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Fun With Food

Add Some Pop To Your Party With Popcorn

(NAPS)—Americans love a celebration, especially during the warmer months. For example, three of this country’s most important national holidays mark the beginning, middle and end of summer: Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day.

These holidays have an excitement that comes from more than just having a day off. They’re an opportunity to gather with family and friends and celebrate an American institution — popcorn.

Popcorn is one of the oldest and most beloved American snack foods. It’s been around for countless years, yet over time, it has remained a simple little kernel of goodness. Wholesome and whole grain, popcorn costs just pennies per serving.

For a star-spangled snack that’ll have you popping with pride, try this recipe courtesy of the Popcorn Board (www.popcorn.org).

Red Hot Poppers

Makes: about 24 balls
Preparation time: 25 minutes

Ingredients:
3 quarts popped popcorn
4 tablespoons (% stick) butter or margarine
3 cups miniature marshmallows
½ cup red hot cinnamon-flavored candies
Red and blue confection stars
Red licorice string

Preparation:
1. Spread a large sheet of plastic wrap onto a work surface and spray with cooking spray.
2. Spray a large mixing bowl lightly with cooking spray and pour popcorn inside.
3. In a medium saucepan, melt butter over low heat. Stir in marshmallows until marshmallows are melted and mixture is smooth. Pour over popcorn, adding red hot candies, and mix well until coated.
4. Spray hands with cooking spray and form mixture into 24 balls. Gently press red and blue stars onto balls. Place a piece of licorice string on top of each ball.

Recent male graduates, don’t forget to register with the Selective Service System.

Those who fail to register face the possibility of fines or prison or both. Plus, they will find that they must register to receive federal aid for higher education and be eligible for a federal job or a job-training program.

Male noncitizens living in the U.S. must register to remain eligible for citizenship. Plus, some states demand proof of registration in order to receive a driver’s license.

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Use Color To Revamp The Look Of Your Home

(NAPS)—Choosing a new look for your home can be a liberating, rejuvenating change that will pay off in the future. By choosing the right color, you can express your self, freshen up an old look and increase the value of your home.

According to a recent Cost vs. Value Report conducted by Hanley Wood, LLC, an exterior makeover — such as installing fiber cement siding — can be a great investment, returning more than 83 percent of the project cost upon resale.

Here are several tips to help you increase the value of your home while boosting curb appeal:
• Go Green. Color choice can affect the energy efficiency of your home. Darker colors absorb the sun and therefore warm the home, while lighter colors reflect the sun’s rays, keeping the home cooler. This is an important consideration depending on the amount of sunlight your home is exposed to on an average day.
• Get Back to Nature. Look to your natural surroundings for inspiration. For example, in a wooded area, vivid greens and browns can help blend the style of a home with its environment. In an urban setting, bright, eye-catching colors can help to offset the sometimes drab hues associated with city living.
• Make a Lasting Impression. The darker the hue, the more likely it is to fade over time, especially with homes exposed to direct sunlight. CertainTeed’s Monogram vinyl siding offers consistent quality and variety with over 40 colors and wood-tone blends.

If your roof accounts for roughly 40 percent of the exterior appearance of the home, it’s important to consider roofing shingles. CertainTeed’s Presidential Shake Shingles deliver the charm and character of hand-split wood shakes with the durability and strength that preside over wood in virtually every surrounding. From aged bark and charcoal black to weathered wood and chestnut, the shingles are available in a wide array of dynamic color options and textures to match your home’s unique style.