

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mini Maid Minutes

Because you deserve it!
Winter 2011

WINTER 2011

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
PHILLIPS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Nutcracker

It wouldn't be the holiday season without it.
Presented by Dance Alive National Ballet.

(352) 392-2787

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2:00 P.M.
MAIN STREET OF ALACHUA

Alachua Christmas Parade

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 6:00 P.M.
DOWNTOWN HIGH SPRINGS

15th Annual Twilight Christmas Parade

This year's theme: Pioneering Days of Christmas.
Be sure and stay and visit Santa after the parade!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 9:00 P.M.
BO DIDDLEY COMMUNITY PLAZA,
DOWNTOWN GAINESVILLE

Downtown Countdown

Free concert featuring the Beatles tribute band,
The Impostors.

(352) 393-8746

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 7:30 P.M.
PHILLIPS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Manhattan Transfer

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, The Manhattan Transfer continues to make its mark on the music industry. The group's new album, *The Chick Corea Songbook*, soared to No. 5 on the Billboard jazz chart.

(352) 392-2787

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 28-29
AND FRIDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3-5
ALACHUA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Hoggetowne Medieval Faire

The Alachua County Fairgrounds is transformed into a bustling medieval marketplace for the 26th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire. Come be swept away by medieval magic as troupes of actors, street performers and musicians journey back to the days of yore.

(352) 393-8536

Mini Maid Anniversaries

Marian Deckman - 12 years
Sheryl Dixon - 10 years
Barbara Stewart - 7 years
Betty Schmidt - 6 years

Sue Bell - 6 years
Shannon McCullough - 5 years
Diana Holt - 4 years
Sheryl McClain - 2 years

Milestones

Barbara Stewart - 9000 houses
Sheryl McClain - 2000 houses

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Mini Maid Gift Certificates

AN EASY & WELCOME HOLIDAY GIFT

Give the gift of free time and a clean home to your family members, friends, colleagues and clients this holiday season. Simply call us to arrange for a gift certificate. It's certain to be the easiest gift you shop for and one that won't be returned!

Night on the Town Winners

Once again, we'd like to offer a token of appreciation to our loyal customers and employees. We've held our prize drawing. The winners will each receive a \$40.00 gift card for dinner and a \$20.00 Regal Cinema pass. Enjoy!

CLIENT WINNER: JANICE ANDREWS
EMPLOYEE WINNER: SABRINA CARLTON

Our holiday tip and gift policy

If you choose to give your Mini Maid team cash or any other gift this holiday season, we'd like to make you aware of our policy for disbursing tips and sharing gifts. Since team members frequently change over the course of a year, we have developed a policy of pooling all cash tips and distributing them to employees based on their length of service with Mini Maid throughout the year. We believe this is a fair system that rewards employees for loyal service. The money is distributed the week prior to Christmas to allow employees an opportunity to use it while shopping for their families. Any baked goods and candies received are also shared at the office - they are a welcome treat at the end of a busy work day! All our employees take pride in each home they clean and we sincerely appreciate your recognition of our efforts during the holiday season.



Please call early for holiday schedule changes

The holidays are an especially busy time for us and, if you know you'll be wanting to schedule additional cleanings or make any changes in your regular cleaning dates, please call as soon as possible. We want to accommodate our regular clients before we book any cleanings for new customers over the holidays.

1831 NW 13th Street, Suite 8 • Gainesville, FL 32609

352-374-4141 • Fax: 352-376-0161 • Email - aminimaid@aol.com • MiniMaidGainesville.com

We Clean Offices Too!

Mini Maid can provide professional, hassle-free cleaning services for your business as well as your home. We've found that many businesses prefer having supervised, uniformed teams clean their offices at a regular time each week, rather than the typical janitorial service at night. We offer security, are able to customize our service, and be responsive to changing needs.

"We have used Mini Maid for over 20 years and have found them to be very friendly and trustworthy. We trust them to clean our office and I would trust them to clean my home." - Rebecca, WYKS FM 105.3

"Mini Maid has been cleaning for OEA, Inc. since 2005 and we have found them extremely reliable and accommodating, and they do a great job! I always look forward to their visit!" - Alicia Sheppard, OEA, Inc.

"Mini Maid has provided reliable, efficient and quality service for our office for over 5 years. Service is performed during business hours and they have always been extremely courteous and respectful of business operations." - Matthew Braddy, First Community Bank

For a limited time we are offering \$30.00 Off First Time Office Cleanings! (Offer limited to new business customers only. Limit one coupon per location.)

