

A photograph of a wooden staircase with a white carpet and a framed picture on the wall. The staircase is the central focus, leading upwards. The walls are a light color, and the lighting is warm. A framed picture hangs on the wall at the top of the stairs.

First Victory *Monthly*

A 1973
Kitchen
Turns
2010

**Butternut Squash Soup
with Parmesan Croutons**

House Hold Tips

Window Upgrades

*A chronicle of past, present & future happenings in our
company and the real estate & construction industry.*



The idea for First Victory Monthly came to us because we wanted to have an effective tool for advertising. We realized that with a monthly internet newsletter we could foster our relationships with our past and future clients and at the same time provide them with some useful information pertaining to their home and the real estate market. We hope you will enjoy our Inaugural issue! Happy New Year!

Travis A. Fowler

Recent Projects



This Big Canoe Home Owner contacted us for an estimate to paint the exterior of his home. Upon inspection, we noticed that there was severe rot and extensive damage around a back window in the home, as well as an infestation of Carpenter Ants. The rotten wood was replaced and the house is now in good repair. Call us for a free home inspection if you have any concerns regarding your home.

Greater Atlanta 770-377-7934, North Georgia 706-273-9235 or email mary@firstvictory.com

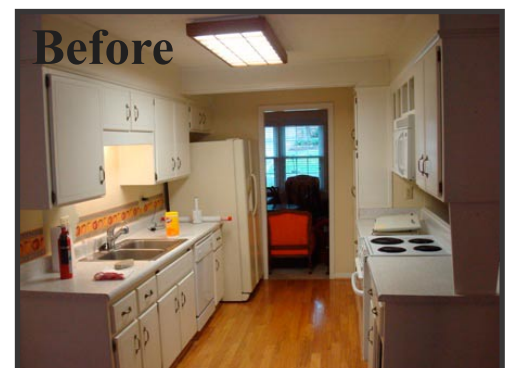
Remodel Spotlight

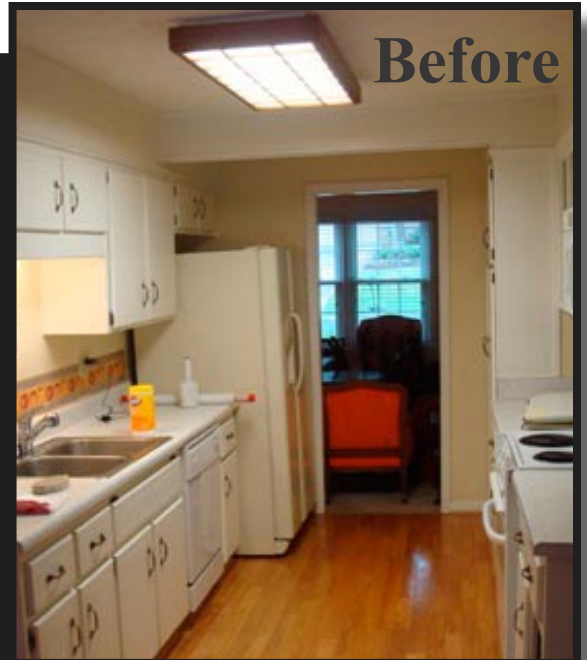


We recently had the pleasure of working with Jack & Nancy Basmore of Marietta Georgia on a kitchen remodeling project. After three decades and raising three children in this space, Jack & Nancy were ready for an update. We transformed their 1973 kitchen into a space that is functional, state-of-the-art and meets their design tastes of today. This open kitchen design is perfect for entertaining. The design flow and large island counter space makes cooking a welcome chore, and if you look closely, under the microwave is one of Nancy's famous pound cakes, another reason why working with Jack & Nancy is such a pleasure!

What we did to transform Jack & Nancy's space:

- We completely redesigned the entire layout to create flow that works with their current lifestyle.
- A Custom Cabinet Designer & Installer from Rhode Island named James Hebert was hired by us to create a flawless cabinet design.
- A Hand-Made Red Clay Farm Sink was installed.
- A Pull-Out Grohe faucet was installed.
- A State-of-the-Art double oven was installed.
- A State-of-the-Art stove top with touch surface and down draft was installed.
- We changed the stippled ceiling to a smooth finish ceiling.
- Over, Under and Inside Cabinet Lighting was installed.
- Granite Counter Tops were installed.
- Oak Floors were installed replacing laminate.
- An Ice maker was added.
- 1 x 1 Natural Stone Mosaic Tile was installed as a backsplash.
- This transformation was completed in less than eight weeks, start to finish.





Household Tips

- ☞ To keep mirrors from steaming up in the bathroom, apply a top coat of shaving creme to the mirror.
- ☞ Use applesauce in place of oil when baking. This will cut down on the fat content.
- ☞ Boil cinnamon to eliminate house odors. But watch the pot, it boils over very easily!
- ☞ Sprinkling salt into a pot before boiling eggs prevents the eggs from cracking open.
- ☞ Dab perfume on a light bulb to scent a room.
- ☞ A good substitute for cream can be made with fresh milk, a little butter and flour.
- ☞ Rub butter or lard on the rim of a pot, and it won't boil over readily.
- ☞ Make garden walks with coal ashes. They become very hard by use, and no weeds or grass will grow through them.
- ☞ When corks are too large to go into a bottle, throw them into hot water a few moments, and they will soften.

Butternut Squash Soup with Sage and Parmesan Croutons

Parmesan Crouton Ingredients

- 3 ounces rustic white bread (about 3 thick slices), tom into 24 1-inch pieces
- 1 large clove garlic, minced (about 2 teaspoons)
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh sage (about 6 large leaves)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons finely grated Parmesan



Preparation Preheat oven to 375° F. Toss all the ingredients together in a mixing bowl to coat. Spread the bread evenly on a baking sheet and toast in oven for 10 to 12 minutes or until crisp and golden brown.

