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Bill Hays joins TPI family as new publications manager

By Lauren Zeugner Editor, Senior Life Publication a division of The Papers, Inc.

Bill Hays has joined The Papers Inc., as its new publications manager. Vicky Howell, who served as publications manager for 15 years announced she is retiring March 31.

Hays spent 33 years at the Times-Union newspaper in Warsaw, where for 21 years he served as advertising manager. A graduate of Wawasee High School in Syracuse, he attended Manchester College (now university) and never left the area. He and his wife, Jo, still live in North Manchester.



He graduated with a degree in speech communication and his first job was filling in at WRSW in Warsaw for a radio sales person on maternity leave. When that job ended, he moved to the newspaper in advertising sales.

Hays' wife, Jo, serves as a physical plant administrative assistant at Manchester University. The couple have two sons, David and Brian. David is the circulation and IT manager at the Times-Union. He is married to Crystal and the couple have three daughters. A son is on the way. Brian is married to Amber who is a doctor of physical therapy. The couple travel to different hospitals around the country. Brian is currently studying code bootcamp for computer code writing.

Hays and his wife love to cruise and often go with a group of six or seven couples. A native of St. Louis, he is a huge fan of the St. Louis Cardinals.

He is active in North Manchester Kiwanis and serves on the North Manchester Redevelopment Commission. He also serves on the marketing committee of the Builders Association of Kosciusko and Fulton Counties.

He and his wife attend First Brethren Church in North Manchester. Hays said he is very excited for the opportunity to work for The Papers Inc.



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One of the many publications created by this group is the newly formatted and designed marvel within your hands, HOME Living. If you don't yet think it's a marvel, then you haven't read past the masthead, silly,

The Papers Inc. is located in the heart of Milford, Indiana. We're proud of our American small town roots. If you'd like to learn more about us, check out our website at

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 $\textbf{EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS} \ \mathrm{Editorial \ suggestions \ are \ welcomed, \ and \ the \ executive}$ editor is usually in a good mood, so please share! Feel free to send comments directly to her at srawlinson@the-papers.com. Even if she's in a bad mood, hearing from readers brightens

Thank you for reading and we look forward to hearing from you soon. We warmly welcome VOU HOME.

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welcome!



Sue Rawlinson

Oh, April. How I love you.

And not a girl named April. I mean the beautiful, glorious, awesomesauce month of April.

Why do I love it so?

It signifies the true beginning of change. Winter finally takes a long nap. Greenery abounds and grows. Flowers bloom. Homes are deep-cleaned. Birds sing. Traditions resurface. Gardens are prepped. And it's my birthday.

Big, big smiles from Sue this month.

It's a month of happy traditions for children and adults alike. It's the Easter gatherings and morning mimosas. Egg hunts ensue at all ages. It's coloring eggs and egg wars with my 3 teenage boys. It's happily cleaning away winter filth and replacing it with shiny clean surfaces and air that smells of lemons and pine. At least until the dog walks in the room.

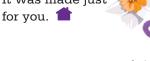
It's the annual landscape refresh with a new layer of mulch. Both the look and scent engrain within our memories. It's the time of year when we hit the refresh button and move forward with home improvement projects. The planning is finished and it's time for exciting execution. It's when progress and fulfillment are both tangible and realized.

And that's good stuff.

This—and much more—is what you'll find in the April issue of HOME. See what's new in showers for your master bath, learn the nitty-gritty about mulching your landscape, enjoy tips on how to spring clean like a pro. And with the coming of many a'family's favorite holiday, Easter, check out an egg-stra delicious recipe for your Sunday brunch.

And if you're thinking of building this year? Now is the time! Check out our article on how to prep your home for sale, find tips for building your own home—and see information about the upcoming HBA's Spring Town & Country Tour where you can gather great ideas, meet builders and learn how how to proceed with your new palace.

All this and so much more awaits. Enjoy this issue of HOME Living. It was made just



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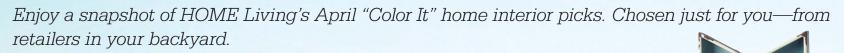
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Dusky Blue & Nectarine

By Sue Rawlinson Photos by HOME Team

No color pairing better states 'happiness at home' than dusky blue and nectarine. Named one of the hottest colors of 2017, dusky blue captivates attention—it's perfect for the creatives in your home, evoking the ocean's calm with its beachy, tranquil hue. Contrast the blue with cheerful nectarine. Its flash of summertime splendor effortlessly makes even the smallest of spaces pop with happy, calming brilliance.







Kitchens Plus Country Store, Wabash 260.563.6317, kitchenspluscountrystore.com





Thomas Leffers Art, Fort Wayne 260.705.8270, Thomasleffersart.com





Easter Lily



By Ray Balogh

Locally purchased lilies are actually three to four years in the making. Almost every commercially cultivated bulb for use in the United States and Canada is produced along a short strip of the Pacific Coast on the Oregon-California border.

Growing Easter lilies is labor intensive, as they require constant care. From initial planting to shipping, each bulb is handled up to 40 times.



A commercial bulb starts out as a small bulblet nestled underground in the stem of its mother plant. The bulblet is carefully extracted from the plant and planted in another field.

The following year, the bulb, now called a yearling, is dug up and replanted in another field and carefully tended for another year.

Bulb harvesting takes place in late September or early October. The mature bulbs are dug up, cleaned, graded, sorted, packed, cooled and shipped.

Easter lilies naturally bloom in June or July, so greenhouse growers force the plants under tightly controlled conditions to meet the two-week window of opportunity for marketing the lilies for the Easter season. As Easter can fall anywhere between



March 22 and

April 25, high-quality,

vigorous bulbs are needed

to accommodate the variable year-to-year scheduling.

Owning the Perennial

As perennials, the flowers can be enjoyed for several years, but care must be taken in the process of preserving them. First, look for high-quality plants that are aesthetically pleasing from every angle and have flowers in varying stages of ripeness. Remove any decorative packaging and foil, paper or mesh sleeves as soon as the potted Easter lily is brought home. Keep the plant in a moderately cool location, between 60 and 70 degrees F. during the day, slightly cooler at night, in a well-lit room, but out of direct sunlight and away from drafts and heat ducts. Turn the plant every couple days to avoid the stem curling toward the sun.

Keep the soil moist and well-drained.

Remove the golden-yellow anthers before the pollen sheds, staining the white flowers.

Cut off each flower as it starts to wither and keep the plant inside until the danger of frost is past.

Outside, find a sunny location with good drainage and plant the bulbs six inches deep and 12 to 18 inches apart, spreading the roots and lightly packing soil to eliminate air pockets.

