



## From the back porch...

### Spring Planting Time – Tips for Starting Seedlings...

- Use empty egg shell halves for seedling starters. Place in egg carton. When ready to transplant, plant the seedlings – shell and all. The shells will decompose and supply a gentle fertilizer at the same time.
- Seeds should be planted as deep as the width of the seed itself.
- Place in a lighted area – southern-facing window is best.
- Keep soil evenly moist.
- Use good, sterile potting soil. If you're using your own garden soil, bake it at 200° for 1½ to 2 hours to kill all weeds and eggs.

### Joke

"Gardening requires lots of water – most of it in the form of perspiration." – Lou Erickson



## Got a Clue?

What gets bigger the more you take away?

**Email your answer to:** puzzle@mccuemortgage.com and include your name, loan number, address and phone number.

Remember to play the puzzle every issue to increase your odds of winning! We take all the correct answers and select a winner each November who receives one month's mortgage payment courtesy of McCue Mortgage. The winner will be notified and published in The Front Porch. You must be a McCue Mortgage customer to win.

### Answer to last issue's puzzle:

What tool, patented January 26, 1875, has caused fear in millions ever since? Answer: "B" The dental drill.

## Celebrate McCue's 60th Anniversary at Lake Compounce June 26th!



As part of McCue Mortgage's 60th Anniversary celebration, we are excited to announce McCue Mortgage Day at Lake Compounce in Bristol on Saturday, June 26th. The first 60 people to register will receive four (4) free tickets each to the park (valued at \$34.99 each). McCue Mortgage will send you and your family or guests (up to 4 people) to the park for the day...at no admission charge! To register for your FREE tickets, send an email to 60atthelake@mccuemortgage.com. Please include your full name and mailing address as the tickets will be sent by U.S. mail. The deadline for registering for the free tickets is June 1st. Please understand these free tickets are good only on June 26th. One winner per household, please.

Don't wait! The first 60 people to register before the June 1st deadline are eligible for four free tickets each!

However, if you're not among the first 60 to register, you can get discounted tickets for \$26.50 each through the Lake Compounce website using McCue Mortgage's special promotion code. And if you were lucky enough to be among the first 60, but want additional tickets, you can also purchase these discounted tickets. Go to www.lakecompounce.com and click on "Corporate Tickets" at the top of the webpage, and then "Buy Online Now." You'll need to use the special McCue Mortgage code: 2010127765 and need a credit card to purchase these tickets. Don't forget to print out your tickets and bring them with you the day of your visit. Printed tickets are accepted right at the turnstiles — no need to wait in ticket booth lines. These online discounted tickets are good any day during the regular 2010 operating season. Tickets are valid for admission to the Park for one day and allow for unlimited use of all rides, attractions, and shows — except the Skycoaster and Haunted Graveyard.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the last edition of the Front Porch, I shared with you that this year McCue Mortgage celebrates 60 years as Connecticut's leading mortgage company. In honor of this milestone, we have reached out to our business partners, employees and customers. We thank you for your loyalty, as it is the reason we have succeeded longer than any mortgage company in the State.

To celebrate, we are offering you the chance to join us at McCue Mortgage Day at Lake Compounce in Bristol on Saturday, June 26th. See the separate article in this issue of the Front Porch for details.

Also in this issue, you'll find an article on our early years that covers the decades 1950 - 1970. We'll be covering the decades 1980 - 2000 in the summer edition of the newsletter. If you don't want to wait until the next issue, visit [www.mccuemortgage.com/60](http://www.mccuemortgage.com/60) to see the complete timeline of our history.

I am grateful for the opportunity you our customers have given us, and I am proud of our employees' hard work, dedication and commitment over the years. I hope you can join us on June 26th.

Sincerely,

*Bill McCue*

William J. McCue, President  
The McCue Mortgage Company

## In This Issue

- Join Us at the Lake!
- Make Your House Feel Like Home
- A Glimpse at Our History
- Got a Clue and more!



## Make Your New House Feel Like Home

Maybe you've already taken advantage of the Homebuyer's Tax Credit and are just moving into your new house. If so, there are many small things you can do quickly that will go a long way in making it feel like home.

### Deep clean – before you unpack!

Go from room to room and give your home your own special touch. There's no better time than when the house is completely empty. This is a great thing to do while you wait for movers to arrive, or if you have a day or two between your closing and your moving day.

### Hang artwork and family photos.

Sometimes considered a "finishing touch," many people save this task for last – but hanging your own artwork and photos will instantly personalize and give a new house a homey feel, changing it from "someone else's house" to your home.

### Change the locks.

It's never a bad idea to replace the locks when you move – you'll feel more safe and secure – after all, you never know who may have been given a duplicate key.

### Hang curtains and window treatments.

If the previous owner left them behind, then you're one step ahead; if not, hanging window treatments will give you more privacy, and give your home a "finished" look.

### Send out change of address cards – to share your good news! 📌

## Make Your Old House Feel Like New

Did you just buy a "fixer upper"? Or is your home in need of a little perking up? There are so many things you can do to make your home feel like new again. We've come up with a few ideas – in different price ranges – to help give your home a little face lift!

### Give it a fresh coat of paint.

Painting is one of the quickest and most inexpensive ways to spruce up your home. Not only does it make your home look and smell new again – it also forces you to deep clean and organize – an added bonus! Don't forget to paint the trim, too – there's nothing like gleaming white trim to make your home look fresh and new.

