

Home Advisor™

Reliable news for healthy living, saving money, and having fun! May 2011



Michael



Janine



Buddy - President

Dear Friends,

Did you know that May is National Bike Month. It's a chance for people to consciously promote cycling and the many ways bicycling is such a fun and useful way to get around.

Many events in National Bike Month are clustered around the week of May 12-16. In particular, Friday, May 16 is National Bike to Work day. Many communities make a big deal out of this, with refueling stops along the way for cyclists to grab a bagel or some coffee, mingle just a bit and celebrate the event.

There are a number of terrific places to ride in our area. Below are a few of our favorites:

- Along the Fairfield County Coast starting at Compo Beach in Westport and travelling east to Jennings' Beach in Fairfield
- Cranbury Park in Norwalk has some great trails and dogs can run the trails to. This is a favorite place of Buddy's.
- Downtown Fairfield or Milford is also great with plenty of places for a bite to eat and just relax.
- The Housatonic Rail Trail in Trumbull overlooks the winding Pequonnock River for much of its 3.4 miles. Rapids and distinctive rock outcrops add interest. The trail begins on the railroad corridor, strays from it, then returns to emerge at Old Mine Park. .

Your Friend's at Floor Decor

P.S. Be sure to check out this Months great deal on how you can earn \$250 in FREE GAS!

Special Days in May:

May 2	World Laughter Day
May 3	Two Different Colored Socks Day
May 5	Cartoonist's Day
May 9	National Miniature Golf Day
May 9	Lost Sock Memorial Day
May 10	Clean Up Your Room Day
May 11	Twilight Zone Day
May 13	Leprechaun Day
May 18	Visit Your Relatives Day
May 23	World Turtle Day
May 27	Janine's Birthday!
May 31	What You Think Upon Grows Day

Inside this issue...

- Are you this month's Mystery Winner?
- Special Days in May
- Moneywise – Tips for Teens
- Pet Populations
- Mega Trivia Contest
- Friendships in the Workplace
- Client of the month
- About staying well – An Apple a Day
- (Relatively) Painless Ways to Save Money
- World Record Purr
- Welcome to our new and returning clients!

Attention Jude Healy!

You are this month's
Mystery Winner!
We have a \$10.00 gift card to
Starbucks reserved just for you!
Come by our store to claim your
prize!

Floor Décor
363 Boston Post Road
Orange CT 06477
203-298-4081

Did You Know?

You Can Get The Home Advisor Delivered To You Online!

Call Janine to sign up 203-298-4081. It's FREE and you can cancel at any time.

As a Home Advisor subscriber you will receive all of the following:

Special of the month: you'll get an email notifying you of any specials, after-hours events, client appreciation events, etc. These are NOT made available to the general public, and are for previous clients and their referrals ONLY.

Referral Reward Program: each month you'll get an email notifying you of that month's referral reward.

E-Book: the Consumer's Guide To Floor Covering. Makes a valuable gift for anyone you know who is getting ready to buy new floors.

You'll also find our online store, online spotting guide, and tons of testimonials from Floor Décor's super-satisfied clients. Check it out at www.FloorDecorCT.com.

Mega Trivia Contest!

Who Else Wants to Win dinner for two at Lisiano's Italian Restaurant!

This month's MegaTrivia question...

Which of these movie monsters is the oldest? A) Godzilla; B) King Kong; C) The Mummy; D) Dracula; or E) Frankenstein

To enter, email your answer to jphoenix@FloorDecorCT.com. Take your best guess...your chances of winning are better than you think!

**Answer to last months quiz:
Toronto, Canada & Fargo, ND**

Congratulations to last month's winner: Kim Baker

Moneywise: Tips for Teens

It's never too young to start learning about money. Here are some suggestions that will serve young people well all their lives:

- Don't spend every cent of your income – many teens have part-time jobs, or allowances, or both. A great majority of them spend it all on music, movies, clothing, or whatever they please. It's a very good idea to establish the saving habit young.
- Invest in yourself – this is the best time of your life to put money into your own future. Build the qualifications for a realistic career in a profession that suits your talents and inclination.
- If you don't know what that career might be, try interning or volunteering in a few of the fields that appeal to you.
- Don't overdo the debt – it's unrealistic to build up a huge student debt if your prospective wages are much lower. You often see the Rule of 10 quoted: you must land a job that pays \$10,000 more than your total student loan to pay it off within ten years. This assumes you pay 10% a year.
- Get a realistic idea of what your future costs will be. Many teens are unaware of the details, and underestimate bills by a large factor. Find out how much it actually costs to rent/buy that condo you crave!
- Don't abuse credit cards – they will come back to bite you. If you must have one, always make your payments on time and pay attention to the monthly statements.
- Watch your bank fees! Unless you have a package plan, your account can be nibbled away by the charges on small debit card purchases. Try taking out the budgeted amount for the week in cash, pay for your lattes with that, but when it's gone it's gone.

Pet Populations

We hear a lot about human population, but it turns out the number of animal companions is soaring. Some of the pets we choose are pretty strange!

Here's a brief rundown of some of the critters we choose to live with:



	# Households owning Pet	Number Pets Owned
Bird	5.7	16.2
Cat	38.9	86.4
Dog	46.3	78.2
Equine	2.4	7.9
Freshwater Fish	11.9	151.1
Saltwater Fish	0.7	8.61
Reptile	4.6	13.0
Small Animal	5.0	16.0

(All numbers in the millions. Figures are taken from the 2011-2012 APPA National Pet Owners Survey)

Luxury Vinyl Wood Planks



Installed at Lyon & Billard Showroom

Thank You For The Kind Words!