Make sure the soil stays moist but be careful not to drown the lilies. Fertilize every two to four weeks.





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Create a Shower You Love to Use

By Shannon Rooney

There are more options now than ever for building out a new shower. Faucets, niches, seats and lighting styles are abundant, offering homeowners the opportunity to create a completely custom shower to suit their needs. And whether you're building a new home or rehabbing an old bathroom, a luxurious shower is sure to add value to your home.

But where to start?

When planning out your shower, you'll want to be aware of the latest trends and how to put them together into a complete design.

Resources:

Classic Marble and Stone, Fort Wayne, 260.639.3872, classicmarbleandstone.com

Jonesville Lumber, Jonesville, Mich., 517.849.2181, jonesvillelumber.com Trinity Kitchen Bath & Lighting, New Haven, 260.493.2574, trinitvhomecenter.com

Wayne Kitchen and Bath Works, Fort Wayne, 260.423.9577, waynepipe.com



Here's how to get started.

Lay it Out

Before you start, assess your needs. How big do you want your shower to be? In the past, shower stalls have typically been 32x32 inches. But you may want a wealth of space, say a fourby-six-foot shower, leading you into the territory of the "spa" shower. This type of shower is often completely custom-built with tiled walls and seating. "Many people are going with a curb-less shower," said Joe Smiley, sales manager at Eagle



Tile in Fort Wayne. The shower "stall" is flush with the floor for easy access and easier cleaning. When choosing the layout of the shower keep in mind that it has to flow with the plumbing, meaning the faucet heads need to align with the pipes in your walls. A contractor or plumbing expert can advise you on faucet placement or moving pipes if that's the route you decide to go.

Pick and Choose

Next, think about the elements you may enjoy, those little amenities that make you want to use the shower.

Current trends include:

-A variety of shower heads. First, make it rain with a rainfall shower head. These mimic the falling of rain for a particularly

relaxing shower. Combine with multiple shower heads to make for easy washing and a massaging effect.

-Built-in seating. Corner seating or bench seating along one wall will give you a place to sit and enjoy your shower, or a handy prop to shave your legs.

-Recessed niche. A small recessed shelf in the shower wall provides a spot for body wash and shampoo bottles. If your walls don't allow for one, consider a corner shelf, which makes the most of unused space.

Just Add Style

Naturally you'll want your bathroom style to reflect the style of your home, but with so many options for tile and fixtures, you'll have plenty of latitude for creativity. Larger tile formats are trending currently, which Smiley said requires less grout. In turn, cleaning is easier. He also recommended an epoxy grout, which doesn't require scrubbing like typical grout.

Apart from utility, larger tiles will give your shower walls a cleaner look. "Glass is popular as an accent," said Smiley. Smaller glass tiles in a band will make an area stand out. It's especially popular as a background for a recessed niche. Glass doors, which allow natural light into the shower, are on trend too. Homeowners are also repurposing glass for shower doors and adding slate-finish accents as the popularity of rustic design grows.





By Sue Rawlinson

Photos supplied by Bob Buescher Homes

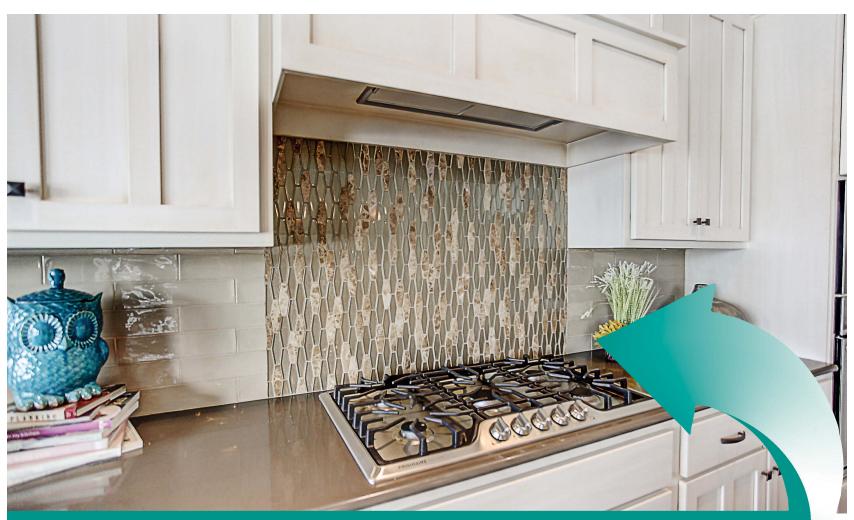
Bob Buescher Homes prides itself in being a transitional builder—one that can flow together a variety of styles for a unique, truly custom look. Displayed here, this open concept great room/kitchen beautifully shows contemporary hints mixed with craftsman-style, plus a touch of traditional styles as well. And it all flows beautifully.

Love this look? Good. We'll share how the experts at Bob Buescher Homes pulled this area together so you, too, can create the look of your own dream home. Or, at least we'll get the creative juices flowing as you determine the look love.



Specialty Ceiling

Jay Shipley, Bob
Buescher's senior vice-president, designed the specialty
ceiling, complete with backlighting to frame the room and illuminate added interest to its height.



Canvas for Pesigners

Here's a great display of combining various patterns and materials for a back splash. This area can be a canvas for designers! Here, ceramic white tiles are complemented by a geometric patterned glass mosaic above the stove. The combination offers depth—and yet maintains the carefree, comfortable feel of the home.

Walk-in Pantry

"Jon Ross and the folks at Closet Concepts do a great job," said Steve Enright, director of sales and marketing at Bob Buescher Homes. "Walk-in pantries and pantries that are transitioning to butlers' pantries are really popular right now."





This custom stone fireplace is framed with a mission-inspired mantel.



The room is open and inviting. The family can all stay in contact with one another with this layout—and it's great for entertaining.

Suppliers:

Builder: Bob Buescher Homes, Fort Wayne, 260.490.3355, bobbuescherhomes.com

Central Supply (sink and faucet), 260.745.4961, centralsupplycompany.com

CR Carpet (flooring and backsplash), Fort Wayne, 260.749.2933, crflooring.com

Maumee Paint & Supply, Fort Wayne, 260.490.8656, maumeepaint.com

Wabash Lighting (lighting), Fort Wayne-Elkhart-Warsaw-South Bend, 800.558.8820, wabashlighting.com

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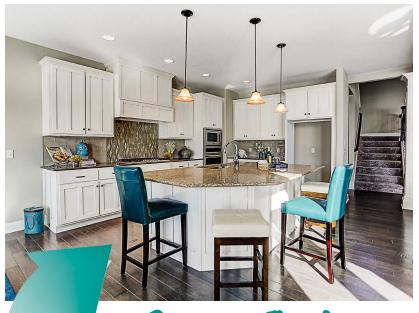
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Open Style Kitchen

This open style custom kitchen features a large island. Jan Hook, Bob Buescher's designer, blended hard surfaces such as quartz, ceramic and glass tile with the beautiful cabinetry in an off-white glaze.







