



# The Intelligent Home Owner

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOME STREET HOME IMPROVERS

Offices In Northeast Minneapolis & St. Louis Park

Issue: June 2005

WE'RE ON THE WEB! [HOMESTREETIMPROVERS.COM](http://HOMESTREETIMPROVERS.COM)

*"Sharing the knowledge to help you care for your home."*

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## Working With a Professional Remodeler

[www.NARImn.org](http://www.NARImn.org)

(Nat'l Assn. of the Remodeling Industry)

Be sure to put all changes in writing if the scope or complexity of your remodeling project is modified while work is being done. The amendment or change order should be signed by all parties indicating agreement before the changes are begun.

Ask your professional contractor to provide certification of insurance covering workers' compensation, property damage and personal liability. Ask for a Certificate of Insurance

## Never Paint Again! Replace your soffits, fascia and trim areas with maintenance-free products.

If you're not looking forward to hours and days of tedious scraping, priming and painting this summer—not to mention finding a ladder tall enough to reach the peaks of your home—consider covering your soffits and fascia with maintenance-free products and having the wood around your window and door openings wrapped with aluminum.

Maintaining the eaves, overhangs and trim areas of your home is a difficult, but necessary chore. In addition to increasing the durability of your home's exterior, replacing or covering these areas with

maintenance-free products will save you valuable time, and will allow you to enjoy the beauty of your home without all the work.

If you plan to stay in your home more than three years, the cost-effectiveness of upgrading to maintenance-free products is worth exploring. If your home has warped clapboards that need to be replaced or lead-based paint that needs to be removed, the costs of painting can be staggering.

Compare the ongoing costs of painting every three to five years to a one-time investment in new maintenance-free products.



For most homeowners the conclusion is obvious—the time saved and added value to your home is by far the better long-term value.

Today's maintenance-free products come in a wide variety of styles and colors that will match the architectural style of your home. In addition, most products are backed by superb warranty protection.

Information source: [Alside.com](http://Alside.com)

## Home Street Bucks Update

Most of you recently received a postcard in the mail reminding you of your accumulated **Home Street Bucks** (Points). Many of you have earned sufficient Points to begin redeeming your Points for great rewards (see [www.HomeStreetImprovers.com](http://www.HomeStreetImprovers.com) for full details regarding Reward levels and redemption).

Also, many of you have been enjoying the \$25 gift cards to Applebee's or Target that you've earned for your qualified referrals. Thank you! Don't forget you can earn gift cards and Points through our Reward program without having made a prior purchase from Home Street. See website for details.

## Celebrate Northeast Parade: June 21

Even if you don't live in Northeast Minneapolis, you'll want to make a special trip to Central Ave. on Tuesday, June 21. Come early because prior to the start of the parade, the afternoon will be filled with food, music and fun! The parade begins at 6:30 p.m. and travels south from 28th Ave. NE to 14th Ave. NE. Call 612.378.0050 for more information.

*Home Street is a supporter of the Celebrate Northeast Parade.*

PO BOX 16145  
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## This Month's Waiting Pet: "Oscar"

We, at Home Street, are life-long animal lovers. It is our hope that, through the vast network of our customers and their friends, families and co-workers, we may find homes for these waiting pets. Please post this article at your workplace and place of worship, and share the news of these pets with people you know who may be able to provide a loving home. Thank you.



This month's pet, "Oscar" is currently sheltered at Contented Critters—a no-kill animal sanctuary located in

Makinen, MN (near Duluth). Oscar is a 4½ year old Golden Lab, and was given up because of a divorce situation.

All dogs/puppies are spayed, neutered, dewormed, and given all shots.

Please contact Faye at 218.638.2153 for more information about adopting Oscar.

If you are not able to adopt a pet, but want to help, monetary donations will be accepted. Your donations will help to defray the cost of food, medications and surgeries that may be needed. 100% of proceeds go directly to the care of the animals. Visit [www.contentedcritters.org](http://www.contentedcritters.org) for more information and to view other pets available.

Please spay and neuter your pets.

Please consider the time, commitment and money required to responsibly care for a pet before adopting.

## Home Street Now Accepts Payment by Credit Card

In a cooperative program with our vendors, Home Street is now able to accept payment by major credit card for most of your home improvement projects.

You may also want to consider paying for your projects with the low- or zero-percent interest cash advance checks offered by your credit card company.

Home Street also offers other financing options for those who qualify. Call for details.

## Remodel With Energy Star Products

When considering replacement products for your home—doors, windows and skylights—be sure to ask for Energy Star.

Energy Star qualified windows, doors, and skylights save you energy and money, increase the comfort of your home, and protect your valuable possessions from sun damage. They are also better for the environment because lowering your

energy use means less air pollution from power plants.

Replacing single-paned windows with Energy Star qualified windows or choosing Energy Star over the typical clear-glass double-paned alternative can save a significant amount of money on your energy bill.

Home Street offers a full line of Energy Star rated products.



## Home Maintenance Checklist

- Change your furnace filter.
- Have gutters cleaned.
- Make sure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order.
- Make sure fire extinguishers are accessible and in working order.
- Check and clean your dryer vent.
- Vacuum refrigerator coils.
- Have drafty doors and windows replaced.

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