

# Fall Fix-up

The Crittenden Press  
October 1, 2009

## Stubblefields cut back, relocate in the hometown they love

One couple embraces trimming possessions and house size

The cold, rough, hand-made bricks, earth-tones and scenic Crittenden County photographs, the smell of floor lacquer and the buzzing generator checking itself in the afternoon pleasantly overwhelm the senses of all who enter Ron and Kay Stubblefield's home on the corner of College and Elm streets.

Ron gives the best home tour anyone could imagine.

"You can tell we're pretty proud of our home," Ron says, smiling.

The two-bedroom, soon-to-be two-bath home was built in 1941 by Lyle Winn. Winn built quite a few homes in Marion, but according to Ron, this was his favorite because it was the easiest to take care of due to its modest size.

The general structure of the



Ron and Kay Stubblefield sit at their Amish-made dining table in their newly remodeled home on the corner of College and Elm streets. Below they stand in the archway of the entrance.

*"Huge spaces aren't necessary to live a good life. I love my wife, I really like this house. As you get older, you realize what's important in life."*

— Ron Stubblefield  
on his possessions

house might look familiar, but the inside of the home has experienced a major overhaul. Everything but the floors have been redone, and they're even getting a face lift. Within two weeks, they will receive a buff and new coat of lacquer, making the move-in scheduled for mid-October.

The Stubblefields currently reside on College Street less than a block away from their new place.

They're downsizing in

possessions and space due to Ron's deteriorating health. At 40 percent lung capacity, the large space was too much for Ron to maneuver throughout. Also, the smaller space will be easier for Kay to juggle caring for Ron and the home.

"She has to take good care of me

See **HOUSE** / Page 5



Kenny Locke, the contractor, tightens the door handle leading into the Stubblefield's basement.



The Stubblefields remodeled the entire house, including a major overhaul of the kitchen.



Donald Winders applies varnish to the floor of one of the home's two bedrooms.



Story and photos by Pamela Stringer







## Energy-saving projects to help Tennessee homes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — More than 10,000 low-income homes could receive energy-saving upgrades in Tennessee by 2010 from a state weatherization program primed with nearly \$100 million in federal economic stimulus dollars.

That's as many houses as in all of Morristown or Cookeville, according to U.S. Census figures.

The U.S. Department of Energy last week announced that Tennessee had been awarded \$39.6 million toward as much as \$99 million in home weatherization money under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The program promises to dwarf any similar effort in the Volunteer State since the Tennessee Valley Authority promoted energy efficiency and heat pumps in the 1980s. TVA is helping train inspectors for the current program.

Already, 250 energy auditors have been licensed, 350 building contractors have been certified and work orders for 1,015 homes have

been signed or sent out for bids — everything from caulking windows to installing heating systems.

"This is a blessing, a true blessing," north Nashville resident Carolyn Johnson, 50, told The Tennessean.

Contractors were recently caulking vents and windows, wrapping the water heater and pipes in the crawl space, weather-stripping doors, adding insulation to the attic and making other changes that should lower the \$500 heating bills and \$180 cooling bills on her 1,900-square-foot house.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services and 18 regional agencies are administering Tennessee's stimulus weatherization program, and should be the first places people contact to apply for assistance.

Department spokeswoman Michelle Mowery Johnson estimated 11,000 to 12,000 homes would be worked on. Program funds must be spent by September 2010.

Officials hope the stimulus money will help eliminate

a 3,000-person statewide waiting list. The state typically funds about \$6 million in upgrades to about 2,500 homes annually.

The federal money also will make it possible to increase the amount spent on each home from \$3,500 to \$6,500, and expanded income-eligibility guidelines. Now, a family of four can earn up to \$44,100 and qualify for the program, compared with \$33,075 before.

Elderly and disabled persons and families with small children will have priority.

Both homeowners and renters can apply, and upgrades can include insulation, air sealing, windows, heating, water heaters, air conditioning and electrical appliances.