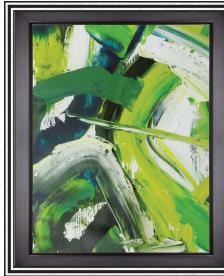


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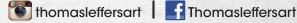
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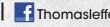


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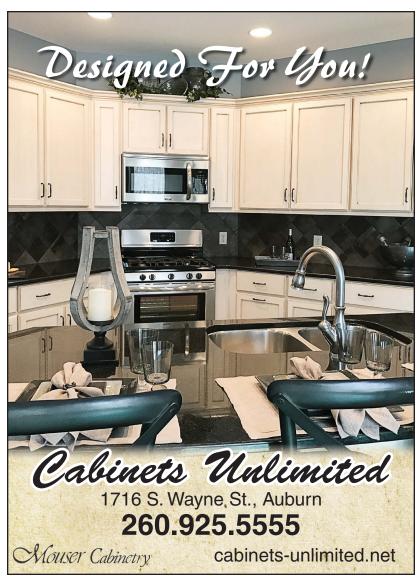
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By Beth Behrendt

Lighting is a crucial design element in the home. Proper lighting improves task completion, promotes security, beautifies the space and even enhances personal moods. Today's lighting trends are ever-evolving and quickly adapting to technology's role in our lives. An easy way to step up your home environment's style, comfort and utility is to upgrade with some of the latest lighting trends.

"One of the fastest growing trends we are noticing in our showroom," said Lisa Needler, lighting showroom division manager with Wabash Electric, "is an increased interest in home automation products. People want to simplify their lives by being able to control more products in their homes from their tablets or mobile devices. This expansive category goes throughout the home: audio, video, thermostat, door lock controls, and, of course, interior and exterior lighting control. As LEDs gain traction in the everyday consumers' homes, the



control of LED—with dimmers, etc.—is now just as important." [see sidebar]

Technology is making lighting control more integral with everyday life. One example? Press a "cooking" button on a wall control panel (or on a phone app) and all of the kitchen task lights will come up to full brightness.

Needler remarked, "Kitchens are often the entertainment center for families, in the heart of the home. Open concept floor plans make the kitchen a meeting room, movie room, dining room and more. They are designed to be large and comfortable, so it feels inviting for people to relax and enjoy their evenings or time at home." Having variable lighting in

Resources:

Trinity Kitchen Bath & Lighting, New Haven, 260.493.2574, trinityhomecenter.com

Wabash Lighting, Fort Wayne, Warsaw, Elkhart, South Bend, 260.483.8820, 800.558.8820, wabashlighting.com



this area, and in the areas that surround it, makes the spaces more comfortable and more effective for each area's specific 1150

As for styles and design trends, Needler said, "Decorative fixtures are still hot on trend—say large open clear glass pendants for over the island, a mid-century globe light over the nook table and a starburst chandelier in the great room."

"Stand-alone products are becoming more and more popular. No one feels the need to match up a series of lighting families all throughout the home now. Mixing and matching some different pieces creates a unique, eclectic style that people feel proud to live in."

Specific style trends for 2017 include:

upgraded industrial: warehouse-inspired but refined with rich tones and alternative metals

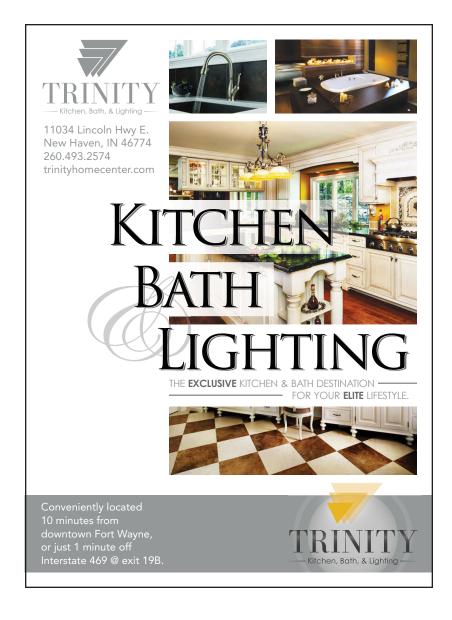
geometric lighting: invoking a minimalist aesthetic and giving space a modern or mid-century vibe

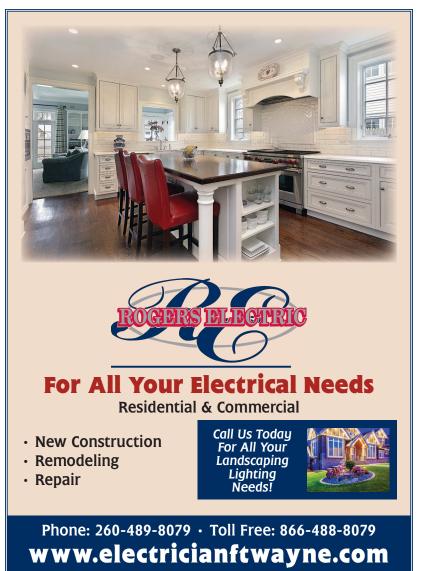
nature-inspired: in soft organic forms, using natural colors and shapes invoking bud, leaf and plant shapes or patterns

Enjoy your home—entertaining, working and relaxing—even more by upgrading or installing the newest lighting trends and technologies.

LEDs

LEDs (light-emitting diode) light bulbs use only about 10 percent of the energy of an incandescent bulb. Wabash Lighting's Needler said, "LEDs are far exceeding all expectations. We are seeing them used now every day as standard products. Quite a few builders are looking into replacing the installation of standard recessed lighting with products like the Disc by WAC, or Blink by Satco. **Showrooms are recognizing** the rapidly changing marketplace for these products. Stocking compatible dimmers is important, since the lack of those is often a sore spot for homeowners."





Spring clean like a bra

By Julie Young

Spring cleaning will never be a labor of love, but it doesn't have to be a drudgery either – not if you hop right to it and do it right. If you tackle your house one room at a time, start from the top and work your way down, you will be finished in no time and ready to enjoy the rest of the season!

