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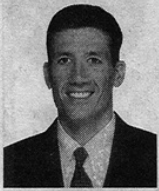

*Collinsville Herald
Granite City Press-Record
Monroe County Clarion
St. Clair County Journal
April 14, 2010*

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch New Home Folio
St. Charles Journal
Wentzville Journal
April 11, 2010*

FINISHING TOUCHES

WWW.EARTHDAY.NET

Celebrate Earth Day Every Day at Home




SEAN FLOWER
President, Home Builders
Association of St. Louis &
Eastern Missouri

EVERY YEAR, APRIL 22 MARKS THE WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY. In 2010, Earth Day will commemorate its 40th anniversary and more than half a billion people are expected to participate in this year's events.


The Earth Day Network hopes to have thousands marches, parades, lectures and cleanup projects around the globe. You can find a list of events in our area at www.earthday.net.

You don't have to wait until April 22 to incorporate the concepts of Earth Day in your own home, however. These simple environmentally-friendly household suggestions can make you an Earth Day advocate all year long.



Conserve Water — and Your Pocketbook
The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the average family of four uses 400 gallons of water every day. To combat this, the agency suggests that you:

- **Don't** let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- **Take** short showers instead of tub baths.
- **Keep** drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- **Scrape**, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher; wash only full loads.
- **Wash** only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.
- **Repair** all leaks (a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day).



Incorporate Energy-Efficient Appliances into Your Home
When the time comes, replace appliances with energy-efficient models. Tankless water heaters, for example, are comparable in cost to traditional gas water heaters but are 30 percent more efficient, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Another easy option is to replace your old thermostat with a programmable one. These types of automatic thermostats will lower the heat when you are at work, but will automatically raise it to make the home comfortable again when you return home.

As an added bonus, some home energy-efficient upgrades may provide tax credits of up to \$1,500. Find out what qualifies at www.nahb.org/efficiencytaxcredit.

