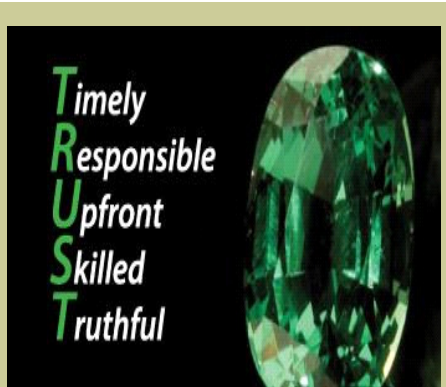




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**A NOTE FROM:**

I hope the last several months have been good to all of you and your holiday season was fruitful. In talking with many of you, I discovered that we agreed that our holidays were different this year. They were less about presents and material things and more about quality time with loved ones and family. Good for frugal people like me--bad for the stores, malls and on-line shops. Also, like many of you, I'm hoping this new year will bring a regeneration of some business and profits.

Looking back on the last **18 to 24 months**, what does that conjure up for you? Fear, reprioritizing, restraint, and opportunity? It has been one of the most interesting periods all of us have seen in our lives. Certainly, it has been for me. In the blink of an eye, we have seen our financial world both globally, nationally and locally collapse. Without doubt, every person has been affected. Any positive financial changes are occurring at an agonizingly slow pace and are too small to be meaningful to most working men and women. I personally know of only a few who have benefited financially from these changes. For most, it has been a struggle to maintain and just stay in business. However, I've seen many whose personal resolve, faith in themselves, family and friends has strengthened. I've seen personal and spiritual growth that only trial and struggle can forge. I've seen random acts of kindness to those in need.

The way we do business has changed and will change forever. The old paradigms do not and will not work. Hopefully, greed (which got us into this) will be substituted for pride in one's work, a quest for excellence (because less than excellence will not go far in this new era) and empowerment of each individual to take control of his/her personal outcome. What have not changed are **quality, service, value and putting your client first**. I'm hopeful for my and our company's future and we're trying many new strategies. We're constantly reinventing ourselves to be able to continue to meet our client's needs. For more information on thoughts and strategies, please see our new blog feature on our website.

***Emerald Times***  
***Edition 41***



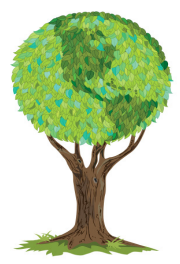
# FLORIDA ENERGY STAR APPLIANCE REBATE PROGRAM

On May 19, 2009 Governor Crist signed House Bill 167. This bill marks a continuation of his commitment to increasing energy efficiency and stimulating the economy. House Bill 167 enables the Florida Energy and Climate Commission (FECC) to develop and manage guidelines consistent with federal regulations, designating eligible appliances, rebate amounts and the process for issuing rebates. The rebate program will help Floridians buy appliances at discount rates, lower utility costs, and benefit Florida businesses by stimulating sales of energy-efficient appliances. There will be six residential appliances that qualify for Florida's 20% ENERGY STAR Appliance Rebate Program:

1. Refrigerators
2. Freezers
3. Washing machines
4. Dish washers
5. Room air conditioners
6. Gas tankless water heaters

Florida's program is anticipated to last fourteen days in April 2010 and run in conjunction with Florida's Earth Day events.

To qualify for the rebate the ENERGY STAR appliance must be **purchased during the time period from April 16 through April 25, 2010. There are no retroactive rebates.**



Check this website for any changes and additional information:

[http://myfloridaclimate.com/climate\\_quick\\_links/florida\\_energy\\_climate\\_commission/upcoming\\_funding\\_opportunities](http://myfloridaclimate.com/climate_quick_links/florida_energy_climate_commission/upcoming_funding_opportunities)

## 10 Years since Y2K; we're still here but what we didn't know was coming.....



- The stock market would crash, most dot.com companies would crash, the Towers would fall and from that many of us would face large scale mortality.
- The Columbia space shuttle would explode killing all 7 inhabitants.
- A Tsunami in the Indian Ocean would kill 500,000 people.
- Our country would be deeply divided and it would force many of us to grow up "politically."
- A bruising economic crash would physiologically wound many of us.
- T Mobile would invent the first cell phone to send and receive pictures.
- MP3 players would become increasingly cool with Napster. The IPOD would be introduced and then the Iphone; changing how we listen to music.
- Social networks would go high-tech with Friendster, MySpace, Facebook. Tweeting wouldn't just be for birds....
- Our new lingo would include... Alternative Medicine, American Idol, Blogging, Blu-rays, Cougars, Crocs, Dancing with the Stars, DVR's, Food Network, Going Green, HDTV, Information Overload, iTunes, Texting, Wii & YouTube.

**What will the next 10 years bring???? Scary or Exciting??**



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## The Tampa Bay Area Chapter of NARI

will hold it's 16th Annual Evening of Excellence at the Belleair Country Club this month.

These 2010 Coty Awards are a yearly premier event. This will be an evening to see what NARI remodelers have done in the Tampa Bay area over the last year. These local NARI members have performed excellent work and are competing to see who is the best of the best!

This year we have entered 2 projects. A Residential Addition Project in Dunedin which included a new kitchen and a wide open entertaining space. The second project is a Residential Universal Design bathroom in Clearwater done for a armed robbery victim who is now in a wheelchair but is expected to be able to eventually walk unaided. We'll keep you posted on the evening's results.....