General Tips

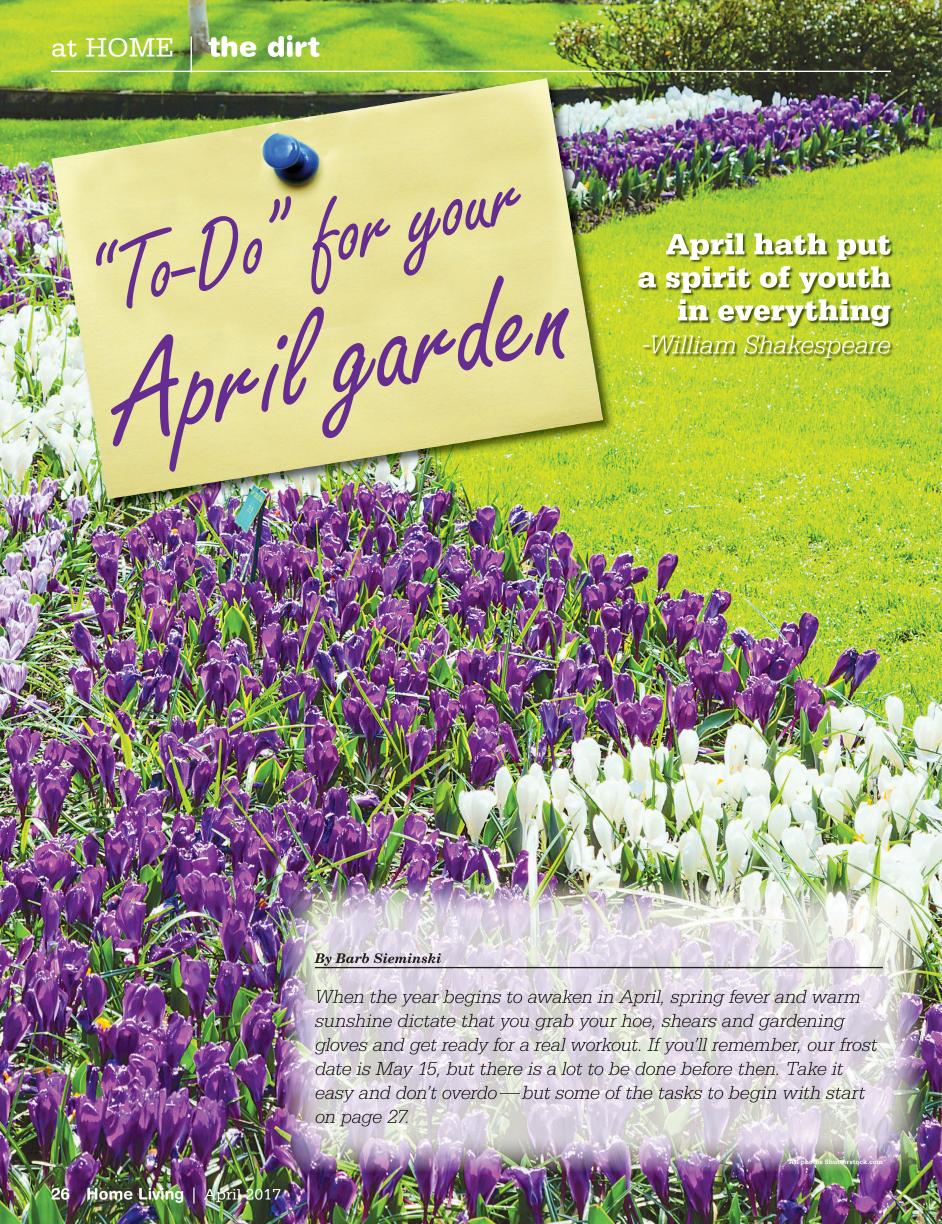


- Clean rarely used areas first. A sense of accomplishment goes a long way toward completion of a whole project, so when spring cleaning, start with rooms that do not get as much use. You will not be as tired when it comes to some of the more labor-intensive areas such as the basements, attics and garages.
- Price and purge as you go. Be sure to keep with you three garbage bags or cardboard boxes marked "trash," "sell" and "donate." Before committing to hanging on

to items you plan to make a profit on, set a date for your rummage sale and price items as you place them in boxes. This will save time later and insure you stay committed. If this feels like too much trouble, then donate or trash all unwanted items.

Make a list of big jobs that need to be done. Inevitably, you will find a number of jobs needing to be taken care of as you clean. Keep a running list of these added tasks in your phone so you don't forget them at a later date.

Step-by-step room cleaning: Wipe walls and ceilings to remove any smudges, espe-Dust your home thoroughly including all of the hard cially around door jams, windows and light switches. to reach areas. This may require a number of cleaning Use a vacuum to remove dust from ceilings, fans and implements that can get into tight spaces. Do not forget vents. (If there is a lot of grime, be sure to wash items baseboards, corners and behind furnishings. with hot, sudsy water and dry thoroughly.) Apply protective waxes and coatings to any materials Reseal grout lines around wall, floor and countertops. needing an annual coat, including furnishings, floor-Protect it with a grout sealer using a small foam brush. ings, etc. Dust books and shelves by removing all titles, going Clean bathrooms (including medicine cabinets, linen over each book with a cloth and thoroughly dusting the closets, drains, etc.). shelves with a rag before replacing the books. Go over all hard-to-reach shelving units with a feather duster. Change the batteries in your smoke detectors and rotate your mattress. Shampoo or steam clean rugs, carpet and upholstery items with products made for their specific materials or take them to a professional cleaning surface. Beat Clean window treatments, shower curtains and windust out of cushions and throw pillows before replacing dow screens. them on your furniture. If possible, wash any coverings according to the manufacturer instructions. Clean windows and window jams using a vacuum attachment to pick up any hard to reach dust and Polish metal hardware. debris. Vacuum thoroughly. This is the one time of year when it can be especially handy to invest in some help to get the job done. Local firms can do a great job with some of the more basic tasks while you tackle some of the more difficult ones. Ask friends for their recommendations and then book your appointment soon.



April Check List

- Trim back any dormant trees and non-flowering shrubs
- Remove any deadwood from past storms or other casualties
- O Uncover winterized roses and feed them when the green growth is about 2" long
- O Before the last frost gradually remove winter mulch from perennials but save some in case of an unexpected late freeze
- Fertilize spring-blooming bulbs such as daffodils and hyacinths after they bloom but leave the foliage alone for nourishment of next year's blooms
- O Begin potting tender bulbs indoors to give them a head start
- O Put out an abundance of food for migrating birds
- O Till your spring veggie garden when the soil is dry and crumbly, and let the soil settle for a week or so
- Plant veggies such as spinach, lettuce, broccoli, beets, radishes, peas and carrots
- O Start seeds indoors for summer vegetables and annual herbs, and plant perennial herbs such as rosemary, thyme and lavender
- O Clean and disinfect summer containers
- O Start planting annual seeds indoors
- Before the last frost, lightly fertilize cool-season grasses, while aerating and dethatching only if absolutely necessary
- After last frost, fertilize and plant warm-season grasses and fruit trees
- After last frost, plant summer veggies such as tomatoes, corn, squash and peppers outdoors
- After the last frost, plant tender bulbs outdoors
- For annuals and containers, deadhead flowers to force more blooms
- O Move houseplants gradually outside once night temperatures stay above 55° F.









