

# About The House

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A Free Monthly Newsletter From Bob Schacke, Home Inspection Experts  
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## What's Inside?

- Coffee Travels To America-
- You Impact Your Child's View Of School -
- Responsibilities of The Coast Guard -
- Voice Mail Turns Into Text-
- Unusual English Conversions -
- & **Much More!**

### *In War And Peace, The Coast Guard Stands Strong*

The United States Coast Guard is the nation's oldest maritime agency. Founded in 1790, it assumed the duties of the Revenue Cutter Service, the Lighthouse Service, the Steamboat Inspection Service, the Bureau of Navigation, and the Lifesaving Service. Coast Guard responsibilities include:

- Aids to navigation. It maintains lighthouses, beacons, and buoys.
- Law enforcement. In the 19th century, Coast Guardsmen defeated pirates Jean LaFarge and Jean Lafitte of New Orleans and destroyed their stronghold on Breton Island. In the 20th century, they captured contraband including large quantities of narcotics.
- Wartime service. The Coast Guard served valiantly in each war since its founding. In 1941, it seized 28 Italian, two German, and 35 Danish merchant ships. It sank 11 submarines during World War II.
- Search and rescue. Over its history, the Coast Guard came to the rescue of ships, large and small, often saving the lives of hundreds of people from a single ship.

Helicopters are one of the most important tools of Coast Guard search and rescue. During the 1980s and 1990s, they stopped thousands of Cubans and Haitians attempting to sail to the U.S.

After the sinking of the Titanic in 1914, the Coast Guard began the International Ice Patrol, radioing reports of icebergs in the North Atlantic shipping lanes to merchant ships in the area. The service is now performed by Coast Guard aircraft.



### *August Events*

4	Coast Guard Day
7	National Night Out
19	National Aviation Day
22	Be an Angel Day

### *What Standard Will You Set For Your Kids' Interest In School?*

To keep U.S. living conditions continuing to rise, our workers have to be worth what they cost in a global economy. They have to have a world-class and constantly improving education.

But when Fortune's Geoff Colvin spoke with school superintendents, he found that their mood was one of frustration. Some parents objected to their kids having to learn algebra, others just aren't interested in the schools.

Their attitude is showing up in obvious ways. One parent's bumper sticker says, "My kid can beat up your honor student." T-shirts bought by parents advertise such messages as, "For Sale: Text books and school supplies, never used,"

The signs of disrespect for education are a cause for worry. It may be that the most important factor shaping our country's economic future will be what we do individually to show our kids how valuable education really is.

Other families have created the 'education room'. Family rooms are being renovated with features like desks and laptop ports for every member of the family. Included are special lighting for computer work, homework, and reading. There can be bookshelves, storage areas, and work stations for each person.

One builder quoted in The Wall Street Journal offers a bright yellow education room with chairs and desks that adjust to adult and kid heights. In the family home office, mom, dad, and the kids bond over work instead of television.

### *Do You Have A Question About Home Maintenance That You Want Answered?*

We love to hear from all of our good friends and clients who enjoy reading our monthly newsletter. If you have a question about anything related to your house, feel free to call us at **847-638-4663** or Email **[hie5@comcast.net](mailto:hie5@comcast.net)**

### **100% Plus Money Back Guarantee**

Bob offers a free 90 day limited warranty that covers major mechanical systems and structural components. Also if any major system fails due to a defect that was present and visible at the time of inspection and was overlooked while performing an inspection as described in the Illinois or American Society of Home Inspectors' Standards of Practice, Bob will pay for repair costs, that are not covered by the warranty, up to the cost of the inspection.

## *How Coffee Moved From Africa To Europe To America*



Most of us take our morning coffee for granted without knowing beans about it. Check this colorful history and health benefits.

According to legend, sometime during the ninth century, an Ethiopian goatherd noticed his goats dancing from one coffee shrub to another, grazing on the cherry-red berries containing the beans. He ate a few himself and was soon frolicking with his flock. Witnessing the shepherd's dance, a monk plucked berries for his brothers. It is said that by nightfall, his brothers were uncannily happy and alert to divine inspiration.

Coffee plants, woody perennial evergreens, were first cultivated on the Arabian Peninsula around 1100 A.D. By 1600 coffee had been introduced to Europe, and within 50 years, coffee houses began appearing in Italy.

Settlers of the New World brought coffee to Jamestown Settlement in Virginia and to the first villages of Canada. In the New World, coffee was first cultivated on the Island of Martinique by the French naval officer Gabriel de Clieu. Today, the coffee bean is a major crop in South American countries, Hawaii, Indonesia, and Africa. By the 1990s, more than one billion cups were consumed in the U.S. each year.

