

May

NEWSLETTER



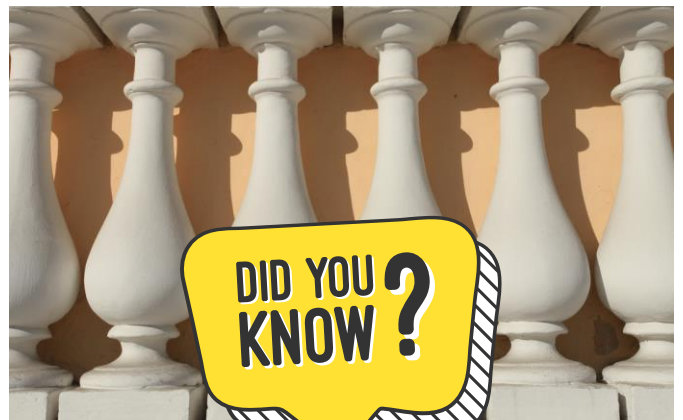
EMERGENCY PLAN

Ready, Set, Secure: Navigating Emergencies with Ease

As we move through Spring and into Summer, creating an emergency kit for your home is crucial in preparing for unexpected situations. Here's a comprehensive list of items to include in your emergency kit:

- **Pack some basic supplies:** water, non-perishable food (don't forget a manual can opener), a first aid kit, flashlights, batteries, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, and a multi-tool or Swiss army knife.
- **Consider these additional essentials:** blankets or sleeping bags, personal hygiene items, important documents (stored in a waterproof container), cash, and a whistle.
- **Have a Go-Bag ready:** extra clothing, pet supplies, emergency contact information (including medical and police services, etc.), entertainment and comfort items, special needs items, and local maps. Include maps of your area in case GPS or digital maps are inaccessible.
- **Have a plan:** Consider evacuation routes, meeting points, and communications in case of separation, and have alternative shelter plans.

- **Have a backup power source:** Get a generator or alternative power source, and have extra fuel if needed.
- **Get educated:** Take first aid, CPR, and basic emergency response classes. These skills can be critical in an emergency situation.



Balusters—also known as spindles—are named after balustrade, the Italian word for pomegranate flowers. Balusters once had a more curvaceous shape at the top and were said to resemble the pomegranate plant's red blossom.



WEIRD, BUT

TRUE

Giraffes hum to each other at night to make sure their herd stays together.



Harmony in Bloom: Designing Your Outdoor Haven

Are you thinking of redesigning your outdoor space this summer? Here are some tips to help you craft your haven:

- **Understand Your Space:** Assess your yard's size, sunlight exposure, soil quality, and drainage patterns before planning.
- **Create a Focal Point:** Design around a central element, like a fountain, statue, or a distinctive tree, to anchor the space and draw attention.
- **Consider Functionality:** Think about how you'll use the space. Do you want it for entertaining, gardening, or relaxation? Design different zones accordingly.
- **Use Plants Wisely:** Select plants based on your climate, soil type, and maintenance preferences. Incorporate a mix of flowers, shrubs, trees, and groundcovers for texture and variety.
- **Consider Seasonal Interest:** Aim for year-round appeal by choosing plants that bloom or showcase interesting foliage in different seasons.
- **Think About Maintenance:** Design with maintenance in mind. Choose low-maintenance plants or features if you prefer minimal upkeep.
- **Lighting Matters:** Install outdoor lighting strategically to highlight specific features, extend usability into the evening, and create ambiance.
- **Plan for Watering and Drainage:** Ensure proper irrigation and drainage to maintain healthy plants and prevent waterlogging.



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