

Issue # 79 September 2010

2-Sep-10 8:04am 69°

Restaurants

Starbucks Remodeling

This morning I got an idea when Starbucks would be closing for their remodeling.

I thought they would be closing for two weeks. This is not the case. Kim told me that they will be closing one day this month and two days next month.

In the middle of this month they will close for one day while the moving the serving area to the front of the store. In the middle October they will be closed for two days while they finish of the remodeling. Kim said that it is going to be like one of those super remodeling like you see on TV.

I will see it I can find out what they will change.

McDonald's

McDonald's reopened today. I drove by and they have a full parking lot and there are banners and streamers all over the place outside.

Today I stay away from there. Nowhere to park!

Birthdays

Happy Birthday Amber! I hope you survived last year being 18.

Bob, of Shirley and Bob, had a birthday yesterday. Yes I missed another one. I guess I am losing it. I have been late with a lot of birthdays this year. Happy Birthday a day late Bob!

3-Sep-10 4:52pm 61°

Well it is September and it must be fall. The temperature dropped a bunch since yesterday. Yup, yesterday it got up to 86° and today it got down to 55°. It can't be long before we can shovel snow. ☺

Birthdays

We have a new birthday for yesterday. Gennro was born yesterday. That makes him one day old now. Gennro is Angelia's first grandchild. She was just beaming today. Welcome to plant earth Gennro!

Restaurants News

Town & Country now has booths. Chaco has been telling us they would be here tomorrow for six months. There really look good.



Anila in the foreground, Tom in the middle, and the Gregory's are way in the front by the window.

I have to get a new camera. This may look ok shrunk down to this size but it looks bad at full size. One of these days I will get one.

Dairy Queen

I heard on the radio temperature was going to be in the 40s tonight. That made me think it might snow. If it snows too much I could get stranded in the house. I figured I need to rush out and get a box of Dilly Bars so I could make it through the snow storm.

4-Sep-10 11:36am 60°

Do you know they let kids have cell phones in the classrooms at schools? I wonder about

chewing gum! Boy, have time changes since I was in school! ☺

Starbucks Prices

Some one told me that Starbucks coffee cost too much. Their full price for a brewed copy of coffee is only \$1.50. Their fancy coffees are a little more. I don't drink them so I am not sure of the prices.



The way I figure it my cup of morning coffee only cost me about 85¢. That is 43% less than full price. Here is how I figure it.

I use my reward points from my Visa or Discover credit cards to buy the Starbucks gift cards. I register these cards at Starbucks.com to get discounts.

Discover card lets you redeemed 45 of your reward points for a \$50.00 gift card. That is a 10% discount.

If you register your gift card at Starbucks and use it they give you a free refill. That is worth 50¢ or I think of it as a free cup at \$1.50. I figure that I get a refill ever five cups so it averages 20% a discount.

Wait, I forget to tell you I bring my own cup. That is 10¢ off another 7.5% discount. I just wipe it dry and rinse it out when I get



home and put it back in the car on my next trip out.

Let's see how I get another free cup. Oh yes, if you use the gift card to buy your drink they send you a card in the mail for a free drink every 15 you buy with the card. With this free drink they have let me by a banana strawberry smoothly. They sell for \$3.95. For this I am only saying I get another \$1.50 cup of coffee free. I wonder if I could get a free refill too. No mater one out of fifteen free is another 7.5% discount.

Let me put this all together so you can see how I figure.

Brewed coffee	100%	\$1.50
Discover Card Discount	10%	-0.15
Refill 1 out of 5	20%	-0.30
1 out of 15 Coupon	7%	-0.10
Using Starbucks card	7%	-0.10
Total discount		65¢
What is really cost me	85¢	

You see it cost as little as Kelly's in Harvard. They charge 85¢ for their coffee too.

McDonald's

Did they make their parking too small? I see a lot of cars parked on the street around there. Maybe it is just workers finishing up with the construction. I hope this is not a trend.