By Steve Penhollow

Mulching time is nigh and not all mulches are created equal.

Just as one must thump melons to find a ripe one, a person perusing mulches must comparison-shop, according to Dave Geller, co-owner for Arbor Farms.

The finer the grind, the better the mulch, he said.

"You can look and see how it's ground," Geller said. "Some mulches are not ground quite as fine as others. You should check to see if there's some debris in it, like recycled pallets."

Ideally, mulch should break down in a season or two, he said.

"You want it to turn to soil," he said. "You don't want it lasting forever."

Resources:

Arbor Farms Nursery, Fort Wayne, 260.637.5816, arborfarmsnursery.com
Buesching's, Fort Wayne, 260.625.3358, bueschings.com
Felger's Peat Moss, Fort Wayne, 260.693.3134, felgerspeatmoss.com
Graber Lumber, Spencerville, 260.238.4124

According to the Jolly Gardener website, mulches composed of recycled wooden pallets can add whatever dangerous chemicals the pallets have absorbed, or been treated with, to the soil.

Geller said that people often choose natural wood mulch (cedar, cypress, hardwood, pine bark, etc.) for its aesthetic qualities, both visual and aromatic.

The higher-priced mulches, like cedar and cypress, don't biodegrade as quickly as some of the cheaper mulches, according to Laurinda, a customer service rep with Buesching's Peat Moss & Mulch.

Vegetable dyes are sometimes used to enhance or prolong a natural or atypical color, Geller said. Even though these products are environmentally safe, there are downsides.

"It doesn't seem to break down as fast as natural mulches that don't have a dye," he said.

If mulch doesn't break down after a couple of seasons, Geller said, it may need to be dug up and out before new mulch can be applied.



"Sometimes people want to freshen mulch up and they may have a pretty thick layer of mulch already," he said. "So they may need to put down a thin layer or actually go in and take some of that old mulch away.

"Sometimes it crusts over and it just doesn't break down the way it should," Geller said. "You can come in

and aerate and water it and try to make it break down."

Geller recommends staying at two to three inches with a mulch layer. "No more than that," he said.

If your mulch layer has been built to a depth of seven or eight inches, you'll want to dig out at least half of that, Laurinda said.

"If you have areas that are clumping up more, it means it's not decomposing into the ground," she said.

Why bother mulching?

Mulch is important for a number of reasons, Geller said.

"It helps retain moisture and reduces weeds in the planting bed," he said. "Around trees it offers a buffer between the grass and the tree when you're mowing."

Tips for the Novice Gardener

When novice gardeners ask Geller for mulch application tips, he advises them of some key components.

"Don't put it down too thick," he said. "A couple of inches is all. You don't want it touching your plants. That mulch can keep the bark of a tree or the bark of a shrub wet and it can cause it to rot."

A landscaping professional should be called if the homeowner has physical limitations, of course, Geller said.

Such a professional can also apply a preemergent (an herbicide to prevent the germination of weed seeds) and can put a professional edge on the grass.

"That definitely
helps you define your
planting beds when you
do that," he said. "They
have equipment to do
that in a pretty efficient
manner."



When to begin mulching?

April is a good month to start your mulching activities, Geller said. It's time to get busy!









By Shannon Rooney

The laundry room can easily become a catch-all for stuff—especially if it's attached to a well-used entrance or mudroom. Many homeowners combine the laundry room with the mudroom in an effort to keep the mess in one place. But even then, it takes some creativity for a busy family to stay organized.

According to Bob Buescher, CEO of Bob Buescher Homes, homeowners most often prefer laundry areas that are shut off from the rest of the home. "That way, when you have guests, you can shut the door, and they'll just walk right past." Often there's a guest powder room nearby, so being able to close your laundry room door means you won't have to keep it presentable for guests. Buescher added that, while you may not want visitors to encounter the laundry room, you can custom design it to flow seamlessly with the design and functionality of your home.

Check out these tips to make your laundry room both useful and beautiful.

Get Creative with Storage

Make your space functional for you with specialized storage. "Certainly a lot of people are making the laundry room more custom," said Buescher. "You have

Resources:

Barkley Builders, Fort Wayne, 260.622.7674, barkleybuildersinc.com

Bob Buescher Homes, Fort Wayne, 260.490.3355, bobbuescherhomes.com

Custom Quality Homes, Fort Wayne, 260.710.0815, customqualityhomes.net



places to put cleaning supplies, sorting bins, a rod for hanging things to dry."

If you have a lot of delicate items, install pull-out drying racks that fold into a wall mount. A long countertop offers space for folding and applying stain remover before you wash. Beneath the counter, pull-out laundry bins help sort darks and lights. You could also designate a bin for each family member. Store detergent, fabric softener and dryer sheets in cabinets above the counter for easy access. Add a hook to hang up your ironing board when not in use.

Add Unique Features

Most laundry rooms come equipped with a mud sink, a large utility sink for handwashing clothes or spraying off muddy boots. If your sink is in constant use, you may enjoy a small utility shower. These are mini shower stalls

low to the ground, helpful for bathing pets and spraying off larger items like sports equipment.

The cleaning closet is another trending feature. Add an extra closet or some vertical cabinetry for storing cleaning items like mops, brooms, and your vacuum cleaner. This can double as a linen closet, where you can store bathroom and kitchen towels and extra paper products.

Combine Efforts

It's common to have a laundry room that doubles as a mudroom. Laundry rooms are often positioned by the back door, which makes a perfect spot to deposit wet boots or sports equipment. Buescher said many homeowners are changing that model and creating a combination laundry room-craft room or workout room. As the laundry room footprint grows, there's more space for added activities. When planning out your laundry room, try playing around with the square footage. You may be able to give that room a secondary purpose.







By Barb Sieminski

Do you remember when you were a child and your parents took the family for a leisurely Sunday drive to see all the new homes being built? Get ready to view some cool homes again, both inside and out.