But Johnson said energy auditors, not homeowners, will decide what needs to be done, and the work will be listed online and publicly bid. Contractors will be paid

after a final inspection by a different auditor.

"It is not a repair program, it is very specific," Johnson said, and homeowners can't claim tax credits on the improvements.

DOE estimates every dollar spent on home weatherization saves \$1.83 in energy costs, and a \$5,000 weatherization grant can save a homeowner \$350 a year on energy bills.

The department also estimates every \$1 million spent on the weatherization program helps to create 52 direct jobs — such as contractors performing the actual labor and office workers processing the paperwork — and 23 indirect jobs — such as clerks at the home improvement stores or workers that manufacture the raw materials for the job.

The federal stimulus package includes \$6.2 billion for weatherization efforts across the country.

## Nothing enriches a home's value like the beauty of stone

(HIT) - Whether used indoors or outdoors, stone adds warmth and character that no other building material can deliver. Once, only the very wealthy could afford homes graced by the sophistication of stone. But with today's manufactured stone veneer products, stone's exquisite looks are within the reach of a wide range of homeowners.

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Inside, nothing adds a homey, rustic charm to a family room or den like the rugged look of stone. Imagine a fireplace and even interior walls crafted of Heritage stone, for a warm, classic feel. Envision a kitchen boasting walls of bold, beautiful LedgeStone, with its clean linear appearance with varying heights and depths.

Back outside, manufactured stone provides curb appeal unlikely to be matched by any other home in the neighborhood. Measured against ordinary brick or siding exteriors, a home graced by traditional Fieldstone brings additional substance and strength. This stone imparts an eye-catching European charm to even the most contemporary construction.

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Courtesy: Home Improvement News and Information Center

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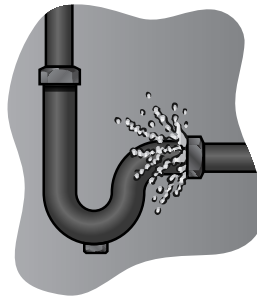
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# Quick fall touch-ups for home and garden

(StatePoint) With fall fast upon us and winter nipping at its heels, families should make sure their homes are ready for the changing weather conditions ahead. A house needs to be well-maintained both inside and out to withstand the elements.

"When the kids head back to school and the nights start to get cooler, it's time to get the house, lawn and garden in top shape before the wetter, colder season. I've seen how a little elbow grease pays off after the thaw," says home and garden expert, Susie Coelho, host of HGTV's makeover show "Outer Spaces." "After all, who wants to spend the first glorious days of next spring cleaning up winter damage?"

Coelho says homeowners should address garden and home maintenance now to avoid a year's worth of work next spring. She recommends starting with these quick and easy tasks:

- To save on electric bills, check all external doors and windows to make sure they close tightly and are in good shape. If needed, re-caulk around windows and doors, install weather-stripping and replace thresholds if doors aren't snug. Doing so can save on energy costs and prevent costly repairs that can result from moisture and wind damage.

- As it gets cooler, plan to enjoy the view of the outdoors from the inside, but first make sure the windows are in the right condition to bring in the beauty. Although it can be a pain, cleaning windows from the outside is critical, as grime, bugs and allergens can build up during the summer months. Tackle the chore quickly and easily with an inexpensive solution that gets a streak-free shine in half the time, such as the Windex Outdoor All-in-One Glass Cleaning Tool ().

- After your fall harvest, put the garden to bed! Pruning, weeding and fertilizing are important in order to get the lawn and garden ready for next spring and summer. Reseed and fix the lawn's bare spots. Remove plants



Homeowners should check the condition of windows and doors and touch up exterior paint to keep homes in peak condition over the winter.

and flowers that are not doing well. Weed flower beds to keep weeds from reappearing next spring, and prune trees back so the elements don't cause damage to your house or property during the colder months.

