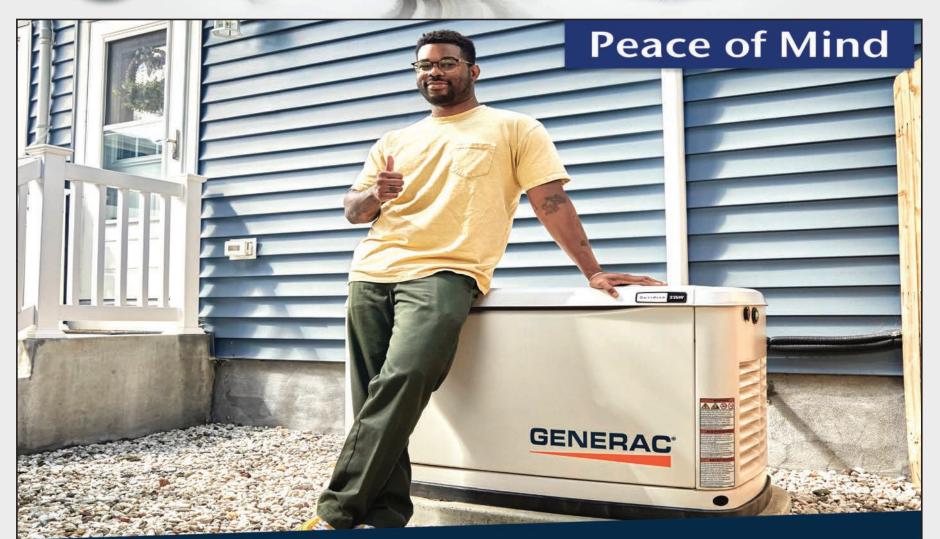
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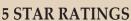
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#### RECIPE OF THE WEEK



2 cups shredded chicken

8 oz cream cheese

1/2 cup sour cream

1 1/2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, plus additional for topping, divided

1/2 tsp onion powder

1/2 tsp garlic powder

1 heavy pinch dried dill

1/2 cup hot sauce

2 green onions, chopped blue cheese crumbles

tortilla chips

vegetable sticks

Heat oven to 400 F.

In bowl, mix shredded chicken, cream cheese, sour cream, 1 1/2 cups shredded cheese, onion powder, garlic powder and dried dill until combined. Add hot sauce; mix until combined.

Transfer mixture from bowl to ovensafe dish. Top with additional shredded cheese, to taste.

Bake until cheese is melted, approximately 15 minutes.

Top with blue cheese crumbles and chopped green onion. Serve warm with chips and vegetable sticks.

Top with fresh parsley, if desired.

Visit Culinary.net to find more touchdown-worthy tailgate recipes.

See more recipes on our website: www.MarketPlacePublications.com

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#### **JONES BEACH NATURE CTR**

**1/25: 1:30-3pm.** \$4. Adults. **Craft:** T-shirt yarn.

1/26: 1:30-2:30pm. \$4. All ages. Activity: Meet, learn and spend time with some educational animals. 1/27: 10:30-12pm. \$4. Adults and ages 12+. Craft: Create bayberry

scented candles from soy wax.
1/27-1/28: 2:30-4pm. \$4pp. All ages.
Seal Walk. Learn about seals and their migration to Jones Beach. Dress warmly.

1/28: 12-1pm. \$4. Ages 7-12. Class: Discover the evolution of flight & design flying contraption of your own. Must register for all events. Visit website for additional activities. West End of Jones Beach. 516-809-8222. www.JonesBeachENC.org

#### **ALLEY POND**

1/27: 10:30am-12:30pm. \$34. Ages 9-12. Vet Tech 101: Learn about dental care for teeth and beaks. 1/28: 10:30-12:30pm. \$34. Ages 8-12. Construct and learn about building a strong structure. Register for all events. 718-229-4000. 224-65 76<sup>th</sup> Ave., Oakland Gardens. www.AlleyPond.org

#### **BIRD WALK**

1/28: 9am. Free. Guided bird walk Text registration required: 516-467-9498. No walk if rain, snow or temperature below 25. Massapequa Preserve. www.SSAudubon.org

#### **SNOW DAY!**

1/28: 12-3pm. \$5/child (all proceeds go towards the purchase of a veteran's service dog). Snowball toss, games, crafts, prizes, raffles and more. Info: call 516-286-8000. Floral Park Recreational Center, 124 Stewart St. Register: FloralParkLionsClub@gmail.com

#### **SANDS POINT PRESERVE**

1/28: 1-4pm. \$15/child. \$5/adult. Family Fun: meet animals, nature walk, crafts, indoor game room etc. 1/30: 7-8pm. \$25 (3 classes \$60 – 1/30, 2/6, 2/13). Intro to Ballroom Dancing (no partner or experience necessary).

