



Beauty Shops: Sharing More Than Just Gossip

By Michelle Houriet, Executive Director
Independence Hill Retirement Resort Community
(210) 209-8956

Room has it... beauty shops are often humming with the latest gossip. There might be some truth to that, but for the most part, the beauty/barber shops at Independence Hill Retirement Community are buzzing with the latest news of friends coming together, upcoming events, family visits and updates, and the latest on community and worldwide happenings.

"It was a true act of God that we ended up here," stated Donna, co-owner of DE's Salon at Independence Hill. "Eva and I had a salon across town and one of our long time clients and her husband moved to Independence Hill which was still new and not near capacity. They did not have salon services at that time and our client continued to drive across town to get her hair done. She asked us when our days off were and if we would come work over at Independence Hill on those days. There was another salon owner interested in the location so management did a lottery, lowest number won. No one wanted to draw first, so I did, and drew number one. It was meant to be. As Independence Hill reached capacity, we decided to close our other shop and put our entire focus into the retirement community. Here we are 28 years later, with tons of friends (hard to call them clients), tons of memories and special moments."

Tammie, owner of Tammie's Salon for over 14 years at Independence Hill Assisted Living, just loves serving this generation.

"I enjoy hearing about their lives, the places they have been and their accomplishments," she said. "Just today I learned that one of our residents, a San Antonio native, was under contract with Warner Brothers for four years, worked with Shirley Temple just two years her junior, was in 15 movies, modeled for the TV show 'Bride and Groom,' and was a cover girl in 1943 for

'Brides Magazine,'" explains Tammy, "Wow! She totally made my day!"

Having a place to go where you know you'll always be treated like family, pampered and made to feel beautiful has so many benefits. When that place also shares your same address, the perks are multiplied.

"Having these services right at our doorstep is very convenient," said Lorena, a nine-year resident of Independence Hill. "When we are having a special event like one of our Big Band Dances, for example, or going out to the theater, our beauticians work us in no matter what, make sure we are all dolled up, and rolled out in style."

"To say we are 'like family' is an understatement," added Eva, co-owner of DE's Salon. "We ARE family. We have shared in each other's losses and greatest joys; we are always there for each other. Where else could you possibly have such a loving and friendly work environment?"

Plan your next visit to Independence Hill and you'll see that there's much more to share than just gossip at these full-service beauty shops. Call Sherrill or Laura at (210) 209-8956 and come see all the other great amenities Independence Hill has to offer.

Independence Hill Retirement Resort Community is located at 20450 Huebner Rd., San Antonio, TX 78258. For more information, call (210) 209-8956 or visit www.independencehill.com.



An Independence Hill resident gets gussied up at a salon which operates on the grounds of the retirement community and is available for all residents.



Tips for Avoiding Remodeling Mistakes

By Mike & Molly Sowry
Virtuoso Builders
(210) 525-8750

Making the decision to remodel is not an easy one. It's important to be well informed about the process so you can understand what is ahead. Simply stated, remodeling is messy, expensive and time consuming. If you can wrap your mind around those hard and true facts then the next step is to be aware of potential pitfalls. A seasoned, professional remodeler knows how to avoid these, but you should still be aware of what to steer clear of.

Rushing into your project. Plan the work and then work the plan. There should never be guesswork during a project or decisions made on the fly. Every issue including budget, design, draw schedule, material selections, or any other matter should be addressed before construction starts.

Research your contractor. Take your time. Ask questions. Check references and the Better Business Bureau. Make sure your contractor has General Liability and that his subcontractors are all insured.

Stop penny-pinching. If budget is a concern, then think about saving on some areas and splurging in others. For example, if you are a chef at home, go for the fabulous gas range and save money with a granite countertop instead of quartz. Or phase out your project and get what you want.

Changing your mind. Remodeling can get really expensive really fast if you don't stick to your original plan. Once your project begins, try to avoid looking at more images on Houzz or shows on HGTV. Have confidence in your decisions. Change orders also add on time to your project.

Be realistic. Remodeling is always more costly than you think so be prepared to spend more than what you hear them quote on HGTV. It's great entertainment and filled with fabulous ideas, but it doesn't cost \$20,000 to do a complete whole house gutting while installing top of the line materials. Sorry, folks.

Virtuoso Builders is an award winning remodeling firm raising the professional standards in the San Antonio home remodeling industry. For more tips on home improvement, subscribe to our newsletter at www.virtuosobuilders.com



Making Your Deck Last

By Barry Hagendorf
Deck & Patio Care
(210) 822-9147

Barry Hagendorf, the leading authority on deck and patio care in South Texas, has been cleaning and sealing decks for more than 20 years.

Q: Why does my wooden deck look so bad?

A: According to Architectural Digest, unprotected wood only lasts for 9-14 years. I recommend that you clean the wood on your deck and seal it with an oil-based penetrating sealer.

Q: What sealer would you recommend?

A: My preference, after years of trial and error research, is Barry Premium Blend oil-based penetrating sealer that is designed to look for dry cell structure in the wood. It will penetrate first to the bottom of the cracks, nail holes & knots. Barry's Premium Blend will protect from the surface down, stabilizing the cell structure of the wood.

Q: What care should I give to my Pebblestone?

A: On new and older pebblestone, first acid wash the film of concrete off the rocks. Then, oxidize the surface to kill mold and mildew. Last, seal the stone to its natural wet look.

Q: Why are the rocks from my pebblestone pool surround sticking to my feet?

A: Moisture penetrates around the stones and changing temperatures expand the moisture and wedge the rocks out. To repair, acid wash the surface. Then, oxidize it to kill mold and mildew. Finally, lock the stones in with a clear acrylic sealer.

Q: Why is my Flagstone flaking & chipping?

A: The answer is in the chemistry. When the temperature of Flagstone & rock move toward 32 degrees or freezing it contracts or becomes smaller. When water temperature moves toward 30 degrees it expands or gets bigger.

Daily as temperature changes and Flagstone gets wet, the water and stone move against each other causing flaking. The Solution is to seal the stone with Soloxene sealer which will keep the stone dry.

If you have a salt water pool this problem is greatly multiplied.

As a Welcome Home reader, you are entitled to a \$55 discount on any scheduled deck or patio service offered by Barry Hagendorf's Deck and Patio Care.

Call 822-9147 for free estimate.