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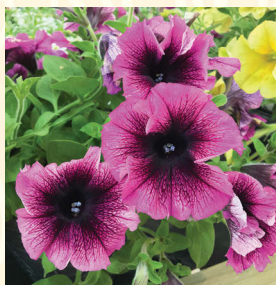
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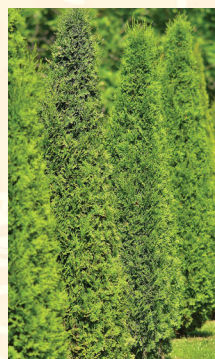
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welcome!



Sue Rawlinson

My babies.

She patiently waited, content in her crib, flipping through a Mother Goose book.

He catapulted himself from the crib for a running start each morning.

These were my varying morning routines, three years apart. So different from one another and yet each so amazingly fulfilling (and entertaining). Being a mom is precious stuff.

It's memories of routines and phases such as these that make a house, home. Each phase is an individual chapter in this thing called life—and our homes and families are what add the depth to our chapters. The transition of one phase to the next doesn't mean the prior chapter is closed. Each is simply a building block to progress our steps forward. It's continual growth and a healthy part of changing with the inevitable movement of life.

Deep, right?

But isn't May a great month to reflect and appreciate our pasts, for better or worse? Being the month of Mother's Day, it's a great time to remember the small details. To embrace yesteryear's memories at home—and to especially appreciate our mothers.

It's a time for reflection and appreciation. For peaceful moments on the porch. For noticing small details in décor and the blooming life that surrounds. And for many, it's a time to prep the house for sale. It is these topics and so much more within this issue of HOME Living.

Are you looking to refresh your home? Open the windows and clean out those closets. Get rid of the clutter to breathe a little more easily. Learn ways to give your home a facelift with newly resurfaced cabinetry. Or, spend more time outdoors. See this issue's outdoor checklist and learn about creating a flowerbed made just for cut flowers. Learn the best way to plant trees—and just so much more.

So give Mom a kiss. Share a fond memory with her. Tell her how much you love her. Hug your children no matter how old they may be; they'll always be your babies.

Happy Mother's Day and enjoy this beautiful month of May, readers. As always, thank you for reading.

Note: I wish the happiest of Mother's Days to my beautiful mother and very best friend. I miss you. 🏠

Happy
Mother's
Day

Sue

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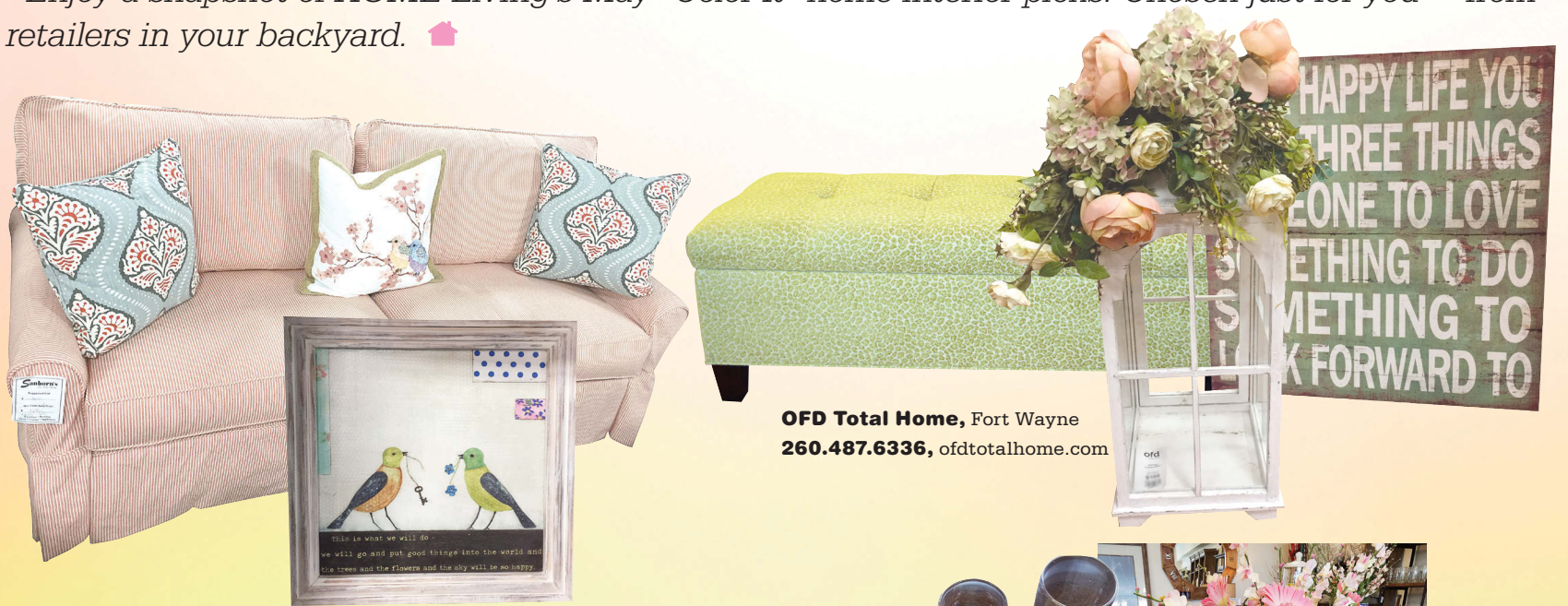
Pretty Pink & Light Green

By Sue Rawlinson

Photos by HOME Team

Dainty, feminine and soft are descriptions evoked by the pretty color of pink. Pair with the energy and vitality of bright green and we have a combo perfect for this beautiful month of May. It's the season for May flowers and this visual pair only further celebrates fresh blooms, the appeal of romance and the beauty of the season.

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



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260.487.6336, ofdtotalhome.com

Sanborn's For Your Home, Angola
260.665.9799, sanbornsforyourhomeangola.com



Dogwoods Home Décor, Fort Wayne
260.459.2110, dogwoodsdecor.com



Bernhaus Furniture, Berne
260.589.8324, bernhausfurniture.com



Trinity Home Design Center, New Haven
260.493.2574, kitchenbathlighting.com

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Planting Trees

By Ray Balogh

Though trees can be safely planted year-round, the onset of spring brings big aspirations for many do-it-yourself gardeners and landscapers.

Whether you're thinking of planting fruit, ornamental or shade trees, the best place to start is a decade or so into the future.

