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HOUSE WISE

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Dan Guinn Homes, 11063 Piankatank Dr. Gloucester, VA 23061 757-438-8624
www.danguinhomes.com info@danguinhomes.com 804-695-2578



We're Turning 20!

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Happy Anniversary!

By Elizabeth Guinn

Did you check that volume number at the top of the newsletter? That's correct we are in our 4th year of publication! There are lots of things to celebrate this year. We are also in our 5th year of building green and using energy efficient technologies far above what the code requires. And if that wasn't good enough, we are also celebrating Dan's 20th year in business for himself. How is that for impressive, we will have to celebrate by getting a frozen pizza and a Netflix movie? What do you do for your 20th year in business get yourself a gold watch? All kidding aside it sure does not feel like it has been that long. I guess when you like what you're doing the time flies by. It has been a great joy writing this newsletter and we hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

There have been many changes in the construction industry

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Dan's Desk

By Dan Guinn

We've all been there, being shocked by your electric bill and trying to play the role of detective and figure out just where you went wrong in the last month. It can be very difficult to recreate the crime scene, as it were, to determine the energy stealing culprit. If only there were clues to follow like the lead pipe in the hallway or the rope in the library. It could have been professor Plum soaking in the hot tub to long. I know you all have played this game before you know Clue. Enough with the detective lingo, you

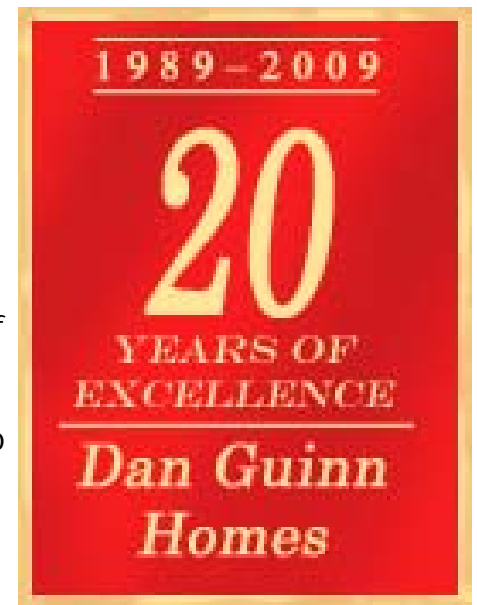
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in 20 years. Thankfully, Dan never just sticks with what the code requires. He has always stretched himself and his contractors to reach ever further and farther never being satisfied with good enough. We have enjoyed sharing with you our many exciting discoveries on building smarter and more efficiently over the past four years. The exciting part is that new methods and technologies are constantly being discovered, and we enjoy sharing the results of our research with you.

We have also enjoyed all your questions and comments over the years, many of which have spurred us to more research, so keep those emails coming. Maybe you could give me some of your ideas on how to celebrate our twentieth year in business? We have had a few favorite articles over the past years that we are going to revisit this year as well as many more new products to investigate. If you have new products that you have run across, we would love to see them. Send us a link and maybe we can do an article on you!

Thanks for all the years that you have been faithfully reading our newsletter and considering us your personal contractor. We are looking forward to continually changing and growing and being your contractor for the next 20 years!



Elizabeth Guinn
 Publisher
 Editor in Chief
 GC, Inc.

Subscription Services
info@danquinnhomes.com
 757-438-8624

Good Things Come in Small Packages

Just what is that a picture of? Could it be an oversized ladybug on steroids? No, this cute little (the operative word here is little) car belongs to one of our readers, Giggles the clown. Yes, that really is her name; I'm not just changing the name for the fun of it. This cute little Smart ForTwo currently resides in Gloucester, but could join your household. Miss Giggles has been using the cute car for parades and has put less than 2000 miles on it. Since clowns come with lots of paraphernalia, this car just isn't going work for her anymore. But, it could work for you! If you commute and would like to be able to get over 50 mpg, drop us an email and we will put you in touch with the clown in charge. You just have to see this to believe it. It is actually shorter than a Mini Cooper! Check it out at <http://www.smartusa.com/>

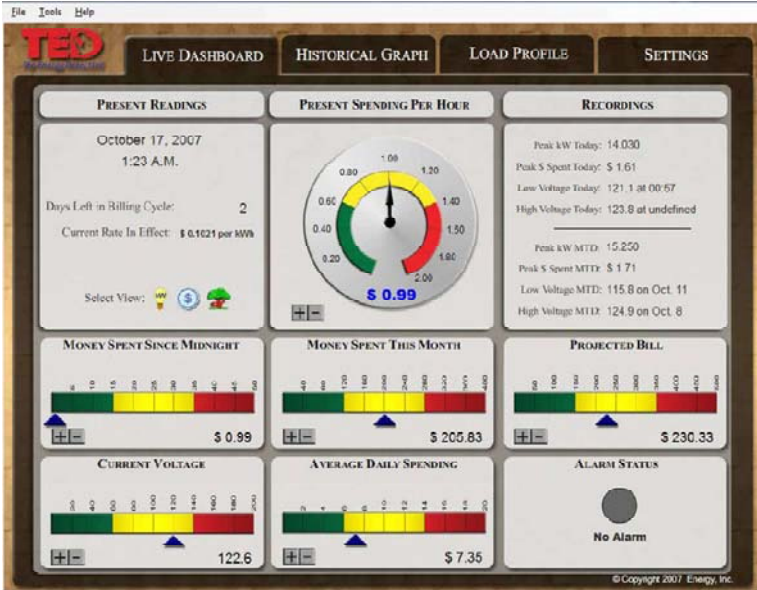
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Articles, news items and questions are welcome. Unsolicited manuscripts and photography become the property of Dan Guinn Homes. Send to info@danquinnhomes.com



Taking you from Dreams to
 Reality
 Psalms 127:1a





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From *Dan's Desk* page 1

Contact Elizabeth and Dan Guinn at info@danguinnhomes.com for the free report, "Top Ten Best Ideas to Reduce Utility Bills and Spend the Savings on What You Really Want!" Just send me an email requesting a copy and I will speed one out to you!

get the idea. I have found a device that can help take the guess work out of the equation. The Energy Detective, or TED for short, can help you figure out where all your electricity is going in real time without waiting for the scary electric bill at the end of the month.

This little detective clips onto a circuit in your breaker panel and then gives you real time data of the amount of energy being used by that particular circuit relaying this data in either dollars and cents or kilowatts used. Or it can monitor the whole system and relay data as you energize each circuit. How cool is that! Ok, maybe not that cool. Many of you are thinking that going to the super bowl in the middle of the winter now that would be cool. Sticking my fingers in my panel box to get some real time data not my idea of fun. I would have to agree, but this is a pretty neat device. All kidding aside, this does involve taking the panel cover off and is not recommended for the weekend electrician and should be done by a qualified professional. Electricity can be dangerous and should always be treated with extreme caution. Not a journeyman electrician? Well that's ok, there is a device by Black & Decker (<http://www.blackanddecker.com/Energy/products.aspx>) that clips on your meter outside that works in a similar fashion but does not have all the bells and whistles. You don't have to endanger your life either so probably a pretty good trade-off I am thinking.

Do you have high energy bills? Been working around your house to bring things under control but you just can't figure out where all that electricity is going? These devices can help answer all your questions. You can isolate each circuit and see how much energy or money is being used by each circuit. Is it your heat pump that is the problem? How about the water heater? With your own personal detective and the additional software there won't be any question.

Depending on how long you leave Ted connected, you can graph how much money a particular circuit is spending per month or per day. It also gives a per hour cost.

