

# The Handyman Herald

*News, views, & ideas from John of All Trades*

Fall 2008

Volume 4, Issue 1

### Inside this issue:

Your list to a happy home	2
Fall Leaf and Yard Preparation Services	2
Our Rates	2
Monthly Checklists for home owners	3
Valuable Money-Saving Coupons	4
Snow Removal Services and Special Discount Plans	4

**We're here to help!**

### Our Contact Info:

Phone:  
**248.840.0045**

Tell us where you live, what you need done, and any symptoms of the problem. Or if you're looking for a quote on a larger project, let us know. We'll call you back ASAP.

E-mail us your questions @  
Help@JohnofAllTrades.com

## Campaigning for your vote

Kids will tell you that we're currently in the fall season, but its also the political season. We're bombarded with ads telling us of what candidates stand for in positive and negative fashion.

Since this is a Presidential election year and the race for the nominations were both so wide-open without a President or Vice President running for the top of office, the political fires have been burning even brighter.

In our communities, we saw the lure of local politics. Berkley had a very competitive election to be the new District judge and more campaign signs sprouted on the residential streets than dandelions.

When we hear politicians speak, they often craft a message that is

dear to their constituents hearts. They often talk about home.

It all comes back to home.

Home is our biggest purchase. Home is what some aspire to buy. Others to stay in. Still others to move to something larger.

They talk about single parent homes and family homes. They'll talk about seniors living alone in their homes and families just getting by in their homes fighting to pay the mortgage.

So much for the politician talk. Yet, they certainly hit the right strings to play an appealing chord with such talk. Whether a young child or an elderly adult, we do love the places we choose to live, whether country, state, city or most intimately, our home.

I'm not about to write about political positions and where I fall on the political spectrum. But in this case, all politicians are on to something when they try to establish a common bond and bring our home into part of the discussion.

Rich or poor, black or white, city or suburban, we can all relate to home.

I'm not out there asking for you vote at the election polls. I am out here though asking you for your vote by trusting my services.

I can give a pretty good stump speech too. I'm just an every day guy, looking to make a living to support a family in a great community. I'm trying to live the American Dream of having my own business. I'm also trying to help others pursue their dreams by allowing them to have the home that they want by providing quality services at a fair price.

My goal is to help people make sure their home can be the home of their dreams. Whether that's by building a deck, painting a room, or installing new lighting, I hope you'll count on me.

Sure, this speech might not measure up to "ask not what your country can do for you," but if I can receive a smile and a thank you when I'm finished, that's the exit poll result I need.



From the John

John Larabell

# Your checklist to getting your house in order: How can we help?

People call the *John of All Trades* office all the time and ask the same question: "Can you \_\_\_\_\_?" Look through this list and perhaps we can help with some of your home needs. If you don't see something you were hoping to have done — fear not. Give us a call at 248.840.0045. There's a good chance we can help.

### Plumbing

- Sinks repaired or replaced
- Toilet repaired or replaced
- Sewer cleaning
- Pipe replacement (galvanized or copper)
- Installation of new bathroom in basement or upstairs
- Faucet Replacement
- Caulking toilets & tubs

### Masonry Work

- Brick Repair
- Porch Repair
- Chimney Repair
- Tuck pointing
- Repair or install concrete



### Outdoor Services

- Snow removal
- Landscaping
- Flower planting
- Full fertilizing programs
- Spring/Fall Cleanup
- Clean gutters
- Lawn Sprinklers
- Roofs (replaced or repaired)
- Gutter replacement or repair
- Nightscaping
- Roof de-icer installation
- Window replacement
- Siding
- Caulking
- Outdoor lighting
- Garage door installation
- Automatic garage door opener installation



### Carpentry Work

- Door installation
- Install moldings
- Install bathroom vanities
- Install kitchen cabinets
- Backsplashes
- Pergo or hardwood floors installation

### Finishing

- Painting
- Caulking
- Drywall
- Drywall repair
- Plaster repair
- Tile installation

### Electrical

- Back-up generator hook-ups
- Service Changeover (fuses to circuit breakers or replacing an old panel)
- Rewiring of your entire house
- Ceiling fans installed
- Space heaters installed
- Adding lights, circuits, or outlets
- Installing recess lighting/track lights
- Adding power in garage
- Troubleshooting electrical problems
- Troubleshooting phone problems
- Phone line repair
- Phone jack installation

**Fully Insured.**

**We proudly accept MasterCard & Visa.**



**Yes, we have our Builder's License!**

## Fall Yard Cleanup & Sprinkler Shut Down

We don't really need to tell you that leaves will soon be falling and it is time to consider getting your yard prepped for winter. *John of All Trades* offers all the services you'll need to fall including cleaning out your leaves, removing flowers, gutter cleaning, and closing down automatic sprinkler systems. Why spend hours of time and mounds of energy to do what the *John of All Trades* team can easily accomplish for you. We offer reasonable rates too. Call us today at 248.840.0045 for a quote.



## OUR RATES:

*DON'T BE FOOLED BY INITIAL LOW-BALL OFFERS*

We don't like to play games with customers so they feel they were charged or treated unfairly. Thus, we're upfront and honest with our rates.

We charge \$30 for a Service Call (although see our coupon on Page 4 for a discount). We then charge \$40 per man hour. We also charge for any materials that we need to use for the project.

For a small project that would last less than 30 minutes, the minimum charge is \$50, including the service call fee.