- Touch up exterior paint. Start by using a wire brush to remove flaking paint from the home's trim, railings and deck surfaces. Prime bare wood before applying new paint, and sand and prime your paint before touch-ups if you have oil-based trims, as oil based paints and stains are no longer available

in most states. If possible, bring an actual chip from the wall or trim into a paint company and ask them to match the color. Many home improvement stores and fine paint stores have a machine that will read the paint chip and match it to 99 percent.

A little effort will help homeowners save time and money on more significant future maintenance and repairs. Preparing your home now will leave more time later for all the backyard fun and seasonal entertaining that's on the horizon.

# LawnScape - plan now for next spring

(HIT) - When it comes to a healthy lawn, now's the time to plan ahead for next spring. A good fall clean-up, like removing fallen leaves, branches and other debris from your lawn, can make a world of difference in your turf come next spring.

Mowing turf shorter for the final cut of the season will help it retain better color throughout the winter. Fertilizing in late fall will also help in achieving a quick spring green-up. In the meantime, you might want to consider a few other beneficial steps:

- Cut your grass tall throughout the fall while your grass is still growing. When your grass goes dormant, you can mow it about 1/2 inch shorter to prevent matting and discourage diseases.

- Leave those grass clippings on your lawn. Grass clippings are high in nutrients.

- Clear all debris from the lawn.

- Water your lawn as needed until the ground is cold and beginning to freeze.

- It may be beneficial to aerate your lawn if the soil has become compacted. Compacted soil restricts the movement of air, water and nutrients to the grass' roots.

- Over a period of time some lawns can accumulate thatch. Thatch is a

layer of slowly decomposing materials such as grass stems, dead roots and other debris that is above the roots and below the blades of grass. While some thatch is beneficial (1/4 to 1/2 inch thick) because it helps control soil temperature and reduces compaction, too much thatch can prevent water penetration and the grass's roots can actually

begin to grow in the thatch rather than the soil. A thick layer of thatch can also lead to a variety of insect and disease problems because of insufficient water reaching the root zone. Although you can dethatch your lawn in the spring, the fall is the best time for dethatching due to weed pressure.

Courtesy: Home Improvement News and Information Center



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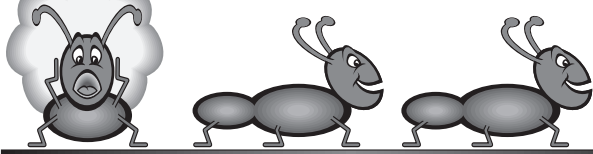
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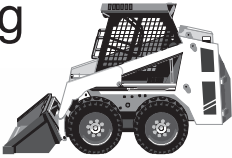
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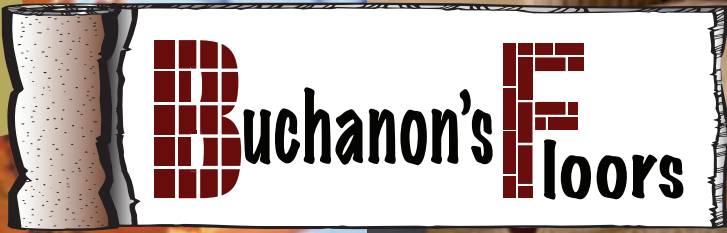
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# HOUSE

Continued from Page 1

and she does,” Ron said. The new house is almost half the size of their current one.

They’ve carried out space-saving techniques to make full use of the area they have. The living, television and dining rooms are one in the same. The television sits in a dark, wooden stand mounted on a swing arm, so it can be pulled out when turned on, but tucked away when not in use.

“Huge spaces aren’t necessary to live a good life. I love my wife, I really like this house,” Ron says. “As you get older, you realize what’s important in life.”

