



E*Star Electric, Inc.

Around The House

DECEMBER, 2009

NEWS THAT HELPS THE FAMILY.



Help Your Children Enjoy the Benefits of Charitable Giving At An Early Age

Parents sometimes have the feeling that Christmas has become little more than an attempt to fulfill the expectations of their children.

It can be more. Done correctly, adding the idea of helping others during the holidays can bring them joy right now. It can create a holiday tradition that will enrich the season for the rest of their lives.

You can start early by explaining to small children that some people may not have Christmas dinner without help from the bell-ringing Santas. Kids will love putting a few coins into the kettle.

Those who believe in Santa Claus may wonder why there are so many Santas and why they don't leave toys for every child. Explain that Santa needs help. The children will be thrilled with the idea of picking out a toy that Santa could give to a poor child.

It's easy for parents to feel they are a little poor themselves this year. Still, a gift doesn't have to be expensive, and the joy of choosing one could be something a child looks forward to each year in the future. Choosing a gift should be fun and an expression of love.

A story about why other kids may not get much for Christmas could be in order. Tell your children about recent floods or hurricanes that destroyed other kids' parents' homes and belongings. Don't make the story too frightening.

Older kids would enjoy helping you select the cause you choose to support this year. Make the choices interesting and encourage them to give part of their cash Christmas gifts to help others. Teens would enjoy going with you to help serve a free dinner at the church or soup kitchen. Inviting teen nieces, nephews or pals to join you is a plus.

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- [Panel Upgrade](#)
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Inside This Issue:

- [Keep Holiday Spending Under Control](#)
- [The Dangers of Walking and Talking](#)
- [Q&A on H1N1](#)

Plus much, much more!!!



"And I can do the procedure right here in my office."

Seven Steps to Keep Holiday Spending Under Control

One survey shows that 35 percent of consumers plan to spend less for Christmas gifts this year.

The percentage is just a little higher than the 25 percent who reported last January that they spent too much. That percentage will probably decrease when consumers are surveyed in January 2010.

The recession has been a wakeup call for everyone. Even profligate spenders are planning to cut back and charge less to their credit cards.

Here's how to do it:

1. Calculate exactly how much you can spend from current income plus whatever you saved ahead for gifts.

2. Make a list of everyone you absolutely have to buy for. Then whittle down the list.

3. If you have a family gathering where everyone buys for everyone else, suggest a gift exchange instead. Draw names so everyone only buys one gift.

4. Negotiate with relatives so only the kids get presents this year. But

couples without children who buy for others' kids should be gifted.

5. Once your list is finalized, decide how much of your calculated money you will spend on each individual.

6. Shop with a list that includes the amount to spend on each person. Try not to exceed it.

7. Consider buying used vintage books, sheet music, or bookends for those who would appreciate them.

Get Out Of Town For Less

If you decide you want to fly away right now, you're going to pay a big price for your last-minute ticket.

There's still a chance that you could get a bargain seat at Web sites that specialize in immediate ticket sales.

Click on Last Second Deals for a package that includes a hotel and car rental. Or visit airfarewatchdog.com for airline fire sale prices.

Put Safety at the Top of Your Holiday List

If you consider winter heating, overloaded electrical circuits and flammable decorations, you'll understand why December is prime time for home fires. Here are some old and new suggestions for a safe holiday season.

1. Look for the fire-resistant label on artificial trees and decorations.

2. Buy a natural tree that is really fresh. It should be very green and have needles that are hard to pull off. A twig shouldn't break when it's bent.

3. For outside decorations, buy only those made specifically for outdoors. Use heavy-duty extension cords and plug them into

circuits that have a ground-fault interrupter.

4. Get a remote control to easily turn off lights before you retire or when it snows or rains.

5. Avoid cooking fires by staying in the kitchen when cooking on the stove top.

6. Put candles in heat resistant containers and place them where they can't burn something or get knocked down.

7. Before lighting a fireplace or wood stove, clear the area of tree boughs, paper and other combustibles. Never burn gift wrappings in a fireplace. They could cause a flash fire.

