



Times Remembered
Betty A. Young

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It doesn't take a major overhaul to perk up your home's exterior. Small upgrades and subtle tweaks add curb appeal and charm.

Why wait until something is broken or paint is chipped; we stain and seal our decks about every spring. If we didn't they wouldn't last long, they would rot quickly. It's no fun, but it needs maintenance; it's either pay now or pay later and it makes nice curb appeal.

Other ways to establish curb appeal is flowers. Consider planters on the steps and on porches. I like red geraniums, and since my favorite color is red it brightens up everything. You don't have to go overboard, use flowers with one or two hues such as red and white with green shrubs. Boxwoods are great and they stay green all win-

Curb Appeal

ter. Choose something that will contrast with your house. Avoid having too many plants, it can steal the beauty away from your house.

If you can't afford to paint this year, spray away dirt and grime. Pressure wash or just scrub with soapy water. This has been a very wet winter and spring; therefore, many houses' siding has green algae on it this year.

Window boxes are nice. They are a lot like puppies... high maintenance but really pretty. Hanging vines such as ivy is pretty in those boxes with seasonal flowers. Check the wall behind the box for decay because the box could retain moisture behind it.

You could design a pretty pathway leading to your front door. Reclaimed bricks are good, or well-worn rocks make good stepping stones. Before we could afford the long concrete sidewalk leading to our house we used rock. Now we have a sidewalk with boxwood and hostas on both sides.

Porch swings are a must for front porches. Swings were very important when I was growing up; decisions were made sitting in them, songs were sung, and as teenagers they were great for

sitting with your date at night. Yes, I have a swing, I wish it was bigger... they are making bed swings now. I sure would like to have one of those. But old wrought iron gliders and wooden rockers will do the trick too.

Another thing you see now days is the painting of front doors in bold colors. It's not a huge investment, and it's also fairly easy to paint. If you want to take a more conservative approach, choose a historic color typical for your neighborhood. If you live close to the ocean maybe a soft coastal blue or a dark green in the mountains. I've seen a yellow door with a gold or mustard tone to it. I don't care for it, but it's supposed to be the "go to" color. The second favorite color is raspberry next to a white house.

I think I will just stick to a wooden oak door with its natural color right now. To me it looks better with my log house. But I can see the bright colors with a white or gray siding house.

All these curb appeal upgrades add value to your house; whether you are going to live there permanently or if you plan on selling it someday. It's a good investment.

Raiding watermelon patches can be frightening -- especially if caught



America's Heartland
Roger Alford

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You might have heard about the redneck who happened to cross paths with his neighbor on a dirt road not too far out of town.

The redneck had a sack over his shoulder and his neighbor just had to know what's in it.

"I got me some watermelons," the redneck answered.

"How many watermelons?" the neighbor asked, licking his lips.

"Well, I tell you what," the redneck said, hoisting the sack into the air. "If you can guess how many, I'll give them both to you."

And that, my friends, is a Jerry Stafford joke. Until he died a little over a month ago, the larger-than-life Kentuckian was a regular contributor of fun tales for this column, though he would never allow me give him any credit.

Jerry and I had spent a

lot of time together and had swapped a lot of stories in the years that I was his pastor. My favorite involved a watermelon heist he had plotted long years ago. But before I go there, I'd best tell you a bit about Jerry. He was a legend in Kentucky's burley region. It seems everyone had a Jerry Stafford story, well-honed from the telling. As is the case with legends, the stories tended to get embellished with each successive telling.

Jerry, well into his 80s when he died, would laugh heartily about those stories that turned Jerry into a modern day Davy Crockett, the legend from America's pioneer days. Jerry insists that he never actually chased down and picked up a full-grown bull or that he had tossed said bull across a woven-wire fence he had escaped from. He never lifted the back of a Chevy pickup while his buddy changed a flat tire. And he never jumped from a 15-foot-high barn roof he was repairing only to turn around and jump back up.

But he wouldn't deny stories about his practical jokes, though. Those were largely true. He just couldn't help himself when it came to pulling pranks. So it was that he plotted the raid on a neighbor's watermelon patch. He had pulled together some of the neighbor boys on a hot summer day, enticed them with

visions of juicy, ripe melons, and enlisted them to go with him after dark and help themselves to all they could eat.

Once the boys had been sold on the plan, Jerry went to the farmer and told him what time they would arrive. Jerry encouraged the farmer to be hiding on the edge of the watermelon patch when he and the boys got there, that he should give the boys time to snatch a watermelon apiece, then flip on a spotlight and start firing a shotgun into the air.

Preacher Pat Butcher shared that tale at Jerry's funeral, vividly describing those boys running and crying and praying and repenting as they scrambled to escape that watermelon patch. Meanwhile, Jerry stood nearby, laughing hysterically as this wild chaotic scene played out before him, just as he had planned. Perhaps it was his finest practical joke, one that taught those boys a lesson they would never forget.

