



December 2011

Volume 2, Issue 12

# Better Home Living™

*The Newsletter That's Both Informative and Fun!*

## We wish you holiday joy and good cheer!

We join the chorus of well-wishers calling "Merry Christmas" to you at doorways, in the halls and on the street. And "Happy Hanukkah" brings the same smiles to those who welcome the greeting.

Though we may not come face to face with you right now, these good wishes are from the heart.

Yes, the holiday season is with us again. For everyone among us, it probably recalls memories of childhood and past family gatherings. We may get sentimental about the absence of family members who are no longer with us, or we may be longing for those serving with the armed forces in distant lands. But still we thank God for the opportunity to gather together.

As 2011 draws to a close, we want you to know we appreciate your business in the year that's just ending. Without you, we could not have accomplished all that we did. Though the economy was not in our favor this year, we soldiered on in spite of it.

Some experts optimistically predict that the economy (and sales!) will be stronger in 2012. Whatever the case, we will be depending on you and your business to see us through the year with flying colors.

To you, we wish you a very happy holiday season.

## Learn to be more charming: You'll get more of what you want

You probably know a man and a woman who are obviously charming. They seem to draw people to themselves, people who want to be with them and are likely to do whatever the charmer wants.

Some people seem to be naturally charming, but the trait is not necessarily in-born. It can be learned and developed. The key is not to be more appealing to others, but to make others feel good about themselves. Some ways to do it:

- \* Make every person you meet feel special. Greet them with enthusiasm and act as if you are thrilled to see them again.

- \* Show appreciation. Thank everyone you come in contact with for whatever you can think of. It boosts their self-confidence, and makes them feel better about themselves. They are then drawn to you for making them feel that way.

- \* Find something to praise people for. People have a great need for praise and will do more to get your praise again. Don't let them say what they did was nothing special.

No matter how smart or experienced you may be, 85 percent of your ability to succeed at anything depends on your ability to win people over, to charm them.

Charm can help you get what you want in every aspect of your life.

*Free Cleaning Tips and Specials at [www.betterhomecleaning.com](http://www.betterhomecleaning.com)*



I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!

Ken Steele  
Better Home Cleaning

## Not your traditional New Year's Eve

December 31 usually makes us think of toasting the new year. But during the past several years, alternatives have been put forth for those who wish to celebrate in other ways.

Here are some additional suggestions for New Year's Eve celebrations:

- \* Murder mystery games set round a table with role-playing and prizes.

- \* Sleepovers for kids and adults, even entire families.

- \* Outdoor sports events like cross-country skiing or bonfire-lit ice skating on ponds where the right conditions exist.

- \* Themed costume balls with music, dancing and theater.

- \* Lavish all-night dinner parties for gourmands.

- \* For those who like drinking, a new synthetic alcohol creates the buzz without the hangover.



## Do You Know...

... someone that could use our services? Perhaps a friend, family member, co-worker, or someone from church?

When a new client signs up for regular cleaning services (weekly or biweekly service) at your recommendation, you will receive half off up to \$50 after their 3rd cleaning!

And you don't need to feel funny about receiving a reward for the referral, because they get the same reward for signing up. They receive \$25 off their second cleaning and another \$25 off their fourth cleaning

Thanks in advance for your help.

## what others have said..

*I am an interior designer by profession, thus I am very detail oriented and I think you guys did a fantastic job! It was such a wonderful feeling to come home to a clean house and not have to worry about finding the time to do it myself. – Daniel, Windermere*

*A special thanks to all the fine folks who refer us...*

## Sharing the road with deer

If you never thought about sharing the road with a deer, you could be in for a very unpleasant surprise.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that deer populations are growing.

To avoid costly and possibly fatal deer collisions, watch for them whenever you approach a wooded area, even if it's close to town or even in a town.

Posted deer-crossing signs should always signal you to reduce your speed.

Remember that when you see one deer, another deer or a group could be close behind. If one runs safely in front of your car, be prepared for another.

At night, drive with high-beam headlights whenever possible to illuminate the side of the road. Watch for light reflection in a deer's eyes. Be prepared to stop when you see it.

If a collision is inevitable, brake but don't swerve to avoid it. Your risk of injury is much greater if you hit oncoming traffic or crash into a tree.



