

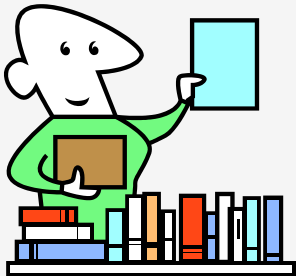
June 2011

# Great News

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Mike Forner's Home Services:

Our mission is to treat your home with the same passion and attention to detail that I use on my own home.



## Book Review

What are you currently reading?

I began reading Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand several weeks ago. Mike? Reading a book you ask? That's right, I am and I'm really enjoying it. Ask me about it the next time we talk.

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### Assertiveness:

A mild-mannered man was tired of being bossed around by his wife so he went to a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist said he needed to build his self-esteem, and gave him a book on assertiveness, which he read on the way home. He had finished the book by the time he reached his house

The man stormed into the house and walked up to his wife. Pointing a finger in her face, he said, "From now on, I want you to know that I am the man of this house and my word is law! I want you to prepare me a gourmet meal tonight, and when I'm finished eating my meal, I expect a sumptuous dessert.

"Then, after dinner, you're going to draw me a bath so I can relax. And when I'm finished with my bath, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair?"

"The funeral director," said his wife.



## Upcoming Events That Might Interest You...

\*The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Detroit (Target) Fireworks on Monday June 27, 2011. Located Downtown at Hart Plaza on the river.

\*Taste of Ann Arbor kicks off the summer season downtown! Taste samples from area restaurants at this family-friendly event. Admission is free, tastes are 50 cents each. It's on Sunday June 05, 2011 from 11:00am-5:00pm. The location is Main Street and Liberty Street, Downtown Ann Arbor, MI



\*Come check out the Artisan Market located in the Historic Kerrytown District in Downtown Ann Arbor. It is an open-air market where you can find hand-made items of exceptional quality. Every Sunday from 11am to 4pm.



# How To Avoid Big *Problems* With Your Do-It-Yourself Project

If you have a few construction skills, you might be eager to tackle a home modification project. Before getting started, here are several steps and cautions that should be considered.

- \* Make a written plan. Prepare a day-by-day calendar outlining each portion of the project and how many hours it will take to compete.

- \* Get a building permit. If you are adding a room, putting up a storage building or changing your patio into a room, you need a permit. Some plumbing and electrical jobs require permits, as do changing gas or sewer lines.

- \* Buy the correct materials. Skimping with inexpensive products can compromise the quality of the job.

- \* Invest in a set of tools specifically designed for the repair or the construction job.

- \* Use safety gear. Wear safety goggles when using a power saw. Buy the best gloves for the job. Wear a hard hat if others will be working above you.

- \* Before you pick up a power tool, climb a ladder or raise a hammer, consider whether you can do the job safely. If you aren't sure, hire a professional for that part of the project, especially when it includes electricity or moving heat ducts or plumbing lines.



- \* Be very cautious with chain saws. They send many a do-it-yourselfer to the emergency room.

- \* Emphasize accuracy. Remember the principle, "Measure twice, cut once," when working with lumber, trim, siding, drywall, or pipes.

- \* Expect the unexpected. If you are moving a wall, don't be surprised to find problems such as termites, mold inside the wall, plumbing, heating ducts, or electrical wiring that has to be moved.

It's exciting to plan and to get started on a DIY project, but always remember: Safety first!

## **“Shmily!”**

Author unknown

My Grandparents were married for over half a century, and played their own special game from the time they had met each other. The goal of their game was to write the word “shmily” in a surprise place for the other to find. They took turns leaving “shmily” around the house, and as soon as one of them discovered it, it was their turn to hide it once more.

They dragged “shmily” with their fingers through the sugar and flour containers to await whoever was preparing the next meal. They smeared it in the dew on the windows overlooking the patio where my grandma always fed us warm, homemade pudding with blue food coloring.

“Shmily” was written in the steam left on the mirror after a hot shower, where it would reappear bath after bath. At one point, my grandmother even unrolled an entire roll of toilet paper to leave “shmily” on the very last sheet. There was no end to the places “shmily” would pop up. Little notes with “shmily” scribbled hurriedly were found on dashboards and car seats, or taped to steering wheels.

