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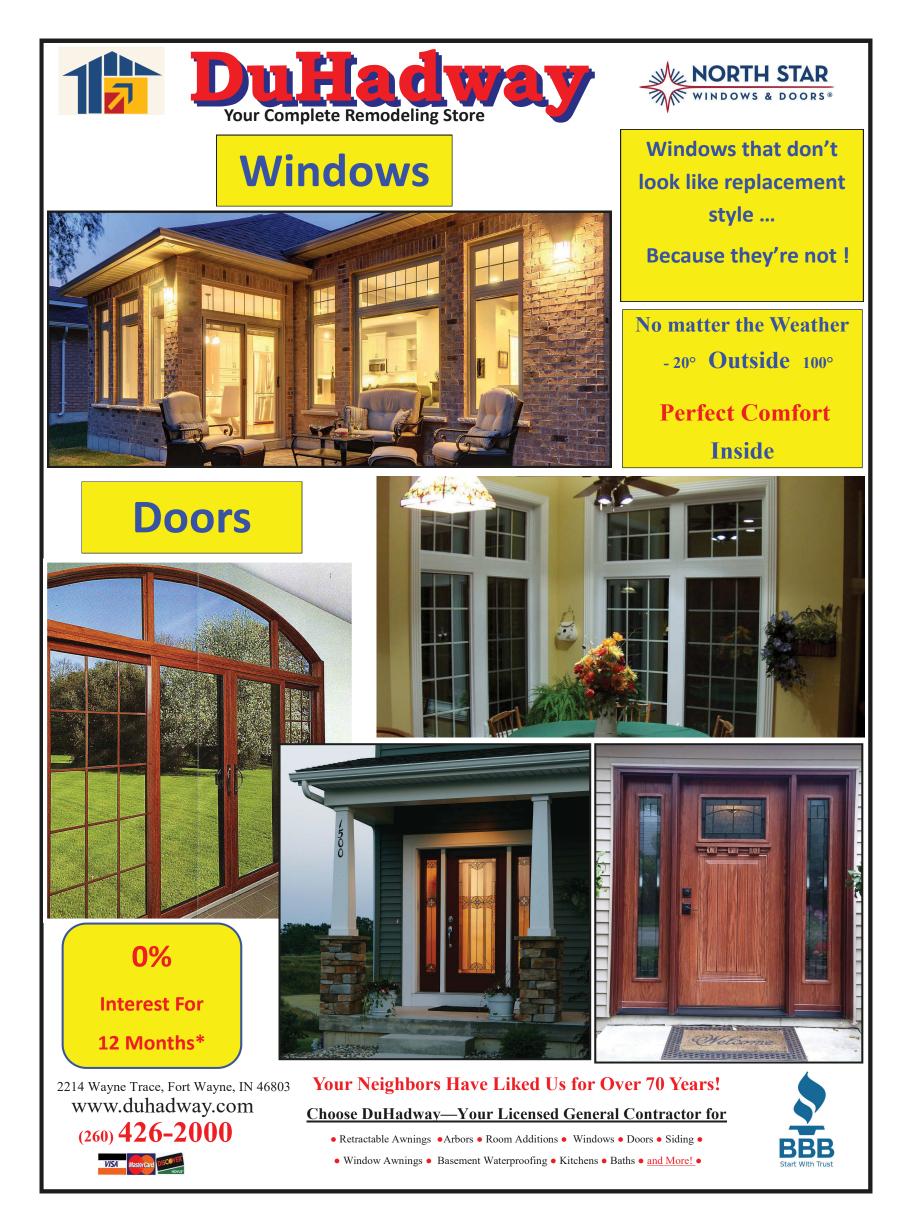
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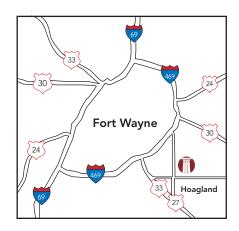
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Thank you for reading and we look forward to hearing from you soon. We warmly welcome you $\ensuremath{\mathsf{HOME}}$.

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welcome!



Sue Rawlinson



I wanted a pet leprechaun.

It seemed like a reasonable request. I promised in my prayers that I'd keep him safe and we'd be best friends. He'd sit on my shoulder. We'd crack jokes. Eat cookies. And he'd put spells on my big brothers just for fun.

I also wanted a pet orangutan. That didn't quite work out either.

Ah, yes. Spring's arrival is a reminder of little girl prayer-requests for a magical partner to laugh with. But like Garth said, unanswered prayers are often best. Worked out best for my brothers, too.

With beautiful spring just around the bend, it's time for fun festivities for St. Patrick's Day—but even more so, it is now when the air starts to feel a bit more electric. With anticipation. With new life. With promise and rebirth.

Spring is when we clean our homes with more focus and we make plans for this year's progress at home. What renovation projects have been discussed? It's time to move forward to fruition. Are you a gardener? If so, your fingers are undoubtedly itchin' to dig in the dirt. Mine certainly are.

And sunshine? Why, we welcome you back with happy hearts and open arms. There's joyful anticipation as we know each coming week will bring even warmer temps and longer days.

It's no wonder we love spring.

And what fun it is to compile a magazine issue to celebrate all that's invigorating about March... from gardening tips to flowerbed preparation to choosing flooring and helping promote the wonderful Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show. This issue is blooming with spring goodness.

May your March be full of excitement, planning, celebration—and great games during March Madness (check out this issue's Home Room story to see an area home's basketball gym!).

May the luck of a joyful spring brighten your spirits this month.

As always, thank you for reading—and happy March to all.

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Spring Green + Daffodil Yellow

By Sue Rawlinson

Photos by HOME Team

Ah, the arrival of spring is just around the bend. Foliage quietly pokes through remaining snow and the sun returns as our warm, bright friend. The air feels lighter and energy everywhere abounds. As such, March is the **ideal** time to seek out home items and décor reflecting this energizing season of rebirth, birds chirping—and even our favorite emerald holiday for which we all claim Irish heritage.

Enjoy a snapshot of HOME Living's March "Color It" home interior picks. Chosen just for you—from retailers in your backyard.



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Kitchens Plus Country Store, Wabash 260.563.6317, kitchenspluscountrystore.com





OFD Total Home, Fort Wayne 260.487.6336, ofdtotalhome.com



Thomas Leffers Art, Fort Wayne260.705.8270, Thomasleffersart.com

Wayside Furniture, Angola 260.665.3121, waysidefurnitureinc.com

what's trending | **plant this!**

Grape Hyacinth



By Ray Balogh

They almost sound too good to be true. Grape hyacinths, so named because their small flowers resemble clustered grapes, grow from winter hardy bulbs, are easy to grow, require hardly any maintenance, are virtually pest proof and exude a gloriously pleasing fragrance.

Their 30 or so botanical siblings in the Muscari genus bloom into a kaleidoscope of colors, including sky blue with indigo stripes, blue-black skirts with yellow rims, red-violet, powder blue and one variety with blue flowers that turn purple, then green and fade toward yellow.