"My new laminate floors in my kitchen and dining room are beautiful. I was treated with respect and courtesy as a single woman raising a daughter. I genuinely felt that the Floor Décor staff display concern for my flooring needs and were a guiding light for me. I recommend their service to anyone looking for a supportive, positive experience."

-Nancy Reiner

"We Recently went to Floor Decor for new tile for our bathroom, and we're thrilled with the results! This is our third time using Floor Decor. They make you feel like you've known them forever, making you feel right at home from the start. You will never feel uncomfortable for asking questions and they'll do anything in their power to accommodate your needs. When you do business with Floor Decor, you will be treated like royalty. Our experience was painless and very professional. The staff at Floor Decor is not only our flooring experts, they're our friend's. That's how they make you feel. With our sincere Thanks!"

-Craig & Marcy Snyder

Client of the Month

Congratulations to our client of the month **Bill Stanske**. Bill is a 3rd time returning client, and he recently purchased new carpet and tile for his home. Thanks, Bill!

As always, our clients of the month receive a surprise special gift from their friends at Floor Decor.

Watch for your name here in a coming month!

Work Tips – Friendship in the Workplace

Being friends with your co-workers certainly beats being their enemies, but there are points on both plus and minus sides of the ledger.

PLUS:

- Collegial atmosphere – the days pass more pleasantly in a friendly environment
- Networking in the workplace – you may build relationships that benefit your career down the road
- Positive collaboration – a team approach facilitates creative production

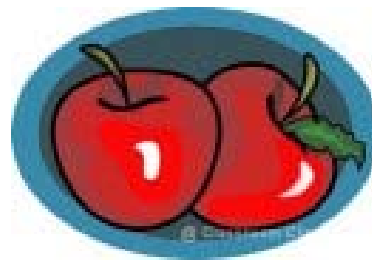
MINUS:

- Bad behavior may go unreported when friends are involved
- TMI – sharing too much information can cause problems if your confidant spills the beans or is promoted to become your boss
- Slacking off – friends inclined to goof off can cover for each other

In most cases though, the pluses prevail. Employees are more productive, happier and less likely to call in sick if the work environment is positive. Just use your common sense.

About Staying Well - An Apple a Day

The old adage, "an apple a day keeps the doctor away", won't help you in many cases, but the humble apple has a lot going for it.



Bone Protection – phloridzin & boron may strengthen bones

Cholesterol – pectin lowers LDL (bad cholesterol)

Diabetes – pectin supplies galacturonic acid, which may help in the management of diabetes

Cancer Prevention – apple eaters, in a number of studies including one at Cornell University, seem to have a lower rate of incidence of a number of cancers

Weight Maintenance – apples make a good between-meal snack, providing fiber and nutrients

Antioxidants – apples are high in quercetin, a potent antioxidant

Immune System – quercetin boosts the immune system too

Regularity – it's all about the fiber!

Teeth – "Apples, for example, have been called nature's toothbrush because they stimulate the gums, increase saliva flow and reduce the build-up of cavity-causing bacteria." (World Dental. Org)

\$\$ (Relatively) Painless Ways to Save Money \$\$

We'd all like to find ways to cut our costs. Here are 10 ways to save money that won't hurt much:

1. Bundle: if it's possible, combine your phone, internet & television – one provider may offer you savings
2. Eat in: if you must eat out, restrict it to once a week
3. Request reduced interest rates on your credit cards or line of credit – they can only say “no”
4. Borrow books & DVD's from the library
5. Read magazines & newspapers online
6. Pay your mortgage bi-weekly instead of monthly
7. Avoid charges wherever you can – bank fees, late payment fees, credit card interest
8. Pay home, life, and car insurance annually or semi-annually for cost savings
9. Stop unnecessary purchases like smoking, drinking and fast food – your health will benefit too
10. It isn't a bargain if you don't need it

World Record Purr

Will Smokey the cat make the Guinness World Record? She has a purr as loud as a Boeing 747! Smokey lives in England with her human Ruth Adams, and they're waiting for word.



Their record attempt got help from Northampton College technicians, who came over to the house with professional recording equipment. Smokey performed like the star she is, reaching 73 decibels, about 16 times louder than the average cat!

WARNING!

**Don't visit any flooring dealer until you read our
“Consumer's Guide to Flooring”**

You will learn...

- 4 predatory sales tactics
- 7 costly misconceptions about flooring
- 5 questions to ask a dealer before buying.

New Friends And Clients!

Meet our new clients...

Chester Kasprzycki, Ellen Azize, Jeanna Szostek, Jessica & Greg Snajder, Jim Lampert, Joe Viniclay, Joy Carloni, Kevin Aniscovich, Logan Beirne, Mark Wezenski, Paul Champion, Robert Okula, Tom Keller, Toni Perry, Debbie McCallum, Gail Walker, Garrett Doering, Ken Dugan, Mark Bishop, Pat & Cheryl Henri, Sam Pollastro, Sherry Kasowitz.

Welcome back to our returning clients...

Art & Joanne Dixson, Bill Stanske, Carinne & Frank Mossa, Al Zuppe, Tony Giamo, John Longobardi, Bill Cable, Lucien Birkler, Mike Santos, Peter & Kirsten Naumann, Rhoda Frazier.

Get A Night Out At The Movies For 2 With My *Referral Rewards Program*

As you probably know, advertising is very expensive. Instead of paying the newspaper or other place to advertise, I'd rather reward you. So I've assembled my ***Referral Rewards Program***. Every time you refer someone who becomes a client, I will send you a gift certificate for two passes to the Connecticut Post 14 Cinema De Lux.. And Hey! What's a movie without popcorn? The gift certificate will also cover a big box of hot, buttered popcorn and sodas!

Information About Us

FLOOR Décor

Luxury Floors At Affordable Prices

363 Boston Post Road

Orange CT 06477

203-298-4081

www.FloorDecorCT.com