# Creating your own "Honey-Do" List



Owning a home can be a lot of work. Preventive work and planning can make the tasks smaller and more spread out. Adapted from Move.com, here's a checklist of small projects that you should be doing each month. Is this another "honey-do" list that is too much to handle? Are you elderly and need assistance in working through even the simplest of suggestions? Your list can be completed by simply as picking up the phone and asking *John of All Trades* to stop by and assist with any project you need help with or can't get to in your spare time. Please though, when you call: refrain from the use of the word "Honey."

## September:

- Paint interior rooms while it's still warm enough to leave windows open. Ditto for shampooing or replacing carpets.
- Check heating system including filters, pilot lights, and burners.
- Clean and vacuum dust from vents, baseboard heaters and cold-air returns.
- Remove window air-conditioning units and store them. If they are not removable, cover them with plastic.
- Tour the outside of your house to make sure that soils around the foundation are properly graded. Soil should slope four to six inches for a distance of three feet out from the foundation walls.
- Watch for year-end close-out sales on lawn and garden equipment.

## October:



- Detach hoses in case of freezing temperatures. Remove all paints, caulks and liquid materials from garage or garden sheds. (Learn more about protecting your home from freezing weather.)
- Inspect weatherstripping around doors and windows and repair or replace if necessary.
- Set thermostats and automatic sprinklers for winter. Clean gutters after leaves have fallen. Make sure downspouts are in good repair.
- Check gauges on home fire extinguishers to ensure a full charge. Replace if necessary.



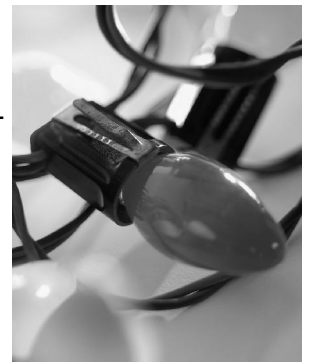
## November:

- When setting clocks back to Standard Time, change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Inspect automatic garage door opener and lubricate according to the manufacturer's directions. Make sure all bolts and screws are properly tightened and secured.
- Clean dishwasher, trash compactor and countertop appliances.
- Check for leaks around washing machine. A prime suspect for leaks are the water supply hose washers. Inspect hoses and replace if necessary.



## December:

- Check the operation of all ground-fault circuit interrupter outlets by pushing the "test" button. The "reset" button should pop out, indicating the receptacle is operating properly. Press in the reset button.
- Check inside bathroom vanities and kitchen sink cabinets for moisture and other signs of leaks. Carefully inspect pipes for condensation or slow drips.
- Unpack and test all electrical holiday decorations. Repair or discard any that do not function properly. Watch for sales on tools before and after the holiday season.



# Your best snow removal option

## *Will Winter 2008 be anything like 2007? Be ready!*

After a Top 10 Winter in terms of snow fall in 2007, we've already received phone calls regarding snow removal. People do not want to deal with another year of fighting continuous trips outside to haul away more snow.

You'll love our high quality service. We don't simply pull a truck into your driveway, drop a plow and push the snow all forward. Instead, we show up at your house and remove snow with a team of snowblowers and shovels. We'll go behind gates, be careful around fencing and posts and make sure you're dug out from whatever Mother Nature dumps on us.

We'll do so with very competitive prices. How much? Well, it's hard to quote an exact amount because there are a lot of different circumstances. For instance, corner lots run more.



Some people want their decks cleaned too. However, our typical plan allows you to choose to either pay per visit or pay a one-time seasonal fee no matter how many times we show up. *On average*, for a driveway and sidewalks, the cost is \$25 per shovel or a \$250 fixed price for the season.

We'll come every time there are two inches or more of snow. (We can also customize plans for you based on your needs or preferences such as putting salt down or coming by more frequently when there is less than two inches.)

We are offering a special program that will help bring the cost of cleaning your snow to as low as \$18 per visit or \$180 for the season. A large portion of our time is spent moving between clients. Loading

up our equipment, driving in slow, snowy traffic takes up a lot of manpower time. Thus, if we can shovel more houses without moving, we can do so for a lower amount and pass along the savings to you. If you get your next door neighbor to sign up with us, the rate drops to \$22 or \$220 for the season. If there are three houses in a row that use our services, the rate will be \$20 per time or \$200 for the season. Finally, if four houses in a row utilize our services, the cost will drop to \$18 per plow or \$180 for the year.

Again, please remember that these prices are for an average driveway and sidewalk. Regardless of your size, you can see a sizeable discount if your neighbors join together and use *John of All Trades*.

The price drops are for you and for your neighbors. All share in the savings.



## ***Call us for professional painting services***

If you don't have the time, patience or talent (painting is more than simply applying paint to a wall), *John of All Trades* has a great professional painter on our staff. The fall and winter are great times to rid the doom and gloom by brightening up a room with fresh paint.

We're the best in the business and our prices are **fair** and **competitive**. Call 248.840.0045 for a free quote.

## **John of All Trades**

Phone: 248.840.0045

Email: [help@JohnofAllTrades.com](mailto:help@JohnofAllTrades.com)

***Visit us on the Internet***

@

**www.**

***JohnofAllTrades.com***



**John of All Trades**

# **Service Call: \$10**

**SAVE \$20 — FIRST TIME CUSTOMERS ONLY**

Indoors or Outdoors — we do it all

Tel: 248.840.0045

Expiration Date: 12/31/08

Have a fresh look for the holidays  
**John of All Trades**

# **\$50 off**

**ANY PAINT JOB \$400 OR MORE**

Professional painting @

exceptional prices!

Expires: 12/31/08