Oh, Ronald is going to be at McDonald's today at one o'clock. I wonder if we are doing there instead of Town & Country as usually. Aunt Annie normally picks me up on Saturday. I'll have to ask her. ☺

Motor Home FOR SALE

I still have this motor home for sale. If you know of any one that is looking have them go to my web site and check it out.



Missed Routine

I hope Heather isn't mad at me. I can't remember the last time I missed my Saturday morning coffee at Vaughan's. Sorry Heather I just didn't make it today.

5-Sep-10 10:26am 63°

My trash others treasure

Yesterday after noon I opened up the garage door and saw all the clutter. I guess my clutter problem goes beyond the outer walls of my house. I had to move too much stuff to get at other stuff. I looked along the wall and I see stuff stored there 2001.

Since it didn't sell at the garage sale a few years ago it needed to get out there so I could use that space.

I moved 5 big items to the tree bank next to the street. I mad up 3 big signs that only said; "FREE to a good home."

After I came in the house I looked out and saw one of them was gone all ready and n hour later another.

I watched as someone stopped in the middle of the street and tries to put one of the cabinets in the back seat. The then noticed that they had a rope and put it in the trunk and the mirror in the back seat.

Four out of five items were gone in less than 3 hours.

This morning I looked out and someone was loading up that old wall cabinet that had been the garage for 10 years.

It is fun to watch people grab stuff you put out on the curb.

Whey back when I finished changing doors and windows back in the 1990s I filled up the whole tree bank with things that someone else might have wanted. In four hours it was all gone but one hollow core door. It sit there for 5 days. I finally had to haul it away myself.

That was fun to watch too.

No Free Space

I cleared a spot in the garage about 2-1/2 by 10 feet.

Somehow I lost floor space. I have to go out there and see if I can reclaim some more room.

6-Sep-10 1:48pm 75°

Birthdays

Happy Birthday Jack! How come you are having a birthday on a holiday?

Labor Day

Happy Labor Day to all of you people who have to labor today. And happy Labor to all you people who have to work other days too.

Holiday Lunch

As with most holidays Aunt Annie and I went out to eat. Today Marge joined us for lunch at IHOP. Where were you Shirley? Oh, that right is is a holiday.

Feedback/Correction

Aunt Annie tells me that there was a mistake on page one column 2 issue #78. It looks like I can't figure very well. Mom lived only 83 years and would have been 93. I am sorry Mom if I aged you a little too much.

I will correct this now and correct the online copies....All done. Now I will change the printed copies...Done!

The rest of you may have not seen this mistake so don't read this.

I have a collection of newsletters I wrote for my amusement and gave to my friends and family for their enjoyment. I put them all in books.



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Newsletter Change

I have been working off and on for years to get the index and table of contents (TOC) to do what I wanted it to do. Today I worked on a long time to get it to work as an external file to the newsletter itself. I think I have it figured out now.

I am so excited! I can now have an index and TOC in each newsletter and another as a master for the whole year.

What this means for you depends how much you want to look up in past issues.

Once it is finished you could look up in the table of content by Subject or by name in the index and go right to that page.

In the master TOC you could look by Issue, Date, Subject, and maybe by sub-subject. In the Index you could look up your name or a place or whatever I think to index.

The plan for the Index is to put the first names and places that are of interest so they can be found easily.

In the index places of interest for now are just restaurants and birthdays. I haven't thought about of other thing yet. I have only been making it work. Let me know if there is anything you would like indexed I will stick it in my master

list. Boy this is fun when you finally figure out these damn computer things!

Watching DVD

I see I have two Netflix DVDs there that I forgot to watch.

The first one it "Deep Space Nine: Season2: disc 7." I'll watch that first because it is the last one for Season 2 and it will likely be a cliff hanger. It will be Wednesday or Thursday before I start getting Season 3 to see how it turned out.

The other one is a fill DVD that I setup to come between the Star Trek seasons. It is "Check and Double Check with Amos n' Andy" released in 1930. It will be a great change of pace form all the Sic Fi I watch. Funny this was released 16 years before I was born.

So I am going to goof off the rest of this holiday!

7-Sep-10 10:04am 64°

Happy Tuesday! Yes today is Tuesday. Remember yesterday was a holiday.

