

# The HANDYMAN

## Be Your Own Plumber

By Joe Zorc  
PM Editorial Services

**Q: I would like to replace an ancient toilet in my home. Can I do this myself, and, if so, what kind of tools will it require?**

**A:** If you don't mind getting your hands dirty, you can save money by doing this project yourself. With the increased use of compression fittings instead of soldering copper pipe, a pair of adjustable wrenches or vice grips are the only tools you will need.

When buying the new fixture, or toilet, check with the salesman to make sure that a new water supply line is included. This is the tube that extends from the shutoff valve behind the toilet to the underside of the tank. Also buy a new wax ring, a gasket of wax that seals odors between the bottom of the fixture and the flange base. If new "closet bolts" are not included, purchase those also as the old ones are probably rusty. A small roll of Teflon tape also is needed.

First, turn off the supply valve behind the toilet and flush the water out of the tank. To make sure the supply valve is off, lift the tank cover and check if water is still being fed into the tank. When the water has stopped, remove the supply line connection under the tank, to be reconnected to the new tank.

If this connection has been stripped and does not work with the new tank fitting, remove the nut on the supply line from the valve. This is a compression fitting with a ring-like plastic or brass ferrule, which is crimped down on the tubing when

tightened. It can be used only once, so the old nut, ferrule and supply line can be discarded with the old fixture after the bolt covers and nuts have been removed from the base of the fixture.

Now scrape away the old wax ring, insert new closet bolts in the slots in the flange and follow the directions that came with the fixture.

The supply line should be attached like the old one. But first wrap some Teflon tape around the threads to seal the fitting. If it is too long it can be bent, but be very careful not to kink the tube. Use a pipe cutter if you need to shorten the new line.

After everything is installed, turn on the supply valve and check for leaks. The compression fitting may need an extra turn or two.

**Q: I own a home that has storm windows, but there still is a draft at the windows. What could be the problem?**

**A:** Storm windows can be great energy savers if installed properly. Open your window and look at the inside of the window casing where the storm window is attached. When the windows were installed, a bead of caulk should have been applied at this joint to prevent air from penetrating. If the caulk has deteriorated, scrape away the old and re-caulk with an exterior caulk available at any paint or hardware store. **ll**

Joe Zorc has been involved in home renovation and repair for more than a decade and has taught carpentry for the Home Builders Institute.

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## Down East Cooking

By REBA W. MITCHELL

When the English arrived on the East Coast, the Indians' only domestic animal was the dog. This does not mean there was an absence of pork. The early Carolinians bartered with the Indians for pork. The Indians hunted the wild descendants of hogs brought to Florida by De Soto before 1550. These ill-tempered beasts had spread northward in search of forage; Florida's natural produce never appealed to them.

By 1700 the average Virginia family would own four to five pigs, in addition to chickens and perhaps a few head of sheep and cattle. What this meant was there was enough surplus to thrust the South's cured and pickled pork into world commerce. Trading ships put into port, unloaded, and took on pork.

The farmer could now choose to market some of his hams and bacon, while keeping some for his family. Eating high on the hog was no every day affair, but when the occasion warranted it, a pork roast could be cooked.

### Spicy Good Spare Ribs

- 3 pounds pork spare ribs
- 2 tbs. pepper jelly
- ¼ cup and 2 tbs. catsup
- ¼ cup and 2 tbs. water
- 1 tbs. firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 tbs. white wine vinegar
- 1 tbs. Worcestershire sauce
- ¾ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- ½ tsp. chili powder
- ½ tsp. red pepper

Cut ribs into serving-size pieces and place on lightly-greased rack in a shallow roasting pan. Bake, uncovered, at 425 degrees for 30 minutes.

Combine remaining ingredients in a medium saucepan, bring to a boil, stirring well.

Place roasting pan 7 to 8 inches from heating element. Broil 15 minutes, turning every five minutes; baste liberally with sauce. Serve remaining sauce with ribs.

