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## Greetings from Michelle

### Ohhhh, Evelyn!

I hope that everyone has dug out from our spring blizzard! During the blizzard I sat and stared out my window and kept thinking, "But it's the middle of April?" After I accepted the fact that the weatherman was NOT wrong and the storm wasn't going to miss us, I have to say it was quite an event to witness. I will gladly do it again in another 130 years.

It's hard to change gears after that and think spring. My tulips are buried and my budding trees confused. Typically I am talking with customers by now and scheduling air conditioner maintenances but not this year, we can't even get at the air conditioners right now! So if we haven't called you yet, we did not forget, our schedule is a mess, so please be patient while we try to figure out Mother Nature.

With all of that aside, warm weather and plenty of sunshine are coming. As you read this edition of our newsletter, think of summer. Be sure to uncover that air conditioner and run it before it gets warm so that you are ready when the hot weather finally hits! Or you can let us take care of everything for you and get your preventative maintenance scheduled. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and have a safe and happy summer!

— Michelle

## Summer is coming....is your second floor too hot?

If you enjoy sleeping when it's cool in your bedroom, early spring evenings create a perfect setting. But with summer approaching, those perfect conditions will disappear like the last of the colored eggs and stale peeps!

What causes the big difference in tem-

peratures between floors? Hot air is the main offender. Hot air rises and with the air conditioner on the ground, it has to work that much harder to push the hot air out of your living space to allow the cold air in. The age of your equipment and

## Summer is coming... (cont'd)

the number of rooms in your home also contribute to how hard the system has to work to cool the whole house.

Your roof also plays a role. The roof absorbs heat from the sun which then travels to the second floor. Shade trees and some reflective materials can help to reduce that absorption.

Ducts are responsible for moving cool air from your system to the rooms in your house. If the ductwork is leaking or not installed correctly, or if the second floor doesn't have enough ductwork, your air conditioner will have to work that much harder to cool the house as well.

All is not lost. Here are some solutions that may work for you. Changing the filters is one of the lowest cost

ways to increase the airflow in your home. A dirty filter will restrict airflow which makes the unit work harder. Get yourself into a routine of changing your filter on a regular basis.

Proper insulation in your attic will help reduce the amount of heat that gets to the second floor. An attic fan will help circulate the air and can also help decrease the amount of heat throughout your home.

Changing the fan setting on your thermostat from "auto" to "on" can also help by keeping the air moving more evenly throughout the house. Running the fan will not use a lot of energy and can actually save you money because the system will not need to kick in and cycle as often.

## Which thermostat is right for you

The time of having to reach for the thermostat every time you believe the temperature should be adjusted are all but gone! Why not try a programmable or Wi-Fi thermostat?

Every programmable thermostat comes with four pre-programmed settings that will maintain those settings within two degrees. Additionally, as you consider the part of your schedule that takes you away from home, work, school, etc.—you decide which of the three models works best for you.

A seven day programmable thermostat is best if your daily schedule tends to change. They offer the flexibility to set different programs for each day and can include four possible temperature options: morning, mi-day, evening and night.

A 5-2 programmable thermostat is the best if you have one schedule for every weekday and another for the weekends.

A 5-1-1 programmable thermostat is the best if you tend to keep one schedule Monday through Friday, a different schedule on Saturdays and yet another schedule on Sundays.

With a Wi-Fi thermostat you are able to view and change your system settings right from you phone, tablet or other mobile device. You can also receive temperature alerts sent to your email or phone. This is a great option when you're at work or on vacation. You will be alerted to temperature changes outside of your pre-programmed schedule, allowing you to contact someone right away thus saving the cost of an after hours emergency service call or something worse!

In 2018 Focus on Energy is offering homeowners a \$75 rebate for the installation of a qualifying smart thermostat and \$125 if it's installed with a new system. For all of these choices, call Professional Heating and Air Conditioning for more details and pricing.