As they only grow to be six to eight inches high, they can provide a luxurious floral carpet for gardens and landscaping.

The grape hyacinth, or Muscari armeniacum, is the best known of the litter and usually comes in various blues or white.

All the Muscari species naturalize very easily, returning year after year with rather robust proliferation, as long as they receive adequate sunlight and are not planted where water settles in the winter.

How To Plant Grape Hyacinth Bulbs

1. Choose colors that will complement the other flora among which the plants will be growing.

 In the fall, select an area that does not flood or remain too dry. Grape hyacinths can grow in sunlight or light shade. The smaller the bulb, the earlier in the fall it should be planted.
 Loosen the soil and remove any competing vegetation and stones. 4. Plant the bulbs at least three inches deep in groups of ten or more with the bulbs at least two inches apart.

Caring For Grape Hyacinths

All photos Shutterstock.c

The plants will send their leaves out of the ground in the fall.

This is no cause for concern, as the hyacinths will survive the winter and emerge in the spring (or late winter). You need not prune the plants, though you may choose to trim them back if they spread too aggressively. Grape hyacinths thrive well with natural rainfall and do not need fertilizer.



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what's trending | **décor + more**



Great Kitchen Gadgets *Prep Like A Pro*

By Julie Young

When it comes to kitchen equipment, there are a number of gadgets and gizmos on the market designed to make our lives easier. However, deciding which of those implements and appliances are truly necessary is a difficult task indeed. We've culled through the drawers and cabinetry in order to offer up the créme de la créme of kitchen products that are guaranteed to give your cooking some panache!



• Knives that fit. A great set of knives is indispensable, but finding ones that fit well and feel good when you hold them is equally important. What good will it do to invest in a serious set of blades if they give your hand a cramp? Take the time to try out several styles and designs until you

find a set that fits you.



• A KitchenAid mixer. This mega-mixer has become a staple in most kitchens and with good reason. With several attachments available, this

is not only a mixer but so much more. Although it is pricy — \$299 and up — it has the ability to help the home baker. You



can also make ice cream, replace the food processor and roll your own pasta.

• The salad spinner. Nothing sabotages a salad like soggy greens, and with a salad spinner, you can be sure that every leaf will be crisp to the bite. Relatively inexpensive, but worth its weight in gold, a salad spinner can be a push button **>**





Family Owned Since 1957 1770 S. Wabash Street • Wabash, IN 46992 (260) 563-6317 kitchensplus@cinergymetro.net • www.kitchenspluscountrystore.com mechanism or a little more manual but either version will help get the job done.

• Silpat baking sheets. Forget parchment paper and rely on these silicone-baking sheets to help transfer the most delectable cookies and pastries. They clean up like a snap and can also come in handy for kneading and

rolling out dough.

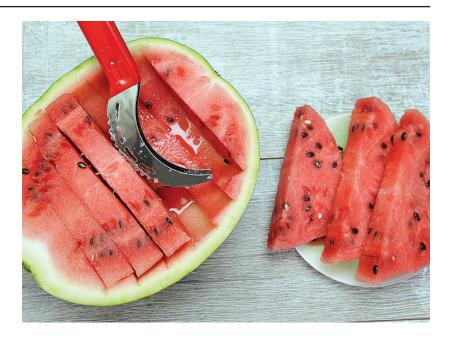
• Slow cooker. Though they started out as a fad in the '70s; they are truly the staple of savvy home chefs. Find a model with a porcelain insert and make cleanup a snap — no

matter if it is a soup, stew or a

melt-in-your-mouth meat.

• Watermelon slicer. This slicer is unlike any other. Available at Kitchens Plus Country Store, it makes slicing a watermelon easy as can be.

The right tools will give you the ability to prep like a pro and will help your kitchen hum to life no matter how much — or how little — you cook.



For even more ideas? Take a stroll through the 5,000-squarefoot Kitchens Plus Country Store for dinnerware, linens and accessories galore.

Resources:

Kitchens Plus, Wabash, 260.563.6317, kitchenspluscountrystore.com

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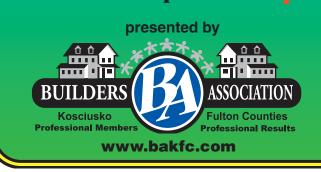
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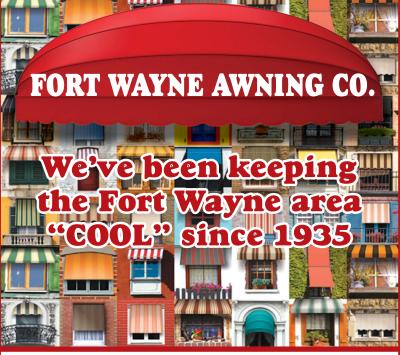
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features | HOME room

Step Aside, March Madness: Hello, Home Gym

BASKETBALL

By Lauren Caggiano

Photos by Leaha Meinika

Sometimes you find a home that speaks to you. Other times it's necessary to carve your own niche and design something that fits your lifestyle. For one Columbia City couple, their choice was the latter.

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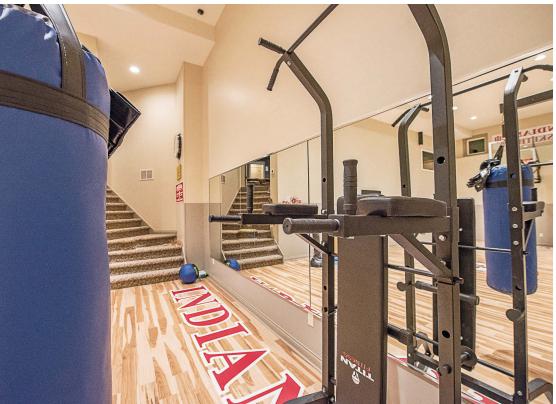


The young entrepreneur and wife Sabrina^{*} decided to take matters into their own hands and build their dream home—complete with a gym.

"This is something we talked about for years," Tony* said. "When we decided it was time to build; it was at the top of our list. It fits our busy lives. There is always time to shoot some hoops or run around and spend time together."

The gym offers both form and function. "The concept for the house was to create spaces we could live in and entertain friends and family," said Tony. "The gym was one of the first ideas we had."

This unique amenity serves several purposes. Among them, it keeps the couple and their young child healthy. As he put it, there are "no excuses not to exercise every day." It also provides an outlet for recreation—year-round and at all hours of the day. ►



Resources:

3E Woodland Water Gardens (pebble bar flooring), 260.244.0050 Blue River Digital (basketball graphics), 260.248.2749 Classic Stereo, 260.483.0553 CR Carpet, Fort Wayne, 260.749.2933, crflooring.com Javets Inc. (tempered glass), 260.482.7455

continued from page 21



In his words, "It gives us something to do as a family. All ages enjoy it."

Of course this feature is a big hit with younger friends and relatives. It is a part of the house where kids can be as loud or messy as they want without any restrictions.

Perhaps the best part of the gym is its hidden nature, which was by design.