Location

Select the location for the new tree. Then step back and visualize how that tree will look in 10 years. Pay attention to overhead lines, sewer lines, sidewalks, driveways and other potential future obstructions. Before digging, call the local utilities to ensure safe excavation away from underground lines and pipes.

The Bare Details

Trees come from the nursery in two forms: bare-root and balled-and-burlapped, or "B and B."

Bare-root trees are dug up and all soil is washed away from their root systems. They are wrapped with moist packaging before shipping. Balled and burlapped trees contain a root ball complete with soil and wrapped in a wire cage and burlap. The packaging for the bare-root trees should be removed and the root system should be spread out before planting. The biodegradable burlap and wire mesh should be kept on the root ball when planting a "B and B" tree.

Planting

"The most essential thing is that the root ball stays intact," said Nicholas Miller, owner of Fort Wayne Trees in Columbia City. "The wire basket does not hinder the tree. The roots will make their way around the basket."



The sides of the hole for a bare-root tree should be scarred before planting because an auger or shovel will glaze the sides of the hole, and the roots will not be able to penetrate the surface. Otherwise, the guidelines for—and the dangers of—planting either type of tree are basically the same. A local nursery or extension office can provide expert advice.

Watering

"The number one killer of trees is overwatering," said Miller. "In this area, the ground is made of clay and heavy soil. When you dig the holes you create a clay pot in the ground and the water sits there, drowning the tree. You want to plant a tree high to prevent that," Miller advised.

Proper watering is a balancing act. "Trees like infrequent deep waterings as opposed to frequent, light waterings," said Miller, who suggested "one deep soaking a week, with a slow trickle from a hose for 20 to 30 minutes."

"At the end of the day, no one can tell you how to water the tree. You have to get down on your hands and knees and test the soil yourself," he said. "Baby that tree for the first two summers and it will pay dividends the rest of its life." 🏡

Resources:

Arbor Farms, Fort Wayne, 260.637.5816, arborfarmsnursery.com

Buesching's Peat Moss & Mulch, Fort Wayne, 260.625.3358, bueschings.com

Felger's Peat Moss, Fort Wayne, 260.693.3134, felgerspeatmoss.com

Fort Wayne Trees, 574.625.8080

Graber Lumber, Spencerville, 260.238.4124, graberlumber.com

Main's Flower Garden Inc., Fort Wayne, 260.749.5307

Plant Center, Fort Wayne, 260.432.7370, plantcenterinc.com

Vanroot Growers Plant Nursery, Fort Wayne, 260.747.7389, vanrootgrowers.com



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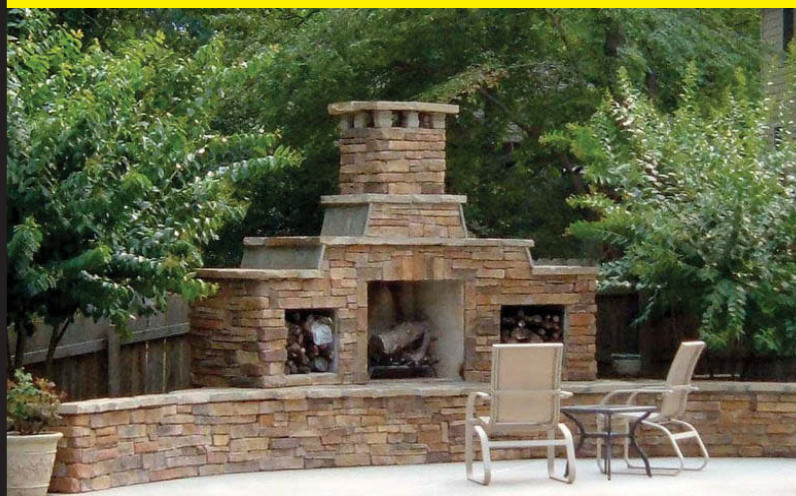
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Details that Tie the Room Together

By Shannon Rooney

The objects on display in our homes are often serendipitous finds. This vase looked good on the mantel. That throw pillow matched a color in the drapes. Often, it's these details that make a room feel "finished." But if there's no rhyme or reason to your decorative accents, how do you take a room from thrown-together to polished?

Choose pieces you love and follow a few simple guidelines.

Create Vignettes

It may be easier to think of the room you're decorating as a combination of multiple, little "scenes." Start with a shelf and arrange several items on it to create a pleasing vignette. You might include a clock, several books and a vase, for example. Group together items in similar colors or style, and employ the rule of odd numbers: layer objects in odd-numbered arrangements, which has shown to be more pleasing to the eye than even numbers.

Deck the Walls

Choose art that speaks to you. Here's some advice from Fort Wayne artist Thomas Leffers. "Find a local artist. Check out their portfolio and choose a piece that fits your house's color palette or just a piece that is aesthetically pleasing to you." Unique art becomes conversation pieces. "When buying from a local artist, you get more heart, love, passion and a meaning in the work than if you were to buy from a chain design store," said Leffers. The art you choose can tell a story about your home and the people in it.

Resources:

Dogwoods Home Décor, Fort Wayne, 260.459.2110, dogwoodshome.com

Living Quarters, Syracuse, 574.457.2929, livingquartersstore.com

OFD Total Home, Fort Wayne, 260.487.6336, ofdtotalhome.com

Raber Patio Enclosures and Furniture, 260.768.7100

Thomas Leffers Art, Fort Wayne, tom@tlafor.com, thomasleffersart.com

Just Add Green

It's refreshing to be surrounded by living things, even indoors. If you enjoy plants, but are looking for something low-maintenance, never fear. "Succulents are huge right now," said Eva Wingard at Raber Patio Enclosures and Furniture in Shipshewana. Greenery, in general, is popular with her customers, as well as the pottery that contains it. Do your research before purchasing houseplants. Easy-to-grow varieties include aloe, snake plant, philodendron and spider plant. Planters come in all shapes and materials. Rustic, jug-style and contemporary slate planters are especially popular right now.

Pick Your Pillows

Throw pillows are a fun, decorative accent that can tie colors in multiple patterns together. Try creating a "pillowscape" on your living room sofa. A typical arrangement would include a matching pair of solid, square pillows that contrast with the color of your sofa, an oblong pillow for the center and two odd pillows with a unique pattern or shape. For adjacent armchairs, coordinate pillows by repeating one of the patterns on the couch.