2/3: 10am-12pm. \$40 per class. Adults & 14+ w/adult. Wilderness Survival Skills: Traps and Snares. Register for all events: 516-304-5076.12 Middle Neck Rd., SandsP. .www.SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org

#### **PLANTING FIELDS**

1/30: 11am-12pm. \$20. Camellias & the Coes Walking Tour. Registration required. 516-922-9210. 1395 Planting Fields Rd., Oyster Bay. www.PlantingFields.org

#### LI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

1/31: 11:30am-12pm. Ages 18 mos. to 3 years. \$4 w/admission.

Pop Tots: Play-based workshop designed to promote socialization and support toddlers' cognitive and creative development. 516-224-5800. 11 Davis Ave., Garden City.

www.LICM.org

#### MADISON THEATRE

2/1: 7pm. \$30-35. In My Own Little Corner with Chryssie Whitehead. Autobiographical play with music about Bipolar Disorder. Conversation with audience follows play. All proceeds will go to the Student Emergency fund for mental health expenses.

2/3: 7:30pm. \$30. The South Shore Symphony presents: Coleridge-Taylor, Beethoven & Shostakivich. 516-323-4444. Molloy College, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. www.MadisonTheatreNY.org

#### **FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER**

2/3: 8-10am. \$12. Help support Boy Scouts of America Troop 298. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and beverage. 646-537-5331. Applebees, 1985 Jericho Tpke., NHP.

#### **CINDERELLA**

**2/3 & 2/10: 11am. 2/4 & 2/11: 12pm.** \$15. 516-218-2782. Bellmore Movies & Showplace, 222 Pettit Avenue, Bellmore. <a href="https://www.SunriseTheatreLl.com">www.SunriseTheatreLl.com</a>

#### **SPIRITUALITY FOR SINGLES**

2/3: 8:30pm. \$10 donation. Ages 40+. Snacks, pizza, presentation by speaker Tony Bellizzi. 516-561-6994. St. Aidan Parish, 510 Willis Ave., Williston Park.

#### **BIRD WALK**

**2/4: 9am**. Free. **Guided bird walk** Text registration required:516-467-9498. No walk if rain, snow or temperature below 25. Point Lookout Town Park (Lido Preserve afterwards). <a href="https://www.SSAudubon.org">www.SSAudubon.org</a>

#### LI HARMONIZERS

2/14. \$75 donation (non-profit barbershop chorus). The quartet will surprise sing for your loved one in Nassau & Queens. Your loved one will also receive a rose and bear. 917-387-7845.

#### **RECOMMITMENT CEREMONY**

2/14: 11am-2pm. \$18/person.
Couples can renew their vows or celebrate their milestone anniversaries. Lunch and champagne toast. Reserve: 516-869-6311.Harbor Links Golf Course, Port Washington. www.NorthHempsteadNY.gov

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#### **OPEN HOUSE DATES - JOIN US!**

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#### **EARTH TALK®**

#### What is firescaping and what's the connection with native plants? – J.T., via email

Firescaping involves designing a landscape to fireproof a property while maintaining aesthetic appeal. By thoughtfully choosing and arranging plants and construction materials, the likelihood of igniting a fire, along with its potential severity and the speed at which it spreads, can be significantly reduced.

A firescape design often involves multiple zones. Zone 0, also known as a 'noncombustible zone, is the perimeter region zero to five feet away from the home. Anything within this region should be incombustible. This most frequently means putting pavement, bricks or rocks around the border of the home to prevent any groundfires from being able to make direct contact. In addition, avoid planting vegetation beneath decks or balconies as fire and heat tends to climb upward.