"The gym is simple," said Tony. "If you didn't know it was there, you might miss it. There is a stairway leading down another 8 feet from the rest of the basement."



What matters most is the memories that are created in this space, as Tony will tell anyone.

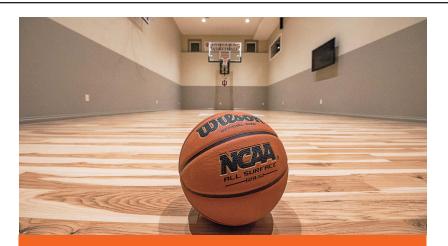
"What I have enjoyed most about the gym is the time with Sarah*, our daughter," he said. "She is 4 and ready to play. I have enjoyed teaching her and listening to her laugh and run around having fun."

And isn't that energy what makes a house a home? 🛑

*alias names used to preserve anonymity of homeowners



22 Home Living | March 2017



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revitalize their hometown of **Indianapolis one** property at a time! They're buying up run down homes and transforming them into stunning urban remodels – these ladies are unstoppable. Mina and Karen will next star in

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Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show



A Hoosier mother-daughter duo that has taken HGTV by storm, an antiques appraiser extraordinaire, a couple of self-proclaimed "Grillologists" and hundreds of home and garden experts are on their way to the Summit City for the 44th

annual Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show.

The event runs Thursday, March 2, through Sunday, March 5, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne.

The featured presenters' line-up includes:

• Karen Laine and Mina Starsiak, aka Two Chicks & a Hammer, the stars of the hit HGTV show "Good Bones." Viewers tune in to see the Indianapolis mom-and-daughter discover run-down homes and work their magic to transform them into stunning urban dwellings. They'll share their secrets with the Fort Wayne audience.

> Friday, March 3, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Saturday, March 4, at noon and 4 p.m.





• **Dr. Lori,** a Home & Garden Show favorite who returns by popular demand. The star of History Channel's hit series "The Curse of Oak Island," Discovery's "Auction Kings" and a regular on Fox Business' "Strange Inheritance," Dr. Lori will be on hand to offer one free antique appraisal per person, per show time.

Thursday, March 2, and Friday, March 3, at noon and 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 4, at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Sunday, March 5, at noon and 3 p.m.



• Self-proclaimed, nationally recognized "**Grillologists**" **Mad Dog & Merrill** return to entertain and educate backyard grilling enthusiasts with their finer points of food-on-the-flame.

Thursday, March 2, Friday, March 3, and Saturday March 4, at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 5, at noon and 2 p.m.

Hours + Tickets

Show hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$6 for seniors 62-plus. Children under 15 years of age are admitted free. Parking in the convenient, well-lit Coliseum lots is \$5 per vehicle. Tickets are available now through Ticketmaster, or can be purchased at the Coliseum box office.

On Thursday, March 2, and Friday, March 3, show visitors who bring a canned food donation for Community Harvest Food Bank will receive a \$1 admission discount. Or, log on to the show's website, home-gardenshow.com, to download a \$2 off admission coupon good for adult tickets. The canned food donation and discount coupon can be combined on Thursday and Friday for a \$3 discount on adult show admission. Seniors bringing a canned food donation on those days will receive the extra \$1 off their already-discounted ticket price of \$6.

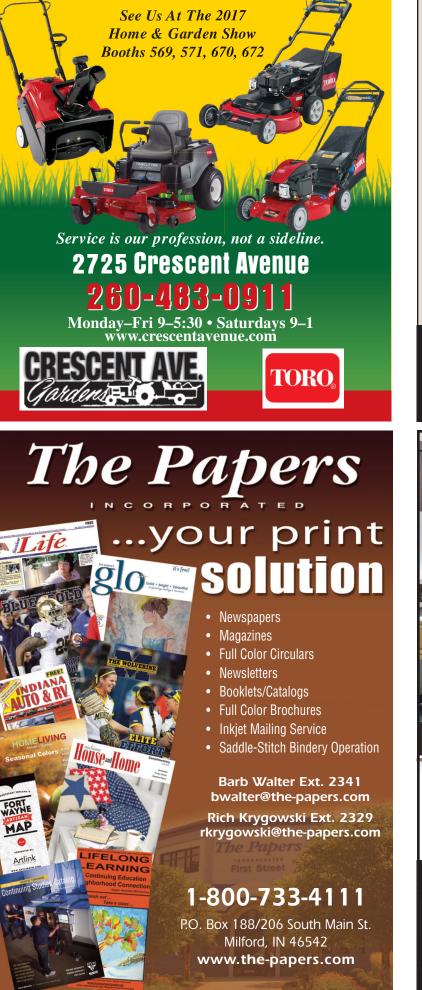
Complete information about the 44th Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show is available at home-gardenshow.com. Also follow the show on Facebook and Twitter.

Note: Be sure to look for the HOME Living gals at the Home & Garden Show!





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The 2017 Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show is being held at the War Memorial Coliseum Thursday thru Sunday, March 2-5!

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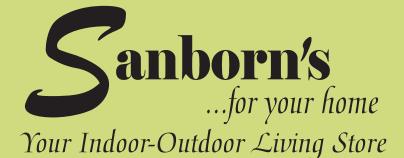
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features | how-to











Get floored:

What's beneath your feet

By Barb Sieminski

Just what you needed: More choices when trying to decide which type of flooring to install in your new, renovated or older home.

Technology has caught up with today's flooring trends and there are more choices than ever when considering how to improve your home or patio. Do you prefer to go with hardwood or softwood floors? Bamboo or vinyl? Cork or cut-and-loop carpeting? Stone or laminate? Finished, unfinished or prefinished?

Bamboo has lately exploded with new colors and styles. The only caveat is that bamboo is not recommended for use in moisture-prone rooms such as kitchens and baths. Reclaimed factory-finished hardwood is another good bet—and without the pricey hassle of obtaining "real" salvaged lumber.

Large format tiles are also making their way into households, as their sizes, shapes, materials and patterns present a dizzying array from which to choose. Larger sizes mean more surface and fewer grout lines to clean. Luxury vinyl is a new category and stands up to humidity and is a good fit for kitchens, bathrooms and laundry rooms.

We asked two of our experts for their input.

According to Heather Scheer, owner of Scheer Design in Fort Wayne, two types of flooring are trending for living rooms. They are hardwood and tone-on-tone patterned carpet. "For bathrooms, porcelain tile, and for bedrooms, more hardwood or still carpet for a secondary bedroom," said Scheer. "But hardwood really seems to be the trend going for master bedrooms.

"Also, if you have a dog, solid hardwood and distressed hardwood will definitely hold up better against your dog's claws than softwood floors which would dent more easily."

Some dog owners are playing it even safer with their new floor covering by using dog socks, which the dogs love especially in winter as it keeps their feet warm on the bare floor.

If you are considering a change in a child's playroom, Scheer recommends vinyl tile and vinyl plank are both good ideas, and so is carpet tile. Bright colors in spongy soft tiles are easy to clean and simple to pack up and move to another room. Soft tiles lessen injuries from falls by toddlers.