*"Acme Roofing? I have some good leads for you."*

## Rrrro oh! Christmas again!

### Do something special for your pets

It's true that holidays can be stressful for most pets. But for the cat who thinks a spot under the Christmas tree is her special place, it can be OK.

For the dog who knows he can't "unwrap" a stack of presents but waits to see which one is his, it can be fun for him and you.

More often, pets have a tough time with being ignored during your preparations or closed into the bedroom for a day because your Aunt Lulu is afraid of them.

If this is the case, stop by the bedroom occasionally to lavish attention on the pet that loves you and will know he is still loved in return.

Some of your guests might be allergic to cats or dogs. In this case, be sure to have nondrowsy anti-allergy pills on hand and urge your allergic guests to take one. Even if you have thoroughly cleaned the house, they will need the pill to keep them from sneezing or wheezing.

Remember that when you are preparing a feast, your pet will be waiting and yearning for "something good." Be sure he gets his share.

In spite of everything going on before and during the holidays, it pays to do your best to keep up a dog's schedule for eating (keep him away from chocolate and cookies). If your dog is used to going on walks through the neighborhood, have the dog lover among your guests take him out. They might both enjoy the exercise and the break. If not, skip it for the day but visit Fido in the yard a few times.

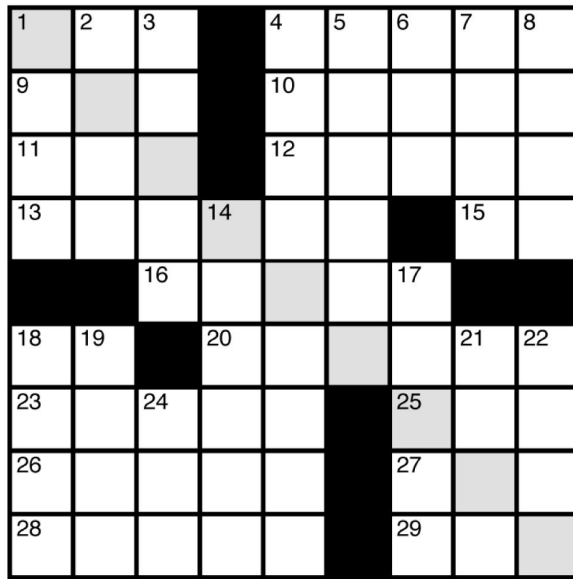
When you are going away for the holidays, it's probably best to have your dog and cat cared for in a kennel. Hopefully, you've gone away several times before and know a good place to take them. It's stressful for pets but safer than taking them with you or having someone come in to feed them and take them out ... at their convenience.



## Pomp and Splendor Crossword

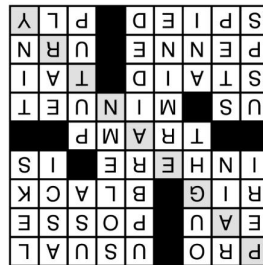
### Across

1. Country club figure
4. Bar order, with "the"
9. ...vian, e.g.
10. Sheriff's group
11. Fix, in a way
12. Like some piano keys
13. Belong
15. Exists
16. Bum
18. You and me
20. Ballroom dance
23. Composed
25. Skater Babilonia
26. Pasta choice
27. Ashes holder
28. Caught a glimpse of
29. Thickness



8. Albanian monetary units *The title is a clue to the word in the shaded diagonal.*

- ### Down
1. "Frasier" actress Gilpin
  2. Parade spoiler
  3. Should, with "to"
  4. Reproached
  5. Serious
  6. Cable network
  7. Fungal spore sacs
  14. Fine fur
  17. "\_\_ or shut up"
  18. Letter gr.
  19. Increase, with "up"
  21. Rank above viscount
  22. Miniscule
  24. "Wheel of Fortune" buy



## Trivia Teaser – Crossing Bridges

1. What duo had a #1 hit with the song "Bridge Over Troubled Water?" a-Ferrante and Teicher, b-Everly Brothers, c-Simon and Garfunkel, d-Hall and Oates.

2. Which river is spanned by the Brooklyn Bridge in New York? a-Hudson, b-East, c-Erie, d-Potomac.

3. What actor was the co-writer of a syndicated newspaper column about the card game bridge with expert Charles Goren? a-Lorne Greene, b-William Holden, c-Omar Sharif, d-James Caan.

