

# WATER WORKS

NEWS YOU CAN USE AROUND YOUR HOME

Spring 2010

## Stay and Play

*Save money by using your vacation to explore your hometown.*

With spring comes vacation season for many families and over the last few years a new vacation phenomenon has come on the scene: The staycation. Largely motivated by the sluggish economy of recent years, the staycation cuts down on travel costs by spending vacation time at or near home. This may sound like a scary concept: There's no chance the kids will go for it, or you're sure to get bored sitting around the house. On the other hand, consider yourself lucky you don't have to go miles and miles to enjoy everything our area and your very own home has to offer. Here are just a few activities you can plan to make your staycation a memorable one.

### *1. Camp in your backyard.*

You'll be surprised by the sense of escape you get just from spending a night in your backyard. I mean how many times have you slept in your yard? Not many probably, it's pretty different. There are tons of things you can do that you can't in your house like having a bonfire, stargazing, and, quite simply, unplugging from the world. Not to mention, you'll be amazed what you can cook on a stick or in a can.

### *2. Host a party.*

When else will you have the time to plan and prepare for a bash that does yourself and your home justice? Take the time you have off to get all the bells, whistles, and ingredients for delicious food and drinks.



### *3. Take a day trip.*

Visit that park, historical site, or downtown area that just can't be squeezed in to a weekend. A lot of fun and relaxation can be achieved in a day. This is your chance to get out of your work-and-errand bubble and see just what's out there.

### *4. Enrich your whole year.*

If you've saved up vacation money and then decided to stay home, you are sitting on a goldmine waiting to be spent on items that will better your life. You could buy a cappuccino machine, a foot massager, a monthly maid service, a gym membership, patio furniture, an outdoor grill, a mountain bike or a whirlpool tub. This way, instead of one week of relaxation and better living, you can make it last all year.

### *5. House swap.*

Ask around and see if any of your friends would be willing to do a house-swap with you for a

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week or two. You might be surprised at the new restaurants and activities you will discover with a little change of scenery.

#### 6. Give your home a checkup.

Typically you are rushed when deciding to make an improvement to your

home. During a staycation you'll have the time to adequately understand your options, decide what's right for you and enjoy the upgrade.

Powers Plumbing wants to help you make the most of your staycation. This spring, we are offering you a

FREE inspection of your main sewer line. Take it from an expert, it's a good time of year to have this done. Give us a call at 719-266-8609 and mention this newsletter. Staycation or not, we'll come out and inspect your sewer for free! (a \$269 value)

## Catch the Green Wave

*The green movement has quickly and forcefully staked its claim in many facets of our everyday lives.*

**R**ecycling bins are everywhere. An arms race is on among car manufacturers to develop the greenest vehicles. Credit cards offer reward points for purchases they deem green. And at this year's Olympics, the infamous Zamboni was replaced with the more efficient "Ice Cleaner" and the medals even had some recycled materials in them.

among the leaders of the movement to design homes that use their surroundings and materials most efficiently. The groups even make free designs available for consumers to use for their new homes.

Taking into consideration the recent flux in real estate, however, many folks are opting not to risk the market and buy a new home. That doesn't mean these cautious homeowners have been left behind when it comes to going green and having high efficiency homes. In fact, the government is doing a lot to stoke the green wave in home maintenance and service. Significant tax credits are out there for anyone who decides to make an addition or upgrade to their home using green products.

We here at Powers Plumbing are also committed to doing our part to keep our planet clean and not abuse its resources. Our industry has seen great efficiency ad-

vances in one product in particular: Water heaters. We take pride in offering you the latest and greatest water heater technology. We have equipment that will not only lower the cost of heating your water but will do so while saving energy and not sacrificing your long hot morning shower. Call 719-266-8609 and mention this newsletter and you will receive \$100 off the purchase of a new high-efficiency water heater.



The homebuilding industry is no different than any of those examples. The "green home" concept hasn't penetrated the masses as much as say automobiles or recycling, but organizations like Fab Homes and Free Green are attempting to change that. They are



## How Much Do You Know About Springtime?

1. On the first day of spring, the hours of daylight and of darkness are equal.  
True      False
2. During the vernal equinox, around March 21st, an egg will stand on its small end.  
True      False
3. The ancient Greeks celebrated Mother's Day in spring.  
True      False
4. Finding a four-leaf clover is thought to bring you good luck.  
True      False
5. The area along the California-Oregon border, is known as the "Easter Lily Capital of the World."  
True      False
6. Baby birds must learn how to sing.  
True      False
7. Arbor Day, which encourages the planting of trees and celebrates the role trees play in the environment, is traditionally celebrated on the last Monday in April.  
True      False
8. Spring Fever is a real physical condition.  
True      False
9. An emerald represents spring.  
True      False
10. William Wordsworth wrote a famous poem about daffodils.  
True      False

*The first person to return this quiz with all of the correct answers will receive Hormone Free Steaks for 4.*



## A Simple Recipe for Your First BBQ of 2010

### *Maple Glazed Barbecue Chicken*

Serves 4

#### Ingredients:

##### **Glaze**

- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 garlic clove, minced

##### **Chicken**

- 4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh ground pepper

#### Directions:

1. Heat grill.
2. In small bowl stir together glaze ingredients.
3. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper.
4. Brush chicken generously with glaze.
5. Place chicken on gas grill over medium heat or on charcoal grill 4-6 inches from medium coals; cover grill.
6. Cook 8-12 minutes or until juices run clear, turning once and brushing occasionally with glaze.

## What's Going Down?



*From the Desk  
of Jeff Spiker*



# Let's Work Together to Help Haiti

**A**fter one of the longest and coldest winters in memory, I don't know about you, but I'm really excited that spring is here. I'm welcoming warmer weather, blossoms on the trees and green grass like an old friend. These cheerful changes and new growth always make this time of year one of anticipation and hope.

One place in particular that especially needs to embrace the hope that spring inspires is Haiti. Though it's gone from the headlines, the island nation's problems persist. After all, one of the most violent natural disasters of modern times befell a group of the world's most downtrodden people. It puts the woes of a long cold winter in perspective.

That's why instead of offering you money or gift certificates for referrals, I want to do something a little different this time around. For every new

client you send our way, I'll donate \$10 to the Haitian relief effort.



Instead of spending more money into marketing, we want to rely on the people who have enjoyed our service and professionalism before. We are hopeful that if you had a good experience with us you would be willing to tell your friends and family. To say thank you, we'll make a donation in your name.

At Powers Plumbing we are inspired by the season to grow our business and hope to do it while doing a little good at the same time. Knowing we did our part to help will make those burgers off the grill taste a little better and flowers smell a bit sweeter. All the best this spring!

Sincerely,  
Jeff Spiker



# Powers Plumbing

## 719.266.8609