

Home News of the Triangle

News To Help You Save Time And Money

Summer 2014

When Everyone Wins

There was a Special Olympics race and eight children glowed in anticipation of the event. Excitedly the children all took their places and got ready for the start of the race.

A starter gave them the signal and shouted, “Get on your mark, get set—goooo!” And the children sprinted out. Soon one girl clearly took the lead with the other children running to catch up.

However, back in the pack of runners, one boy, who had gotten off to a slower start, tripped and fell. He began to cry on the racetrack. He whimpered and tears spilled down his cheeks.

The leader of the race, a girl with Down syndrome heard her opponent’s anguish—and though she was clearly set to win the race she stopped and ran back to the boy. When she reached him, she gingerly dropped down and gave him a kiss on the knee and then she wiped away his tears.



When the other runners saw what was going on they also turned around and ran back. Together they pulled the boy up—then they set off to finish the race they had begun.

As the children approached the finish line it was hard to find a dry eye among the spectators. The runners came down the final stretch toward the finish line—with their arms linked. And each one of them was absolutely delighted to be together.

—adapted from *Relationships of Grace*, by Chris Karcher

Win A Prize!

Check Out Quiz Question on Page 3

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Is there someone around you who could use a hand to get to the finish line? Can you lend one?

Amy Shair

Need More Staff?

A woman walked up to the manager of the hardware store and asked, “Are you hiring?”

“No, I’m afraid we’re fully staffed right now,” said the manager.

“In that case, would you mind finding someone to help me in the paint aisle?”

Driving Gas Savings

Like death and taxes, rising gas prices are unavoidable, especially in the summer. Here are some tips for saving money at the gas pump:



- Drive more slowly on the open road. The most fuel-efficient speed may be the point at which your car shifts to high gear, somewhere around 50mph/80kph. Going faster in high gear will further reduce efficiency.
- Avoid drag. Get rid of roof racks. Avoid carrying equipment outside of the car on long trips. If buying a new car, consider the sleeker models rather than boxy models. Drag can reduce gas mileage significantly.
- Avoid slow and go driving, where you race up to a stop or behind another car, brake, then accelerate again.
- Don't be idle. Letting your car run when you're not going anywhere wastes fuel—you can burn through one-eighth of a gallon idling your motor for 10 minutes. Turn off your engine if you expect to be stationary for more than 30 seconds.
- Stay in tune. Change air filters, motor oil, and spark plugs, regularly.
- Inflate tires correctly. Check your tire pressure often when the air temperature fluctuates. Hot air will have higher pressure, and cool air will have lower pressure. If you make radical adjustments based on air temperature, be sure to recheck the pressure again frequently.
- Fill up on gas often whenever you see a low-priced gas station rather than waiting until you're down to your last drops and can't look for the best price.

When The Ants Go Marching In...

Most of us don't want to share a home with ants, but we don't want to douse the place with insecticide to keep them out, either. Here are a few natural treatments to keep ants at bay:

Cinnamon. Place a few cinnamon sticks where you spot ants crawling into your house. The odor will send ants away. (Garlic cloves work, too.)

Vinegar. Spray some apple or white vinegar on areas where ants have set up shop.

Black pepper. Sprinkle a little pepper when you see ants. Watch where they run to, and treat that area as well to prevent them from returning.

Mint. The scent of mint can disrupt ants' sense of smell. Plant mint outside, especially near doors and windows, and place a few mint leaves in and around your windows.

Time for a check-up?

Jay's HVAC can help keep you cool all summer and warm all winter.



Call Jason Ibrahim
at 919-798-4455

The Power Of Praise

The British novelist Arnold Bennett had a publisher who boasted often about the outstanding work of his secretary. Waiting on an appointment one day at the publisher's office, Bennett approached her with a smile. "Your boss claims you're extremely efficient," he said. "What is your secret?"



"It's not my secret," the secretary said. "It's his."

She explained that the publisher never failed to acknowledge and appreciate every task she performed, no matter how routine or seemingly insignificant. Because of his attention and praise, she took great pains to deliver good work all the time.

AMANDA BAXLEY,
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Timely Gardening Tips

Remove Flower Seeds – As you make the rounds of your garden, clip away faded flowers of plants that make seed including crepe myrtle, rhododendron and azalea to help develop more flower buds for next season's bloom.

Dig Flower Bulbs – As soon as foliage dies down, dig tulips, Dutch iris, narcissus, and other hardy bulbs. Divide and replant bulbs immediately, or store in a cool, dry place and plant them this fall. It isn't necessary to dig them up each year, but at least take them up and divide often enough to keep them from becoming root bound.

Summer Pruning – For bushy well-shaped plants that bloom profusely, prune shrubs as they grow. Prune by cutting or pinching out growing tips to make vigorous new shoots from several branches. In June, prune abelia, forsythia, privets, mock orange, deutzia, althea, bush honeysuckle, weigelia and euonymus.



Prune Climbing Roses after they bloom; fertilize at that time.

Hang up the hummingbird feeders!

Divide cannas – clumps of cannas should be divided every three or four years to encourage flowering and set root sections 5-6 inches deep, 15 inches apart.

Summer Quiz Question

Question: In this US city, clocks are not allowed in certain buildings, even though over 37 million people visit them every year. What city is it?

The first person to call in with the right answer will win a prize!

Call Amy at [919-469-6539](tel:919-469-6539) with your quiz answer.

NOTE: It usually takes 2 days for the winning answer – don't hesitate to try!

The Spring Quiz Winner was Deborah Johnson.

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**Check Out the Quiz Question &
Back Cover for Local List of Fireworks**

FIREWORKS !

Check out Amy's latest blog post for a list of activities, celebrations and fireworks for the July 4th weekend!



Scan the QR Code or type in the address below to see the list:

<http://www.amyshair.com/blog/>



Amy Shair
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