In true legend fashion, Jerry faced death fearlessly. He had lived a long life, had done a lot of good, had had a lot of fun, and, most importantly, had surrendered his heart and life to Christ. So when it came his time to go, Jerry went confidently, like the legend he was, "pressing on to what lies ahead" (Philippians 3:13)..

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ESTILL COUNTY SCHOOLS MENUS

Milk is included with every meal; plus assorted juices included with breakfast

MONDAY May 20	TUESDAY May 21	WEDNESDAY May 22	THURSDAY May 23	FRIDAY May 24
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SOUTH IRVINE EARLY LEARNING CENTER BREAKFASTS

Breakfast Pizza Orange Juice Milk	Election Day No School	Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal Peaches, Milk	Omelet & Toast Oranges Milk	Blueberry Muffins Fruit Grape Juice, Milk
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SOUTH IRVINE EARLY LEARNING CENTER LUNCHES

Chicken Nuggets Roll, Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Pineapples, Milk	Election Day No School	Pork Roast w/Gravy Roll Mashed Potatoes Cooked Apples, Milk	Hot Dog on Bun Tater Tots Mandarin Oranges Milk	Pizza Corn Apples Milk
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ESTILL SPRINGS BREAKFASTS

Breakfast Pizza or Toast/Cocoa Puffs Pineapple Asst. Juice Milk Choices	Election Day No School	Donuts or Chocolate Pop Tart/Frosted Flakes, Pears Asst. Juice Milk Choices	Toast/Bacon Scrambled Eggs or Lucky Charms Mandarin Oranges Asst. Juice, Milk	Blueberry or Banana Muffins, Fruit Loops Peaches Asst. Juice Milk Choices
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ESTILL SPRINGS LUNCHES

Chicken Tenders Roll, Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Pears Milk	Election Day No School	Ravioli Texas Toast Cooked Carrots Cucumber Slices Strawberry Cup	Field Day Ham/Bun, Chips Fresh Cauliflower Broccoli/Dip Apples Slices, Milk	Cheese Pizza Corn Romaine Salad Mandarin Oranges Milk
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WEST IRVINE BREAKFASTS

Pancake Porky or Cereal Strawberry Cup Juice, Milk	Election Day No School	Donuts or Cereal Banana Juice Milk	Dutch Waffle or Cereal Applesauce Milk, Juice	Assorted Muffins or Cereal Apple Juice, Milk
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WEST IRVINE LUNCHES

Baked Rotini Texas Toast Garden Salad Cucumber Slice Strawberry Cup	Bosco Sticks Marinara Sauce Broccoli/Dip Applesauce Milk	Grilled Cheese Sandwich Carrots/Dip Baked Beans Peaches, Milk	Corn Dog Macaroni/Cheese 3/4 cup mixed vegetables Applesauce, Milk	Cheese Pizza Corn Tomato/Dip Apple Milk
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ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Pancake Porky w/ syrup, Mini Wheats Cereal Bars, Pop Tarts, Apple	Election Day No School	Cinnamon Roll Lucky Charms Cereal Bars, Pop Tarts, M. Oranges	Bacon, Egg & Ch. Biscuit, Cinn. Chex Cereal Bars, Pop Tart, M. Oranges	Choc. or Cinn. Muffin, Cocoa Puffs Cereal Bars, Pop Tarts, Pineapples
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ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH

Oven Roast BBQ Chicken or Chicken Bites, Roll, Peas Mashed Potatoes Strawberry Cup Apple	Election Day No School	Beef Taco Bar/ Burrito Bar or Chicken Fajita Let./Tom./Cheese Mexican Beans Salsa, Fresh Fruit	Rotini w/Italian Mean Sauce or Calzone Glazed Carrots Green Beans Pears, Mandarin Oranges	Big Daddy Cheese Pizza or Stuffed Crust Sausage Pizza Garden Salad w/Tomatoes, Corn Pineapple/Sidekicks
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ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Sausage, Egg & Cheese Sliders Cereal, Cereal Bars Pop Tarts Oranges or Apples	Election Day No School	Bacon, Egg & Cheese Biscuit Pop Tarts Yogurt Parfait Apples or Oranges	Chicken Biscuit Pop Tarts Yogurt Parfait Donut Holes Apples or Oranges	Eggstravaganza Wrap, Cereal, Cereal Bar, Pop Tarts, Mini Chocolate Donuts Oranges or Apples
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ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH

Cheeseburger on Bun, Chili Dogs Let./Tom/Pickles Potato Wedges Baked Beans Tropical Fruit Sidekicks Juice/Assorted Milk	Election Day No School	Burrito Bar Let./Tom./Cheese Refried Beans Corn Salsa Peaches Pineapples Juice/Assorted Milk	Chicken Alfredo Breadstick Mr. Rib on Bun Steamed Broccoli Corn Grape Tomatoes Pears, Applesauce Juice, Assorted Milk	Chicken Rings, Roll Spicy Chicken/Bun Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Strawberry Cups Applesauce Milk/Juice
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