



Barbara Eichmuller's *Home* FRONT

Ann Arbor Native Right From the Start

October 2011

www.AnnArborNative.com

Dear Friends and Family,

Yahoo for Halloween! Halloween is a fun celebration because anyone can participate in the festivities and there are no rules. For those with a decorating flair there are a million ways to decorate both the inside and outside of your home. It is fun for children to decide if they should be a scary pirate, a spooky ghost or a beautiful princess. Be sure to check out the Halloween Safety Tips to the right.

This is my dog Ally who attended the Reinhart South Office Pet Parade in her pumpkin costume. This year's Parade will be held on Halloween at 3 p.m. at the South Office. We gather with our pets (all are welcome), walk around the outside of the building twice before adjourning to the conference room for bowls of water, doggie treats and judging for the best costume.



Ally was checking out Benjamin Robinson's costume from last year in this adorable photo.

Also included in this month's issue is an article about how to get rid of your fall leaves if you live in the City of Ann Arbor. And for those of you that truly enjoy a great cup of coffee you will enjoy the feature on Roasting Coffee on page 3. If you do like coffee—freshly roasted coffee is one of life's true pleasures.

Wishing you a Spooky Halloween.....

Barbara

Halloween Safety Tips



Costumes should be made of flame retardant material. If they are home made, make sure and use either a fire retardant spray or fabric that has been treated with fire retardant.



Make sure to work into your child's costume reflector strips, a flash light or light stick to make them more visible at night. This will assure that they are seen by drivers and that you can keep an eye on them as well if they get ahead of you while trick or treating.



Do not include high heel shoes or long dangling pieces of costume that your child could trip over. A scraped knee or bloody nose can really ruin their fun.



If they are carrying a prop such as a scythe or sword, make sure they are made out of a flexible plastic that will bend if fallen on. Most of the props available today are made of flexible plastic.



If your child is wearing a mask, make sure that the eye holes are big enough to see not only in front but peripherally as well. You may have to cut them open further yourself. If so, use some black or gray grease paint around the eye socket to cover skin.



If you and your child are going out with a group, make their costume a unique one so you can spot them easily in a crowded area. Use flashing lights or jewelry to make them stand out.



What do you get when you take the circumference of a pumpkin and divide it by its diameter?



Pumpkin Pi

What to Do With All Those Leaves?

As the warm days of summer give way to the cool temperatures of autumn, it's time to think of ways to manage fall leaves. Ann Arborites can choose to mulch their leaves on-site, or set paper bags and compost carts of leaves at the curb for weekly pickup, or take advantage of free bulk leaf drop-off locations.

The city no longer picks up loose leaves that are raked to the street. Details on these fall leaf management options — and the opportunity to subscribe to e-mail leaf updates — are provided online at www.a2gov.org/leaves.

Four Options for Leaf Management

1. Feed your lawn with leaves by using a mulching mower. You don't have to rake and bag leaves this fall if you use a mulching mower instead. Faculty at the Turf Research Institute at Michigan State University successfully tested using mowers to mulch over 18" of dry leaves into the turf with healthy results for the lawn year after year. Consult the web at www.a2gov.org/leaves for leaf mulching reports and videos from Scotts Lawn Care, MSU and others. Mulching leaves is a great option for properties with lots of trees and is commonly used by many golf course operators.



2. Use the city's weekly Compostable pickup service from April through mid-December. Use bags or a compost cart for weekly compostable pickups. Place leaves in large paper bags or use optional compost carts to set at the curb before 7 a.m. on the neighborhood weekly solid waste collection day. Compost carts may be purchased for a one-time charge of \$50 each for

any size (32-, 64-, or 96-gallon cart) from the city's Customer Service & Payment Center, located in Larcom City Hall, 310 E. Huron, open weekdays 8-5 p.m., 734-994-2807. Cart information is posted online at www.a2gov.org/carts.



3. Compost at home. A backyard compost pile is made by mixing dry leaves (brown, high carbon material) with grass clippings (green, high-nitrogen material), soil and water. Mixing periodically to add air and keeping the composting materials wet are important. Chopping or shredding the materials speeds the process. An easy outdoor composting recipe is provided at www.a2gov.org/compost.

