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Spring 2013

The Produce-ers

The Taff family farm is plowed, planted and grows larger each year. If we aren't careful we will need to create a Taff Farm CSA to help us consume all of the produce! Some of the recipes featured over the next few issues will focus on crops that will be harvesting this summer. Stay tuned. It promises to be a delicious year!

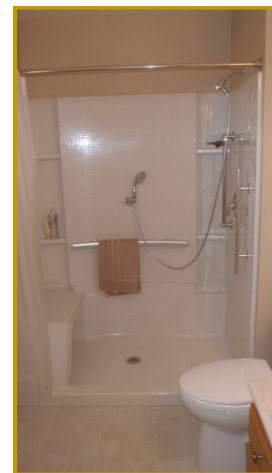
The Universal Design Edition

As you know, Universal Design and Aging in Place is a passion for TZ of Madison. In almost every one of our remodeling projects an element of that passion is involved. In some projects, universal design is at the forefront as shown by the photo (at right). An accessible bathroom was created for the homeowners without expanding the original footprint of the room. The tub was transformed into a roll-in shower that will suit the homeowners needs in the coming years. This takes Universal Design (UD) know-how and practice that only comes through training and experience.



A safer bathroom can easily be created within the same footprint as the original bathroom making it a more economical upgrade.

Some projects are more subtle with their UD components. Another recent master bath remodel incorporated UD principals even though the homeowners did not have an immediate need. They opted to make the bath a bit larger for increased movability, installed a higher toilet and a walk-in shower with a very small step replaced the tub. Even though this wasn't a UD remodel per se, those elements have become mainstream making a bath feel more usable and safe.



In keeping with our Universal Design edition, on page two you will find the article the Larry recently wrote for Brava magazine's June issue. We have also added an Articles page to our website with links to articles that Larry has written over the last several years. Get online and check them out! You may come away with a Universal Design idea or two for your next project!

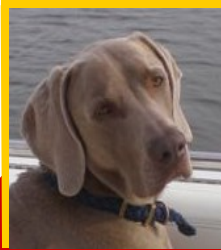
TZ at the BBBB Annual Conference

Nearly 800 building professionals dedicated to constructing high quality energy efficient homes gathered at the Kalahari in early March for the Better Buildings; Better Business conference. The annual conference is put on by the Energy Center of Wisconsin. TZ of Madison was called upon to

present a seminar on Universal Design. Attendees learned about key elements of Universal Design and how a Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) helps people stay in their home for life. Larry and Jesse presented photos of various projects and products used along with their

expertise to aid homeowners. The conference also provided information on the latest, cutting edge technologies and green-related products. Give us a call if you are ready to make some energy efficient or Universal Design improvements your home!





Captain's Corner

Larry has been busy since our last newsletter. In addition to running the company, he has written several articles for various local publications. Universal Design and green remodeling continue to be an important area of interest. I can see why!

Meanwhile, I hope you are getting outside to enjoy the milder weather that has finally come our way. I know I am. However, I don't suggest rolling in the mud...tracking in dirt is apparently a no-no! Woof!

P.S. Have you 'liked' TZ of Madison on Facebook yet? Help us grow our online presence by going online today!



Planning Ahead: Be Safe At Home by Lawrence J. Taff, MCR, GCP, UDCP, CAPS

Most homeowners would prefer to live safely and comfortably in their home for as long as possible. In fact, according to a recent survey, while 84 percent of boomers would like to stay in their current home during retirement, only 16 percent have taken any steps to adapt their home for the next couple of decades.

Thankfully, homeowners are more often starting to understand the importance of being proactive with their homes. By planning ahead, you can be ready when your needs change. And they will change; it is a simple fact of life. It is a matter of looking at aging in place (CAPS) and universal design (UD) upgrades through a different lens. These types of improvements cover a wide array. The goal

with both UD and CAPS is to make your home safe, comfortable, low maintenance and energy efficient. So you can spend your time living, not fretting about skyrocketing utility bills, drafts, moving around safely or dim lighting. By putting your home at the top of your to-do list, you can spread out universal design and energy efficiency improvements over a period of time. This allows for budgeting and planning costs in advance rather than having sudden expenses when life takes a turn.

Prior to starting these kinds of improvements it is important to get a comprehensive view of your home. A Universal Design Certified Professional (UDCP) or Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) has the back-

ground you need. The benefit of having a certified contractor is that they have the knowledge to step into your home and immediately see where the best improvements can be made for your particular needs. This provides you with a "whole-istic" approach to your health and home. By being proactive and planning your project with accessibility and efficiency at the forefront, your home can have many elements that will allow you to live safely and comfortably for decades to come. And as the baby boomer survey showed, that is exactly what homeowners want.

Larry's article was printed in the Brava Magazine Retirement Living Section February 2013.

This tangy salad is the perfect showcase for Spring peas. Enjoy!

Snap Peas with Cucumber and Ginger

2 T. olive oil	1/2 t. ground pepper
2 T. fresh lemon juice	1/2 lb. sugar snap peas, trimmed and thinly slice long ways
2 T. finely chopped fresh ginger	1/2 English cucumber, seeded and chop
1 t. sugar	1 medium shallot, thinly sliced
1/2 t. kosher salt	

In a medium sized bowl, whisk together the oil, lemon, ginger, sugar, salt and pepper. Add the snap peas, cucumber and shallot. Toss to combine. Serves 4.