

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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family, the gift of friends,
and the best of everything
in 2014!*

- The Manzone's



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Hire a Pro

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- And clean range vents, filters and ducts while you're at it.
- Make sure your clothes dryer is venting properly. Clogged dryer vents are the leading cause of house fires, he said. (And yes, Shaw displays a truly terrifying image of a house engulfed in flames.)
- Check your smoke detectors, even the hard-wired ones.
- Clean your garage. "America has the only culture in the world where people will spend tens of thousands of dollars on a car, and then park it outside," he said.
- Consider buying a home warranty. Warranties cost about \$400 a year, he said, and will cover the repair of any major appliance on your property. And if it can't be repaired, the insurer will replace it. A woman asked if the insurer will come to the house to inspect, first, to see how old her appliances are. "Nope," was Shaw's answer.
- Buy a really powerful vacuum – "one that will try to suck the carpet right off the floor."
- If your attic isn't insulated, consider getting it done. "That's the biggest bang for your buck."

His audience came away exhausted, but relieved.

"This was so helpful," said Eve Guinan-Blaney, who feels slightly overwhelmed by keeping up her Lafayette house. "Especially for the elderly like me."

Shaw will happily send his exterior and interior home repair list to anyone who emails him. He can be reached at mark@markshawrealtor.com.