**THE FIRST  
EVER ICE  
CREAM SUNDAE  
WAS SERVED  
IN TWO  
RIVERS, WI**

# the Home Page

After a long, long winter I am excited to get outside. Even though I love my soups in the winter, I am longing to get out into my garden.

These recipes will give you new ideas on how to use fresh fruits and vegetables from your garden!

The Smiling Caprese Salad is no doubt the easiest Caprese salad I have ever made. It is delicious, plus you can make it ahead of time, which is all something we look for in a recipe. For additional fun, serve in a tall stem glass, like a martini glass.

The Strawberry, Kiwi and Spinach Salad is also very easy to make. It is great for a family reunions or just a small cookout. You can even make the raspberry dressing and use it on other salads and recipes. It is delicious. Enjoy!

~Michelle

## SMILING CAPRESE SALAD

- 6 TOMATOES, CUT INTO BITE-SIZE PIECES
- 1/4 CUP EXTRA-VIRGIN OLIVE OIL
- 1 1/2 TABLESPOONS BALSAMIC VINEGAR
- 6 LEAVES FRESH BASIL, CUT INTO SLIVERS
- 1/2 POUND MOZZARELLA CHEESE, BUT INTO BITE-SIZE CUBES
- SALT AND GROUND BLACK PEPPER TO TASTE

STIR TOMATOES, OLIVE OIL, BALSAMIC VINEGAR, AND BASIL TOGETHER IN A LARGE SALAD BOWL. GENTLY FOLD IN MOZZARELLA CHEESE. SEASON WITH SALT AND BLACK PEPPER. CHILL BEFORE SERVING. MAKES 4 SERVINGS.

## STRAWBERRY, KIWI AND SPINACH SALAD

- 2 TABLESPOONS RASPBERRY VINEGAR
- 2 1/2 TABLESPOONS RASPBERRY JAM
- 1/3 CUP VEGETABLE OIL
- 8 CUPS SPINACH, RINSED AND TORN INTO BITE-SIZE PIECES
- 1/2 CUP CHOPPED WALNUTS
- 8 STRAWBERRIES, QUARTERED
- 2 KIWIS, PEELED AND SLICED

MIX TOGETHER RASPBERRY VINEGAR, RASPBERRY JAM AND VEGETABLE OIL IN SMALL CONTAINER.

COMBINE SPINACH, NUTS, STRAWBERRIES AND KIWI IN A SALAD BOWL TOSS WITH RASPBERRY DRESSING.



## Holiday Hours

*Our office will be closed for the celebration of the following holidays:*

### MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 28

### FOURTH OF JULY

Wednesday, July 4

### LABOR DAY

Monday, Sept. 3

*24-hour emergency service is always available by calling our office during non-business hours.*

**"MOTIVATION  
COMES FROM  
WORKING ON  
THINGS WE CARE  
ABOUT"**

**-SHERYL  
SANDBERG**

## A Message From Brian



We are all well aware of the fact that summer and hot weather is the shortest season in Wisconsin. So it's understandable if you aren't sure if there is actually something wrong with your air conditioner. Here are some signs of a faulty air conditioner::

### UTILITY BILLS ARE THROUGH THE ROOF

One telltale sign that something isn't working as efficiently as it should be is that your utility bill is much higher than normal without a change in usage. Without a loud noise or the unit shutting itself down, this is a difficult sign to confirm that something is actually wrong. With all the technology and moving parts, it's best to call a professional technician to evaluate your unit. Regular maintenance is a great way to stay on top of potential issues and save you money in the long run.

### ODD NOISES

If you hear unusual sounds coming from your air conditioner, you definitely want to get it checked out. When the unit is operating properly, you shouldn't hear any rattling, ticking or buzzing sounds. These noises can mean many types of issues, from a loose bolt to the need for lubricating some moving parts. Do not assume anything. The flip side is your air conditioner could be telling you it needs more extensive and expensive repairs.

