

Your Comfort Solution

Ideas To Improve Your Home Life

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DuAll Heating and Cooling is a family owned and operated business based in Bolingbrook, Illinois. We are licensed, bonded and insured. We service all types of furnaces, air conditioners and water heaters. We currently install Trane, Amana, Ruud, and Goodman Heating and Air conditioning equipment. These companies offer our customers the most value and best warranties. Indoor air quality is a very serious issue. DuAll is constantly learning new ways to improve our customer's living space such as through duct cleaning, which we currently offer. Our customers reside in Naperville, Bolingbrook, Romeoville, Woodridge, Lisle, Downers Grove, Lemont, Plainfield and other surrounding communities. Our philosophy is quite simple: We treat our customers as we would like to be treated. We are respectful, courteous, and above all, honest. DuAll is N.A.T.E. Certified, two time winner of the *Best of Bolingbrook Businesses Award* and a proud member of the Bolingbrook Chamber of Commerce.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Who said; "I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."

Answer: Bill Cosby

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• Adjust and Add Mulch

The winter winds and snow may have shifted the mulch in your garden, so gently rake the mulch around until it's level. Add more mulch if necessary using the mulch in your shed first and then purchasing more if you need it. Always use what you have leftover from last year first.

• Preparing or Conditioning the Soil

If you had a problem area last year or if you're going to plant some new flowers or shrubs, now's the time to till the soil providing it's not frozen. If the ground is still frozen, then wait until it gets warmer and thaws.

When the ground is ready, turn the soil over and add any lime, compost, or other healthy additions that your soil needs. Let it just sit and warm up with the rest of your garden for a week or two before planting in it.

• Fertilize Plants

Not all plants and shrubs need to be fertilized in spring, however, once the plants and shrubs are established, fertilize them once in late spring on a sunny day with temperatures above 50 ° F. and then again in the fall. This will make the plants healthier, stronger, and happy. Fertilizing plants is an easy spring gardening chore,

• Plant

Here's the spring gardening chore that we've been waiting for. Once the warm spring weather has arrived and you're past the last frost date, it's time to plant. Some veggies can be planted in this cool weather such as onions, garlic, and lettuce. If you purchased plants online, then you'll have to wait for them to arrive but at least your garden is ready for them and you can plant them right away. Otherwise, head to your local garden nursery and have fun shopping!

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MY WORD



3rd coldest winter on record with an average temp of 18.8. and over 24 consecutive days of zero or colder. The coldest winter was 18.3; so not a whole lot colder. Brrrrrrrrrr

4th Snowiest with over 67 inches from December thru February and we all know the snow started before Thanksgiving and kept coming even into March. I don't know if I remember any winter where we had snow on the ground the entire time. I am writing this on the 5th of March and we just got another 4 inches today! I am so tired of shoveling.

Have you heard of "The Nest"? It is a high end thermostat. The company was formed in 2010 and just this January, Google bought the company for \$3.2 billion dollars. Not a typo; yes, BIL-LION. For a three year old company! You might ask why the monster company Google wants to get into the thermostat business. I imagine you need to sell a whole lot of thermostats to recoup 3.2 billion. In a word, Home Automation. Well, actually that was two words. But, I digress. Intel predicts that more than 31 billion devices will be connected to the web by 2020. Again, that's BIL-LION. Smart homes and home automation stand to benefit immensely from this concept. We've all seen the commercial where the older couple is sitting on the porch of a summer home and asks the son (or son-in-law) if he secured the house. He then pushes a button and the lights go off, dripping water is turned off, doors locked, and alarms set. Wow! I need that. Trane currently has a similar system, called Nexia. Honeywell has

theirs and apparently, Google will have theirs. So, we can "Hook you up". Give us a call. You know; on your Smart Phone!

The Olympics have come and gone. I don't think this was our greatest winter Olympics, but one we can certainly be proud of. Kind of sad to see Shawn White miss the podium, but I don't think we need to have a tag day for him. Pretty sure he'll be just fine.

NiCor has come out with their "on-bill" financing for customers who want a great 4.9% rate for up to 10 years on a new high efficiency furnace. It's a great offer. So, if you have been waiting for the right time to upgrade your furnace and start saving energy and money, now may be just the time. They have also teamed with ComEd for rebates on installed systems that meet a certain efficiency rating. If you live in Naperville, no fear. They now have a program for you, too.