8. Protect small children by keeping decorations out of their reach. Inspect toys for small parts that could cause choking, and keep scissors used for wrapping gifts away from children.

9. Be sure to lock doors and windows. Put indoor and outdoor lights on a timer, and leave a radio or television on when you leave the house.

10. If cold weather makes you want to use an indoor heater of any kind, be sure it is positioned well away from curtains, trees and decorations.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

NEWSEUM



Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's *Sun*, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.
"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
"Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'
"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

"VIRGINIA O'HANLON.
"115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except [what] they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

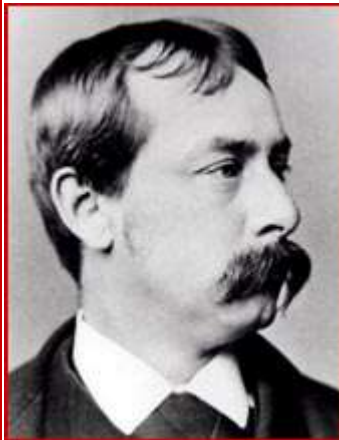
Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



[Click here to see the newspaper clipping](#)



Newsman Francis Pharcellus Church wrote *The Sun's* response to Virginia.

Easy-do Sudoku

How to solve sudoku puzzles

To solve a sudoku, you only need logic and patience. No math is required.

Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has a number 1 through 9 with only one occurrence of each number.

Each column and row of the large grid must have only one instance of the numbers 1 through 9.

The difficulty rating on this puzzle is easy.

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Walk-Talk Danger!

Walking along the street while talking on a cell phone is dangerous and not just because you bump into people. One study by Ohio State University showed that 48 percent of cell phone users crossed the street in front of approaching cars.

The study showed that cell phone talkers of all ages were unable to be aware of their surroundings at the same time

Answer Key on Page 8

LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW CLIENTS THIS MONTH
INTO OUR "E*Star FAMILY"

Here are some of our new clients that became members of our "E*Star Family" this past month. I'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Reed Hudson & Linda Lacasse

We are giving recognition to our new clients and our superb friends who are kind enough to refer their neighbors and relatives to us.

H1N1: The Good News

Everyone who is contemplating immunization for the swine flu (H1N1) should be relieved by this news.

Adults won't have to get two shots of the vaccine. Scientists at the National Institutes of Health say one dose of the new vaccine is strong enough to protect most people.

The important part of this announcement is that people will not have to line up for shots three times this year but just twice: once for seasonal flu and once for H1N1.

At this time, studies on whether children will need both shots are not yet complete.

But... The so-called swine flu may be contagious for a longer time than previously thought. Scientists at the Institute of Public Health in Quebec say their study shows it could be contagious for a week.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's flu chief says, however, that long breaks from work or school don't seem worth it for a virus that seems to cause mostly mild illness.

The flu is spreading so widely now that confining the sick does less good. It's virtually impossible not to have the virus introduced into settings such as school, universities and workplaces where people come into close contact with others.

Prevention

This situation may prompt more people to take the trouble to get the swine flu immunization.

At least, it could prompt more people to do frequent hand washing in an attempt to prevent the H1N1.

Financing Retirement with Real Estate

Investors over age 59 1/2 who have a sizable amount in a Roth IRA can use a "self-directed" Roth IRA to buy a home in full with cash. After they do, they can have the rental income tax free, as long as they don't live in the home, say financial planners writing in Smart Money.

If they don't have quite enough in a Roth, they could convert a traditional IRA into a Roth. The IRS says they will owe income tax on any amount you convert, but one benefit of a low IRA balance is a lower tax bill. Note that income restrictions on Roth conversions disappear in 2010.

Buyers should make sure the rental income easily covers expenses, including taking care of the property if they can't. They should compare the income from the property with what they would earn on a portfolio of the same size. Rental income would probably be more.

Handy Tip Of The Month: "Good Uses For Dryer Sheets"

TV screen: Wipe your TV screen with a used sheet to keep the dust from resettling

Suitcases: Place a sheet in your suitcases to keep them from smelling musty.

Wastebaskets: Toss a sheet in the bottom of your trashcan to help eliminate odors.

