

# BUYER & SELLER

## From The Editor

*In this month's issue*



## Your Real Estate Resource

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to *Buyer & Seller*. This month is a great issue. Read storage ideas for your kid's room (from cradle to college) and learn how leaves can help your landscaping. Check out how to clean up after Halloween pranks and see how to win Missouri Mavericks tickets. Finally, don't forget to take a look at the website of the month. As always, if you have any questions about real estate, don't hesitate to ask. I'm here to help.

## ISSUE #21 OCTOBER 2012

Andy Davies

(913) 375-0135

andy@andysavesyoumoney.com

Platinum Realty (913) 227-0798

32 Corporate Woods

9225 Indian Creek Parkway

Suite 1150

Overland Park, KS 66210

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## Kids' Rooms: Storage Solutions for Every Age

By Jan Soultz Walker

From babies who adore you to teens who ignore you, kids change -- and so do their storage needs. Here's how to organize kids' rooms from cradle to college.

### Cradle crawlers

**Transformer cribs** An ordinary crib accommodates baby for two to three years - until he learns how to escape over the rail. Boost storage (<http://www.houselogic.com/home-topics/storage-solutions/>) with a convertible crib with storage drawers (\$145-\$350) that'll convert and adapt to your toddler's needs and beyond. **Please see rooms on page 6**

## How to Mulch Leaves: Cheap Mulch for Your Landscaping

By Lisa Kaplan Gordon

Don't toss out those fallen leaves you've spent weekends raking and blowing. Autumn leaves make low-cost mulch and fertilizer to protect and feed your landscaping all winter. Now that your trees are bare, make the most of those fallen leaves. Here are a few ways to recycle leaves to protect and feed your landscaping all winter.

### Mulch

Mulching plants and shrubs is not just a spring chore. Your landscaping needs winter protection, too.

Autumn leaves are a low-cost mulch that insulate roots from frigid temperatures and hold moisture in the ground, which is vital to plant health in winter.

After you've removed dead blooms or rotting vegetables, rake or blow leaves (<http://www.houselogic.com/blog/landscaping-gardening/leaf-removal-equipment-tips/>) into garden beds, and mound them around the base of shrubs and trees. To quicken decomposition and feed plants all winter, run leaves through a shredder or run over them with a mower.

### Composting Leaves

Rotting leaves and pine needles make great compost. Just throw them onto your compost pile (<http://www.houselogic.com/home-advice/composting/start-compost-pile/>), and douse them with water before you drain your outdoor spigot for the winter.

Or, bag up the leaves and throw them into a corner of your yard. If you have a mild winter, dark plastic will catch the rays and cook the leaves, speeding up decomposition. Come spring, dump the rotting leaves on your compost pile, and save the bags for next fall's cleanup.

### Leaves As Fertilizer

Instead of raking or blowing leaves, run your mower over them a couple of times, and let them decompose and nourish your lawn.

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## Win Missouri Mavericks Tickets!

To win, be the first to email the correct answer to [andy@andysavesyoumoney.com](mailto:andy@andysavesyoumoney.com)

Who holds the record for most career goals scored in the National Hockey League?

- A) Wayne Gretzky
- B) Matthew Barnaby
- C) Martin Brodeur

### Who can I help?

Know someone who may need some help with real estate? Let me assist them. I'm always available to answer questions, without any obligations. You can reach me at (913) 375-0135 or [andy@andysavesyoumoney.com](mailto:andy@andysavesyoumoney.com)

## Website of the Month

[hootsuite.com](http://hootsuite.com)

Whether for personal or professional use, most of us use social media in one way or another.

Sometimes, especially for marketing a business, social media can take up a lot of time. Hootsuite, pointed out to *Buyer & Seller* by Ken McRae and Kelly Ziegler, makes it fast and easy to manage your social media.

To use, simply schedule an update for your social media platform(s). You can schedule updates daily, weekly or monthly.

Hootsuite is free for five platforms or less. More than five costs \$9.99 per month.

## Got a question? Contact me.

[andysavesyoumoney.com](http://andysavesyoumoney.com)

[andy@andysavesyoumoney.com](mailto:andy@andysavesyoumoney.com)

(913) 375-0135



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## Egging, Toilet Papering: How to Clean Up After Halloween Pranks

By Lisa Kaplan Gordon

Halloween can be a messy holiday. With pranksters about, you may end up with egg yolks dripping down your siding and toilet paper hanging from your trees. Inside, you might drip candle wax on your carpet, and your little ones could leave makeup stains on your furniture. Hey - it's the price of having fun.

