



The Oak Tree Observer

Home Improvement Information You

Winter, 2013

CREATE A SPACE IN YOUR HOME FOR EVERYONE WITH UNIVERSAL DESIGN

With today's economy, more and more homeowners are remaining in their houses instead of moving and selling. But what to do with your existing home when your life situation changes and it just doesn't "work" for you anymore? How can you adapt your living space to accommodate these changes without your home looking "clinical"? The answer to both of these questions is Universal Design.

You may be faced with an aging parent moving in with you or grandchildren who spend the weekend. Or you may feel that that countertop is at an odd height for your every day use. Universal Design elements in your project make your home "friendly" to anyone of varied ages, heights and abilities.

This design idea can be implemented in any room of your home. Features of the design will make it easier and less hazardous to move from room to room.

Elements include using a smooth flooring surface without ridges or bumps to aid mobility and countertops of varying height to enable people of any height to use them.

Your bathroom can still look like a spa while using the elements of Universal Design. Towel rods or adjustable shower heads, which also have the specifications of a grab bar, can be installed making it functional for those who need help getting in and out of the tub.

Universal Design details go all the way down to the "nitty gritty" of heights and shapes of light switches and door handles which make it easier for little or arthritic hands to use.

Universal Design can even be applied outside. For instance, if someone who lives in or visits your home is in a wheelchair, uses a walker, or has a vision impairment that makes it difficult to use steps, your landscaping and sidewalk can be graded into a gentle and eye-appealing slope that leads you inside, rather than a bulky ramp.

Mike just completed a study course on Universal Design and received his Universal Design Certified Professional designation from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, so call us today to implement Universal Design into your next project! 847-843-3030.

OAK TREE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Happy New Year! We hope that you enjoyed the holidays with your families and friends as we did!

Our big news is that Mike recently attained his Universal Design Certified Professional designation from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry! Mike participated in a study group and then passed the exam in November. He earned this in addition to the Certified Remodeler and Certified Kitchen & Bath Remodeler certifications. As with his other certifications, Mike will be required to obtain continuing education credits each year to remain on the "cutting edge".

We are excited to provide this design knowledge to our clients and their projects. (Read a little more about Universal Design above!)

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!

It's almost tax time, and James Jacobs of J M Jacobs Accounting & Tax Service is extremely knowledgeable in 2012 & 2013 tax reforms. Give him a call at 847-271-1753

Pam Patyk, Mary Kay specialist, can help make all the ladies feel pretty special in 2013. Pam hosts home Mary Kay parties or will simply take your order. Call her at 847-917-0222 to make 2013 even more beautiful!

Questions? Comments!

Please Contact
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ALL THE BASICS

For Your Home

The size of a regulation baseball (between 5" and 5.25") was originally set because it was the diameter of an average cow's kidney.

During the filming of his PBS documentary about Baseball, Ken Burns pitched 12 games under the assumed name of George Johnson for the High-A Myrtle Beach Penguins. In 22 innings, he gave up 67 runs and pitched only seven strikes.

Under the current MLB Player's Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, any position player on the 25-man roster of any team is allowed unlimited access to any American Airlines Admiral's Club lounge in the continental United States.

Originally proposed names for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays included the Tampa Oranges, St. Petersburg Piers, Florida Mickey Mice, and Pinellas County Sunshines.

The Colorado Rockies have an alternate home jersey specifically designed for playing in snow. It has a pullover hood, full-height boots, and a parka top. It's rarely used because it impedes pitching motion, but they were most famously worn in game 4 of the 2007 NLDS, in which it snowed over 27 inches during 9 innings of play.

Pitcher Randy Johnson is an avid collector of Strawberry Shortcake figurines and memorabilia. In 1998, he paid \$650,000 for a rare 1985 Berrykins Strawberry Shortcake doll that once belonged to Kim Jong Il.

Cracker Jack purchased at Giants games at AT&T Park does not contain any peanuts and is manufactured at an alternate facility that does not process peanuts, in accordance to San Francisco peanut allergy laws.

We're big baseball fans here at Oak Tree, and with Pitchers and Catchers reporting soon, we hope you enjoyed some fun baseball facts. Just two months until Opening Day!



A Grand Reflection

Mirrors have always been a tool used to brighten a room or make it look larger, but not all mirrors are created equal!

The mirror on the top is a standard mirror with a custom-made frame which reflects the mission-style décor and fixtures of the room. The mirror in the middle was custom-cut and beveled with an arched top to "mirror" the style of the bed frame in the room. And the bathroom mirror on the bottom has a jagged looking edge to give personality to the room. Mirrors in rooms that receive sunlight produce an added beautiful bonus of light prisms traveling across the wall!

Project designed and constructed by
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