New trends highlight clean lines, cooler colors and very natural-appearing products, said Scheer. ►

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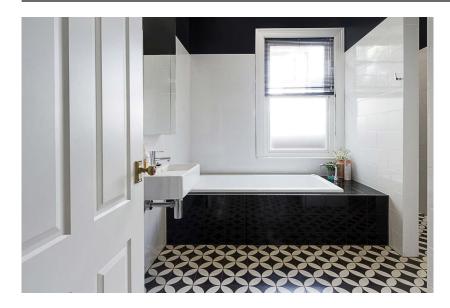


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"One new and very unique product is the Adura Max floor protection, which is a vinyl plank with a cushion back," said Scheer. "This floor covering gives one's legs and back a little more support when it is laid over concrete. There's a little more 'give' on the floor and it's also nice if you lay it over floors below wood or concrete without doing nearly as much floor prep.

"We also offer lots of new rustic and tone-on-tone carpets with new patterns."

According to owner Sandy Sanborn, of Sanborn's For Your Home in Angola, his company is seeing a lot of LVP, luxury vinyl, and wood-look planks being used in all areas of homes. It is waterproof and easy to care for and looks amazing. Carpetwise, soft fibers are in, with patterns making a slight comeback.

Most popular floors in kitchen and bath include ceramic tile, LVP & LVT and cork, said Sanborn.

"In bedrooms, soft carpet is still the number one choice, and living rooms lean toward wood, LVP and carpet," said Sanborn. "Dining rooms trend toward wood, LVP and tile."



If someone has never shopped for flooring before, what should that customer keep in mind?

"The reputation and experience of the installer is 90 percent of the job," said Sanborn.

"Ask questions, and the more detailed you are, the happier you will be with the finished project."

Another great flooring option to consider is radiant heating.

Radiant heating is a system in which heating panels are installed beneath a floor. Since the heat rises from the floor, it is more comfortable than forced air heating because the heat stays closer to the ground. Radiant heating provides even warmth throughout the room. A local choice, Indiana Warm

Floors, has been installing radiant heat for over thirty years.

Resources:

F & M Countertops, Fort Wayne, 260.483.6389, fandmtile.com Sanborn's For Your Home, Angola, 260.665.9799, sanbornsforyourhomeangola.com Scheer Design, 260.466.6975 Stoney Acres Woodworking, Shipshewana, 260.768.4367 Studabaker Specialty Woodworks, 260.273.1326

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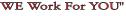
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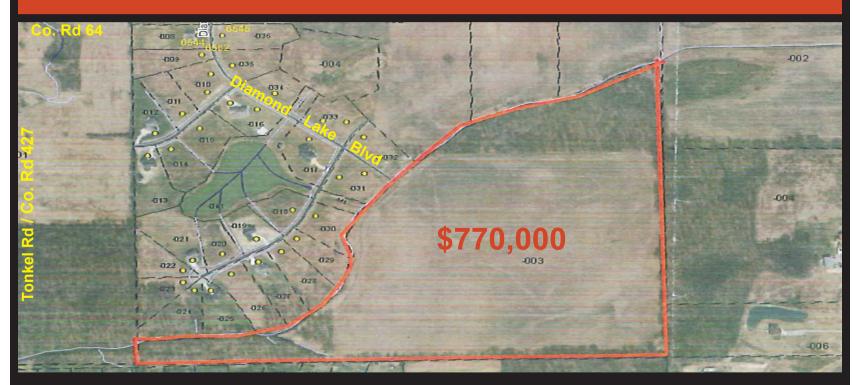


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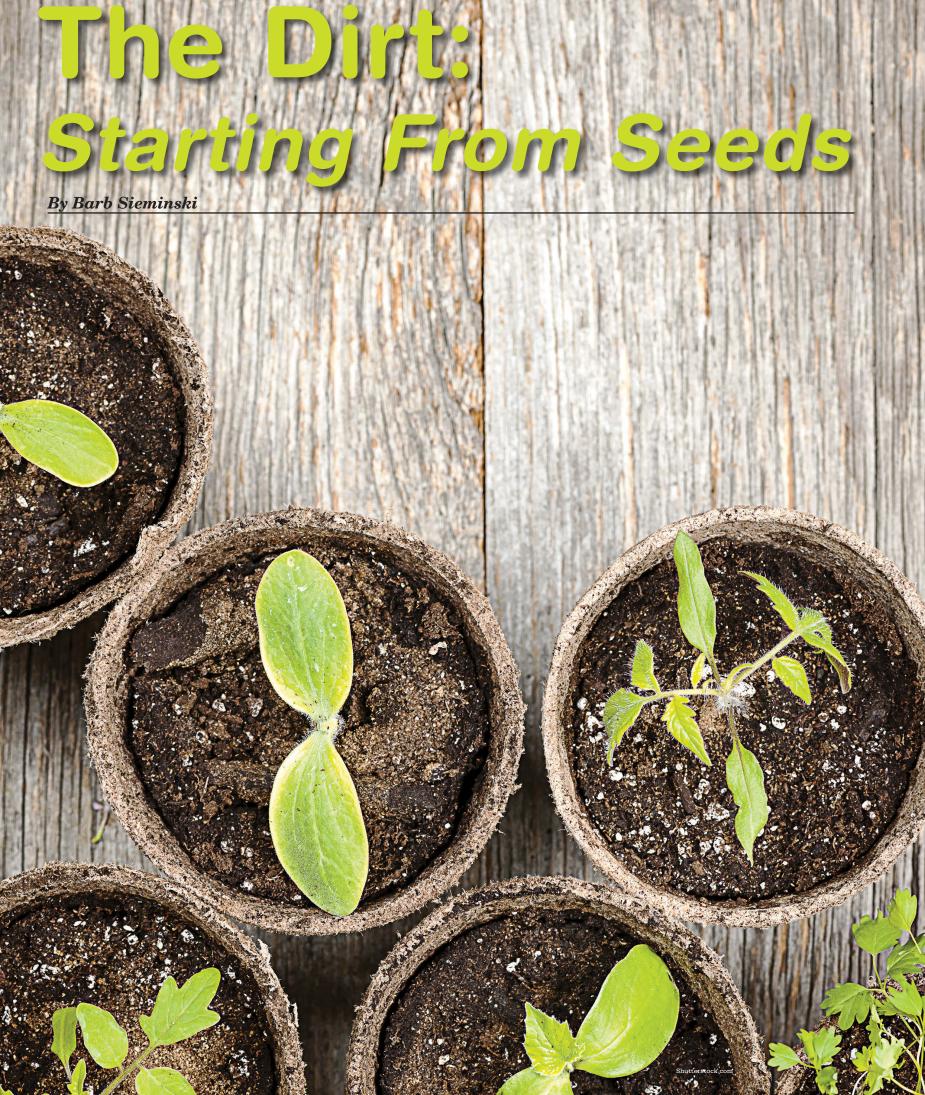


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at HOME | the dirt



The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful. (e.e. cummings) t's March and you're sitting cozily in front of the fireplace, watching the snow outdoors and visualizing a month of warmer days, maple sugaring season and Hoosier Hysteria (aka March Madness). And if you're a gardener, your happy place on this cold

afternoon is dreaming of a greening springtime with pastel-blue skies, balmy sunshine and bright plantings.

