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Rebecca Boone

260-503-5013 | rboone@the-papers.com

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Publisher Ron Baumgartner
rbaumgartner@the-papers.com

Publications Manager Bill Hays
bhays@the-papers.com

Executive Editor Sue Rawlinson
srawlinson@the-papers.com

Editor-in-Chief Jeri Seely
jseely@the-papers.com

Director of Marketing Kip Schumm
kschumm@the-papers.com

Account Executive Rebecca Boone
rboone@the-papers.com

Business Manager Collette Knepp
cknepp@the-papers.com

Director of Circulation Jerry Straka
jstraka@the-papers.com

Graphic Designer Mary Lester
ml Lester@the-papers.com

Marketing Assistants

Darlene Eichelberger, Tamera Sims

Contributing Writers

Ray Balogh, Beth Behrendt, Erin Dozois,
Deborah C. Gerbers, Emily LaRue, Steve Penhollow,
Shannon Rooney, Barb Sieminski

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

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welcome!



Sue Rawlinson

It was the ultimate, total and most completely awesome kick-off to summer.

Yep, it's when Dad let me play with fire.

Well, maybe not *fire*, per se. Adults called them sparklers—and they were the coolest things ever (aside from pop rocks candy, of course).

You remember the days, don't you? Of course you do.

From picnics to fireworks to the ever-fascinating sparklers (which I learned actually *can* burn you) to playing tag and catching fireflies with the neighbor kids—they all ignite vivid memories and emotions within. Right?

That's part of what makes the month of July one that's *made* for celebration. It's a full month of summer vacation for the kids. It's when lakes are electric with energy and fun. Families reunite, cocktails are served, barbecue grills are smoking and fireworks illuminate the night sky.

Completely. Amazing.

It's topics such as these that you'll find within this July issue of HOME. Here, we've focused on all that's Americana and patriotic. From Independence Day tomatoes to home décor in stars and stripes to an ideal backyard pool pad for partying—to grilling methods best for your special grillmaster, it's all covered.

Learn how to tech out your deck, the must-have elements to best love lake life and the best irrigation for a lush lawn. We'll share all we've gleaned from the experts.

So during this season of red, white and blue, celebrate with mini-apple pies (see page 21 for the recipe), enjoy your home and cherish those within your own world.

And when fireworks color the night sky and *your* little ones (or even teens!) dance about with lit sparklers, pause for a moment. Reflect. Appreciate. And let 'em think they're playing with fire.

Enjoy this issue, readers—and Happy Birthday, America. 🇺🇸

from the editor



Sue

America's Stars 'n Stripes

By Sue Rawlinson

Photos by HOME Team

Oh, those stars and stripes—how they tug at America's heartstrings. There is no more appropriate time to break out the red, white and blue than during America's birthday month. Colorful stars and stripes epitomize patriotic home décor during this season of celebration. These colors and patterns in all combinations go together as beautifully as America and apple pie. Enjoy a snapshot of HOME Living's July "Color It" home interior picks. Chosen just for you—from retailers in your backyard. 🏠



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Independence Day Tomatoes



By Erin Dozois

If you're fancying a nice caprese salad this Fourth of July and you have a lot of mouths to feed, growing your own Independence Day tomatoes could be the way to go. After all, there's not much else that screams 'summer' quite like a ripe, red tomato fresh off the vine.

But are garden-ripe tomatoes really worth the extra work? Luckily, Independence Day tomatoes are easily cared for, heat tolerant and disease resistant. They will reward your care by yielding a prolific crop you can enjoy yourself and share with others.

Name: Solanum lycopersicum (Solanaceae family)

Known For: Tiny, yet tasty, deep red fruits

Why We Love It: If seedlings are planted by late spring, this tomato variety is one of the only types that will be ripe and ready for your Fourth of July cookout.

Fun Fact: Independence Day tomatoes were bred by the Burpee company, which still maintains exclusive distribution rights. Being human engineered, planter seeds will look different compared to the seeds the plant will later produce.

Try This: Are you running out of room in your garden? Independence Day tomatoes can be grown upside down in a hanging planter.