The 15th Annual Cavalcade of Planes at Bolingbrook's Clow Airport will be June 7th and 8th this year. For those of you who have never attended, it's a great family event. There are all sorts of planes. Current, vintage, experimental, ultra-lights, helicopters and even WWII and Vietnam era planes. Hands on displays, food vendors, sky divers, and even Navy and Air Force jet trainers that the kids can get in.

The CAF Red Tail Squadron *RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit* travels the country and is scheduled to stop at the Cavalcade of Planes. This is a great addition to this year's event.

Larry

ON THE OUTSIDE

Spring Gardening Chores

When, and if, the winter snow melts, it will be time for the spring gardening chores to begin. I've found that if I don't make time for my spring gardening chores, then I get behind very quickly in my gardening.

Spring gardening chores are labors of love and our plants and shrubs need this love in order to give us a dazzling display later on. As we begin to feel the "spring gardening itch," there are gardening chores that we can do to get a jump start on the growing season

• Clean Out Your Shed or Garage

This should be your first spring gardening chore and it may take a lot of time. If you get behind on this one, you'll have a hard time catching up when the really nice weather comes: Clean your gardening tools with warm water and very little *bath* soap, then oil them; wash your gardening gloves; stack up your bags of compost, soil, and mulch so that you know what

Special Points Of Interest

- Saving pennies
- Tornadoes
- Awesome recipe

you have; organize everything so that you know what you have and where it is. Once the nice weather arrives, you'll want to be in your garden and not the shed searching for things.

• Remove Dead Leaves, Branches, and Stalks

Just before the last frost may arrive is the time to cut down all the dead stalks on plants and shrubs. Getting rid of the deadwood will give your plants and shrubs more exposure to the sun and promote new growth. If you have new growth on limbs, then cut just above that new growth. Raking up dead leaves will remove any fungus or bacteria that may hurt new growth on your plants. It will also get rid of any pests that have taken up home amongst the leaves for the winter.

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Black Russian Cake

1 pkg	Yellow cake mix, not with pudding
½ cup	Sugar
1 lg. pkg	Instant Choc. Pudding mix
1 cup	Oil
4 ea	Eggs
¼ cup	Vodka
¼ cup	Kahlua®
¾ cup	Water
Glaze:	
¼ cup	Kahlua®
½ cup	Powdered Sugar

Bake at 350° for 45-50 min. in greased and floured bundt pan. Cool 10 min; turn out onto a plate. Poke approx. 36 holes in top with a skewer and drizzle glaze very slowly over cake.

Many of you probably do not know that I was a professional chef many years ago, having graduated from the Culinary Institute of America. Cooking is still fun for me and this is one of my families favorite recipes.

IN THE COMMUNITY



June 7th and 8th at Bolingbrook's Clow International Airport. At the Cavalcade of Planes you will enjoy all kinds of fun. There will be many types of aircraft to see both flying and on the ground. You can experience a great event including skydiving, formation flying, helicopter demonstrations, and much more!



YOUR LIFE

Illinois Weather Facts

Not to frighten anyone but I found these facts extremely interesting. Since, hopefully, spring is right around the corner I thought it a good idea to share this information with you.

Illinois is ranked fifth in the United States for the most tornadoes per 10,000 square miles.

- The majority of Illinois tornadoes have occurred between April 1 and June 30 and between the hours of 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. However, tornadoes have occurred every month of the year at all hours of the day.
- Nearly 30 percent of all tornadoes in Illinois occur after dark.
- There is an average of 46 tornadoes each year in Illinois.

- There were 31 tornadoes reported in Illinois during 2012, which resulted in 9 fatalities, 112 injuries and more than \$4 million in damages.
- Since 1950
 1. 74 percent of tornadoes have been weak with wind less than 110 mph,
 2. 24 percent of tornadoes have been strong with wind between 110-167 mph,
 3. 2 percent of tornadoes have been violent with wind greater than 167 mph.

Terms:

Tornado Watch: Means just that. Tornadoes are possible so stay alert and be prepared to take shelter.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or has been picked up on radar. Take shelter immediately.