To achieve and reap this colorful green thumb artistry, your indoor seeding must begin now; most recommendations are for sowing annual flowers and veggies about 6 weeks before the last frost in your area. In northeast Indiana, our frost date is May 15. However, you may remember a recent year when we had frost soon after that date and some of the plants expired—waiting a day or so beyond that date won't hurt anything. Not starting seeds too early is especially important for tomatoes.

• Since there are so many seeds in a packet, why not team up with another gardener to split the seeds?

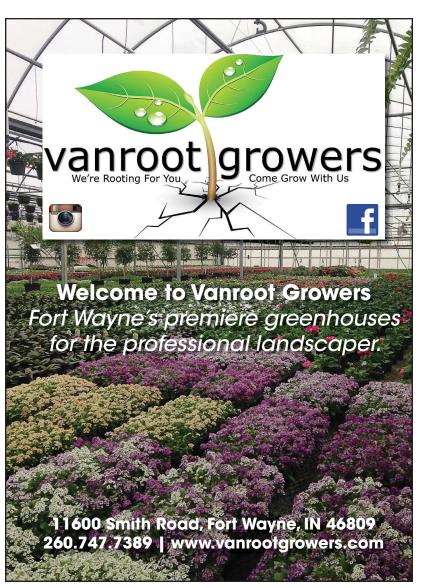
- Check the directions on the packet; they may call for soaking or chilling before planting.
- Buy seedling flats (make sure they're clean) or peat pots but consider using egg carton compartments, which work just as well. Poke ventilation holes in the sides near the bottom.
- Skip the potting soil when filling containers with seedling mix. The Old Farmer's Almanac recommends putting seedling mix with soil-less peat moss and mix in equal parts vermiculite and perlite to hold enough water and allow oxygen to flow. Pour into a large bucket and moisten with warm water and then put the mix into each container.
- Cover containers with plastic and water them gently; a meat basting syringe is ideal. They sprout best at temperatures 65°-75°, when sprouts appear, remove the plastic and move them into bright light.

And daily watch over your lovely garden-to-be until such time as the sowings can be transplanted outdoors.

Resources:

Copp Farm Supply, Columbia City, 260.244.6465, coppfarmsupply.com E&R Seeds, Monroe, 260.692.6827 Vanroot Growers, Fort Wayne, 260.747.7389, vanrootgrowers.com





Lush Lawns

Spring Maintenance

- 1. Service your mower. Schedule early to beat the rush and be sure to sharpen the blade at least once per year.
- 2. Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to stop crabgrass before it starts growing. Apply this as soon as forsythia blooms begin to drop, experts suggest, typically between April 1-15.
- 3. Aerate your lawn. Hard, compacted soil makes it nearly impossible for healthy grass to thrive. Spring is best for this process, when grass is actively growing.
- 4. Cut your grass once there's been three inches in growth.
- 5. Apply a light application of slow-release or organic fertilizer. Apply this after the first mowing of the season.





at HOME | landscape

Warm Winter? Here's how it affects your garden

By Steve Penhollow

A warm winter creates several potential hazards in a garden, not to mention in an overeager gardener's mind.

Mulch Early Bulbs

Atypically warm weather can cause bulbs to sprout earlier than is ideal, according to Kate Goshorn of Copp Farm Supply in Columbia City.

Goshorn said you can protect these early risers from frost by covering them with straw or some sort of lightweight mulch.

"Or you can put containers over them so they don't get frosted," she said.



Don't Plant Too Early

Unseasonably warm weather also causes gardeners to make a common mistake:

Planting too early.

"These box stores start getting things in," said Jim Brubaker of Jim Brubaker Designs in Fort Wayne, "and it's just way too early because of frost. Anything can happen here in Indiana."

"People should try not to get too excited because of the warm weather,"

Goshorn said. "Because it always comes back to get you."

Plant Trees + Shrubs

Now might be a good time to plant trees and shrubs, Brubaker said, if those figure into your backyard blueprint. They may be tough to find, however.

"Not too many nurseries will stock much," he said. "It's been an unusual winter for us. It's not usually this warm for such long periods of time. But shrub-wise; you could be doing that." Brubaker recommends deciduous shrubs that are dormant.

"I would not get something from a box store that has been

raised in Texas and leafed out for you to plant up here," he said. "It won't survive."

When buying plants from a big box store, Goshorn said, do your research.

"You want to make sure you're planting stuff for the region you're in," she said. ►





No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow!

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Prune Away

A nice warm March day might provide a good excuse to prune and deadhead, Brubaker said.

"Pruning the dead out of shrubs and reducing the size of shrubs," he said, is what to do this time of year.

Weeds, Already?

Getting the jump on weeds is also a smart late-winter gardening activity, according to Brubaker and Goshorn.

After accomplishing the last weed-pulling jobs of the season, some gardeners will leave the pulled weeds on the ground, Goshorn said.

"You don't want those seeds to start germinating again," she said,

Pre-emergent herbicides like Preen brand products prevent weed seeds from germinating, Brubaker said, but they don't harm existing plants and grasses.

Resources:

Arbor Farms Nursery, Fort Wayne, 260.637.5816, arborfarmsnursery.com Buesching's, Fort Wayne, 260.625.3358, bueschings.com Copp Farm Supply, Columbia City, 260.244.6465, coppfarmsupply.com Felger's Peat Moss, Fort Wayne, 260.693.3134, felgerspeatmoss.com Jim Brubaker Designs, 260.436.3639 "Cleaning beds of old debris from last year," is another good preparatory activity, he said.

"Edging the beds," he added. "Putting in a nice, crisp edge," is another task to add to your list.

Cut down cover crops before they flower and till them under, Goshorn said.

What To Plant?

People usually start planting potatoes around St. Patrick's Day, she said.

"Your cold crops like your broccoli,

your cauliflower, some of your lettuces, onion bulbs," Goshorn said, "you can start putting those out." With melons, tomatoes, corn and the like, however, "you want to wait until there's no chance of frost," she said.

All photos Shutterstock.com







at HOME | organization

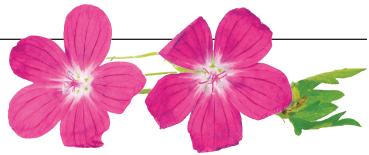
Flower Power Planning

Perfect Flowerbeds

By Beth Behrendt 📈

6 Home Living | March 201

Anyone who's spent a season or two gardening in our part of the Midwest knows it can be a challenge for flower lovers to unleash their creativity. Summers can be drought-ridden one year, then deluged with rain the next. Late thaws or early frosts can frustrate the most patient



of gardeners. Too, our area's soil is less than consistent. "Most of us are not blessed with particularly ideal soil," said Dan Bueshing, owner of Bueshing's Peat Moss & Mulch. "Clay-based soils are very prevalent in our area."