### Waldorf Salad

- 3 cups chopped apples
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 cup thin celery slices
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- salad dressing

Combine apples, marshmallows, celery and walnuts. Add enough salad dressing to moisten. Toss lightly, chill. Add additional salad dressing and garnish with apple slices if desired before serving.

Variations: Add one 11-ounce can of Mandarin orange segments, drained; add 1 cup raisins; add 1 cup seedless grapes; add 1 cup chopped dates; add ¼ cup toasted coconut.

### Light 'n' Fruity Pie

- 1 package (3-ounce) gelatin, any flavor
- 2/3 cups boiling water
- 2 cups ice cubes
- 1 8-ounce container Cool Whip
- 1 graham cracker crust

Dissolve gelatin completely in boiling water, stirring about 3 minutes. Add ice cubes and stir until thickened, about 3 minutes. Remove any unmelted ice. Using a wire whip, blend in Cool Whip and whip until smooth. Chill until mixture will mound if necessary. Spoon into crust. Garnish with cookie crumbs if desired.

## West Craven Noticeboard

### RESCUE AUXILIARY

The Vanceboro Rescue Squad Auxiliary meets the first Tuesday night of each month at the Vanceboro Volunteer Fire Department at 7:30 p.m. Those interested in serving in a worthwhile volunteer organization and helping the community are asked to attend.

### EMT COURSE

The Vanceboro Rescue Squad will host an emergency medical technician course for any people that may be interested in receiving this type of training. You do not have to be a member of the rescue squad to attend. The course will be held at the Vanceboro Volunteer Fire Department. A minimum of 15 students is required to conduct the course. Contact Dean Morris at 244-0594 for more information.

### SENIOR CITIZENS

The senior citizens in United Tri-County Senior Citizens Inc. are reminded to attend the "Happy Birthday Party" this month. Senior citizens in Vanceboro meet regularly in the newly-renovated community center in Vanceboro. The last Friday of each month is the date for the "Happy Birthday Party."

### HERITAGE CRAFTS

The N.C. Extension Service will conduct a two-day "Heritage Crafts" workshop March 21-22 at the Agriculture Extension Center in Kinston. Participants make select from a variety of one- or two-day classes. Classes are from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Participants are asked to bring a bag lunch. For more details on classes, cost, supplies and registration, contact Susan Noble at 633-1477. Registration closes Feb. 28.

### COOKBOOK

The Craven County Extension Homemakers have available for sale the latest N.C. Extension Homemakers Cookbook. This cookbook was compiled by the N.C. Extension Homemakers for the 1988 national meeting it hosted and contains recipes from across the state. For more information contact Susan Noble at 633-1477.

### SENIOR EXERCISES

Twin Rivers YMCA now offers a basic exercise and stretching class for adults over age 55. The classes are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 9:45 a.m. at the YMCA. For more information, call 638-8799.

### DRIVERS NEEDED

Drivers are needed to transport people for the Council on Aging from Vanceboro to appointments with doctors. Mileage will be paid. Contact Camille at 638-2118.

### ARCHERY

Learn and experience the challenge of archery. Craven County Recreation and Parks Department is seeking currently organizing archery classes in New Bern beginning this fall. Classes will be available for youth, adults and senior citizens. In interested in participating or for more information, contact Eddie Games at 636-6606.

### WINTER PROGRAMS

The Twin Rivers YMCA offers its winter session of programs. Programs will include low impact aerobics, CAM II fitness classes, small-fry gymnastics (ages 2-5 years), after-school gymnastics (ages 5-14 years), men's 4-on-4 basketball, basic exercise and stretching, babysitting techniques and the afterschool fun program and more. Please call the YMCA at 638-8799 to pre-register for for more information.

### SEEK-A-SENIOR

The Twin Rivers YMCA Seek-a-Senior program is a referral service promoting odd-job employment of active older adults who are 55-years-old or older by community members needing work done at reasonable rates. Call the YMCA at 638-8799 to find resources for hiring seniors to do such work as maintenance and repair, sewing, house-sitting and babysitting.