Floor Décor

Rugs do a lot of work in tying a room together. Like throw pillows, they are complementary pieces, meant to reflect your overall design. Stick with similar colors and a pattern that varies from drapes and other textiles in the room. Or vice versa. After you've picked your color and pattern, consider size. In traditional living room arrangements, the rug is often one size up from the square footage of the furniture grouping. In the dining room, choose a rug that allows enough room for chairs to pull out and not fall off the edge. 🏠

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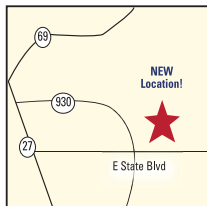
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Love This Look?

By Kelley Glaze

Photos by Sue Rawlinson

Love this look? Good. We'll share how interior designer Kelley Glaze with Kelley J. Interiors pulled it together.

This sunny space, in the home of Lisa and Gary Bressler, was designed to be a retreat away from life's hustle and bustle. The sunroom's colors and vacation-style furniture is what really creates the room's restful feel. We chose the aqua tone because it is a soothing color and reminds of Caribbean waters. Enjoy a snapshot into this beautiful home.






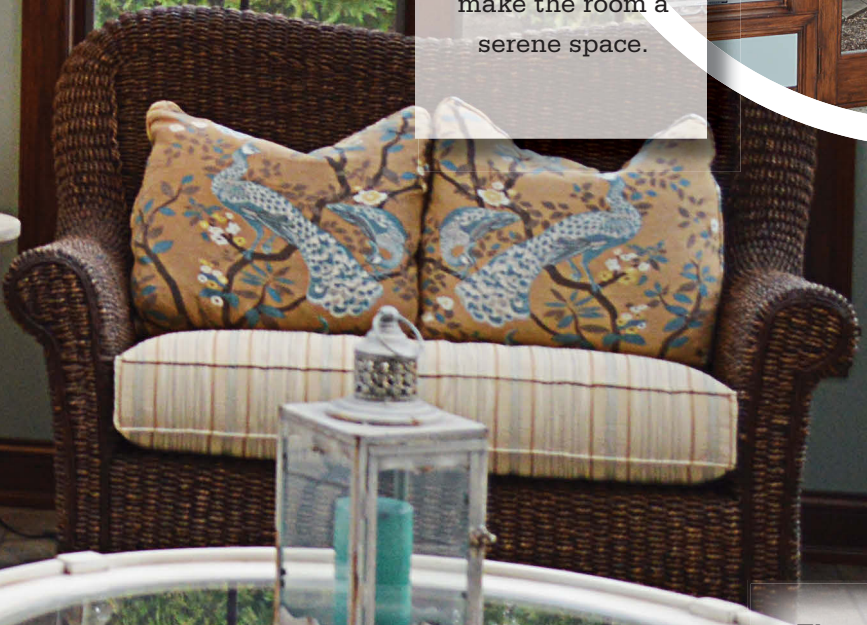
The ceiling is painted Benjamin Moore HC Greenfield Pumpkin. This color brings the high ceiling down and helps warm the space.



This beautiful wool rug from Aaron's Orientals brings the outside in with its botanical feel. Adding this round rug beneath the round table helps to balance this long room.

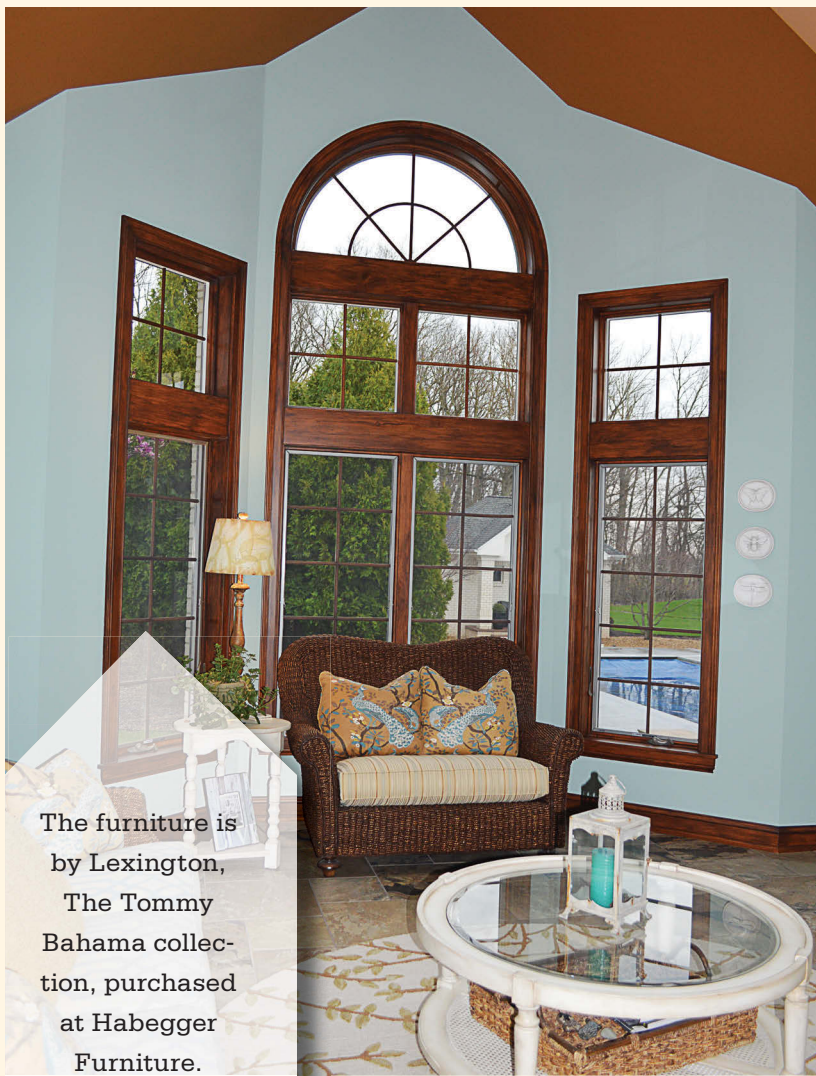


The calming wall color (Sherwin Williams Quietude SW 6212), helps to make the room a serene space.



The use of different textures is what makes this room work. I used wicker, rattan, woods, metals, soft pillows and a throw afghan.

more on page 14



The furniture is by Lexington, The Tommy Bahama collection, purchased at Habegger Furniture.



The details of birds, bugs and foliage bring in the outdoors and the skylight ceiling warms the area while sitting reading a book or hanging with the family bird.



The wood trim was originally a pickled stain. The painter, or should I say artist, stained it dark then added the knots to add character.