### Buy new (energy efficient) appliances.

This is a pricier proposition – but replacing old, energy-hogging appliances will improve the look of your home and lower your electric bill. And, as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, certain appliances purchased before April 30, 2010 qualify for the Connecticut SEEARP (State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program) Rebates of \$50 and \$100 (visit [www.ct.gov/ope/ApplianceRebates](http://www.ct.gov/ope/ApplianceRebates) for more information).

### Refinish hardwood floors.

You will be amazed at how much newer your home will look and feel. It's a messy job – but one you can do yourself with the right tools and a little elbow grease, or go ahead and hire a professional. Don't have hardwood? Then replace old, worn carpet in a commonly used room, or rent a steam cleaner and deep-clean them!

### Can't afford to remodel the kitchen?

Paint the cabinets and/or replace the hardware with modern handles and pulls.

### Find a white sale.

Buy new towels and/or linens for kitchen, bathrooms, and bedrooms. This is a "home-staging" technique frequently used by realtors – but why wait until you're selling your home? Treat yourself (and your home) to this inexpensive pick-me-up today! 📌

# "The supreme purpose of history is a better world."

– Herbert Hoover

In honor of our 60th Anniversary, here is a glimpse of how the housing industry and McCue Mortgage have evolved over the years. In this issue, we'll cover 1950 - 1970 with a brief overview of each decade. Visit our website at [www.mccuemortgage.com/60](http://www.mccuemortgage.com/60) for our complete story.

## 1950's

Founded in 1949 as the William D. McCue Company, the firm's first interest was serving as an agent with John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company and New York Life Insurance Company. The Company also served as a mortgage loan processor, seller, and servicer for these two insurance giants, and it was that focus that would define the Company's long-term mission in residential lending. In 1956, the Company became involved in a special state mortgage program for those affected by the tragic flood of 1955. During this period the Company also acted as a loan correspondent for the City of New Britain, coordinating mortgage loans for pre-fabricated houses for veterans who returned from World War II. During the 1950's the Company's headquarters were at 70 West Main Street in New Britain, and Company founder William D. McCue served as president. Interest rates in the 1950's ranged between 5.00% - 5.50% for a 30-year fixed loan.



Company founder William D. McCue



During the 1950's the Company became involved in a state mortgage program for those affected by the tragic flood of 1955.

## 1960's

The 1960's brought change to the real estate and mortgage industry with passage of the Truth-in-Lending Act and the Fair Housing Act. In the early 1960's, McCue Mortgage exited the insurance business to focus solely on mortgage lending. Shortly thereafter, in 1964 the Company changed its name to the McCue Mortgage Company. Also during this time, the Company moved to 458 West Main Street in New Britain to accommodate growth, and William D. McCue continued to manage the Company. The National Housing Act of 1934 created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), but it wasn't until the 1960's that FHA began to insure single and multi-family mortgages. McCue Mortgage moved quickly and established itself as a leader in the area of specialized FHA-insured lending.

While the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) was established as a federal agency in 1938, it was chartered by Congress in 1968 as a private shareholder-

owned company. Fannie Mae works with mortgage lenders such as McCue Mortgage in providing funds to lend to homebuyers. Fannie Mae funds these programs by issuing debt securities in the domestic and international capital markets.

Perhaps the most significant event related to housing in Connecticut was in 1969, when the State Legislature created the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) as a self-supporting, quasi-public housing agency charged with expanding affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income families and individuals. Interest rates in the 1960's ranged between 6.00% - 7.50% for a 30-year fixed loan.

## 1970's

The 1970's brought new regulations with the passage of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, and the Real Estate Settlement and Procedures Act (RESPA). The U.S. Congress founded the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) in 1970 to provide stability and affordability to the U.S. housing market through mortgage purchases and securitization programs.

McCue Mortgage began its relationship with CHFA in 1970 when the newly created Housing Authority had just three employees and \$4 million in bonding authority. Soon after, in 1974 CHFA's bonding authority grew and they issued \$153 million in bonds to finance mortgage loans. CHFA also established income and sales price limits for its home loan programs during this period. McCue Mortgage became established as a loan originator and servicer for the Authority. The Connecticut Mortgage Bankers' Association was established in 1970, a state trade association that McCue Mortgage helped form.

In September 1977, after managing the company for 28 years, William D. McCue passes control of the Company on to his son William J. McCue, who guides the Company through significant growth, despite the challenging economic and regulatory landscape that lie ahead. The decade started with interest rates around 8.00%, and ended the decade up at 11.00% for a 30-year fixed loan.

Check back in the summer issue of the Front Porch for an overview of the 1980's – 2010, or visit our website at [www.mccuemortgage.com/60](http://www.mccuemortgage.com/60). 📌



U.S. Congress Creates Freddie Mac

## To Better Serve You

You may not know it, but when you take out a mortgage, some information about the transaction – including your name, address, and the amount of the mortgage – becomes public record. Many companies gather this information and use it to market their products and services to you. Some companies are quite deceiving – even going so far as to use your mortgage company's name to make it look like the solicitation is coming from your lender.

We receive many calls from customers inquiring about a piece of mail they received – offering to modify their mortgage, refinance, or move to a bi-weekly payment plan. Most of these offers are misleading, and result in the homeowner dishing out some upfront money for a program, only to find out they don't qualify.

So the next time a company calls or mails you, trying to get you to move to a "better" program, please know those companies obtained your information through public records, and NOT from McCue Mortgage. We do not sell or release your information to any entity. And if you receive something in the mail and are not sure who sent it to you or why, feel free to give us a call. 📌



## The Front Porch

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1-800-382-0017

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