The notes were stuffed inside shoes and left under pillows. “Shmily” was written in the dust upon the mantel and traced in the ashes of the fireplace. This mysterious word was as much a part of my grandparents’ house as the furniture. It took me a long time before I was able to fully appreciate my grandparents’ game. Skepticism has kept me from believing in true love, one that is pure and enduring.

However, I never doubted my grandparents’ relationship. They had love down pat. It was more than their flirtatious little games; it was a way of life. Their relationship was based on a devotion and passionate affection that not everyone is lucky enough to experience.

Grandma and grandpa held hands every chance they could. They stole kisses as they bumped into each other in their tiny kitchen. They finished each other’s sentences and shared the daily crossword puzzle and word jumble. My grandma whispered to me about how cute my grandpa was, how handsome and old he had grown to be. She claimed that she really knew “how to pick ‘em.”

Before every meal they bowed their heads and gave thanks, marveling at their blessings: a wonderful family, good fortune, and each other. But there was a dark cloud in my grandparents’ life: my grandmother had breast cancer. The disease had first appeared ten years earlier. As always, grandpa was with her every step of the way. He comforted her in their yellow room, painted that way so that she could always be surrounded by sunshine, even when she was too sick to go outside. Now the cancer was again attacking her body. With the help of a cane and my grandfather’s steady hand, they went to church every morning.

But my grandmother grew steadily weaker until, finally, she could not leave the house anymore. For a while, Grandpa would go to church alone, praying to God to watch over his wife.

Then one day, what we all dreaded finally happened. Grandma was gone. “Shmily.” It was scrawled in yellow on the pink ribbons of my grandmother’s funeral bouquet. As the crowd thinned and the last mourners turned to leave, my aunts, uncles, cousins and other family members came forward and gathered around Grandma one last time.

Grandpa stepped up to my grandmother’s casket and, taking a shaky breath, he began to sing to her. Through his tears and grief, the song came, a deep and throaty lullaby. Shaking with my own sorrow, I will never forget that moment. For I know that, although I couldn’t begin to fathom the depth of their love, I had been privileged to witness its unmatched beauty.

S-h-m-i-l-y: See How Much I Love You.

“They dragged “shmily” with their fingers through the sugar and flour containers to await whoever was preparing the next meal.”



## How To Win Friends & Influence People By Dale Carnegie

### Fundamental Teachings in Handling People:

The desire for a feeling of importance is one of the chief distinguishing differences between mankind and the animals. Flattery seldom works with discerning people. It is shallow, selfish and insincere. The difference between appreciation and flattery? One is sincere and the other is insincere. Now, if we stop thinking about ourselves for a while and begin to think of the other person's good points, we won't have to resort to flattery.

Principle 2: Give honest and sincere appreciation.

Stay Tuned...

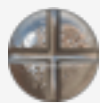
"...if I like anything, I am hearty in my approbation and lavish in my praise."  
~ Charles Schwab

### Joke of The Month

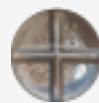
A plumber attended to a leaking faucet at the neurosurgeon's house. After a two-minute job the plumber demanded \$150.

The neurosurgeon exclaimed, "I don't charge this amount even though I am a surgeon."

The plumber replied, "I didn't either, when I was a surgeon. That's why I became a plumber."



## Wise Home Owner Tip:



### Cleaning Faucet Aerators:

Aerators keep the water flow of faucets from splashing about when you turn the faucet on. They contain a metal screen circle that does the job. Ideally, the water has a lovely circular flow of combined air and water. Sometimes, the water stream is shaky or crooked. It happens when the metal screen has become partially clogged. You can remove the screw-on device that holds the screen and use a toothpick to unclog holes. Or put the screen in vinegar to soak over night. If that doesn't work, a new screw-on device costs only about \$5. The aerator is an environmentally friendly device because it limits water flow by mixing it with air.

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### Did You Know...

That you can restore whiteness to a yellowed bathtub by rubbing it with a salt and turpentine solution?

### Uplifting Quote of The Month

"We are at our very best, and we are happiest, when we are fully engaged in work we enjoy on the journey toward the goal we've established for ourselves. It gives meaning to our time off and comfort to our sleep. It makes everything else in life so wonderful, so worthwhile."

~ Earl Nightingale