While medical researchers have documented that coffee can lead to the jitters, newer studies show that the brew is high in antioxidants and may limit the occurrence of certain cancers and chronic diseases. Caffeine has been proven to stimulate metabolism and break up fatty acids, aiding in maintaining proper weight.

*Conscience keeps more people awake than coffee.*

## *Common Light Bulb Could Be Phased Out*

Manufacturers are creating an energy standard that, if accepted by Congress, would mean common household lightbulbs would be phased out in 10 years.

The standard they settle on will be included into an energy bill. The legislation calls for efficiency standards for appliances and motor vehicles, and the use of more alternative fuels.

The three largest light-bulb manufacturers, Philips, General Electric, and Osram Sylvania, have more efficient lighting products in development. GE says it will be introducing an incandescent bulb that will be comparably efficient to compact fluorescent lights.

Manufacturers are also developing light-emitting diodes that are currently too expensive for the consumer market, but will fall in price over time.

Bulb makers are willing to cooperate mainly because states including California and Texas are considering bans on common light bulbs. Australia, Canada, and the European union are also considering phasing out such lights.

Shifting to compact fluorescents will be more expensive for consumers in the beginning. Incandescent bulbs can be bought for as little as 25 cents, but compact fluorescent bulbs can cost \$3 or more.

According to the Alliance to Save Energy, the more expensive bulbs use much less electricity and last far longer. They can pay for themselves in as little as six months.

### ***Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!***

Special thanks go out to all of our clients and friends who graciously referred our company to their friends and neighbors last month! Our business is built based on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you. We just couldn't do it without you.

### **Testimonial**

*"Bob did a very thorough job of pointing out both issues we should address and suggestions for things we could do to improve the quality of the home. I have seen documentation of inspection done on my current home and it is obvious that Bob's process was much more thorough and the documentation/report Bob provided was beyond comparison. We felt very comfortable with the job Bob did and will use him again and recommend him gladly to friends."*

Lori & Matt Spett, Evanston

## Useful English System Conversions

Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter:  
Eskimo pi.

Speed of a tortoise breaking the sound barrier:  
Mach turtle.

2,000 pounds of Chinese soup:  
won ton.

16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone:  
1 Rod Serling.

Basic unit of laryngitis:  
1 hoarsepower.

1 million aches:  
1 megahurtz.

Half of a large intestine:  
1 semi colon.

1 millionth mouthwash:  
1 microScope.

10 rations:  
1 decoration.

Shortest distance between two jokes:  
a straight line.

2 wharves:  
1 paradox.



## You Can Skip The Voices In Voice Mail, Get Messages By Text Instead

Listening to voice mails on a hand-held device is inconvenient. In a restaurant, it can be rude.

Several new voice-recognition services can solve the problem. They transcribe recorded messages into text, which then is sent as email to email-equipped devices such as personal digital assistants and BlackBerrys, or as a short text message to phones that don't have the email function.

If you aren't sure the voice-recognition function has given the message accurately, you can click on the attached audio files or dial in to hear the original voice mail. You can also go through the messages to see the ones he wanted to check without having to listen to each in the order it was received.

Another advantage, you don't have to jot down names, numbers, or addresses while listening. And the text message comes through even in some areas where you can't receive cell phone signals.

## Thanks For The Kind Words

*"I am glad that I took the time off work to come to the inspection. Bob showed me the way everything in my first home should work."*

Chrissy Raddi, Arlington Heights

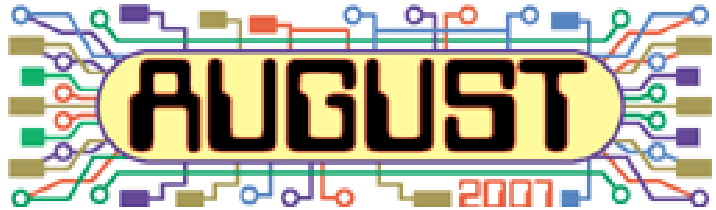
*"Bob was very thorough, friendly, professional, and communicated well."*

C. Frugoli, Gilberts

*"Bob came to the inspection well prepared, was punctual and organized. He took the time to help educate me about how to care for my new home. I will highly recommend Bob to family and Friends."*

Britta Larson, Bartlett

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## *What's The Answer?*

*How Did An Ethiopian Gaotherd Affect Your Coffee Drinking?*

- *How Can You Read A Voice Message?*
- *Why Are We Doing Away With The Light Bulb?*
  - *Whose Responsibility Is It To Maintain Lighthouses ?*
- *Does Your Family Need An Education Room?*



The Answers To These And Many  
Other Questions Are Inside?