Meet Mia, the princess of this room. 🏠

Suppliers:

Designer: Kelley J. Interiors, Fort Wayne, kelleyjinteriors.com

Aaron's Oriental Rug Gallery (rug), 260.422.5184

Habegger Furniture (furniture), 260.471.3001

Jack Laurie Home Floor Designs (floor), 260.209.1682

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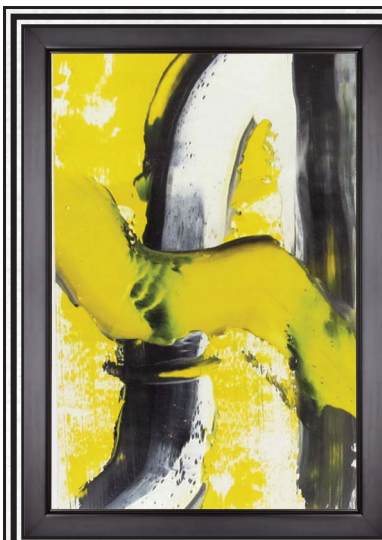
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Peaceful Porches



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By Lauren Caggiano

There's something about porch time that seems to slow the passage of time. All you need is a cold beverage, good company and conversation and you have an instant recipe for a peaceful early summer's eve. Put your smartphone aside and get lost in the moment on your dream porch.

Sure, the intangibles are important, but you must have the essentials in place before you can have all the fun.

Luckily for homeowners, there are more options than ever for outdoor living. Jenny Sanborn with Sanborn's For Your Home in Angola said to start with the basics. Furniture is a must, of course. After all, you want your guests to be comfortable and stay a while.

"Amenities available today include furniture that is as beautiful and comfortable as indoor furniture," she said.



Photo Provided

Consider both form and function when making furniture selections. Northeast Indiana's weather is always a factor when choosing porch and patio furniture. For example, umbrellas and retractable awnings are key to protect from the sun. Covers for patio furniture are recommended to extend life. Storage during our winter months is best to protect your investment.

Furniture may steal the show visually, but other important details will play supporting roles. James Lewis, president of DuHadway, said LED lighting, ceiling fans, screens to keep bugs off and glass in to keep rain and snow out, are all investments that can pay dividends, especially in terms of comfort.

Resources:

DuHadway, Fort Wayne, 260.426.2000, duhadway.com

Living Quarters, Syracuse, 574.457.2929, livingquartersstore.com

Morsches Builders Mart, Columbia City, 260.244.6145, morschesbuildersmart.com

Raber Patio Enclosures, 260.768.7100

Sanborn's For Your Home, Angola, 260.665.9799, sanbornsforyourhomeangola.com



Lewis recommends outdoor curtains. In addition to privacy, they can combat high winds and fluctuating temperatures.

Now that you have the interior taken care of, consider additional exterior elements like decking. Les Kinder, sales manager with Morsches Builders Mart, said many alternatives to traditional wood material are on the market, which are durable and require less maintenance. He recommends AZEK Deck, the most beautiful and long-lasting wood alternative available. Select from a collection of inspired colors and grains for an enhanced real-wood look that lasts.

But don't stop here. A porch is an opportunity to infuse some of your personality and reflect your sensibilities.

"Accessories like outdoor pillows, rugs, lighting, heaters, fountains and artwork are essential to creating a sanctuary," said Sanborn.

And don't be afraid to bring Mother Nature into the fold. Hanging plants and ferns are hardy varieties that can add some color and serve as conversation pieces, too.

Beyond the aesthetics, consider the practicality factor. Appliances like fire tables and pizza ovens can kick things up a notch, too. This way, your porch can become an extension of your kitchen if you want.

A final thought: As you design your dream porch, keep the big picture in mind, especially if you aren't planning to stay in the home for a long time. "Quality of life is enhanced by being able to enjoy the great outdoors by being comfortable and having all the amenities you can have indoors," Sanborn said. "Curb appeal is key to resale value, and a rocker or bench with some accessories goes a long way. An inviting porch is the first step to staging a house for resale." 🏠

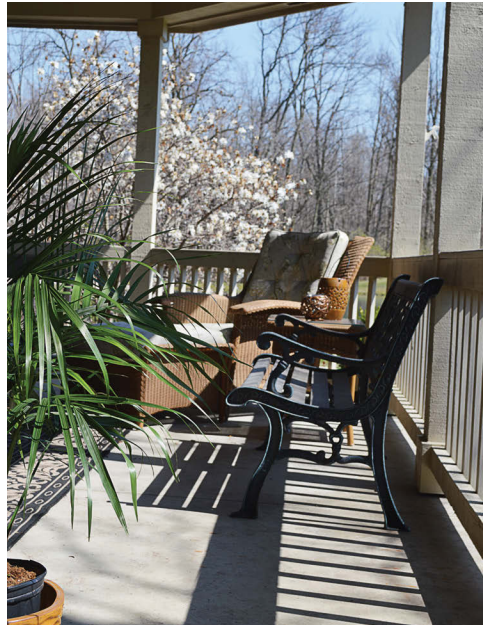


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Cabinets Need A Makeover? Here's how.

By Steve Penhollow

One downside of the sunlight that floods the kitchen in the springtime is how fully it illuminates those dull and worn-out cabinets.

Kitchen cabinet replacement can set a homeowner back tens of thousands of dollars.

But there are alternatives.

Cabinet refacing can be a relatively economical option. It runs roughly one-third the cost of total replacement. Refacing usually involves replacing doors and applying new veneers.

Even more economical and quicker is a system called N-Hance Wood Renewal.

N-Hance is a wood renewal and refinishing process that requires no sanding.

Ben Knipp owns an N-Hance franchise here in Fort Wayne.

In the last two decades, Knipp said, a lot of homeowners chose refacing over traditional refinishing because traditional refinishing was such a hassle.

"That became kind of the norm for a long time," he said, "because refinishing required a big amount of sanding and

as the cabinet builders went to more veneers, the veneers got thinner as time went on. And they can't be sanded."

N-Hance employs a wet abrasion cleaning process "that allows us to prep the surface of even a veneer," Knipp said.

"It's a very deep clean with some abrasive pads that will prep the surface to take new coats of urethane-based product," he said.

If the homeowner just wants to cabinets to look like they did when they were new, Knipp said, that's a process that the local N-Hance crew can do in one day.

For a more customized look (white cabinets; a custom paint color; a deeper richer wood tone, etc.), those processes take three to five days, he said.

One thing that makes this speediness possible is a process called the Lightspeed UV Curing System.

It involves an anti-microbial UV wood finish and a UV light machine.

"We have everything completely dried, completely cured and ready for use (in a few hours)," Knipp said.

He said the N-Hance processes are among the most inexpensive cabinet refreshers that professionals can be hired to do.