But when the fun is over, the cleanup begins. Here are some tips from the American Cleaning Institute ([http://www.cleaninginstitute.org/clean\\_living/stain\\_removal\\_chart.aspx](http://www.cleaninginstitute.org/clean_living/stain_removal_chart.aspx)) and others on removing the Halloween mayhem that little tricksters leave behind.

### Egg Splatters On Your House

Time is your enemy when your house has been egged, because sunbaked yolks can stain your siding (<http://www.houselogic.com/home-advice/roofing-gutters-siding/how-to-clean-siding/>). Also, micro-shards of shell can become embedded in paint or act as an abrasive when you clean off the gunk.

Instead of scrubbing, spray away the egg with your garden hose. But don't aim the hose full blast at the yolk, which will splatter the mess. Instead, Popular Mechanics (<http://www.popularmechanics.com/home/improvement/outdoor-projects/how-to-clean-up-egg-vandalism>) magazine suggests first wetting the siding below the egg, then gently spraying the siding above the egg; the water will fall in sheets and flush away the mess.

If you need more cleaning oomph, dip a brush into a bucket of warm water (never hot, which will bake on yolks) and dish soap, and then scrub away the mess.

### Toilet Paper In Your Trees

Wet toilet paper is a beast to remove from trees. So wait until the sun evaporates dew; or, if rain is predicted, start removal right away.

Use a rake to grab and pull the TP down, a leaf blower to blast it, or a telescoping reacher/grabber to pluck it.

Start at the top and work your way down. Immediately throw paper away: Leaving it on your lawn can smother grass (<http://www.houselogic.com/home-advice/lawns/lawn-aeration-tips-tools/>).

Please see cleaning on page 5

## Cleaning: Continued from page 4

### Candle Wax On The Carpets

Never try to remove hot wax from carpeting. Not only can you burn yourself, but you'll likely spread the wax, making a bigger mess.

When the wax has cooled, break it with a dull knife or Popsicle stick. Throw away the pieces.

Cover remaining bits with a paper towel or rag, and press a warm iron to the area. Replace the towel frequently to avoid spreading the wax.

### Halloween Makeup On Upholstery And Carpet

Many commercial carpet and upholstery cleaners remove makeup from unwanted places. The only tricky part is applying these cleaners.

Always test the cleaner on an inconspicuous spot. Apply a dab of cleaner on a white cloth, then hold it to the test area for about a minute. If no color is transferred to the white cloth, the cleaner is safe.

Never rub cleaner on a stain. Rather, blot the stain starting from its outer edge and work to the center.

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## Rooms: Continued from page 1

Some convertible cribs change into toddler beds, daybeds, or full-size headboards, giving you options as your youngster gets older. If you can't find a crib with storage below, use the space between the legs for stowing bins or baskets for diapers, toys, and more.

**Pimping The Closet** Remove the door on the nursery closet for easy access, and install a variety of cool storage features. Drawers, bins, and shelves can round up onesies, booties, baby towels, diapers, and toiletries. A simple wire rack storage system is \$90-\$350 at home improvement centers. Install lower rods so baby, as he grows, can easily latch onto duds (and maybe even hang them up). Expandable hangers (\$14 for a 3-pack) fit tiny baby clothes but open up to accommodate larger sizes when needed.

## Toddlers And Elementary Age

**Looke 'Em In The Eye** Stow books and puzzles on a low magazine rack or shelving unit so toddlers and elementary-age children can grab a good read or brain teaser on a whim. As children grow, paint the shelf to suit changing tastes and use it for teen magazines, framed photos, and school books.

**Cornering The Market** Young kids love nooks, so create a cozy hideaway by arranging storage units - open shelves, a desk top, and cabinets - so they (mostly) enclose one corner of your kid's room. (<http://www.houselogic.com/home-advice/rooms/kids-rooms-storage-solutions/>) Bookshelves and kids' desks range from \$50 to \$200.

Stock up with plenty of games, books, toys, and crafts supplies. Paint cabinet doors with blackboard paint to add an eye-level creative opportunity.

**Corral The Bling** Little girls often possess a cartload of hair ribbons, barrettes, and bows. Look for special organizers that keep them on display, orderly, and within easy reach. One option: Sort items into the pockets of a clear vinyl shoe holder (\$10) that fits on the back of the door.