The Stubblefields kept the construction work within the community. Kenny Locke doubles as their neighbor and their contractor. Donald Winders, who’s been responsible for the finishing work with the help of his wife, worked with Ron at Potter and Brumfield for over 30 years. Locke’s father, Kenny Locke Sr., also worked at Potter and Brumfield with Ron and Winders.

Winders and his wife also blew in the installation for the home.

“It was quite a scene, they were covered head to toe in installation,” Kay recalls.

The basic house size is 34x24 feet, the garage is 30x24 feet with a lofted room for storage that comes complete with a hoisting system.

With the way the garage is built on, you can’t tell it’s almost as big as the whole house, Ron explains.

Every last detail was thought of to help Ron and the physical limitations he faces, even the steps from the garage to the house entrance are low-rise to ensure ease of use.

The basement will eventually be completely finished with a bathroom.

The couple’s original plan was for money to be saved from each paycheck, and when Ron turned 65 they’d be able to build a new house. However, when they inherited the house after Leona Griffith, Kay’s aunt, died, they decided it would be better to remodel the existing house, rather than building an entire new one.

“It’s wonderful. We have roots and friends. We feel like we belong.”

– Kay Stubblefield on living on the same block

“Homes aren’t built like this anymore,” Ron explains.

From the window of the living room window of the new house, you can see the old one. Ron and Kay were able to keep track of her Aunt Leona by watching the lights go off at night and turn on in the morning.

“If that light didn’t come on within 20 minutes of the usual time, we’d know to come check on her,” Ron explains.

Also from their window, they can see their contractor’s house, which is also having work done on it.

“It’s like the painter’s house never gets painted. I told him he needs to finish up on his house, so I don’t have to look at it unfinished,” Ron jokes.

During last winter’s ice storm, they had to leave town because Ron needs supplemental oxygen at night. The oxygen tanks they had stored wouldn’t have lasted the six or seven days Marion was without power.

When construction started in January, one of the first things installed was a stand-by generator, which automatically comes on when the electricity shuts off. It also kicks on every afternoon at 1:50 p.m. to run and check itself to make sure everything is in working order.

“If an ice storm hits again this winter, he’ll be able to breathe,” Kay explains with relief.

The generator will also be linked to several outlets in the house, as well as the garage door, so it can remain in operation in the event of an outage.

They brought a lot of the inspiration for the design and color schemes with them from the old house, according to Ron.

When asked if one person took over the design of a room, Ron replies, “Kay and I do everything together. It’s good to have a mate for 40



BEFORE PHOTOS COURTESY OF RON STUBBLEFIELD  
Top, a picture of the kitchen before the overhaul. Above, the garage construction in progress.

years. We’ve never had an argument. We owe everything to the Lord. It’s going to be a great place to live.”

Ron says his creative eye and graphic design skills are a God-given talent.

“His ideas are exceptional,” Kay confirms.

They lived together for seven years in the house on the corner of Main and Elm streets, where they occupied the nine-bedroom first floor, paying \$50 per month in rent, before moving onto College Street.

“It’s wonderful. We have roots and friends. We feel like we belong,” Kay said when asked about living within viewing distance of each house.

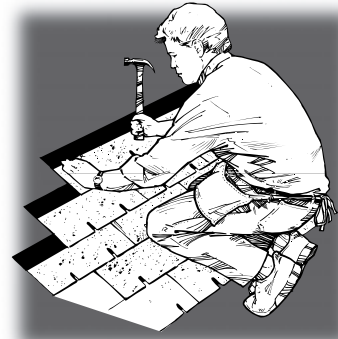
Ron and Kay met while attending Crittenden County

High School. Ron waited for Kay to finish school at Murray State before proposing to her.

“I put 30,000 miles on my car in four years. And those are just the miles I spent driving to see her,” Ron remembers with a laugh as they sit hand-in-hand at their Amish-built dining table.