### BABYSITTING

The Twin Rivers YMCA is offering a course titled "Babysitting Techniques" for young people ages 10 and up who would like to get a solid foundation in babysitting. Students will be taught safety issues, caring techniques and areas of responsibility involved in child care. Classes will be taught at the YMCA on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. Call the YMCA at 638-8799.

### HOSPITAL HOURS

Craven Regional Medical Center has extended its hours of operation for its outpatient registration center from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. The center is located in the front lobby of the hospital. Appointments may be made by calling the outpatient registration desk at 633-8118.

### AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

The Twin Rivers YMCA offers after school care for school-age children at the following school sites. In New Bern, Brinson Elementary; in Havelock, Roger Bell, Graham A. Barden Elementary and Pamlico County, Fred Anderson and Arapahoe schools. Children may enroll in the program at anytime during the school year. The cost is \$12 for one child, \$20 for two and \$26 for three children per week. For more information, contact the YMCA at 638-8799.

### DROPOUT PROGRAM

High school dropouts can earn a high school diploma by attending night classes. Contact the extended day program director at New Bern Senior High School or any school counselor in the New Bern-Craven County Schools. Classes began Jan. 30. Call 636-8230 for more information.

### CHILDREN'S PARADE

The Craven Arts Council is looking for participants for the second annual Children's Parade to be held April 29 at 10 a.m. as part of the 89 Spring Arts Festival. The theme this year is "Fairytales." For more information, call 638-2787 or stop by the Bank of the Arts, 317 N. Middle St., New Bern.

### YMCA CAMP

Adults over 50-years-old can spend a weekend or a week in the Blue Ridge Mountain. If interested, then Camp Cheerio, a YMCA camp in Roaring Gap, might be just the place this spring or summer. A presentation on the camp will be made by the YMCA at Twin Rivers Mall at 10 a.m. March 21. Call the YMCA at 638-8799 for more information.

### EXERCISE CLASS

Twin Rivers YMCA offers a basic exercise and stretching class Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 10 a.m. It is conducted to music and designed to meet fitness needs of older adults. Call 638-8799 for more information.

### SOFTBALL

The Craven County Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor a men's softball league this year. The season will start April 25. An organizational meeting will be held at 7 p.m. March 7 at the Craven County Administration Building in New Bern. Teams should have a representative present. For more information, call 636-6606 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

### YOUTH BASEBALL

The Southern Little League Baseball will be holding registration for boys and girls 9- to 12-years-old on March 4 and March 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at New Bern High School in front of the gym and Simmons-Nott Youth Complex on Williams Road. The registration fee is \$15. For more information, call Bob Bukowski at 637-2549 or the Craven County Recreation at 636-6606.

### WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

The Craven County Recreation and Parks Department will hold an organizational meeting for women's softball March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Craven County Administration Building at 406 Craven St. Anyone interested in participating or having a team should have a representative present. For more information call 636-6606 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

## Along The Pathway

Along the pathway of life there come times when we have to say goodbye to someone very dear to us. Instead of doing my usual column, I would like to make this column a tribute to Mrs. Linner Mae Orman, the woman who did the devotions last Tuesday for the Women's Ministries of Vanceboro Pentecostal Holiness Church. Her programs will live on in the hearts of the ones that heard it.

She was a very special woman. She was always busy doing things for others and God. She was a faithful person to her Lord, family, church and friends. I know her load was heavy, but she never complained about what she had to do. I believe she was a willing worker at all times. Mrs. Orman and her husband always sat in the pew behind me at church. She was always one of the first ones there. I can almost hear her singing now. She took part in the choir and special singings. One of her songs that I will never forget was "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand." She helped sing that song in the last Wednesday night service before she went to her eternal home this past Saturday. I believe her message to all the family, friends and all others is "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand."

### There Is A Place

She so quickly slipped away that day,  
She finished her work along this way,  
She left traces of work she had done,  
Now she has gone for the prize she won.  
There we can meet her face to face,  
Over there in the heavenly place.  
So hold on to God's unchanging hand,  
She is waiting there in Glory land.  
Yes, there is a place where we can meet,  
And all our loved ones we can greet.

— Reba W. Mitchell

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