Of course, there are plenty of DIY kits available at big box stores, Knipp said, but buyers should be wary.

"There are similar products out there that try to be like our N-Hance brand," he said. "Knowing how to use them is a big thing, unless you're a person who has worked with your hands a lot—who understands, not just painting, but actually finishing..."

Resources:

Cabinets Unlimited, 260.925.5555

Madison Cabinets, Hoagland, 260.639.3915, madisoncabinets.com

N-Hance Wood Renewal and Refinishing, Fort Wayne, 260.341.6671, nhance.com

Trinity Home Design Center, 260.493.2574

Zehr's Antiques, 260.627.3372



Another alternative to full cabinet replacement is “replacing the hardware,” according to Kevin Walsh, owner of Trinity Home Design in New Haven.

“Replacing the hardware” means replacing “the drawer pulls and handles and things like that,” he said.

Walsh said a change of hardware can really transform the look of a kitchen.

“Because of different finishes and different styles, ranging from cutesy stuff ... to it being contemporary or transitional or traditional,” he said. “There are dozens of different finishes.”

Replacing the hardware may be the most cost-effective option of all.

“You could do that for 2 or 3 hundred dollars,” Walsh said. Which option is best for you? 🏠

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The Dirt: May Checklist

By Barb Sieminski

When May bursts out of the year's womb it's showtime at its finest. Gullies are greening, trilliums are bursting in wakening forests, trees are coloring themselves in pastels, the sky takes on a softer hue, the sunshine is blessedly warmer and all the returning birds are having endless choir practices.

In celebration then, we look toward our yards to create new floral carpets, greenery and edibles. Here are some things to keep you celebrating all month long:

- Take time to shake the final winter memoirs out of your house and yard and just enjoy the fresh air. That means screens open and laundry breezing on the line.
- Rejoice in the sweet scent of lilacs and let your mind roll back to school days when you had to memorize the first verse of "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," which to your surprise has become one of your favorite poems.
- Make sure your tools are sharpened and ready to go, including lawn mower blades, pruning shears, spades, garden clippers and other garden items to facilitate easy gardening.
- Try plantings of new flowers you've long admired and begin by mulching. This will help reduce weeds and help retain moisture. Plant items like columbines, irises, epimediums and heuchera and watch your plot blossom through the summer—and stake your flowers now.
- Add a memorial to your garden with a new bush or tree to honor a veteran, a person or pet. Include edging plants to borders and walkways. Good bets include ageratum, dusty miller, petunias, pansies and verbena.
- Seed patchy spots and mow high (3 inches) to give new grass a chance to "take."
- Glimpsing pests on shrubs and plants? Get rid of them now.
- Begin cutting and deadheading as soon as blossoming starts.
- Repot indoor plants and set outside to flourish, as long as they're in partial shade most of the day. 🏠

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Planning cut flower beds



By Cathy Shouse

There's nothing like a bouquet of cut flowers to brighten a mother's heart on her special day. Fresh flowers say "welcome" to company, and add warmth to a rare family night at home. A cutting garden offers the luxury of walking outside the door to simply carry the beauty of nature inside.

Blake Young of Young's Greenhouse and Flower Shop said, "I think that over the last about 10 years, more and more people have been interested in cutting-garden plants. I grow an acre at home and we sell all the plants. We've been doing this for five generations."

In planning a bed of cutting flowers, consider plant height. Long stemmed plants are best for making arrangements. Plants 6 inches or shorter are ideal for boutonnieres or bridal bouquets. "Zinnias, that grow up to 40 inches tall, would make a great back border," Young said. "Snapdragons could fill in the middle since they grow 30 inches. Lily-of-the-Valley, cosmos, and Chinese forget-me-nots don't get super tall. Sunflowers are a good choice for borders, too."

The beauty of a cutting garden is having many flowers to choose from. Plus, they can be elaborate, aim toward simple elegance—or anything in between.

"Choosing a spot is very important," said Luetta Burlage, president and owner/partner of Main's Flower Garden, Inc. Most cut gardens need six to eight hours of sun for the best blooms and to promote continuous blooming. All annuals will re-bloom after they are cut. The best spot to cut at is just above a leaf joint. Some perennials will re-bloom but not all."

"After selecting the flowers, check the soil. It should be loose and fertile," Burlage said. "You should add humus or processed cow manure and mix it in. Soil should not be wet to work with. Tamp down around the plant, then water but don't soak the soil."

Use a time release fertilizer sprinkled on soil after planting. Then every 3 to 4 weeks use fertilizer, such as Jack's or Miracle Gro.

Vanessa Rutledge of Vanroot Growers has a cutting garden strictly for her 7- and 5-year-old. "Our children get really excited about it," Rutledge said. "We throw zinnia seeds near the

front of the house by the air conditioner, with no special soil or anything. They give them to neighbors and get to see them grow from seeds to plants." 🏠

Plant choices:

ANNUALS

Angelonia
Begonia
Coleus, for foliage color
Geraniums
Lantana
Salvia
Stock
Sunflower
Verbena
Zinnia

PERENNIAL

Cardinal Flower
Carnation
Coreopsis
Delphinium
Foxglove
Iris
Lavender
Lily
Lupine
Scabiosa
Rose
Rose of Sharon



Resources:

Main's Flower Garden Inc., Fort Wayne, 260.749.5307

Vanroot Growers Plant Nursery, Fort Wayne, 260.747.7389,
vanrootgrowers.com

Young's Greenhouse & Flower Shop, 260.245.0012

All photos Shutterstock.com

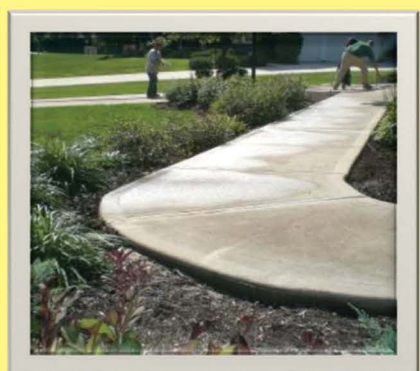
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Clutter's gone — What's next?

By Barb Sieminski

You have done it. You've cleaned all of your home's closets in celebration of spring. Your closets look so wonderful now that you have sorted the items to be tossed, kept and donated. Look how much roomier your new spaces are now that your kids pitched in (the bribe of going to Chuck E. Cheese's for dinner was irresistible).

However, if you have not actually started on the closet yet, check out our tips for a stress-free closet organization first—and this time, you will have no excuse for procrastinating that task until spring 2018.