4. What actress performed her rendition of "Makin' Whoopee" from atop Jeff Bridges's piano in *The Fabulous Baker Boys*? a-Michelle Pfeiffer, b-Halle Berry, c-Annette O'Toole, d-Sharon Stone.

5. Which James Bond film culminates with a fight on the Golden Gate Bridge? a-Moonraker, b-Diamonds are Forever, c-The World Is Not Enough, d-A View to a Kill.

6. The third-longest suspension bridge was the Tacoma Narrows Bridge until it collapsed during a violent windstorm in 1940. The bridge was located in which U.S. state? a-Washington, b-New York, c-California, d-Hawaii.

7. What actor threatened to end his life by jumping from a bridge in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*? a-Henry Fonda, b-John Wayne, c-Jimmy Stewart, d-Walter Pidgeon.

8. The Royal Gorge Bridge, the highest suspension bridge in the U.S., crosses what river? a-Rio Grande, b-Snake, c-Colorado, d-Arkansas?

9. Over 26,000 feet long, the Mackinac Bridge, nicknamed "Mighty Mac," is located in which U.S. state? a-California, b-Michigan, c-New Jersey, d-Texas.

10. The original London Bridge was taken apart in England and reconstructed in which U.S. state? a-Arizona, b-Utah, c-Nevada, d-Montana.

- Answers to Crossing Bridges
- 1-c, Simon and Garfunkel
  - 2-b, East
  - 3-c, Omar Sharif
  - 4-a, Michelle Pfeiffer
  - 5-d, A View to a Kill
  - 6-a, Washington
  - 7-c, Jimmy Stewart
  - 8-d, Arkansas
  - 9-b, Michigan
  - 10-a, Arizona

## Decorating safely for a joyful holiday

Decorating for the holidays can be a huge undertaking. Crawling on the roof, placing the star atop the Christmas tree and lighting the house with candles are dangerous activities. They send about 12,500 people to the emergency room every year. The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends:

**Trees:** When buying an artificial tree, look for the "Fire Resistant" label. For a fresh tree, find one on which it's not easy to pull needles from a branch. Keep the stand basin filled with water. Christmas trees are involved in some 300 fires each year.

**Lights:** Buy light strings that are approved by a testing laboratory. Check last year's strings for broken sockets or wires. Toss any that are damaged.

**Electrical connections:** Use a power strip to connect several power cords inside the house. It will turn off instead of blowing a breaker if there is a power overload.

**Outdoor connections:** They should be plugged into circuits protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter.

**Candles:** They start about 11,600 fires a year and cause 150 deaths and 1,200 injuries. Always keep burning candles in sight. Put them out if you move to another room or go to bed.

**Decorations:** Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. In homes with small children, avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Don't use any that look like candy or food.

**Fireplaces:** "Fire salts" produce colored flames when thrown on a wood fire, but they contain heavy metals that can cause gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting. Keep them away from children. Never burn wrapping papers in a fireplace. They can cause a flash fire and burn intensely.



Better Home Cleaning  
PO Box 1115  
Gotha, FL 34734  
[www.betterhomecleaning.com](http://www.betterhomecleaning.com)  
[ken@betterhomecleaning.com](mailto:ken@betterhomecleaning.com)

## Your New Issue of Better Home Living Has Arrived!

*Look Inside for Some  
Amazing Money  
Saving Tips and  
More!*

To:

### Easy problem solvers

\* To find a contact lens lost in a carpet, put a nylon stocking over the nozzle of a vacuum cleaner. It will be pulled into the stocking.

\* To remove scratches from furniture, rub on some toothpaste. It has a mild abrasive effect. Then wax with furniture polish and buff the area.

### Making the News

Better Home Cleaning celebrates three years in providing free house cleaning to women who are undergoing cancer therapy, through the organization ó *Cleaning For A Reason*.

If you know anyone currently having treatment, please refer them to the website ó [www.cleaningforareason.org](http://www.cleaningforareason.org)



*"You have brain in your head. You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself in any direction you choose."*  
Dr. Seuss, created by T. Seuss Geisel



**Merry Christmas to all**

### Take the Trivia Challenge and Win a Starbucks on us!

The first 5 people who call or email our office with the correct answer will receive a Starbucks on us!

**How many people go to the emergency room every year due to accidents from Christmas decorating?**

1 . 22,000 2 . 16,500 3 . 7,000 4 . 12,500

HINT: The answer is hidden somewhere in this newsletter.