



The Oak Tree Observer

Home Improvement Information You Can Use

Spring, 2013

SOMETIMES THE BEST WARM WEATHER VACATION SPOT IS YOUR OWN BACKYARD DECK!

A deck is essentially an outdoor room which adds value to your home. But you'll need your deck to provide value to your life, without busting your budget!

First, is your budget. Think of the size and shape of your deck. Cities and villages have size, height and/or structural requirements for decks, so considering these items first is crucial to setting your budget. You also want the deck area to fit your family's needs in terms of size and function. Pergolas, canopies and awnings can also be added to help reduce the sun's impact. Also consider any features you want "built in" with the deck, such as benches, BBQs, storage areas or flower containers.

Next you should consider the material that will be used for your deck. Woods such as redwood and cedar are fairly common, but require annual maintenance to prevent cracking, warping and fading and preserve its beauty over time. Wood decks

are also prone to mold and mildew growth if not maintained.

There are several other types of composite decking material which typically are lower maintenance and have a longer life span. These materials come in several different color finishes and look like real wood.

You will also need to choose the type of railing you want. Railings are necessary safety features, but can be an added design element by using different colors and shapes of balusters.

The final thing to consider is access to your deck, either from the yard or the house. Both access points should fit your needs both from the house and the yard. If you are adding on a new deck, an access door will be needed and if you're replacing an existing deck, this is the time to replace that door if it doesn't work for your family's needs or safety.

We at Oak Tree Construction can discuss your needs with you to make sure that you and your family get the most enjoyment out of your deck. Call us today!

Share Your Email With us!

Help us go green by sharing your email address with us so we can send this newsletter to you electronically. Email us at donna@oaktreeconstruction.com. As a note, we hate spam too! We will not sell or give your email to anyone else and will keep our emails to you at a minimum!



GET ALONG WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!

Oak Tree Construction wishes to introduce you to some of our business relationships that we feel can help make your life easier!

"Like a good neighbor", J.J. Ghiotti is there as your local State Farm Insurance agent, located in Hoffman Estates. J.J. handles all lines of insurance from auto to home to life! Give him a call at 847-252-7430.

"More than Ink on Paper", Foster Printing has been a leader in the printing industry for almost 90 years. Gino Martinez's passion for quality and customer service will help you with all of your printing needs. Call him at 773-283-6852.



OAK TREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Spring! We hope that you are getting ready for warmer weather. We're so ready at Oak Tree that we've dedicated this entire newsletter to warmer-weather projects and tips!

In January, both Mike and Donna attended the NARI meeting at Floor & Décor Outlets and toured their facilities and the thousands of flooring options they offer.

Mike and Donna also attended NARIGC's Vendors Night in March. This is an event where plumbing, window, flooring, millwork, cabinet, blinds, countertops and other industry suppliers present their newest products and services to contractors. We have a lot of ideas for your next project!

Questions? Comments!

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ALL THE BASICS For Your Home

 gardening/yard tools for rust, wear or dulling and have them repaired or replaced. This is also a great time to explore catalogs and order new plants!

fertilizer around trees and shrubs when new growth appears. Begin fertilizing perennials when active growth resumes.

Spring Gardening Tips

It may be a little early for planting most things in your garden, but here are some tips on what to do to get ready:



Survey the Yard. Make note of trees and bushes that should be removed, pruned or cables. Cut down last year's perennial foliage and rake mulch from beds planted with bulbs. Refresh mulch in other areas after the soil warms. Check fences, steps and pathways for disrepair.

Tune Up Your Tools. Inspect your

Get Ready to Mow. Service your mower and leaf blower. Sharpen mower blades, change the oil, install new spark plugs and lubricate moving parts. Clear the lawn of winter debris and note areas that need reseeding.

Prepare New Beds. As soon as soil can be worked, remove sod or weeds and debris.

Cultivate soil with an layer of compost to a depth of 10-12"

Fertilize. Apply appropriate

 Clean Bird Feeders and Baths. Don't forget your fine feathered friends too! Clean feeders and baths with a weak bleach solution (1/4 cup bleach: 2 gallons warm water). Rinse and dry the feeders thoroughly before refilling them.



Scrub birdbaths with bleach solution, then rinse thoroughly and refill.



Deck the House!

No, it's not the holidays, but the warmer months are coming (we promise!) and an outside deck provides wonderful, peaceful additional "living space" during spring, summer and fall.

Decks are no longer wooden rectangles off the back of the house. Decks and patios can be made into any size and shape, with additional features such as benches, planters, built-in BBQ's, surrounding landscaping and more! The finish color can also be adapted to compliment your house and its surroundings. Deck materials now come in low-maintenance varieties, so no more slaving away every year power washing and staining!

Projects designed and constructed by
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