All vegetation should be kept at least 10 feet away from homes for optimal fireproofing, and trees should always be kept at least 15 feet away from chimneys and powerlines. When choosing the placement of trees, consider their size at maturity versus their size at the time of planting. Additionally, the crowns of trees should be kept at least 10 feet apart via pruning. This helps avoid fire laddering, whereby flames ignite lower branches or shrubs, initiating upward movement before spreading to adjacent trees.

Zone 1 is the 'lean, clean, green' area within 30 feet of a home. Certain plants, such as junipers, conifers and other evergreens should not be planted in this region because they contain oils, resins and waxes that make them flammable. Other characteristics of incendiary plants include those containing dry or dead twigs and needles and those having strongly aromatic terpenoid leaves.

Instead, choose plants that are less 'woody', have higher moisture content, and are ground covers. Deciduous trees and shrubs, as well as succulents and some perennials, are better-suited options. Furthermore, many native plants possess evolutionary adaptations, such as deep root systems and fire-resistant bark, which make them resilient to wildfires. Incorporating a variety of native plants fosters biodiversity, which in turn promotes plant health. Diverse and healthy native ecosystems create natural firebreaks and slow the spread

The organization of vegetation and structures also play a vital role in firescaping. Incorporating materials like concrete, stone and brick in the construction of driveways, walkways, patios and fences establishes effective firebreaks while offering both functional and aesthetic value. Though bare dirt can also serve as a noncombustible fuel break, it is not recommended due to the potential of soil erosion. Buffering, or creating separation between distinct layers of ground covers, shrubs and trees, limits a fire's ability to climb and intensify. Adding water features in firescaping introduces a dynamic element that can act as a natural firebreak. Ponds, streams or other water sources can serve as barriers, hindering the progression of wildfires by creating a moisture-rich environment. Finally, removing dead vegetation is a critical component of firescaping as it eliminates potential fuel sources for fires, disrupting the continuity of combustible material.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

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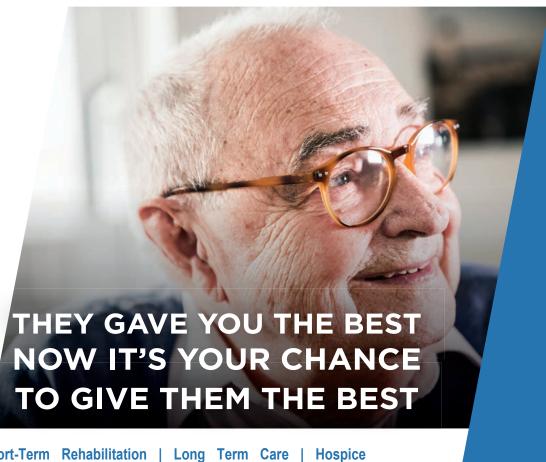






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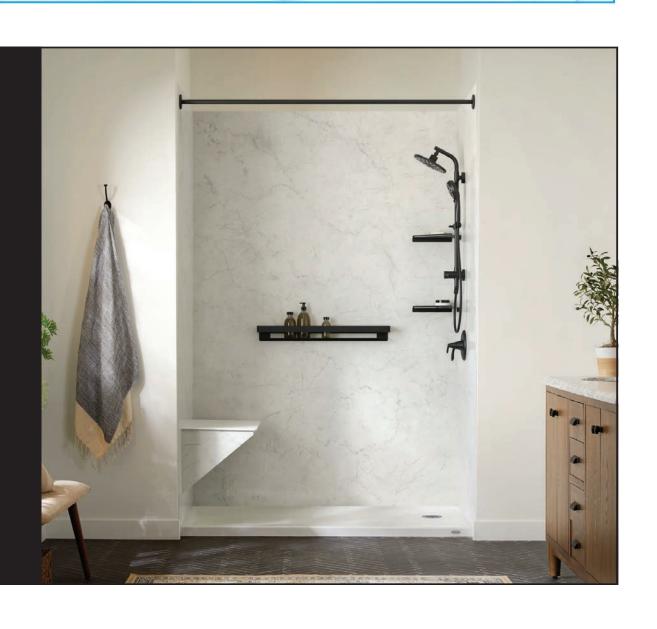
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