Never fear, flower-loving friends! With a little planning, and advice from our experts, you can have the beautiful, low maintenance flowerbeds you've always wanted.

Soil

"One of the main things to consider when planting a flowerbed, be it full sun or shade, annuals or perennials, is the soil where you intend to plant," said Buesching. "We highly recommend you get a commercial soil test to get recommendations according to the type of flowers or plants you wish to grow."

Buesching continued, "We also recommend you till your existing soil and then add 3-4 inches of compost, or garden soil high in organic matter, and cultivate that into the soil. To avoid compaction, this best done when soil is dry."

What to plant?



PERENNIALS

Perennials are hardy plants that return year after year. Some recommendations for our area include:

Coneflowers (Echinacea purpurea) bloom throughout the summer. Traditionally

they are pinkish-purple, but new cultivars are making brighter hues, like red and yellow, available. For sun.

Hardy geranium (Geranium x cantabrigiense) has pale-pink



flowers that are larger than other hardy geraniums. Plants begin flowering in June. Their dense foliage and maximum height of 6 inches make them ideal for borders. In the autumn, the foliage turns a dramatic

burgundy. For sun. Black-eyed Susans

(Rudbeckia fulgida) begin blooming in August and can stay in bloom for over a month. Their cheery golden flowers turn to spiky seed heads in winter, offering a great source of food to birds. For sun.

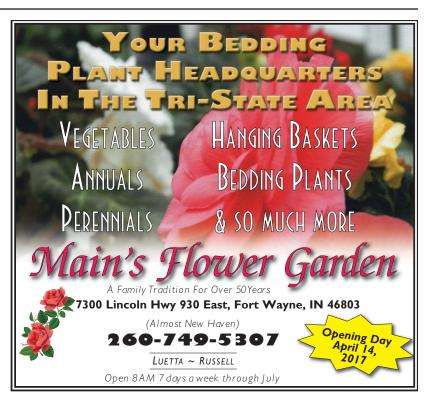


Butterfly weed (Asclepias

tuberosa), aka milkweed, blooms mid- to late-summer. Flowers are clusters of orange, yellow or pink. Bonus: hummingbirds and butterflies, particularly monarchs, love it! Full sun or part shade. ►



www.thenarwhalandthemanatee.com



Lenten rose (Helleboros orientalis)

often blooms while snow is still on the ground. Flowers can be purple, red, white, green and pink. For shade.



ANNUALS

Annuals will not survive our harsh winters, but they are great for changing the look of the bed each year, or for filling in empty spots where perennials did not flourish as hoped.

Amy Oliver, landscape designer with Arbor Farms nursery, suggested, "For sun beds, popular annuals are wave petunia, geraniums and dahlias."

For shade flowerbeds, Oliver recommended, "Impatiens and begonias do very well in our area." Dead-heading both plants regularly will result in fuller plants and more blooms.

Layout

There are a number of factors to keep in mind when planning the layout of flowerbeds. After determining the shade or sun level the bed will receive, base your choices on:

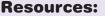
• **Color** (coordinating or contrasting for maximum visual impact)

- **Blooming time** (choosing plants with different blooming time for color all season long)
- **Plant height** (taller plants in the back, or surrounded by shorter plants, so each plant's beauty can be seen)

Buesching encouraged, "Your plants will thank you for all your hard work and planning. You will be the envy of the neighborhood, as you witness first hand God's miracle of nature. Have a great spring season and happy gardening!"



All photos Shutterstock.com



Arbor Farms Nursery, Fort Wayne, 260.637.5816, arborfarmsnursery.com Buesching's Peat Moss & Mulch, Fort Wayne, 260.625.3358, bueschings.com Copp Farm Supply, Columbia City, 260.244.6465, coppfarmsupply.com Felger's Peat Moss, Fort Wayne, 260.693.3134, felgerspeatmoss.com Jim Brubaker Designs, 260.436.3639 Main's Flower Garden, Fort Wayne, 260.749.5307

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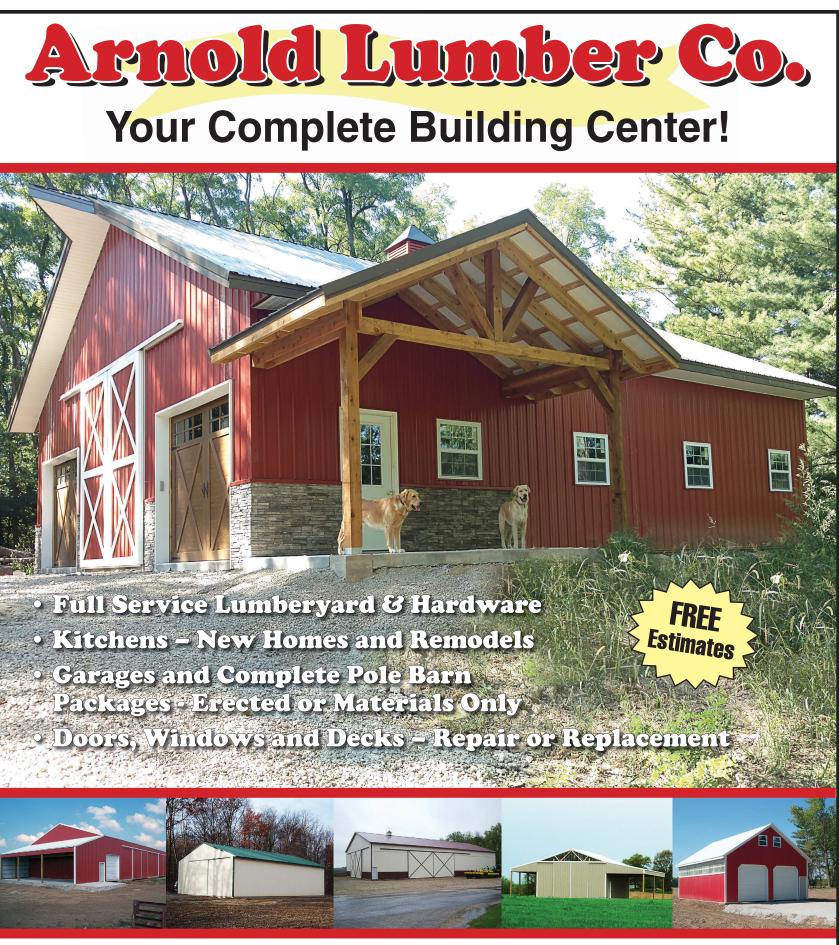


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at HOME | celebrations

Spring Garden Dirt Cups

By Sue Rawlinson

Gardening season is almost here. Soon we'll be digging in the dirt, preparing beds for veggies and flowers—all to happily reap a bountiful harvest in the months ahead. So why not celebrate the coming of a gardener's favorite season with a sweet 'n delicious treat indoors? These Spring Garden Dirt Cups are deliciously dirty—and the little ones will love devouring this dirt!