The 2017 Spring Town & Country New Home & Specialty Retail Tour is coming to town, according to Jessica Scheurich, president of the Home Builders Association of Fort Wayne. The dates are the weekends of April 29 and 30 and May 6 and 7, and the scattered site show is comprised of 46 homes, 12 maintenance-free villaminiums, 2 home-building sites and 28 in-home vendors discussing their product/service at many of the homes.

The show will highlight the features of the homes in areas of Fort Wayne, New Haven, Grabill, Spencerville, Roanoke, Ossian and Auburn, displaying a wide range of floor plans in all price categories. And, said Maurine Holle, executive director of the Home Builders Association of Fort Wayne Inc. now is the best time to buy.

Check out the new innovations and design upgrades in every room of these beautifully-crafted homes and custom-styled villas. Interior designs have been especially creative this year. Some bedrooms feature skylights and also Jack and Jill baths, with each having its own sink and dressing area. Dinettes in some homes highlight slider doors, which offer both daylight and patio access. Spacious windows and covered porches offer lovely addition lake views in some villas and homes, and interior designs brighten up the whole abode. Customizable floor plans in contemporary ranch, two-story, cottage and multi-level homes await your 'oohs' and 'ahhs.' Wood-burning fireplaces in living



rooms and bedrooms keep the house cozy in winter—and even safe rooms and the occasional elevator are offered.

Admission is free to the public, so bring a friend or two. Homes will be open from noon until 5 p.m. each weekend. The guide will be available in the Fort Wayne Newspaper on Sunday, April 23, rack distribution at Scott's, Kroger and Save-a-lot grocers and at sponsor locations.

Some of the past participants who will be again featured at the show include Granite Ridge Builders, Delagrange Homes, Westport Homes, Bob Buescher Homes, Lancia Homes, Carriage Place Homes, Ruoff Mortgage, MidWest America FCU, Fifth Third Bank, Academy Mortgage, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, NIPSCO, Caliber Home Loans, and others. New participants

consist of Timberlin Properties LLC, Wannemacher Design Build, Quality Crafted Homes, Slattery Builders, Majestic Homes, Preston Allen Homes LLC, Maggos Builders, Heller Homes, Foster and Park Homes LLC and more.

This event is presented by the HBA of Fort Wayne and sponsored by Fort Wayne Newspapers, Miller Heating & Air Conditioning, Three Rivers, Carter Lumber, Menard's, 97.3 WMEE and WOHK 105. The website is sponsored by Diamond Residential Mortgage.

For more information, please contact Maurine Holle, executive director of the Home Builders Association of Fort Wayne Inc., 305 W. Main Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802; phone 260.420.2020; maurinehbafortwayne@frontier.com.

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Easter Quiche



By Sue Rawlinson

This time of year, quiche and Easter go together about as happily as peanut butter and chocolate. If the family Sunday brunch is held at your homestead this year, check out this simple recipe for the season's holiday favorite.

Easter Quiche

Ingredients:

- 1 9-inch single crust pastry pie shell
- 6 slices bacon
- ½ cup chopped ham
- 1 white onion, sliced
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 ½ cups milk
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 ½ cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon flour

Directions:

- 1. Preheat oven to 450. Line pastry shell with aluminum foil. Bake in oven for 8 minutes. Remove foil and bake 5 additional minutes. Remove from oven and lower temperature to 325 degrees.
- 2. In skillet, cook bacon until crisp. Drain, reserving 2 tablespoons of drippings. Crumble bacon; set aside. Cook the onion in drippings until tender. Drain.
- 3. In a bowl, stir together eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Stir in bacon and onion.
- 4. In separate bowl, mix cheese and flour together; then add to egg mixture. Mix well.
- 5. Pour egg mixture into piecrust.
- 6. Bake at 325 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes.
- 7. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Enjoy!

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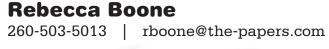
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Mom-Days, May-Days

The Dude Issue The All-American

Deadline: Fri., April 14

Deadline: Fri., May 12 Deadline: Fri., June 16





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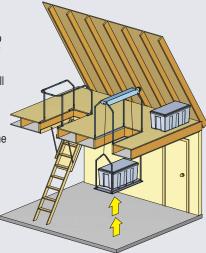
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HOME community | books

April Books

By Steve Penhollow

"April is the cruelest month," wrote poet T.S. Eliot. Eliot was referring to how hard it can be at this time of year for an older person to be reminded of his youth.

The beauty of spring is in the eye of the beholder, of course, and April can be a time of renewal for anyone, of any age.

Here are a few books to help you embrace the season.



The Book of Hygge: The **Danish Art of Contentment, Comfort, and Connection**

by Louisa Thomsen Brits

Plume \$22

ISBN-10: 0735214093; ISBN-13: 978-0735214095

Hygge (pronounced hoo-gah) is one of those non-English words that are not precisely translatable into English. Hygge, according to an article in the Chicago Tribune, is the "Danish concept that evokes the feeling, roughly speaking,

of cozying up with friends or family around a crackling fire or at least a few flickering candles." It "rolls up a sense of belonging, relaxation and enjoyment into one comfy package—or better yet,

into one cuddly blanket."

The book is a guide to creating this state of mind and state of grace in your home. It explores, in detail, six key themes of hygge: belonging, shelter, comfort, wellbeing, simplicity and observance. The Danes (according to the author, Louisa Thomsen Brits) entreat us to find the special in the everyday, to pause and reflect on the present bounty in our lives and to value people over things.



Welcome to the Farm: How-to Wisdom from The Elliott Homestead Paperback

by Shaye Elliott

Lyons Press; \$21.95 ISBN-10: 1493026011;

ISBN-13: 978-1493026012

Blogger Shaye Elliott, a Washington state homesteader, shares her hard-won wisdom about living off the land. One doesn't have to aspire to be a hardscrabble farmer to get a lot out of this book, however.

Amid chapters on raising cows and chickens, there is advice on seed starting; building your own greenhouse; canning, freezing and dehydrating food; and making cider and wine.

There is much here to entertain and edify the suburban gardener, the backwoodsman and the backwoodswoman.

With her blog and books, Elliot wants to "open up the idea of different food; to feeding your soul," she said. "This is how people existed for thousands of years, when people had to think about food," she said. "Now, we don't. We're missing out on being connected to the part of who we are that is real. This is a community lifestyle."



By Ray Balogh

FORT WAYNE: Native Plant Workshop

Learn why native plants are critical to a healthy, diverse Indiana ecology and how to create simple, habitat-friendly corridors in landscaping. Free native seed packet to attendees. \$10, pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 S. Calhoun St. 260.427.6440

lrwp.org.

FORT WAYNE: Move Forward: Writers 1.0

Comprehensive hands-on workshop for beginning writers. Includes writing skills and publishing information. \$50. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Allen County Public Library, 900 Plaza Drive. 813.728.6097.