### THE DREADED WATER PUDDLE

Seeing a puddle on the floor next to your furnace is a sign that something isn't quite right. While it is normal for an air conditioner to generate condensation while cooling your home, there is a drip pan that should collect the dripping water and it should be self-containing. A puddle could mean a blockage in the drain tubes. Minimally, the drain tube needs to be cleaned out or replaced, a standard step in the maintenance program.

### I THINK IT'S DEAD

This last sign is the most depressing sign of them all. It's when your air conditioner shows zero signs of life and no matter what you do it just won't cool your home. As a rule of thumb, if the cost of repair for a burned out compressor is approximately half the cost of purchasing a new unit, it is time for you to consider replacing your air conditioner. Regular maintenance of your air conditioner can help prolong this day from coming again any time soon. If any of these are a concern for you, call Professional Heating and Air Conditioning today to get it checked out!

*Brian*

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## Ways To Save

Use these simple energy-saving tips to save money on heating and cooling bills:

- ✓ **Maintain:** Check your filter regularly and have a contractor service your equipment annually to keep it running at peak efficiency.
- ✓ **Temperature:** Set back the temperature on your thermostat when you are asleep

or away.

- ✓ **Close ‘em up:** Make sure doors and windows close properly and seal tightly.
- ✓ **Pull the Shades:** Close the shades during summer days to keep rooms cool. In the winter, keep shades open to take advantage of the sun’s heat.

- ✓ **Run the fan:** Use ceiling fans to circulate air in the room. Move air up during winter and down during the summer to stay more comfortable. Remember, fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you are away.

## Are You “Comfy” In Your Home?

Aside from the fluffy comforter you received for Christmas or that overstuffed chair, there are other ways to be sure everyone in your home is comfortable.

Are you that person who looks at the thermostat that says 70 degrees and yet wonder why you’re still feeling too hot or too cold? Humidity plays a huge role in your comfort and can be a bit tricky to control. The first step is to reduce how much your home leaks before you tackle controlling it. The

correct sizing of your furnace and air conditioner is a great place to start. Professional Heating and Air Conditioning is always available to assist you with understanding the equipment you have and how it is working for you.

Adding a humidifier for winter and a whole house dehumidifier for summer can be two possible solutions for your home. Imagine being able to set your thermostat at 68 degrees in winter or 70 degrees in summer and

feeling “comfy”!

When your home is lacking humidity you may have dry, itchy skin, eczema, increased spread of viruses, and even more dust. On the other hand, if the humidity in your home is too high you may have more smells and illnesses, sticky surfaces and floors, and more bugs (they need moisture to survive!). Call Professional Heating and Air Conditioning if you are not feeling “comfy” in your home.

**“IF YOU HAVE GOOD THOUGHTS THEY WILL SHINE OUT OF YOUR FACE LIKE SUNBEAMS AND YOU WILL ALWAYS LOOK LOVELY.”  
-ROALD DAHL**

## Professional Heating and Air Conditioning

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Upon A Qualified  
Professional!**

## Are You Ready for Spring Cleaning?

Your long list of spring cleaning chores can seem overwhelming. I saw a list of kitchen chores that was 27 entries long! As long as you have pen in hand creating your own "honey-do" list, don't forget to add the need for cleaning your dryer vent.

The result of lint buildup in a dryer can cost you time with longer drying time, money with increased energy consumption, dryer damage from the dryer running "too hot", and the worst case scenario, a dryer fire from heat building up.

Just a 1/4 inch of lint buildup causes a 25% increase in energy consumption; a 1/2 inch of buildup increases energy consumption by 50% and clogged vents become a complete waste of energy and your money!

Clothes dryers are one of the leading causes of residential fires in America. Annually, clothes dryer fires account for 15,600 fires, 15 deaths and 400 injuries. Those numbers are disturbing, especially when you consider that most of these fires could have been prevented.

By having your dryer vents cleaned routinely you are protecting your most important investment and ultimately making your home safer for your family.

Call Professional Heating and Air Conditioning for more information on cleaning your dryer vent and schedule your appointment today!