Sweet Dirt Cups

Ingredients:

16 ounce package of chocolate sandwich cookies
2 cups cold milk
1 package chocolate instant pudding + pie filling, 4-serving size
1 tub cool whip, thawed, 8 ounce size
10 plastic cups

gummy worms (or any candy critter you wish)

Directions

1.In zipper-style bag, crush all cookies with a rolling pin.2.Pour milk into large bowl. Add pudding mix. Beat with a wire whisk for 2 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes.

3.Stir thawed cool whip into pudding mixture. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ the crushed cookies.

4.Place 1 tablespoon of crushed cookies into each plastic cup. Fill cups ¾ full with pudding mixture. Top each with remaining 'dirt' crumbles and add gummy worms as you (and the kiddos) desire.
5.Refrigerate 1 hour, then enjoy! ⁽¹⁾



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> For more information call Ken Gunkel, Custom Quality Homes, Inc.

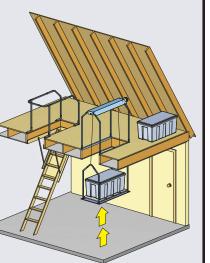
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HOME community | **books**

Spring Reads

By Steve Penhollow

"March comes in like a lion but goes out like a lamb," said an unknown proverbist. Given how mild this winter has been, March is not too early to start thinking about spring and summer projects in the backyard. Here are two books that should help:



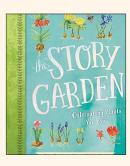
She Sheds: A Room of Your Own

by **Erika Kotites** Cool Springs Press \$25 ISBN-10: 1591866774 ISBN-13: 978-1591866770

The man cave (a room renovated to resemble a sports bar or a hunting lodge) begat the pub shed (a shed that is renovated

to resemble a tavern). Both of these residential innovations are designed to please the men of the house, of course. Now, women are getting into the act. The so-called "she shed" is the subject of a new book by editor and home remodeler Erika Kotite. "She Sheds: A Room of Your Own" showcases several strategies for crafting a private island, of sorts, in one's backyard.

A she shed is a small outbuilding that looks like it is used for gardening, but may very well be used for listening to rock music while drinking whiskey. The book features 35 she shed designs. "My favorite," Kotite told the Sacramento Bee, "was in San Luis Obispo on a crest overlooking central California. It was simple, but it had everything; a really pretty chandelier, a day bed and that view. All (the creator) really uses it for is to rest and look at photos of her grandchildren. But it gives her a place to relax, her own personal retreat, and it's just glorious."



The Story Garden: Cultivating Plants to Nurture Memories

by **Ellen Sheppard Buchert and Johanna Buchert Smith** *Gibbs Smith \$19.99 ISBN-10: 1423645812; ISBN-13: 978-1423645818*

For many people, gardening isn't just a diversion or a pastime. It is a family tradition and a beloved ritual that is as much biographical and biological. "The Story Garden: Cultivating Plants to Nurture Memories" is a book for that latter group of gardeners. Ellen Sheppard Buchert and Johanna Buchert Smith are a mother/ daughter team of authors who share beautifully rendered reminiscences about gardening and how it intersected with and enriched other aspects of their lives. The book is illustrated with Sheppard Buchert's evocative watercolors.

HOME community | events



By Ray Balogh



2-5 FORT WAYNE: Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show

Adults \$10/seniors (62 and older) \$6/children (under 15) free. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. Noon-9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502

memorialcoliseum.com.

3 WABASH: First Friday

Theme: Throwback Friday. Experience downtown Wabash through different eras. Travel to participating businesses for a chance to win a \$300 gift basket. Food trucks, music, specials and more. Free admission. 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Friday, downtown.

visitwabashcounty.com.

3^{WARSAW: First Friday}

Extended local business hours, entertainment, shopping specials, family activities. Free admission. 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Friday, downtown around courthouse. 574.267.6311,

warsawcdc.org.

AUBURN: First Friday

Includes spring fashion show by Threads & Tails to benefit the DeKalb Humane Shelter. Participating merchants open until 8 p.m. Fashion show will be held at Auburn Atrium Marketplace, 106 W. 6th St.

Call 260.927.1326 for time.

WABASH: Pippin

Musical filled with acrobatics, wondrous magical feats and soaring songs. Winner of four 2013 Tony Awards, including Best Musical Revival. \$58/\$45/\$35. 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102

honeywellcenter.org.

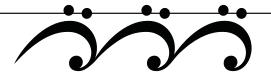
Flea Market

5 DECATUR: Monthly Flea Market

Hot food available, sponsored by the Adams County Coin Club. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Riverside Center, 231 E. Monroe St. (Highway 224 East). Contact Carla at 260.517.8182, **facebook.com/decaturindianafleamarket.**

5 FORT WAYNE: Gabriel Iglesias

Comedian, actor, writer, producer and voice actor performs on his FluffyMania Tour: 20 Years of Comedy. \$88/\$73/\$58. 7:30 p.m. Sunday, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000 fwembassytheatre.org.



FORT WAYNE: "Mamma Mia!"

Lively jukebox musical based on the songs of ABBA. \$65/\$50/\$30. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000 fwembassytheatre.org.



10 WABASH: 43rd annual Honors Band and Choir

The county's most talented students from Northfield, Southwood, Wabash and Manchester high schools will perform. Free admission. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102 **honeywellcenter.org.**

12^{WABASH: Manchester} Symphony Orchestra

Professional, community, faculty and student musicians will present Brahms' Requiem. \$15 adults; free for youth (18 and under), Manchester staff and students. 3 p.m. Sunday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102

honeywellcenter.org.

15 FORT WAYNE: "Short Hikes for Short Legs: Spring Signs"

Look for signs that spring is approaching. Boots recommended. Free admission, open to children 3-5 accompanied by responsible adult. 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Wednesday, Eagle Marsh barn, 6801 Engle Road. 260.478.2515, **info@lrwp.org, lrwp.org.**



17FORT WAYNE: The Texas Tenors

Three-time Emmy Award winning classical crossover trio vocal group including country music singer J. C. Fisher, pop singer Marcus Collins and opera singer John Hagen. \$65/\$53/\$43. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000 fwembassytheatre.org.

23FORT WAYNE: Guided History Tour and Lunch

Settler member and educator Linda Huge will lead a tour of the Historic Swinney Homestead and Allen County Courthouse, lunch at the Homestead. Ages 14 and older. Proceeds support maintenance of the Homestead. \$25 (reservation and payment by March 16). 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Historic Sweeney Homestead, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne. 260.747.1501 or 260.747.1229 settlersinc.org.

23FORT WAYNE: Serving Our Seniors Lunch and Learn

Guest speaker to be determined. Free admission. 1 p.m. Thursday, Life Care Center, 1649 Spy Run Ave., Fort Wayne. RSVP to Diana Mohr at 260.449.6806

lifecarecenteroffortwaynein.com.

24 -26 FORT WAYNE: Lucky Duck Consignment Sale

\$10/person Friday (no children or strollers),
free admission Saturday and Sunday. Parking
\$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. 5 p.m.-9 p.m.
Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-3
p.m. Sunday, Allen County War Memorial
Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502
memorialcoliseum.com.