Cat or dog hair: The sheets will magnetically collect dog and cat hair on floors and furniture.

Shoes: Stick a sheet in each shoe overnight and they will smell great in the morning!

Check your Holiday Lights

Page 6

Here's a little-known fact about outdoor holiday lights: You should discard them after three seasons, even if yours seem as good now as the day you bought them 20 years ago. That way, you'll avoid frayed or cracked wires and other safety risks that sometimes occur with older light strings.

But don't stop there:

- No matter how new your bulbs check your lights carefully and throw them out if wires are damaged
- or if they have loose connections or broken sockets.
- Replace all broken or missing bulbs
- Don't string more than three standard sized sets of lights together; it puts too much of an electrical load on the wires.
- To unplug lights, use the gripping area of the plug; don't pull the cord. That can damage the wire and insulation and possibly shock you.
- Keep small bulbs and fuses away from children, who might choke on them.
- When buying new bulbs, look for the holographic Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label on the light strings and electrical decorations. (The UL tag should be affixed to the cord, not just marked on the packaging.) UL certifies indoor and outdoor lights. Indoor lights have green holographic UL marks; indoor/outdoor lights have red holographic UL marks. Lighting without the mark might be counterfeit and a fire hazard.
- Don't hang lights with staples or nails. Buy hooks or clips designed for hanging light strings.
- Turn off lights and other electrical holiday displays before going to bed.
- Store lights in a dry place, such as a suitcase, where they won't get damp or waterlogged.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2009

Release # 10-024

Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 952-1465

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Belkin International Inc. Recalls SurgeMaster™ Surge Protectors Due to Shock Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: SurgeMaster™ Surge Protectors

Units: About 68,700

Importer: Belkin International Inc., of Compton, Calif.

Hazard: The molding of the plastic 360 degree rotating plug, which allows for easy cord movement, can crack or detach from the plug assembly, posing a shock hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: Belkin has received seven consumer complaints about cracking of the plug molding. No injuries were reported.

Description: This recall involves the SurgeMaster™ Surge Protector, models F9G930-10, F9G930v10, F9G930-10-W and F9G930-10-SN, all manufactured in 2003. The model number and date of manufacture are located on the underside of the unit. Grey models F9G930-10-GRY and F9G930fc10G-CL are not a part of this recall.

Sold by: Independent distributors nationwide and the internet by www.belkin.com from September 2003 through December 2007 for about \$50.

Manufactured in: China **Remedy:** Consumers should stop using these power strips immediately and contact Belkin for a new replacement unit.

Consumer Contact: For more information, contact Belkin toll-free at 800-952-1465 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at www.belkin.com/recall

Did you know that we love referrals?

EARN CASH FOR REFERRALS

Sign up today for our Referral Partner program and you can earn 10% of the first call (up to \$100.00) for each new customer that you refer to us – OR – your friend can receive a 10% rebate (up to \$100.00) on the total cost of their first job. Your choice! For more details, just log onto our [referral member signup page](#) or call (727) 209-3413 today!

By referring your family, friends & neighbors, you've helped our business grow. Offering these special rewards is our way of saying, "Thank you, you're the best!"

Without you, we couldn't do what we do. To take advantage of our Referral Reward Program, just fill out the enclosed referral sheet and either fax or send it in. That's all there is to it!

REFERRAL PARTNER PROGRAM!

If you use this form, we will be able to make sure you get credit for all of your referrals when they become clients. If you have any questions, just give us a call at (insert your phone number).

Your Name: _____ Your Phone# _____

Referrals: If you run out of room, please feel free to use a separate sheet of paper.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____



Yes! Feel free to use my name as a reference when you contact the referrals!

Fax To: (727) 573-9083

Mail To: 3734 131st Ave. N., Suite 11, Clearwater, FL 33762

Or e-mail to customerservice@estarelectric.com



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ANSWER KEY



At E*Star Electric, we are famous for quickly responding to the service needs of our wonderful customers. After all, if something electrical has stopped working properly, the customer wants it to work again – FAST! For this reason, we make scheduling service calls a priority. We offer 24 hour electrical service because we know that disruptions can happen at any hour of the day or night.

www.EstarElectric.com