Anniversary

Today is Annette & Dave's Anniversary, 1991. Wow it has been 19 years. It seems just yesterday when you guys got married. Happy Anniversary Dave & Annette!

Book 8

I finished my eighth book for the year today. This one was "Clutter, Be Gone."

I enjoyed this book. It taught me what all this clutter was and how I might get rid of it. The last third of the book was about cleaning and how easy it could be. It was over 400 pages of fun reading. Yes I said fun.

What I have to do now is but some of these ideas in to motion. I have lived here over 22 years and have accumulated a lot of clutter. I don't plan on de-cluttering everything over night. I do plan on working it and try to get rid of some of the clutter.

As I said in earlier newsletter, most of my clutter is projects I started and never finished. I either have to finish projects or decide I done need the project.

Some of the clutter is from left over stuff from finished projects. Other clutter is stuff I thought I might use.

What ever the reason, I have a lot of stuff to process.

This book is a good read even if you don't have as much clutter as I do. I give it 5 stars on the Marty's Random Reading scale.

"CLUTER Be Gone" by Don Aslett, 1999, ISBN 9781558705388

Coffee Time

Now I think I will go out to the Three Brothers and have a break and visit with Kim for a while. Maybe when I when I return I will take a nap then decide if I should start de-cluttering or take the day off. Or maybe I will find a smaller book for the next read.

A smaller book would fit in my pocket and I could take it for a walk easier.

Amazing Act

Wow! That was something I don't see every day! Someone stopped at a red light and waited for it to change. He was not turning right either.

Oh, He was on a bicycle!

My hat comes off to him. I don't see too many bicyclers stopping at all where I feel they should. Thanks for letting me know that some still do.

8-Sep-10 1:23pm 67°

We still enjoy the cool weather. It made me want to be outside more. So I am going out here again in a little while.

Pickup News

The other day I went out to move the Pickup and found the battery was dead. Since it has been just sitting for months I



thought nothing of it and just hooked up the charger.

Today Marie asked if she could use the car or truck for a week or so. I agreed and set out to make sure the pickup was running and safe.

First the battery was still dead so I jumped it with my heavy duty charger to make sure it would start. No luck so I figured it would just need a new battery.

I pulled one of the batteries off the solar/windmill array to jump it. Those batteries are big enough to start this little four cylinder engine. It started right up!

I left it run while I priced the battery on the internet. At Farm & Fleet they start at around \$52.00. Even the higher priced batteries were only \$75.00. That is a small price to pay.

When I came out to see how it was running, and running great it does. I notice that it was pumping gasoline all over the driveway from some under the middle.

I shut down the engine and waited a while then look to see where it might have been coming from. With the engine off it didn't leak. I could see the leak but there was gas all over the top and side of the gas tank.

It was leaking too bad to drive it somewhere. I am guessing that it could cost one to two hundred to get it fixed.

I came in to figure the value if I trade it in. It looks I could get \$800 if it was in very good shape which it is not. So maybe \$500 if I am lucky. I can donate it and write of \$500 as a tax deduction.

I am thinking now about just donating it so I don't have to deal with it.

I might go out and see where that leak is really coming from and patching it. Then I could drive it to get a price to have it fixed.

Since the pickup just sits all the time I do not really need it so I can live without it.

License plates and Insurance cost about \$300 a year. And I haven't put gas in it since October. Really, not since October 2009!

I use it to hold up the windmill tower. Another reason to get it moved to the antenna tower.

I will give Marie the car tomorrow instead of the pickup.

I might patch the leak and use the pickup or just put air in the tires on the bicycle and use it.

I guess I really should go see where that leak really is before I give in.

9-Sep-10 12:53pm 94°

I just returned from having breakfast with Marie & Corky. Well Marie just left here. We visited for hours. I loaned her my car. So if you see me some where make sure it is me and not Marie.

I will be driving the truck if I get it fixed. If not I will be enjoying some other means of transportation. I am not sure what that means just yet.

Road Construction

When I left home for breakfast I noticed they were under construction signs up by the parking lot at the south end of Clay Street by the parking lot.