## CONTRACTOR SPOTLIGHT

Robbie McGregor of **Robbie's Assembly Service** has been

working with us for the past 8 years. Robbie's company does any type of moving, breaking down and assembly of equipment, furniture, appliances, etc. Anything that can be moved, disassembled and assembled, Robbie can do it! Robbie and his company have always given us courteous and professional service. Thank you Robbie and crew for being part of our team.

Robbie's Assembly Service  
669-9090

## Add Color to Your Kitchen or Bath with a Glass Tile Backsplash

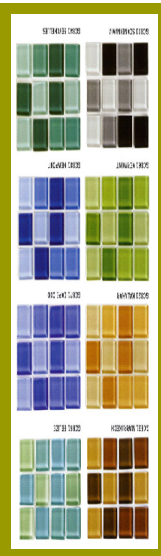
Few additions to your kitchen or bath add more color and variety than a glass tile backsplash. Most glass tile is manufactured in smaller, mosaic type tiles on sheets. A backsplash creates an opportunity for you to add color, character and spice to your kitchen. As a smaller kitchen project, a glass tile backsplash is often installed in just a few days from start to finish by a professional contractor.

### Glass Tile Backsplash Design

There are so many different ways to use glass tile on backsplashes and countertops that it's often hard for homeowners to choose which method will look best in their home. Multi-colored, glass mosaic tile is probably the most popular choice because it adds vibrancy and life to any room. Single color tiling projects shouldn't be overlooked, however. A modestly colored backsplash made of narrow, alternating glass tiles can be just as attractive, especially if you're looking for something a little more understated. Finally, the small size of many glass tiles makes these tiles perfect for mixing and matching with other tiling materials, such as stone, ceramic, metal, and even cork.

### Glass Tile Types

Besides basic backsplash and countertop design, you'll also need to choose between different tile types for your new tile installation. Glass tile comes in an almost infinite range of colors and shapes and in many different types of glass as well. Bubble glass tile, for example, is made by trapping air bubbles in the glass during the manufacturing process. The bubbles give the tile character, texture, and a less formal appearance than other glass varieties. Glass tile sheets make installation easier by pre-gluing mosaic glass tile designs to easy to install sheet backing. And if you're looking for something a little more natural, you might look into iridescent glass tile and glass tile that mimics certain varieties of slate and stone. Oceanside glass tile, for example, has a stunning line of high-end glass tile options that really push the limitations of what most homeowners expect glass tile to look like in that regard.



# Big Impact, Low-Cost Remodeling Projects

From Remodeling Cost vs Value Report 2009-10

Judicious home remodeling is still worth the investment according to Remodeling magazine's annual "Cost vs. Value" Report. The report is by region and broken down into additions, remodeling projects and replacements. In Florida, most return on the dollar for additions included attic bedrooms, outdoor decks, second stories and master suites. For remodeling projects, most return was for kitchen and bath remodels. For replacement/maintenance projects, most return was for new entry doors, vinyl siding and new windows. The article also talked about "budget-minded" enhancements you can invest in to make your home stand out.

1. Freshen up your cabinets by replacing the existing door and drawer fronts —maybe add a few glass front doors. Add new hinges and handles, aka your cabinet jewelry. Add rollout organizing trays.
2. Retiling floors in foyers, kitchens and baths will totally change the look of a room. Retiling a dated backsplash or adding a tiled backsplash wall in a kitchen can take the kitchen in a new direction.
3. Where a wall separates a kitchen from a family room, cut out an opening and create a breakfast bar.
4. If you want the granite look on the countertops but can't afford the slab, have granite tiles installed.
5. To freshen a bathroom, have the plumbing fixtures, light fixtures and vanity changed out. Install new glass shower doors, new framed mirrors and an updated medicine cabinet.
6. Add a room. Look for those unused, open spaces, i.e., a screen room that can be easily enclosed to create a new, more functional room.
7. Replace light fixtures throughout the house. By adding can lights, pendant lights, dimmers and upgrading the switches throughout the home you can add much ambience and update the look.
8. Fresh paint, crown molding, various decorative molding, new closet doors — all these add a fresh look.

## E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

WE WANT TO BE GREENER!

Send your e-mail address to  
diane@emeraldcontractors.com

*Once again, I'd like to say THANKS to all  
our repeat clients and the people who  
referred us for construction services...*



Alison Pool-Crane  
Lia Barnhill  
Scott & Amanda Kellog  
Huguette Goulie  
Melissa Baird  
Bill & Kelly Macko  
Jeff Boen  
Steve Kern  
George Farley  
Robin Snyder  
Lisa Berardo  
Bill & Theresa Weber

Past client  
Past client  
Past client  
Villa Rue 9  
Rent Solutions  
Present clients  
Boen's Tree Service  
Decks & Docks Supplier  
Past Client  
Painting by Robin  
Collective Construction & Interiors, Inc.  
Repeat Clients

**NARI, BBB, Angie's List and Tampa Bay Magazine** — being part of your organization continually supplies us leads—thanks!

*The highest compliment I can receive is an introduction to your friends, family & business associates. It would be an honor if you passed on our name & phone number as referrals are the backbone of our business. Thank you for your trust & ongoing confidence in us!*