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## Stylish sheds offer storage solutions

(HIT) - The storage shed has a long history throughout modern times. Archaeological studies of ancient societies' sheds have produced some of the greatest insights into earlier modes of living. Demonstrating that ancient storage sheds unlike in modern society were used mainly to store items vital for survival. Farmers used them for animals, crops, and equipment. Businesses used them for their inventory. In many cases, the sheds were used as workshops for making furniture, tools, clothing, shoes, and the conveyances of the time. The remains found in these types of sheds tell what crops the farmers raised, which animals they kept, as well as which ones they hunted, what they manufactured, and much more.

Today's definition of "shed" is simple, and, with few variations, described in most dictionaries as "a simple roofed structure, typically of wood, used for storage or shelter." For most of us, it means "an old, crumbling backyard shack, with a leaky roof, and uneven doors, held scarcely closed by a rusty latch and padlock, and packed to capacity with tons of old household and garden junk, which is threatening to burst forth at any minute."

Over the past few years, the perception of the old backyard shed has slowly been changing. It is no longer considered only as a place to store lawn mowers, tools, rakes, shovels, fertilizer, rock salt, pool cleaning items, and broken bicycles. In fact, today's sheds are available with enough creature comforts, including electricity and plumbing, to make creatures comfortable enough to live in them.

The look of the shed is also changing with the times. Box styles or barn designs, like those available online come with gabled roofs, cupolas, vinyl and cedar siding, skylights, shutters, and window boxes, they're attractive and practical, and can even beautify and add value to your property.

You can check out the entire history of sheds, browse a handy list of uses for sheds, and select from designs online. GazeboCreations.com offers all of the most popular shed designs,

which include the salt box, barn, hip roof, and gable styles. You can select one of their pre-designed shed packages, or use the custom shed designer feature to create one of your own.

For the perfect finishing touch, repeat the landscaping pattern outside your front door in the area around your shed.

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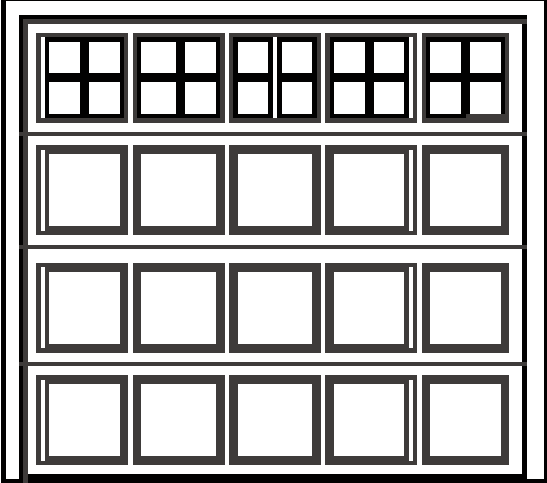
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# Re-stain and restore old hardwood floors

(StatePoint) In today's economy, many homeowners are looking for ways to reinvest in their homes without breaking the bank. Staining wood floors is an inexpensive do-it-yourself project that can restore worn or damaged floors caused by daily foot traffic.

Periodically staining and finishing your wood floor helps preserve and protect the wood while adding life and beauty to a decorated room. You don't even have to hire a professional to achieve great results.

Homeowners can save a lot of money by following these helpful staining tips from Sean Morris, Product Manager for Cabot Stains:

- For large projects, it is best to sand the floor with a drum sander. Sanding to open wood grain is necessary prior to staining so the stain can soak in. If you're working in a high traffic area, such as a main walkway, sanding the edges to match the center will lessen the contrast once the work is finished.
- Depending on the type of wood you are working with, you may want to use a pre-stain conditioner, which helps certain species of wood, such as soft woods, obtain an even, uniform coloration.

- To decide which color of stain to use, test small samples of colors on an extra piece of similar wood, to determine final appearance and what looks best to you. If you're concerned about odor or ventilation, a water-borne finish may be best. These low odor products dry quickly and provide a suitable alternative to solvent-based materials. Oil-based stain products are still the first choice for most professionals, because of their durability.