Register at gomoveforward.com.

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.

FORT WAYNE: Rocktopia Live: a Classical (R)evolution

Unique live concert celebrating a fusion of classical music, classic rock and opera. \$102/\$63/\$42. 7 p.m. Sunday, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000

FORT WAYNE: Seinfeld

Enjoy the hilarity of famed stand-up comedian and sitcom star Jerry Seinfeld. \$150/\$85/\$65/\$50. 7 p.m. Thursday, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000 fwembassytheatre.

orq.



through June 1 FORT WAYNE: **Art Exhibit**

Featuring the art of lifelong Fort Wayne resident Thomas Leffers, who captures the human brain's constant absorption of external energy and refocuses it into positive and beautiful paintings. Free admission. Open 24/7, Fort Wayne International Airport, 3801 W. Ferguson Road. 260.705.8270 thomasleffersart.com.

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.

WABASH: First Friday: "Bloomin' Downtown"

Travel to each participating business where they will tell you the date their business opened. Write down all the dates on your First Friday guide to be entered to win a \$300 gift basket. Food trucks, live music, specials, more. Free admission. 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Friday, downtown. 260.563.7171

visitwabashcounty.com.

WABASH: Riverdance

20th Anniversary performance by famed international Irish dance troupe, featuring an innovative and exciting blend of dance, music and song. \$57/\$47/\$37/ 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102

honeywellcenter.org.

FORT WAYNE: "Sad Irons and Linens"

Learn about doing laundry in the "good old days." Part of bicentennial special series featuring history and hand arts of Indiana's heritage. \$20 for non-members. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Historic Sweeney Homestead, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd. 260.747.1501 or 260.747.1229 settlersinc.org.

WABASH: Duke Tumatoe

Concert by blues guitarist, vocalist, songwriter and founding member of REO Speedwagon. \$12. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Eagles Theatre, 106 W. Market St. 260.563.3272 eaglestheatre.com.



WABASH: Gourmet Dinner and Chamber Music

Dine on roasted duck breast with strawberry port reduction and enjoy the music of Paula and Roberto Monsalve. \$55. Concert at 6 p.m. Tuesday with dinner immediately following, Honeywell House, 720 N. Wabash St. 260.563.2326

honeywellhouse.org.



19 FORT WAYNE: "Short Hikes for Short Legs: Frogs Are Calling, It Must Be Spring!"

Learn to identify the calls of local frogs.

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.

20 WABASH: Dinosaur Zoo Live

Breathtaking interactive tour of pre-historic Australia with life-like dinosaur puppets presented in an entertaining and educational live theatrical performance. \$19/\$14/\$9. 7 p.m. Thursday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102



20-22, 27-29 NEW HAVEN, WOODBURN: Chicken BBQ

Customer appreciation sales event at both locations on different dates. Chicken BBQ, 8am until gone, Saturday, April 22 New Haven location and Saturday, April 29 Woodburn location. Schmucker Motor Repair, Sales & Service
New Haven 260.632.9019,
Woodburn 260.705.4130

23 FORT WAYNE: Vince Gill

An evening with singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Vince Gill. \$79.50/\$59.50/\$49.50/\$39.50.7 p.m. Sunday, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000 fwembassytheatre.org.

28 FORT WAYNE: 16th Annual Tapestry: A Day For You

Featuring award-winning journalist and photojournalist

Ann Curry as keynote speaker.
Proceeds go to the Tapestry Parkview Endowment and Scholarship Fund.
\$75 for open seating, \$800 for a reserved table of 10. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8



preferred lot. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502

memorialcoliseum.com.



29 FORT WAYNE: Open House

Windows Doors & More, Fort Wayne's premier provider of quality home renovation services, will host an open house. Free admission. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, 1121 W. Washington Center Road. 260.399.6037 wdmfactorystore.com.

29 SHIPSHEWANA: Kite Komotion

Attendees can fly their own kites or watch international kite teams performances and professional kite exhibitions. Clinics, candy drop, family fly field. Free admission. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Event Center, 760 S. Van Buren St. 260.768.7589 visitshipshewana.org.

29-30, May 6-7 FORT WAYNE: Town & Country New Home & Specialty Retail Tour

The scattered site show is comprised of 46 homes, 12 maintenance-free villaminiums, 2 home-building sites and 28 in-home vendors. Fort Wayne, New Haven, Grabill, Spencerville, Roanoke, Ossian and Auburn. Home Builders Association of Fort Wayne Inc. 260.420.2020

hometour.fortwayne.com.

30 FORT WAYNE: Earth Day Fort Wayne

Family-friendly community event celebrating Earth Day 2017, including conservation-oriented learning activities, education stations, farmers market, more. Free admission, open to children 3-5 accompanied by responsible adult. 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Sunday, Eagle Marsh barn, 6801 Engle Road. 260.478.2515

info@lrwp.org, lrwp.org.



5 Steps to prepare your home for sale this spring

By Barb Sieminski

You love your home but your family is outgrowing it quickly. Or your employer is relocating you to another state. Or, maybe you want to leave the city's bustling life for the rural tranquility of the country.

Whatever your decision to move, the occurrence involves getting your home ready for sale—as winter fades into yesterday and warm sunshine and spring breezes dance in to delight the year once again. Before putting your home on the market, check out these recommendations.

"The most important part of getting your house ready is having an experienced real estate agent walk through your home with you, pointing out minor repairs or changes needed to present the best appeal to a buyer," said Andrea Zehr of Mike Thomas Associates.

1. Make sure your home is clean. Wash windows, touch-up paint on walls, scrub grout and floors. Don't forget the bathroom: mirrors, shower tiles, floors, countertops; bedrooms should have clean linens and be vacuumed and dusted; living room's carpet should be vacuumed, the room dusted and the furniture cleaned. Kitchen appliances and countertops should be wiped down; cabinets dusted and refrigerator cleaned out and the floor mopped.



- 2. Remove anything too personalized, such as clothing, photos, art and plants and big furniture you don't use often. And if you can afford it, get help in depersonalizing your home and staging it for around \$600 or so. "Staging gives the home a much more professional appeal on the market, so that prospective buyers can imagine themselves in the home," said Patricia Piatt of Mike Thomas Associates.
- 3. Don't forget first impressions count with curb appeal. Tend to your lawn, pressure-wash the siding, add more flowers and shrubs around the sidewalk or front porch and put children's bikes
- and other toys away. Clean the gutters. Maybe even paint the front door a vibrant shade. Store outdoor items like cushions, umbrellas and drained hoses. Cover grills and larger patio furniture with tarps or custom-fit covers.
- **4.** This will be well worth the cost: hire a home inspector to check out any problems to be fixed before the buyer and his/her home inspector arrives. Repairing worn electrical wires, leaky pipes or holes in the roof are all good investments.
- 5. Some changes could increase the value of your home, such as a front door replacement, hardwood floor refinishing, etc. Ask your family and friends if they notice anything that could use a not-too-expensive upgrading.