## Tweens, Teens And Beyond

**A Magnetic Personality** A bulletin board is a great way for your tween or teen to organize and display all those photos of friends and Fido. Or, coat a vertical surface (such as a closet door) with magnetizing primer (\$25/quart) and paint over the primer with a hip color. Use assorted magnets and magnetic clips and holders to display artwork, sports schedules, and homework reminders.

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**Rooms: Continued from page 6**

**Making A (Book)Case** A bookcase headboard (\$100-\$200) is a grown-up way for your teen or college student to keep reading materials organized and the tablet reader handy. Platform storage beneath the bed provides room for drawers or cubbies that can hold baskets and bins for corralling small stuff.

**Explore The Shallows:** Commandeer space between wall studs (<http://www.houselogic.com/home-advice/home-improvement/shelving-between-studs/>) and create a shallow storage niche outfitted with hooks, shelves, or rods for organizing jewelry and other smallish gear. Add a mirrored door to keep clutter out of sight.

**Lofty Ambitions:** For a small bedroom, a loft-style bed offers a fun spot for snoozing and space below for bookcase storage, a futon, or a study desk. Loft beds for kids' rooms start at \$150 and range to \$3,000 or more.

**Keep Rolling:** Give your tween or teen a rolling caddy (\$25-\$80) for storing personal bath supplies, jewelry, cosmetics, and hair gear. The caddy stores in the bedroom and rolls to a nearby bath and back.

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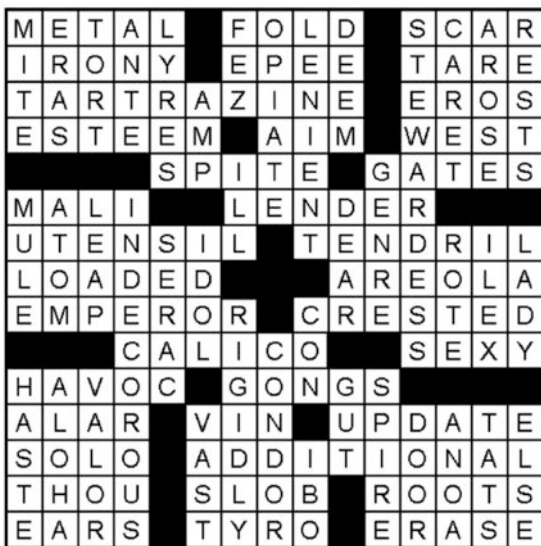
**ACROSS**

- 1. Transport commercially
- 5. Waste matter
- 10. Fraud
- 14. Fabricated
- 15. Choice
- 16. Hint
- 17. Eclipse
- 19. Deliver a tirade
- 20. New Zealand parrot
- 21. Not a single time
- 22. Noodles
- 23. Trap
- 25. A type of farm tool
- 27. Mineral rock
- 28. Morbid
- 31. Angry
- 34. Not the ceiling
- 35. Loving murmur
- 36. An enclosure
- 37. Throng
- 38. Gloomy atmosphere
- 39. It comes from a hen
- 40. Operatic solos
- 41. Lubricated
- 42. Homeless person
- 44. Gorilla
- 45. Sporting venue
- 46. Median
- 50. Exploded stars
- 52. Not drunk
- 54. Not against
- 55. "Oh my!"
- 56. A cherished desire
- 58. Liturgy
- 59. Conducts
- 60. Backside
- 61. One who accomplishes
- 62. Donnybrook
- 63. Honey insects



**DOWN**

- 1. A cloud of fine particles
- 2. Shelter
- 3. Notions
- 4. Apiece
- 5. Orb
- 6. Hunger for
- 7. Go on horseback
- 8. Shapeless
- 9. Church bench
- 10. Poor handwriting
- 11. Music genre
- 12. Parental sister
- 13. Anagram of "Meat"
- 18. Trap
- 22. Decant
- 24. Memo
- 26. Coil
- 28. Boast
- 29. Only
- 30. Grasp
- 31. Frozen
- 32. Anger
- 33. Exasperate
- 34. Stew
- 37. Smile
- 38. Jetty
- 40. Away from the wind
- 41. A drama set to music
- 43. Found at the end of a pencil
- 44. Reluctant
- 46. Put up with
- 47. All excited
- 48. Gander
- 49. Sea eagles
- 50. An aromatic ointment
- 51. Hodgepodge
- 53. Iridescent gem
- 56. A high alpine meadow
- 57. Bar bill



September Answers