We Like To Hear Your Comments!

We sincerely appreciate everyone who takes the time to give us feedback on our services. We were especially proud to receive these positive comments over the past several weeks:

"Thank you so much. This team did a beautiful job. I walk around my house in white socks and they stay white!"

"Please praise this team 1000 times. The house has never been this clean."

"The cleaning was wonderful. Sue should be decorating windows at Macy's."

"Compliments to whoever made my daughter's bed. It was so cute. She slept on top of the covers so she wouldn't mess it up. You also found her remote that had been missing for months."

We are also interested in your ideas on how we can improve our service. **Let us hear from you! Submit a comment at www.minimaidgainesville.com.**

Maintaining Marble in Your Home

Using natural marble on floors, countertops and walls to enhance your décor can be a major investment for homeowners. Yet many people lack information about caring for marble and restoring it to its original luster.

"Several clients have asked us to use certain cleaners on their marble that, over time, can actually damage it," said Mini Maid owner Carol Doak. "We've also had clients ask us about having their marble floors restored, so we've been investigating both cleaning methods and the restoration process."

Marble can be used in any room of the house but experts generally recommend not using it for kitchen countertops. If you'd like a natural stone countertop, try a non-etching granite or Corian, a man-made product that resembles natural stone.

Marble can be beautiful for shower walls, but it requires a great deal of maintenance as everyday bath products such as shampoo and soap can actually "etch" the stone over time. A neutral cleaner should be used weekly on the shower walls and it should be professionally polished once a year. If this isn't done, it may eventually need to be diamond-polished to restore the clarity. Properly maintained marble will show a reflection clearly.

Cultured marble, which is man-made from marble dust and polyester resin, can work well for showers. It is protected with a gel-coat and is easier to clean, however once its protective seal is broken with scratches or other damage, it is nearly impossible to restore. Experts do not recommend using cultured marble for flooring.

Marble slab floors should be dust mopped at least once a week with spills wiped up immediately. The floor can also be damp-mopped once a week with a neutral and non-abrasive cleaner that has a Ph level between 7.0 and 7.4. Appropriate cleaners can be found at janitorial supply stores. Mini Maid has a policy of using whatever cleaning

products are provided by clients for all flooring and special surfaces like marble elsewhere in the home to ensure results that meet your expectations. We recommend clients seek advice from professionals who install and/

or care for marble and other specialty surfaces that are popular today such as laminate and flooring before selecting a cleaning agent.

Tile and marble expert, John Freitag also recommends the following tips to avoid micro-scratches that will eventually dull the finish of your marble as well as deeper scratches that may require more extensive restoration:

FOR FLOORS:

- Use doormats at entrances.
- Use a separate mop—one that is free of chemicals and abrasive cleaners.
- Allow cleaned floors to air dry completely before walking on them.
- Use coasters under furniture legs.

FOR TABLES AND COUNTERTOPS:

- Dust regularly using a soft, non-oily cloth.
- Use coasters under glasses and placemats under other objects.
- Don't place acidic foods or drinks directly on marble.
- Don't place hot dishes directly on marble.
- Keep cosmetics off marble surfaces.

FOR ALL SURFACES:

- Never use wax or one-step acrylics.
- Never use vinegar or harsh cleaners.
- Wipe up spills immediately.
- Keep metal objects away from marble.

Individual use patterns and environmental exposure can affect how much care your marble will require, but it is important to remember that marble and other natural stones are porous and alkaline by nature and do require special care.

With a little daily diligence, regular care with the right products and occasional polishing to restore the original luster, you will protect your investment and enjoy the distinctive look of marble in your home for a lifetime.



Apple Crisp



HOLIDAY SEASON FAMILY FAVORITE RECIPE FROM MINI MAID OWNERS BOB AND CAROL DOAK

INGREDIENTS

4 cups pared and sliced fresh apples	3/4 cup flour
1/4 cup orange juice	3/4 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 cup brown sugar	1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 cup granulated sugar	1/2 cup butter

DIRECTIONS

Spread apples on the bottom of a 9" pie plate or 9" square pan. Pour orange juice over apples. In a separate bowl, combine sugars, flour, cinnamon and nutmeg. Cut butter into the dry ingredients until crumbly. Spread mixture over apples. Bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes. Serves 6. Delicious served warm with vanilla ice cream!

WE WELCOME SUBMISSION OF FAVORITE RECIPES FROM YOUR KITCHEN FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.