Finally, after the sale is completed, bid a bittersweet farewell to your old domicile... and welcome to your new home.

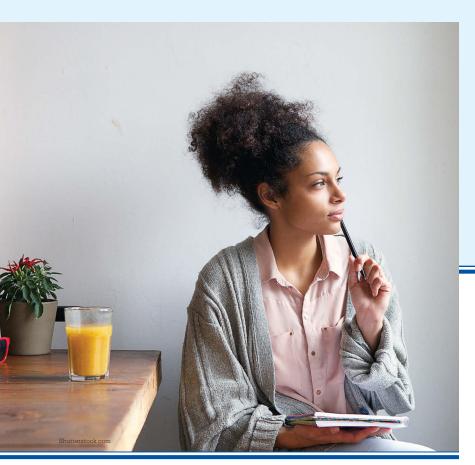
Mike Thomas Associates, Andrea Zehr/ Jake Zehr, Fort Wayne, 260.489.2000, mikethomasrealtor.com Mike Thomas Associates, Patricia Piat, Fort Wayne, 260.625.5550, mikethomasrealtor.com Rockfield Realty Group, Fort Wayne, 260,627,2200 Sold By The Gold, Beth Goldsmith, Fort Wayne, 260.479.1446, soldbythegold.com

Today's* Rates

30-Year Conventional, 4.125% 15-Year Conventional 3.375% 30-Year FHA, 4.50%

10 tips to remember when building:

- 1. If building cubbies for the teen kiddos in the mudroom, include an outlet for charging in each one.
- 2. Be sure to include a full-size broom cupboard in pantry or laundry room to hide all cleaning items.
- 3. In the bathroom, look into installing heated towel racks.
- 4. Hot/cold outdoor water is great for bathing pets.





- 5. Install gas line for grill.
- 6. Prewire speakers, both indoor and outdoor.
- 7. Remember a keypad entry on garage door.
- 8. Recess the fridge!! 'Nuff said.
- 9. Install pasta filler faucet beside stovetop (then you don't need to lug heavy pots of water from the sink).
- 10. Put pantry light on motion sensor.

*rates effective as of April 2017 issue publishing deadline date

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Barclay Allen **Timberlin Homes**

By Lauren Caggiano

Barclay Allen of Timberlin Homes knows the homebuilding process is very personal—and that fact calls for a personalized approach. The hallmark of each and every home they build is craftsmanship and attention to detail. Beyond the materials, they are Green Building certified, which means clients experience higher energy efficiency and lower maintenance throughout the life of the home.

What makes northeast Indiana such a great place to live?

Not only voted in a recent national poll as one of the most affordable markets in the country, northeast Indiana is a great place to raise a family. While being located near larger markets (Indianapolis, Chicago and Detroit), Fort Wayne has many amenities that folks can take advantage of. With less than an hour's drive, homeowners can also take advantage of their proximity to surrounding lake communities.

How did you get into home building?

After spending many years as a partner in another building company, I started Timberlin Homes in January 2006. Coming from a rich heritage steeped in family tradition, I learned valuable lessons in delivering a quality home in an ethical and timely manner. I have a passion for this business and really enjoy coming to work every day.

Barclay Alan

Timberlin Homes, 11623 Coldwater Road, Fort Wayne, 260.485.8000, timberlinhomes.com



Photo by Leaha Meinika

Introducing The Timberlin Homes Team, standing from left to right: Brad Wallace, Barclay Allen, Jodi Golm, Diane Kolch; seated from left to right: Matt Wenger, Jill Gibson, Ryan Overholt

Partnering with the client, Timberlin strives to create exactly what the client(s) envisioned and helps make it a reality.

How does your company use technology to enhance homes?

Timberlin is one of the area's most advanced homebuilders from a technology aspect. Systems are at the core of company. Our area has some wonderful craftsmen who build some wonderful homes. Where they drop the ball is in the communication with the client. We attempt to be the transparent builder and regularly communicate with our client. We do not want there to be any hidden surprises.

Tell me about your consultative approach.

By partnering with the client, we have developed an interactive process that is unique to our industry. By having a detailed, very involved bidding process before the contract is signed, we are able to deliver the client a realistic, detailed proposal that meets or exceeds the client's expectations.

Tell me about the merits of your team. Why do they stand out?

We pride ourselves on the experience of our team. Everyone has had years of experience in the industry that only helps to deliver a better, effective custom home. Whether it's the unique design, the systems and logistics, behind the scenes planning, and the execution of the building of the home, Timberlin has the complete package to make the experience for the client seamless.

Tell me about some of the awards your homes have won.

We have received many accolades and awards over the years for recognition of our achievements through home shows and other venues. We were recently awarded by Houzz.com 'Best of Houzz 2017' service award. As much as we appreciate the recognition from our peers, the most prized form of appreciation is from our clients. We value any referrals and recommendations that are sent our way!



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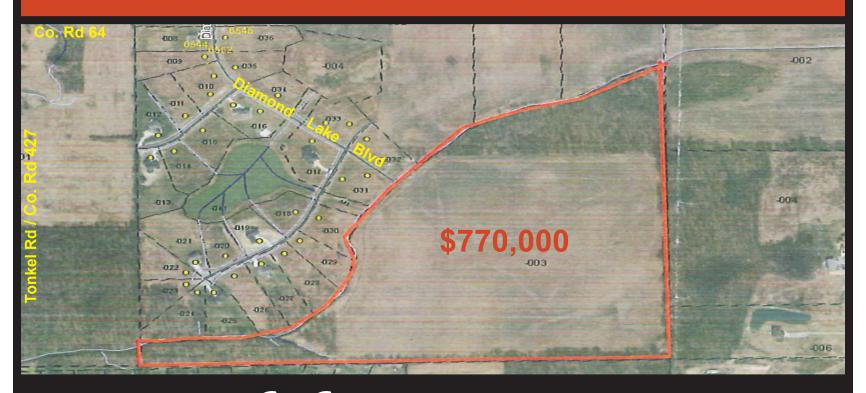
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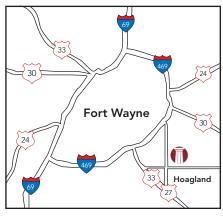






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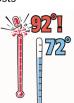




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