1. Arrange your closet by types — create a space for each item. Use a clear plastic bin just for grouping purses. Hang a transparent over-the-door shoe rack for footwear if you have a small closet. Or, keep shoes neatly in each person's color-coded basket. Group sleeveless, short-sleeved and long-sleeved shirts together.

2. Sort clothes on the rack by season — clothes at one end for winter, followed by spring, summer and fall. Keep the easiest clothes to access in the middle for the current season and just rotate as desired.

3. Include hooks halfway down the wall for your kids to hang those school clothes when they return home so they will not leave them on the floor.

4. Add shelves and cubbies vertically to free more space for other items.

5. Master the art of folding; if things like t-shirts, tanks, sweaters and casual blouses

can't be hung, train yourself to fold neatly for optimum space and store these items in the vertical shelves.

Now that your closet has a new life, what in heck do you do with the leftovers? Sure, you could pile everything into two huge dumpsters and leave everything by the curbside. Instead, kill the two proverbial birds with one stone, while doing a good deed for others, as well.

Suitable hand-me-downs can go to a younger family member or to a friend's child. Older toys, furniture, beauty items and a hodgepodge of other items would be welcome at companies such as Goodwill (fwgoodwill.org), Salvation Army (satruck.org) or Once Upon a Child (onceuponachildfortwayne.com), which accepts toys and gently used clothing for infants and children. In addition, any church, or local theatre group can use clothing for all ages in their costume departments.

According to Christina Sayle, manager of Goodwill, her company does not take refrigerators, stoves, couches that are in bad shape (rips, tears) and anything else that is un-sellable. "Also, we are very grateful for the donations we get," she said.

Finally, it goes without saying but I'll mention it anyway: with anything you are kind enough to donate, please take the extra time to make sure clothes are cleaned and that any furniture is in good condition.

Thank you and enjoy your almost-new closet(s) again this spring. 🏠

All photos Shutterstock.com

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Rebecca Boone

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JULY

The All-American

Deadline: Fri., June 16

AUGUST

Prep 'n Projects

Deadline: Fri., July 14



Creamy Strawberry Crepes



By Sue Rawlinson

Beautiful to look at and tasty to eat, this crepe recipe may quickly become a breakfast favorite in your household. Top with a drizzle of melted chocolate and serve to Mom in bed. It's a heavenly way to start Mother's Day—or any day you want to make a little sweeter.

Creamy Strawberry Crepes

Ingredients:

3 eggs
½ cup milk
½ cup water
3 tablespoons melted butter
¾ cup white flour
½ teaspoon salt
1 - 8 ounce package cream cheese, softened
1 ¼ cup powdered sugar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon lemon zest
½ teaspoon vanilla
1 cup heavy cream, whipped
4 cups sliced strawberries

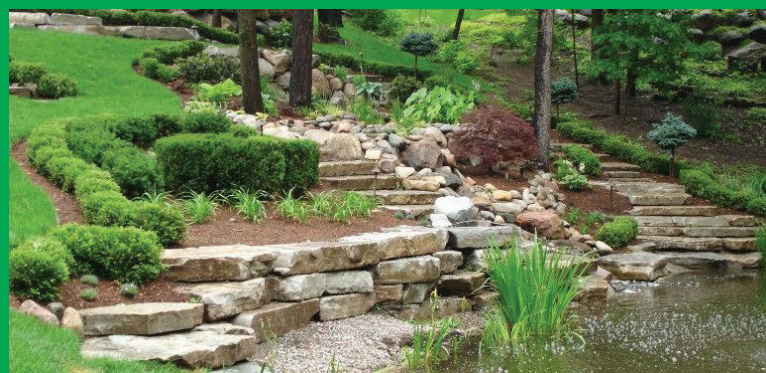


Directions:

1. Put eggs, milk, water, butter, flour and salt in a blender. Blend until smooth.
2. In a medium bowl, add the cream cheese, powdered sugar, lemon juice, lemon zest and vanilla with an electric mixer until smooth. Gently fold in whipped cream.
3. Heat a non-stick skillet over medium heat. Pour batter onto skillet (about 2 tablespoons for each crepe). Flip when edges begin to brown. Cook the other side until browned.
4. Stack crepes on a plate, cover with damp (not wet) towel.
5. To serve, fill each crepe with ¼ cup sliced strawberries and 1/3 cup of the cream cheese mixture. Roll up and top with spoonful of cream cheese filling and more sliced strawberries.

Enjoy! 🏠

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MAY Calendar

By Ray Balogh

1 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.

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 FORT WAYNE: "Little River Ramblers"

Hike and explore the interesting plants and wildlife of Eagle Marsh. Sponsored by Little River Wetlands Project. Free admission. 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Tuesday, Arrowhead Prairie parking lot, 8624 Aboite Road. 260.478.2515, info@lrwp.org, lrwp.org.

4, 11, 18, 25 FORT WAYNE: Learn to Manage Your Chronic Disease

Increase awareness and ability to self-manage diabetes and chronic disease. Curriculum includes managing pain, fatigue, depression and frustration; increasing fitness and self-confidence; healthy eating tips and more. 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, 1649 Spy Run Ave. Call 260.422.8520 to register.

5 WABASH: First Friday

Celebrate the Wabash community with musicians and artisans alike playing music in the streets. Food trucks, music, specials and more. Free admission. 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Friday, downtown. visitwabashcounty.com.

5 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.

5-6 FORT WAYNE: Herb and Perennial Plant Sale

Early Americana music, hand-arts display, wool spinning demo, refreshments, memberships, bake sale, plant sale, perennial "diggings" on the back lawn. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-noon (basement only) Saturday, Historic Sweeney Homestead, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd. 260.637.8622, settlersinc.org.

6 WABASH: Clint Black

Country singer-songwriter Clint Black has written, recorded and released more than 100 songs, had more than two dozen No. 1 singles and sold more than 20 million albums worldwide. \$100/\$56/\$36. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102, honeywellcenter.org.

6, 13, 20, 27 FORT WAYNE: South Side Farmers Market

100 stands featuring produce, hand-crafted items, antiques, fresh baked goods, eggs, local honey, hormone-free pork and chicken. Master Gardeners on hand to answer questions. Free admission. 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, 3300 Warsaw St. 260.456.8255 or 260.456.1228, southsidefarmersmarket.com.

7 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/decaturingianafleamarket.

7 FORT WAYNE: Cherry Blossom Festival

Japanese folk dance, traditional music, contests, tea ceremony, karaoke, food, games, origami, bonsai exhibits. Free admission. Noon-5 p.m., Downtown Main Library, 900 Library Plaza. 260.432.7780, cherryblossomfw.com.