- Stain in sections to allow people to walk across your project area, but make sure to complete full boards without stopping in the middle. Rosin paper can be placed on top of a freshly stained area if it is necessary to walk across it, but this should be avoided if possible. If someone does accidentally step on the stain before it dries, wipe with a cloth dampened in a cleaning solvent appropriate for the stain and the wood, and re-apply as necessary.

- An average-sized living room is typically ready for re-coating the next day, but this depends on the type of finish you use, the coating thickness, ventilation and room temperature.

- Safety is a big priority when staining floors. Odors



Refinish wood floors yourself to fix worn areas and add beauty to rooms.

and fumes must be ventilated continuously during the finishing and drying process. If you're working in a small area, try using an organic vapor respirator. Safety glasses and gloves will never hurt and a good pair of knee pads always helps. Keep in mind that small children respire faster and are closer to the finishing surface. They may be affected by fumes much faster than an adult and it's best to have them out of the house if possible.

- After staining, some

people opt for a polyurethane finish. Because of its durability, polyurethane is commonly used for application in high traffic areas. These finishes resist scratching and are recommended for many home flooring applications. By applying several coats, the surface will be sealed against most household chemicals.

- When you're finished with your project, clean-up tools safely by following all label instructions.

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# Reduce moisture, improve air quality

(StatePoint) It seems everyone is talking about the environment these days. Yet, you don't seem to hear much about the environment indoors. Considering how much time most people spend inside, it makes sense to give some thought to the air quality within your home.

Believe it or not, air inside a house can have two to five times the allergens and pollutants than outdoor air, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Ironically, the problem is due in large part to the efficiencies of today's home," says Victor Flynn, National Marketing Manager for the Panasonic Home & Environment Company. "With all the advancements in home building, new and remodeled homes are increasingly air tight, which is good in terms of saving energy. However, it's important to maintain proper ventilation to avoid any harmful effects from trapped dust, mold and chemical fumes."

Flynn is offering some simple steps to help protect your home and family. Here are a few of the most common indoor irritants and how to deal with them:

- Excessive Moisture: Moisture in walls, ceilings, carpets and furniture, or poorly maintained humidifiers, dehumidifiers and air conditioners can not only have negative health effects but can cause structural damage to a home. To prevent moisture problems, frequently empty water trays in air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and refrigerators. Also, clean and dry or remove water-damaged carpets and install and use fans vented to the outdoors in kitchens and bathrooms.
- Cigarette Smoke: By now, most people are aware of the potential side effects of cigarette smoke. Homes with one or more smokers may have particle levels several times higher than outdoor levels. One obvious solution is to not allow smoking in your house. If smoking indoors can't be avoided, increase ventilation in the area where smoking occurs and open windows or use an exhaust fan.
- Allergens: Microscopic particles that irritate allergies and asthma can become trapped in rugs, carpeting, furniture fabric and float free in the air. Integrating a quality ventilation system can remove a large measure of these contaminants.
- Other Pollutants: Paints, solvents, and other

chemicals should not be stored in the house, but rather in a garage or shed. If the garage is attached, make sure there is an airtight seal between the home and garage.

In the past, many people were reluctant to install ventilation fans because they were noisy and intrusive, but technology has come a long way. For example, Panasonic's Whisper Green line of ventilation fans are not only are quiet, but up to

460 percent more energy efficient than minimum Energy Star requirements. They even come with designer grille options that allow consumers to match their home's decor.

"Even with the soft housing market, homeowners continue to show a high interest in green building standards," adds Flynn. "By using simple, affordable solutions, consumers can contribute to environmentally conscious building and, per-

haps more importantly, protect themselves from harmful indoor air pollutants."

For more information about how to improve your home's indoor air quality, visit [www.epa.gov/iaq](http://www.epa.gov/iaq) or [www.Panasonic.com/vent-fans](http://www.Panasonic.com/vent-fans).

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