Safety:

Many deadly tornadoes occur at night. Do not rely solely on outdoor warning sirens, especially if you are sleeping. Monitor watches and warnings with a battery backup weather alert radio. This type of radio has Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology. It has a tone alert feature that will automatically alert you when a watch or warning has been issued for your county.

Determine the best location in your home to seek shelter. In a basement or cellar under the stairs usually has the best protection. If a basement is not available an interior room or hallway on the lowest level; Closets, small interior hallways and bathrooms without windows. Stay away from outside windows and walls as they can be penetrated by wind-borne debris.

Make sure all family members know how to stay safe. Conduct tornado safety drills. Decide on a meeting place where everyone will go prior to and after a storm. Stay safe!

YOUR MONEY

Saving Pennies, Saves Dollars

They say the economy is getting better. But, will it ever be back to what it once was, that is the big question. So, until we can have a better look into the crystal ball, we can still save our pennies and have them add up to dollars. You may already be doing some of these suggestions but here are some gentle reminders.

- Turn off the TV, DC player, stereo or radio when not in use.
- Turn off the dehumidifier on dry days or turn off the humidifier on humid days when they are not needed.
- Put a brick in the toilet tank to conserve and use less water. Or, install low-flush toilets to save water. Many communities have water conservation programs that may pay for the new toilets.
- Turning off the water when brushing teeth or shaving.

- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray - it wastes water every time you flush it.
- Do your consumer research on the Internet and buy as many things as you can on-line. You'll save time and the small shipping fees are much less than what you'd spend driving around in a vehicle.
- Activate the "sleep" feature of your home office equipment (PC, fax, printer, scanner, monitor) so they automatically power down when not in use. Or, turn off your home office equipment when not in use.
- Bring your own cup to your favorite coffee shop. Most coffee shops give a discount, plus coffee always tastes better in real cup.

These suggestions are relevant to summer and winter savings.

- Adjust the thermostat in small degree changes - your home won't heat or cool faster by cranking it up.
- Installing a programmable thermostat that will automatically adjust the temperature according to your schedule will pay for itself in less than a year.
- Changing the furnace filter every other month is a good energy saving tip.
- Keep furniture and drapes away from the HVAC air supply and return air ducts to increase the energy efficiency of your system.
- Be sure the air conditioner is fully charged with freon so it operates efficiently.
- More than half of the energy used for heating and cooling is lost through un-insulated walls, floors, ceilings and attics. Adding additional insulation to your home traps heat inside during the winter and keeps heat outside during the summer.

YOUR BODY

Save Your Skin

The sun's warm rays are a welcome reprieve in the spring and summer. But with sunshine comes one of the most common skin disorders—sunburn. The damage caused by sunburn and over-exposure to the sun is responsible for wrinkles, liver spots, thinning of the skin, broken blood vessels and skin cancer. The American Cancer Society estimates that *skin cancer claims the lives of about 9,800 Americans per year.*

For that reason, **nobody should be outside tanning anymore.** Tanning is a direct response to injury from UV radiation. Any coloration is your skin's reaction to damage. The sun's ultraviolet radiation is the cause of most skin cancers, and, unfortunately, skin cancer is affecting more and more people each year. **Skin cancer is now the most common type of cancer** in the United States.

Everyone needs to be aware of the dangers caused by the sun and take the proper precautions like using sunscreen.

There are two different types of sunscreen: organic and physical. Organic sunscreens are composed of substances such as Parsol 1789, hydrogen and carbon. They protect your skin by absorbing UV rays. Organic sunscreens come in many forms including gels, sprays and lotions, but sometimes cause allergic reactions. They also take time to be effective (usually 20 to 30 minutes), and wear off.

Physical sunscreens are composed of chemicals such as zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, which work by reflecting the sun's rays. They cause no aller-

gic reactions, are effective immediately and last longer. For these reasons, most experts recommend physical sunscreens.

You also need to check and make sure any sunscreen you chose is a broad-spectrum product. This means it blocks both UVA and UVB rays. Look for SPF (sun protection factor) 15 or higher.



Other measures that are easy and make a difference are wearing protective clothing, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses whenever you are out in the sun.

This summer, don't hesitate to go out for some fun in the sun. Just take precautions and your skin will thank you later.