13 KENDALLVILLE: Plant Sale

Master Gardeners will be selling hanging floral baskets, vegetable plants, annual bedding plants and perennials. Free admission. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Noble County Fairgrounds Floral Hall, 580 N. Fair. For more information, call 260.854.3668, ext 18

19 BLUFFTON: Plant Sale

Nice selections of annuals and perennials. Proceeds go toward several ongoing projects in Wells County. Free admission. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, Wells County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1240 4-H Park Road. 260.403.3891.

19 AUBURN: Historic Auburn Art Show

Exhibit will run until June 30. Artist reception 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Friday, Auburn Atrium MarketPlace Commons, 106 W. 6th St. For more information, call Nina Bennett at 260.927.1326.

20 FORT WAYNE: Open House

Browse inventory and talk to experts during Windows Doors & More open house. Free admission. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, 1121 W. Washington Center Road. 260.399.6043, wdmfactorystore.com.

20 WABASH: Annual Plant Swap

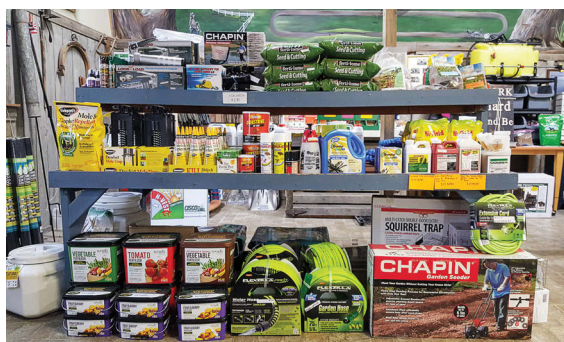
Plant drop-off, preview and swap. Free admission. 1 p.m.-2 p.m. drop-off and preview; 2 p.m.-3 p.m. swap, parking lot at 518 N. Wabash St., Wabash; rain location 551 N. Miami Street. Garden Talk: Bad Bugs 1:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m. Saturday, 551 N. Miami St. 260.563.1020, charleycreekgardens.org.

26-28 WARSAW: Northern Indiana Lakes Festival

Paddle wars, Kayaks for Kids, lake education, food vendors, live music, fireworks. Free admission. 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, noon-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Municipal Park, 117 East Canal St. 574.372.5100, lakesfestival.org 🏠



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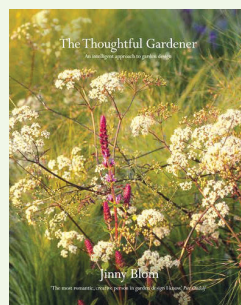
HOME community | books

May Books

By Steve Penhollow

May is the gateway to summer. For many homeowners, it is a time for indoor and outdoor primping, tidying and freshening.

Here are two books that should bolster your household grooming efforts.



The Thoughtful Gardener: An Intelligent Approach to Garden Design

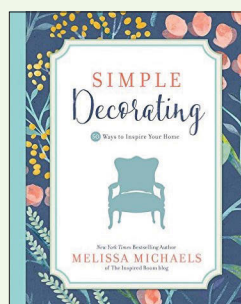
by Jinny Blom

Jacqui Small; \$50

ISBN-10: 1910254592;

ISBN-13: 978-1910254592

Jinny Blom is a British landscape architect who has earned worldwide renown for her design philosophy. She doesn't impose a style on a garden; she lets it emerge naturally from its surroundings. Blom's first book, "The Thoughtful Gardener: An Intelligent Approach to Garden Design," highlights both her designs and the process by which she arrived at them. "When you're a kid, you're not thinking, 'This is an amazing garden,'" Blom told Architectural Digest, opening a window into her philosophy. "You're just in that environment and understanding it." The book highlights many of her splashier projects, including the Buckinghamshire home of Victoria Getty, the widow of philanthropist Sir Paul Getty. "Lady Getty was quite terrifying," Blom said. "I asked her, 'What do you want?' She peered down her nose and said, 'Well, you decide.' It was one of my greatest experiences. I had complete freedom." "The Thoughtful Gardener: An Intelligent Approach to Garden Design" has plenty of eye candy, but it is also a practical guide that even the most cash-strapped gardener can make use of. Blom told Garden Design Magazine that her approach can be applied to any garden.



Simple Decorating: 50 Ways to Inspire Your Home

by Melissa Michaels

Harvest House Publishers; \$14.99

ISBN-10: 0736963111;

ISBN-13: 978-0736963114

Melissa Michaels is the creator of the Inspired Room blog, which was voted a Readers' Favorite in 2015 and 2014 by devotees of Better Homes and Gardens. "Simple Decorating" gives homeowners (who don't have access to unlimited resources) tips for sprucing up their spaces. Michaels told the New Orleans Times-Picayune that her talent for helping people make the most of what they have grew partly out of a house that she and her husband had to settle for in Seattle. "I didn't fall in love," she said. "I fall in love with older and charming. But none of the older houses in Seattle were in our budget, or, if they were, they were beyond our realm of talent to bring back to life. So we went with something brand new and charmless. But with a little nudging and nurturing, I saw it could be special." Michaels said she learned how to "layer in" character. "I really wanted an old home, but I got a new one," she said. "I love the ambiance and charm of an older house; a new home doesn't have a lot of character. But you can add character in layers, so it feels like the home has been around longer. Layers include tile work, wood molding, corbels, furnishings that mix but don't match, so the home looks like it evolved over time." 🏠

Sure-Fire Showing Prep Tips

By Kayleen Reusser

When Lynette Johnson, an associate broker of Sold by the Gold team at the North Eastern Group Realty in Fort Wayne, advises clients on preparing homes for spring showings, she emphasizes two aspects involved with the exterior. "Homeowners need to consider staging and maintenance," she said.

Walk The Exterior

"Do a cleanup of the yard and plant spring flowers for street appeal, but also walk around the home to see what might need repaired. Did the downspout break off over the winter? Do gutters need (to be) cleaned? Windows should have no broken panes and (should) be able to open and shut properly with good seals."

Johnson encourages clients to focus on the front of the house. "The front door and porch need to look inviting," she said. "If the home faces east, it could look faded from the sun. Apply new paint or siding and replace broken storm doors."

A roof should be less than 20 years old and have no missing shingles. "Inspect the vinyl siding as well," she said. "If a hole is present in the siding, water can get behind and cause problems."

Other exterior spots calling for attention include the patio. "A deck made of composite materials should be power washed, while a wooden deck should have all broken boards repaired



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and cleaned. Every outdoor light should work."