Yield: Makes 6 to 8 servings

Soup Ingredients

- 1 3-pound butternut squash—peeled, seeded, and cut into 1-inch cubes (5 to 6 cups)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 teaspoons kosher salt
- Pinch of freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 large yellow onion, diced (about 1 ½ cups)
- 3 stalks of celery, chopped (about 1 ½ cups)
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage (about 6 large leaves)
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan

Preparation

Preheat oven to 400° F. In a large bowl, toss the squash with 2 tablespoons of the olive oil, 2 teaspoons of the salt, and the pepper. Place the squash on a rimmed baking sheet and roast in oven for 15 minutes. Turn the cubes over and continue roasting for 15 minutes or until they are caramelized; set aside.

In a Dutch oven or a large stock pot, heat the butter and the remaining oil over medium heat. Add the onion, celery, and sage and sauté, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are translucent and tender, 10 minutes. Add the squash, broth, and the remaining salt and bring to a boil. Lower heat and simmer for 30 minutes or until the liquid is flavorful. Remove from heat. Using a blender or a food processor, blend the soup in batches until smooth. Return to the pot and keep warm. Top with Sage and Parmesan Croutons and the grated Parmesan

What's New In Windows



Windows can improve the appearance of a home. A quality window will keep your house cool in the summer and warm in the winter, they bring the outdoors in and in return improve the quality of our lives, yet many home owners probably give little thought to the windows in their home. This article focuses on the last 20 years of windows; where they were, where they are, and where they are going.

We teamed up with Jerry Sanders of Anderson Windows to provide for you the information that his 21 years of experience in the window industry can bring. Jerry provides a wealth of knowledge; after all, windows are his specialty.

Twenty Years Ago

Jerry explains to us that 20 years ago windows were much different than they are today. LowE was beginning to take rise and IG, or insulated glass was prevalent. The exterior colors, shapes and sizes were limited. Vinyl was available, but mainly in R&R segment, and they were very low-tech. Fiberglass products also were available, but were also very limited and used mostly in entry doors. Terms like “Green” and “Leed” were not heard of and no one recycled. At that time, distribution was a two-step process, manufacturer to wholesale to dealer; also most products were sold through lumberyards and dealers did not install or offer service.

10 Years Ago

Within 10 years, much had changed in windows. LowE2 coatings become the norm & code in many states. Vinyl expanded nationally and in new construction. Sizes and shapes exploded, and windows became very complex due to offering consumers many choices and styles. Patio doors that were poor performers in the past due to leaks and warps, had greatly improved due to design and hardware improvements. Fiberglass took off, but mainly in Entry & Patio doors. Coastal products emerged as high performance products became necessary due to code enhancements. Manufacturers began to add new clad materials to their portfolios. NRFC & Energy Star were born, helping to standardize product ratings & performance. Energy efficiency became a buzz word in some markets and “Green” and “Leed” became new terms in the markets, as recycling became a new phenomenon. Big-Box chains emerged and manufacturers began to sell directly to dealers. Some dealers began to offer installation and embrace service.

Current, last 3-5 years

Nearly 100% of the U.S. now uses LowE2 as standard code. LowE3 (triple) glazings have come on line as a high performance glazing for upcoming code challenges. Insulated glass, or LowE, is nearly extinct. Vinyl has become mainstream in starter/ move- up homes and R&R. Exterior colors are numerous and their are a huge array of sizes, styles, and prices. Replacing windows has become a larger segment than new construction due to economy, aging homes, and homes that have been previously built with low quality/ sustainable materials. Terms like “Green”, “Leed”, and “sustainable” are now common place, but in the industry only, consumers for the most part, have a lack of understanding of these terms. Fiberglass is now showing up in more windows and proves strong and durable. Tax code is driving a new window/door performance rating. Movement towards high performance, energy efficient and sustainable products has begun. Recycling is very mainstream and has become a competitive advantage. Coastal codes are very stringent and have expanded to most coastlines. The economy has closed many trades and manufacturers and only the strong are surviving. The internet and social media has begun to change the way manufacturers advertise. Many dealers are now offering installation and service as a differentiator.

The future in windows, next 3-5 years

Fiberglass materials will be mainstream and aluminum exterior cladded products will significantly decline. More glazing choices will be available. Taller and better performing windows will emerge with decorative high performance glass. New features and technologies will emerge that will make them “smart” and more interactive in the home. Significant changes to code effecting energy efficiency will also effect cladding material used. “Green” and “Leed” will become standard and have high levels of participation and performance. New coastal products will emerge that exceed code and improve design aesthetics. More R&R products will be introduced and will be more installation friendly. There will be more consolidation between manufacturers, trades & dealers. Big box dealers will begin to sell less complicated window/ door packages unless helped by quoting technology and experienced staff. Manufacturers will begin to offer financing. Dealers will have to install and service products.

If you feel that you could improve the energy efficiency of your home by replacing your old windows or if you are looking to update the look of your home, contact us for a free consultation. We will help you choose the windows that best suits your lifestyle and budget.



Coming Next Issue

Insulation

Our tech section will explain many questions that homeowners have regarding insulation:

- Why does insulation have paper on one side?
- What does an R value mean?
- Why should I use one product over another?
- Should I really spend money to put xylozene in my attic?

The answers to these questions will help enable you to make the best decision when insulating your home.

Remodeling



Reduce intense light and add character to your home with custom awnings.

Recently Finished Projects



A handicap ramp and walkway can easily be added to most entry doors.