



Contributed by Expert Contributor Dale Unkraut,
Owner, Pro Lawn Care of NKY

Winter has just begun, and Springtime seems far away...but now is the time to plan for Spring lawn care.

A healthy summer lawn starts with spring maintenance. Winter can alter soil pH, compact the soil, and create conditions friendly to weeds and disease, so it's crucial that you properly clean, fertilize and mow your yard early in the season. So what can you do when winter's receding snow reveals bare spots, invasive plants and other problems with your patch of green? Don't panic -- break out the broadcast spreader and click through our list of spring lawn care tips.

CLEANING AND REPAIRING YOUR LAWN IN SPRING

If your lawn is already well-maintained, all you need to do is give it a light raking once the ground has dried out. However, problem areas should be addressed quickly, as they can stress your lawn and make it more susceptible to weeds and disease.

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One common problem that plagues lawns, particularly in high-traffic areas, is soil compaction. This occurs when the soil becomes densely packed, making it difficult for grass to take root and allowing hardier weeds to take over. To test your yard for this problem, stick a garden fork into the ground. If the tines fail to penetrate 2 inches (5.08 centimeters), your soil is compacted and should be loosened with an aerator designed to remove small plugs of soil from your lawn.

Even if the soil is properly prepared, you can still have a problem with thatch, a tangle of above-ground roots common in dense, spreading grasses like Bermuda and Zoysia. In especially bad cases, a thick mat of thatch can make it difficult for water and nutrients to reach the soil. You can break up thatch with a specially designed rake or with a mechanized de-thatcher for larger jobs.

PLANTING GRASS IN THE SPRING

Once you've cleaned and repaired your lawn, you may need to reseed parts of it that are particularly bare or brown. This can dramatically improve the appearance of your grass, but there are a few simple steps you should follow to ensure that it won't look worse after you plant than it did before.

First try to address the soil conditions that prevented grass from growing in the past. Call your local Cooperative Extension office to find out where you can get a soil test; this will tell you what nutrients your lawn is lacking. Once you've corrected your soil composition, aerate the ground to avoid any problems with soil compaction.

Now you're ready to buy seed and spread it on your lawn. Before choosing a seed, determine which varieties will work best in your region of the country and with the amount of sunlight in your yard. Then roughly estimate the size of the area where you plan to plant, as seed coverage is recommended in pounds per square foot. If you're spreading the seed over a large area, it is best to use a broadcast spreader, but smaller areas can be seeded by hand.

Don't ignore the grass once you've planted it. Water regularly to maintain soil moisture and fertilize with a slow-release, low-nitrogen product. Mow when the grass reaches 3 or 4 inches in height, but try not to trim off more than a half-inch, as doing so could stress the plant.

FERTILIZING GRASS IN THE SPRING

Once your grass is well-established, you can encourage its growth and discourage weeds by applying a combination of fertilizers and herbicides. When you should apply these substances and how much you should apply depends on several factors, like where you live and the extent of your weed problem.

Fertilizer can help your lawn grow thick and lush, but if it's not used properly, it can actually damage the grass. A slow-release nitrogen fertilizer is best, and no more than 1 pound of nitrogen should be spread per 1,000 square feet. It should be applied early in the season when the turf begins actively growing, so the timing varies among regions. Fertilizer should not be applied too early or late, however, as lingering cold or early heat can stress the grass. Check the packaging to see when and how much you should water after applying the fertilizer.

Herbicides must also be used with care, as their effectiveness often depends on when they're used. If you have a widespread weed infestation, it's best to apply a pre-emergent herbicide to your lawn before the seeds germinate in the spring. Be aware, however, that you can't use this treatment if you plan to plant new grass, as the herbicide will also prevent those seeds from germinating. For more isolated problems, spot treating with a non-selective herbicide should be enough to do the trick. Ultimately, the best way to discourage weeds is to have a thick, healthy lawn.

HOW TO MOW YOUR LAWN IN THE SPRING

It may surprise you that there's more to grass cutting than cranking up the lawnmower and pushing it across the lawn. Both mowing height and frequency are important to the health of your grass.

Though it may reduce the number of times you have to mow, cutting your grass short is harmful to your lawn in the long run. Mowing with a low blade height removes nutrients stored in leaf blades and exposes the soil to sunlight, allowing weeds to take hold more easily. Taller grass is better able to compete with weeds, thanks to a larger root system and a higher tolerance for heat. It also shades the ground, allowing the soil to retain water more effectively.

Mow your lawn often enough so that you're only removing the top one-third of the blades. This places less stress on the grass, and the smaller clippings are able to decompose more easily. Avoid bagging these clippings; this added organic matter is actually quite good for the soil.

Of course, if you prefer to turn your lawn maintenance needs over to our staff of experienced professionals, we would be happy to provide a no-cost estimate. Just call our Union area Owner / Consultant, Mike Singleton, at 859-957-7915.

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