Johnson's walk around the home includes a look at the central air unit. "It should sit on a platform, not directly on the ground," she said. "It should be free of shrubs so it can breathe and be inspected without effort."

Inside The Home

Inside a home a realtor can help with decisions about cost-effective updates, such as flooring. "A realtor can look at the price point of a home and advise if laminate is the best choice in a home or hardwood," she said. "This is helpful because of the big price difference. Keep in mind, some families prefer hardwood over carpet because of allergies."

A realtor knows which trends to pay attention to and those to avoid. "Granite

counter tops are almost a standard amenity for expensive homes," she said. "However, if an owner installs granite in a less expensive home, he or she may never get back the cost."

As for paint, keep it calm. "A home doesn't need to have all neutral-colored walls," she said. "Soothing shades of gray are appealing. If walls need (to be) painted, hire a professional."

Johnson encourages homeowners to view their home's interior through the eyes of a buyer. "A seller maintaining a 20-year-old furnace may want to replace it, because a prospective buyer will view it as past its life expectancy and inefficient."

Light fixtures should be present and working in each room. "Arrange lights so a realtor or buyer can turn one on immediately."

The attic should also be accessible. "If a buyer hires an inspector, he or she will look for insulation, water leaks and birds' nests in attic vents," she said.

With attention to the details, your home will be ready for a "For Sale" sign in no time. 🏠

Resources:

Mike Thomas Associates, Patricia Piat; 260.625.5550 x220

Mike Thomas Associates, Andrea Zehr; Fort Wayne, 260.489.2000 x321, mikethomasrealtor.com

Mike Thomas Associates, Jake Zehr; Fort Wayne, 260.489.2000 x302, mikethomasrealtor.com

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Sold by the Gold, Lynette Johnson, Fort Wayne, 260.403.4895; soldbythegold.com

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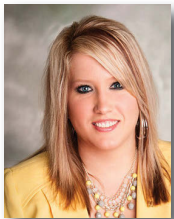
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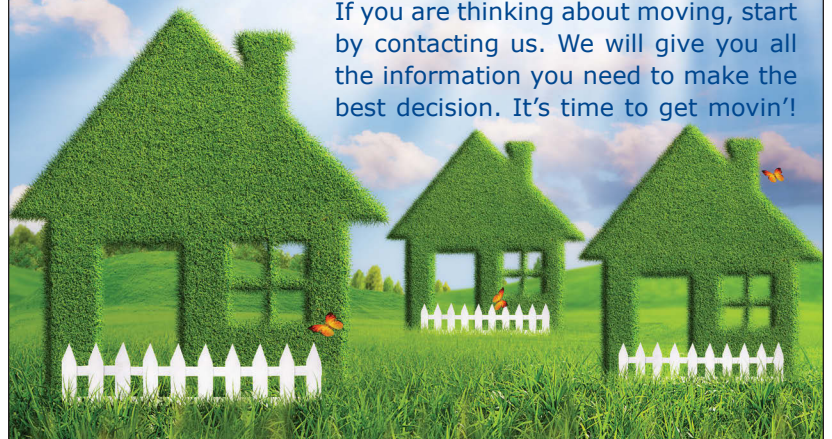
10 tips to improve your home's curb appeal:

1. Get rid of the extras. No bikes on the front porch or muddy boots near the door.
2. Walk around your home and look carefully for anything that may need repair.
3. Check out the roof. Do you have any missing shingles?
4. Replace your house address numbers with new, shiny (or traditional or modern) numbers.
5. Repaint your front door.
6. Be certain front entry area is without spider webs, leaves or other various debris.
7. Pressure wash dirty or moldy siding and remove stains from the driveway and sidewalk.
8. Plant flowers in porch containers and front step pots.
9. Open curtains and blinds. Doing so looks more welcoming from the road.
10. Install solar lights throughout landscape so the home's exterior is illuminated at night. 🏠

**rates effective as of May 2017 issue publishing deadline date*

Spring is here & soon school will be out... It is Hot Home Market Time!

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Thomas Leffers

Thomas Leffers Art

By Lauren Caggiano

Thomas Leffers is a consummate artist who has managed to marry artistry with a fruitful business venture. His art has been featured in local venues like ArtLink, Wunderkammer Company and even the Fort Wayne International Airport. With a passion for translating emotions onto a canvas, his abstract art is proof that a picture is worth a thousand words.

How did you get into art?

I had taken the basic classes my freshman year (at Bishop Dwenger High School), and they were fun, but it wasn't until my second year of classes that the head of the art department, Marcy Adams, went out of her way to teach me to oil paint. I ended up taking every art class possible at the time at Bishop Dwenger. This sealed my choice to go to the University of Saint Francis for college.

The University of Saint Francis at that time was really focused on realism. I started trying to be a traditional portrait artist. It wasn't until my senior year of college when my painting teacher, Tim Parsley, really helped me push myself to abstraction. I have always loved abstraction, but I never thought I was able to do it because of the atmosphere of realism at the college. With support from Tim, I really went off the deep-end and became an abstract artist. Ever since graduation, I have been continually striving to get stronger as a painter. I'm always experimenting and trying to push myself to the next level.

Who or what is your muse?

Life is my muse. I believe everyone and everything gives off a certain vibration or energy. My art is how I release all the energy that I absorb from the atmosphere around me. I'm also a firm believer in reading about history and science to understand what current social situation we are in. I also draw a lot of inspiration from movies and comic books. I'm a huge consumer of creative media. We live in a time of constant creation. Finding inspiration is easy to do, the hardest part is actually producing your own unique thing.



Photo by Leah Meinika

How can art enhance a home?

When a home has art, it shows that the homeowner cares about the space they live in. It also helps friends or guests get a feel for what type of people live in the home. Art can be used in houses for a couple different reasons. We will start with the first obvious choice: It can be a perfect accent of design that can complete an empty wall of a room. Or, it can simply just be a pretty piece of art that makes the homeowner happy.

Tell us more about being a business person and an artist at the same time.

Being a businessperson and artist can sometimes be a juggling act. I am blessed with this because it allows me two perspectives on everything. I get to be creative and free with my art, but I also have to look at how it can be used in a business economy. I get to be ambitious with my artwork and goals for the future, but on the other side, most people don't see that I'm calculating costs and the importance of time spent on each venue. 🏠

Thomas Leffers

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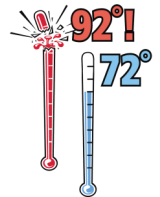
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