4. Fall leaf drop-off options for City of Ann Arbor Properties. There is free unlimited leaf drop off between September 1 to December 30, 2011 at the Ann Arbor Compost Center, 4150 Platt Road, open Mon-Fri, 8-4 p.m. 734-794-6380 for city residents, Ann Arbor commercial properties or their contracted landscapers/haulers. To deliver leaves, please follow site signs and drive across the city's recycling plant scale. Stop at the scalehouse window to show proof of Ann Arbor residency (drivers license and current water bill.) Haulers follow a slightly different process, described online at www.a2gov.org/leaves. The free drop-off is for Ann Arbor leaves only. Other types of yard wastes or leaves from non-Ann Arbor locations are charged \$15/cubic yard.

Another drop off option is Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop-Off Station. They accept leaf and other compostables at the year round drop-off, of up to one cubic yard (or 6 yard waste bags). Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop-Off Station is at 2950 E. Ellsworth, 734-971-7400, and is open Tues and Thurs, 8:30-6:30 and Sat, 9-6. To be eligible for the free yard waste drop-off and to waive the \$3 entry fee, Ann Arbor residents must show proof of residency with a driver's license and a current water bill at the gatehouse window.

Source: www.a2gov.com/leaves

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Café Corner

About Coffee and Why It Is Roasted

Coffee is a small red fruit that must go through many stages to become the tasty brown bean we all know as coffee. Most good coffee is first wet processed to remove the outer skin, pulp (which is actually fermented away), and inner parchment skin. Then the inner seed, or bean, is dried and becomes the green coffee that is shipped and stored around the world. Green coffee is a lot like a dry pinto bean—it can be stored for a long time yet still become a fresh and aromatic food item after it is roasted or cooked.

The final step to make the coffee bean ready for brewing coffee is to roast the green beans. Without roasting, a beverage made from the green coffee bean would be bitter and extremely acidic, in short, undrinkable. The relatively simple act of roasting coffee used to be a common home task, but in today's modern society it became shrouded in mystery as the process was taken over by large companies in the late 1800's. The growing popularity of gourmet coffee has sparked an interest in reviving the traditions of roasting coffee at home. Fortunately, today we have the advantages of modern knowledge and devices to make coffee roasting easier than it was over a century ago.

During the roasting process the green coffee changes dramatically. The process of roasting forces water out of the bean, causing it to dry and expand in the process. Some of the natural sugars in the bean are transformed into CO₂ gas, and others are caramelized into the complex flavor essences that make a good coffee. The colors darken and at the end of roasting the bean is about 18% lighter in weight and 50 to 100% larger than when it was green. After roasting the coffee continues to "degas," emitting CO₂ which helps protect the delicate flavor and aroma of the coffee. Just one week from the time it is roasted, the coffee has already started to lose some of its best flavor and aroma, the best reason to roast your own!



Although a relatively simple process, roasting your own coffee does take some practice to develop consistent results that will meet your expectations for an excellent cup of coffee.



Basic Requirements For Roasting Coffee

To roast your own coffee at home, the following basic requirements must be met for a successful roast.

- Beans must be heated to temperatures of 370° F to 540° F. Faster air currents permit lower temperatures.
- The coffee beans must be in constant motion to prevent scorching or uneven roasting.
- The beans must be cooled quickly to prevent over roasting.
- Roasting coffee produces smoke which must be vented properly.
- The roasted beans shed the outer skin during the roasting process and the light weight skins (called chaff) can make a mess if not handled correctly.

There are several methods available that meet these requirements, from a stovetop popcorn popper to a fully automated roasting appliance. You can learn more about those methods at www.breworganic.com/coffee.

Source: <http://www.breworganic.com/coffee/howtoroast.htm>

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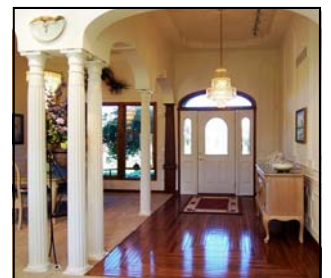


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This Month's Featured Listing **9273 Mirage Lake Drive**

Old world craftsmanship best describes this stunning brick ranch located in the private and secluded lakefront residential community of Mirage Lake. Every one acre plus home site has been carefully designed to provide each parcel with a lake view. Property owners enjoy access to two private, spring-fed crystal clear lakes, private beach, recreation area, gazebo and nature trails. Mirage Lake is centrally located between Ann Arbor and Toledo just minutes from two major universities, three world class hospitals and Detroit Metropolitan Airport.



More pictures and information
available at www.MirageLake.Info



Use this symbol on your smartphone
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