25 AUBURN: Shop Small Saturday

Check out the new spring arrivals and shop small in downtown Auburn. Free admission. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, but hours may vary by business. Sponsored by Downtown Auburn Business Association. 260.925.3113 **daba4auburn.org.**

25⁻²⁶ FORT WAYNE: Shipshewana on the Road

Vendors from the iconic flea market visit Fort Wayne. Adults \$4, children (12 and under) free. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502

memorialcoliseum.com.

27^{FORT WAYNE: ONCE}

Enchanting boy-meets-girl musical, winner of eight 2012 Tony Awards, including Best Musical. \$60/\$40/\$25. 7:30 p.m. Monday, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000 fwembassytheatre.org.

29FORT WAYNE: Marquee Gala Fundraiser

Featuring Billy Porter, award-winning stage performer, film and television actor and vocal coach. Winner of 2013 Tony Award for best actor in a musical. \$250/person. 5 p.m. Wednesday, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000

fwembassytheatre.org.

30^{WABASH: STOMP}

Percussive hit show with two new full-scale routines utilizing props like tractor tire inner tubes and paint cans. \$45 main floor, \$35 balcony. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102 honeywellcenter.org.



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By Lauren Caggiano

We all dream of finding "the one." That is, the one home of our dreams.

Per Beth Goldsmith of Sold by the Gold, start with considering your lifestyle. "Many first-time homebuyers have romantic ideas but haven't experienced the care and maintenance that comes with owning a home," she said. Part of being honest with yourself means investing your money in the right features or amenities for you, she said. Start by asking what energizes you. For example, maybe you love to cook. Then an updated and spacious kitchen is a must. Or maybe you enjoy ending

Resources:

Mike Thomas Associates, Andrea Zehr, 260.494.2852, mikethomasrealtor.com Mike Thomas Associates, Patricia Piat, 260.403.5095, mikethomasrealtor.com North Eastern Group Realty, Sold by the Gold team, Fort Wayne, 260.479.1446, soldbythegold.com Rockfield Realty Group, Leo, 260.627.2200, tamara@rockfieldrealtygroup.com

Finding your Home Sweet Home

a long day with a soak in the bath. Do you love to entertain? Then a home with a dedicated dining room will suit you. Do you have multiple pets? A property with a fenced-in yard should be on your short list. Determine what is important to you and refine your search from there. Remember, as Goldsmith said, "A home is an emotional refuge."

Chemistry

Potential homeowners should be just as concerned about the exterior as the interior. The architecture, whether new or historic, is a variable. For some, a



spacious modern home is a dream come true, while others may

fancy a historic bungalow. It is really a matter of personal preference, but Goldsmith suggested looking at homes objectively: What elements do you like? Is it possible to have a new home with the charm of a more lived in one? Conversely, maybe you'd prefer a historic home that's been recently renovated? Regardless of your preference, Goldsmith said there must be chemistry before you make such an investment.



Lifestyle

And a variety of factors can contribute to that "this is it"

feeling. Goldsmith said Millennials are more concerned about finding a home that suits their lifestyle, compared to previous generations. Some even prefer to choose a community first, then find a job. Walkability, proximity to dining and entertainment and a feeling of community are all important to younger home buyers.

"It's a return to front porch living," she said. "It's not just about the actual porch, but the lifestyle."



Budget

One last yet obvious consideration is budget. Goldsmith meets with potential buyers to get an overall picture of finances and their marketability to lenders. That way there are no surprises. She said often homebuyers don't understand the plethora of loan options available to them, which is why working with a real estate agent can be beneficial. Generally speaking, buyers need to be concerned with variables like how long they plan to stay in the house. In some cases, it makes more sense to rent than to buy. For this reason, Goldsmith suggests having a 5-year plan in place so buyers can make savvy decisions.

Here's to finding your home sweet home! 首

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Patricia Piat Mike Thomas Associates and Timberlin Homes

By Shannon Rooney

Photo by Leaha Meinika



When Patricia Piat became a realtor in the mid-'80s, she was looking for a career with flexibility that would allow her to spend time with her family, including her young daughter, Antonia. Originally from England, Piat has lived all over the world, including Belgium, France, Brazil, and, yes, Fort Wayne. She has developed her career in the Fort Wayne market, becoming an expert in relocation, and she takes great joy in helping her clients find the perfect home when they relocate to the area.

Resource:

Patricia Piat Mike Thomas Associates Realtors 14033 Illinois Road, Fort Wayne, Ind., 260.403.5095,mikethomasrealtor.com,

How has living in different places around the world made a difference in your real estate career?

It's really helped me with my job. When you've traveled extensively and lived in different countries and met different people, and having been also subject to relocating with children, just finding new homes and schools, even learning different languages, it helps you be more empathetic to people moving into the area. It gives you a greater understanding possibly than people who've maybe lived in the same town all their lives.

What's special about living in Fort Wayne?

I love Fort Wayne. I've become really attached to this city and have lived here on two separate occasions. I've made many friends over the years and raised my daughter here. Everyone told me when I first moved here that it's a nice place to raise kids and, yes, it really is a good place to raise a family.

Can you tell us about your work with the Town and Country New Homes Tour?

I represent Timberlin Homes, who build custom homes, and we enter several of our homes into the tour each year. I work solidly over the two weekends of the tour in our model home in Grey Oaks greeting all of the visitors. It's the perfect occasion for people who are contemplating building to go around these homes and it gives them a wonderful opportunity to look at the different builders and their different styles. I think it's an excellent way for people to educate themselves before they enter into the building process and select their builder.

I am very enthusiastic and proud to be representing Timberlin Homes and Barclay Allen, who is the owner. We have a first class creative design team and offer many unique features, such as old hand-hewn beams from Indiana barns, and all our clients have access to the services of our very talented in-house interior designer Jodi Golm.

What do you enjoy most about your work?

In addition to my involvement with Timberlin Homes, I'm also a full-time real estate broker.

When you've worked in real estate as long as I have, you have your repeat clients and my very favorite are those who have come back. It's a family affair. I am so grateful to all my clients, my past clients and my present clients for supporting me and allowing me to work with them. It's been a great privilege and I would like to say thank you to all of you.



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Getting ready to move? 7 Tips to Improve Your Packing:

- When moving books, pack them only in small boxes. Books are heavy!
- Stack dishes upward when packing. They'll be less likely to break.
- Pack the items you will need first in a clear, plastic bin—and keep it in clear sight.
- Label each box, listing contents but also the room to which the box should go.
- Pre-clean the kitchen and bath(s) at the new home before all your belongings arrive. You'll be glad you did.
- Place plastic wrap over opened toiletries, then replace lids. It'll keep items from leaking and save a big mess later.
- Take a photo of how your electronics are wired to make reassembly a no-brainer.

Where does your home-sweet-home fall within these stats?

*rates effective as of March 2017 issue publishing deadline date



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