

# The Good Neighbor

GAZETTE



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## Summerize Your Home

As the temperatures rise, we seek a feeling of lightness and coolness in the way we dress, the foods we eat, and the decorations in our homes. Off come the heavy clothes, and out come the salads and lightly cooked foods.

Summer is a perfect time to take a look at your home with new eyes. What makes it feel hot and heavy? What simple changes can you make that will improve the way your home feels? Here are several tips to help you summerize your home and shed some of the "heat":

1. Eliminate excess. Pack away many of your nicknacks. Clear away anything that feels cluttered or "hot."
2. Remove dark colored pillows from the bed and sofa and pack them away for now.
3. Take the "fire" out of your house. Pack away the candles for use next season.
4. Roll up any area rugs or throw rugs that you can live without to open up and lighten the room.



5. Pack away your winter comforters and replace them with lighter weight comforters in cooler colors.
6. If you have an excessive number of plants, take them outside for the season to open up your spaces and cool them off.
7. Consider using light/sheer curtains or leaving the windows bare.
8. Wash your windows or have them washed. Bye bye grime and grit, hello sunshine.
9. Consider giving your house a face lift with new interior paint.
10. Determine where you will store the off-season items you have taken down.

## Who was Uncle Sam?

No one knows for sure where the iconic figure of Uncle Sam came from, but perhaps the most intriguing theory is the case of Mr. Samuel Wilson. Sam Wilson was a prominent meat-packer in Troy, New York during the first decades of the nineteenth century, a time when America was still in its infancy as a nation. During the rather anti-climactic War of 1812, Mr. Wilson was kind enough to try and help the troops fighting the British as best he could by sending them crates of meat, which he stamped U.S. (which presumably stood for United States). The soldiers themselves, familiar with Sam Wilson's operation, perhaps jokingly, claimed the U.S. to stand for "Uncle Sam."



It is said that from this point on, Uncle Sam (a man who did, in fact, bare a rather striking resemblance to that familiar image, minus the patriotic flare) became a symbol of everyday Americans choosing to help their country in times of need.

*There are those, I know, who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind, is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is the American dream. ~Archibald MacLeish*

# Marinated Grilled Shrimp

Recipe found on allrecipes.com



## Ingredients

- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup tomato sauce
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 pounds fresh shrimp, peeled and deveined
- skewers

## Directions

1. In large bowl, stir together the garlic, olive oil, tomato sauce, and red wine vinegar. Season with basil, salt, and cayenne pepper. Add shrimp and stir until evenly coated. Cover, and refrigerate for 30 minutes to 1 hour, stirring once or twice.
2. Preheat grill for medium heat. Thread shrimp onto skewers, piercing once near the tail and once near the head.
3. Lightly oil grill grate. Cook shrimp on preheated grill for 2 to 3 minutes per side, or until opaque.

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**REAL ESTATE BLOG**

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Time To Get Your AC Ready For Summer!  
March 26, 2013

To maintain the energy efficiency, safety, and useful life of your central air conditioning system, it is important that your maintenance program include the proper care for your central air conditioning. These tasks should be taken care of in April, before your cooling season begins.

**Task #1: Replace or wash the air filter**

Depending upon the type of filter on your central air conditioning unit, you should change or wash it every 2-3 months. How often you wash or change it, depends upon how dirty the air is in your area. If you do not change the filter regularly, you reduce the amount of airflow through your ducts thereby wasting money by not heating or cooling your home because your fans are not moving air properly.

The air filters should be replaced or washed monthly during the heavy cooling season months (April through August). Read the rest of the entry »

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# Green Camping Gear

Camping allows both city dwellers and suburban folks to reconnect with nature. Plus, it's relatively low impact—most sites are totally off the grid, so as long as campers make sure to clean up after themselves, it's one of the most eco-friendly trips out there. As you prepare for your trip, don't forget to pack the latest eco-friendly camping gear to ensure your journey goes smoothly. Portable GPS units like those from DeLorme and Garmin will ensure you'll never get lost while exploring the woods. Hand-crank flashlights are another great device to bring along. With no outlets in sight, these handy lights only require some winding to produce a steady stream of light. For cooking that's greener than a campfire, try using a solar oven. These hot boxes use the power of the sun to cook camp-time meals, ensuring no pollutants from burning wood enter the air.



**If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.**

*This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another agent.*