They had signs in the parking lot for a few days they were going to work on it so I thought nothing of it. When Marie dropped me off I found that they were re-construction Clay Street from My house to Church Street.

This section of Clay Street had been very rough for a long time. It will be nice when they get finished. Since I don't have my car for the next week the road repaie will not hamper my driving ver much.

You do know that always fix the wrong road first. If it is someone else's street you wish it was yours. If it is your street you wish they would be somewhere else. I mean fix my road but don't block me with all of that construction equipment.

I am happy thy are fixing my street and I will walk or go the other way until they are finished.

Thanks guys!

Keep or Donate My Truck

If I repair my truck I will use it somewhat. I filled it up with fule on October 19th 2009. Maybe I do not need it.

If I decide to fix it and use it for another year it may cost more than it is worth. Let's see what that might be.

New Battery	60.00~
Fuel Leak (est.)	150.00~
Tow to repair shop	50.00~
License plates	100.00~
Insurance	200.00~
Total	\$550.00~

The retail value of this pickup is about \$800 if it was in good condition. I would call it fair condition and it had over 130,000 mile on it. In fair condition I might get \$500.00 if I spent a couple hundred dollars to make it run and be safe.

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That would me I would have to pay \$200 to get \$500. This makes it only worth \$300.00 hard cash in my pocket after spending a little money to advertize it.

If I donate it will cost me nothing and I will be able to get a \$500.00 tax deduction. A \$500.00 tax deduction would save me about \$100.00 on my taxes.

That \$100 along with not needing license plates and pickup insurance will save me another \$300 makes \$400.00 I have in my pocket.

So I donate the pickup to Kars-4-Kids and I get 2 nigh 3 day stay in a hotel. Oh if you donate a car you get 2 nights stay in a hotel free. That must be worth \$150.00.

That \$550.00 is one payment on the motor home.

Ok I think I will donate and walk until Marie is finished using my car.

I can get rid of a broken pickup an gain enough money to make payment on the motor home and get healthier because I am walking for few days.

Done Deal!

JUST FOR GRINS

"When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading". -- Henny Youngman (1906 - 1998)

Source: HOME WINE MAKING NEWSLETTER

Pickup Update

I cleaned out the Pickup and took down the windmill so Kars-4-Kids could pick it up when they get here. Since the battery is shot and it I start gas will leak all over the place I asked to help me push it of the tower stand for the windmill. Remember that the tower for the wind mill is what hald the windmill up.

When Cork saw the cap still on the pickup he reminded me I could scrap it at Bahr's and get a few dollars. So Cork and I took it all apart so it would fit in his van. It is 90% aluminum so by taking it apart we could get a little more money for it. After taking it apart it seemed it was all aluminum except for the plastic and glass windows. Next week we will find the value.

For now I have to trip over it. I was de-cluttering and now I have more clutter for a while.

11-Sep-10 10:23am 58°

Yesterday I walked up to Starbucks for my morning coffee. That was all the walking I wanted to do. I sat around all summer and told myself it was too hot. Now it is cooler I told myself to start walking once in a while.

Since I loaned the car to Marie and the truck is broken I have no choice for now.

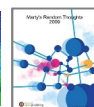
I like walking any way. I just get spoiled with the car sitting there offering to take me any where I want to go.

This morning I was going to walk to Town & Country and have breakfast with Anila then stop and have coffee with Heather at Vaughan's.

It was a little wet this morning so I took the umbrella and only went to Vaughan's. I the way home I was glad I had the umbrella. If I didn't I would have been soaked. Rain or not it was a nice walk.

Walking East

Thinking about nice walks, Mike & Petra Will be heading back to France in a couple of weeks to continue their walk to Jerusalem from where they left off. As always you can read about their journey on mike's website WalkingEast.com.



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Index Note:

I am trying to index everyone's name that I have in each issue. I am making a master list to make it easier than mark each name in the newsletter. It saves me hours using a master list.

I ask you for a little help. If you do not want to be in the index or you are missing, please let me know. It will help me do this for you.

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