After the Bloom

Independence Day tomatoes only require watering twice a week. Pruning back

heavy fruit and foliage will prevent the plant from becoming overrun with heavy vines that will cause the plant to break. Harvest tomatoes by mid summer. Many plants will continue to produce a large amount of fruit into late summer or early fall. The tomato's flavor will improve as the season warms up. 🏠



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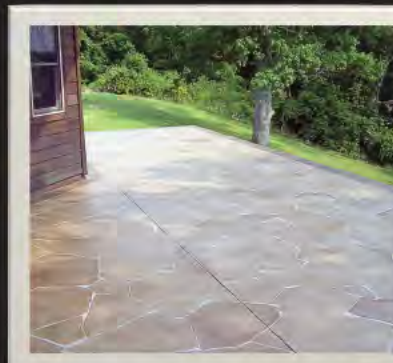


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Hooray for the Red, White and Blue

Americana for the HOME

By Shannon Rooney

All-American design never goes out of style. It's especially on trend with the resurgence of rustic-style decor and the popularity of farmhouse-style architecture. Add some red, white and blue to your design scheme and you'll discover a plethora of choices from furniture to accessories to art and outdoor living.

Bernhaus Furniture in Berne offers a selection of classic American-style furniture and decor, including Shaker, arts and crafts and mid-century modern. These styles are popular with customers, said Bernhaus sales and design expert Amy Beougher. "Mission and arts and crafts styles seem to be popular and highly desired in quarter-sawn white oak (QSWO). Some select other wood species such as (red) oak, and cherry for their arts and crafts pieces."

Americana encompasses a wide variety of styles but all are a testament to the country's history. We'll show you how to



pay tribute to the good ol' days USA by making use of historic color schemes, and lots of options in furnishings and accessories.

Soften Your Palette

A primitive color palette will help to lend a rustic style to your decor that harkens back to the country's first homesteads. Mix muted red, white and blue with complementary colors, like bright white and slate. Or stick with classic American shades like colonial blue, olive and variations of ochre. Keep your furnishings low-key. Neutral-patterned upholstery and window coverings will allow the more exciting accessories to take center stage.

Embrace the Rustic

If you've got an affinity for history, put it on display. Americana embraces the casual and unrefined. Rag rugs, vintage watering cans, mason jars and quilts are all welcome accessories. Textile options that work well with this style include burlap and linen, and you can't go wrong with stripes. Use ticking fabric, usually striped, in drapes or table linens.



Make a Statement

This is your chance to add a big pop of color. Try a set of bright red bar stools snuggled up against your kitchen island or be bold with throwback-style appliances in red or blue. In the living room, delineate a seating space with a red, white and blue rug. Or, give an old coffee table new life with a freshly painted blue top. If you're aiming for a more neutral color palette, make a statement with size. Place a faux cowhide rug in the living room or master bedroom or hang a patterned quilt as a focal point above the bed.

Mix New and Vintage Pieces

Incorporate your flea market finds with newer items to create a laid-back vibe. "Whether it is a stained glass piece for arts and crafts, or metal art for both Arts & Crafts as well as Mid Century Modern, the selections are wide and varied," said Beougher. "Framed art may be whimsical or traditional and we recommend choosing not merely for your color palette. Framed art pieces should bring you enjoyment and help to set the tone of your room."



Resources:

- Bernhaus Furniture**, Berne, 260.589.8324, bernhausfurniture.com
- Dogwoods**, Fort Wayne, 260.459.2110, dogwoodsdecor.com
- Kitchens Plus Country Store**, Wabash, 260.563.6317, kitchenspluscountrystore.com
- Living Quarters**, 574.457.2929
- OFD Total Home**, 260.487.6336
- Sanborn's For Your Home**, Angola, 260.665.9799, sanbornsforyourhomeangola.com

Love This Look?

Story and Photos by Sue Rawlinson

Love this look? Good. We'll share how this poolside 'n patio paradise was pulled together. A few key suppliers combined talents and products to bring this homeowner's vision to crystal clear staycation fun. Beautiful, right?

more on page 10



Chris Anderson, with Anderson Lawn & Landscaping, was the mastermind behind this poolside foundation, as well as beautiful pavers, stonework and landscape selections.

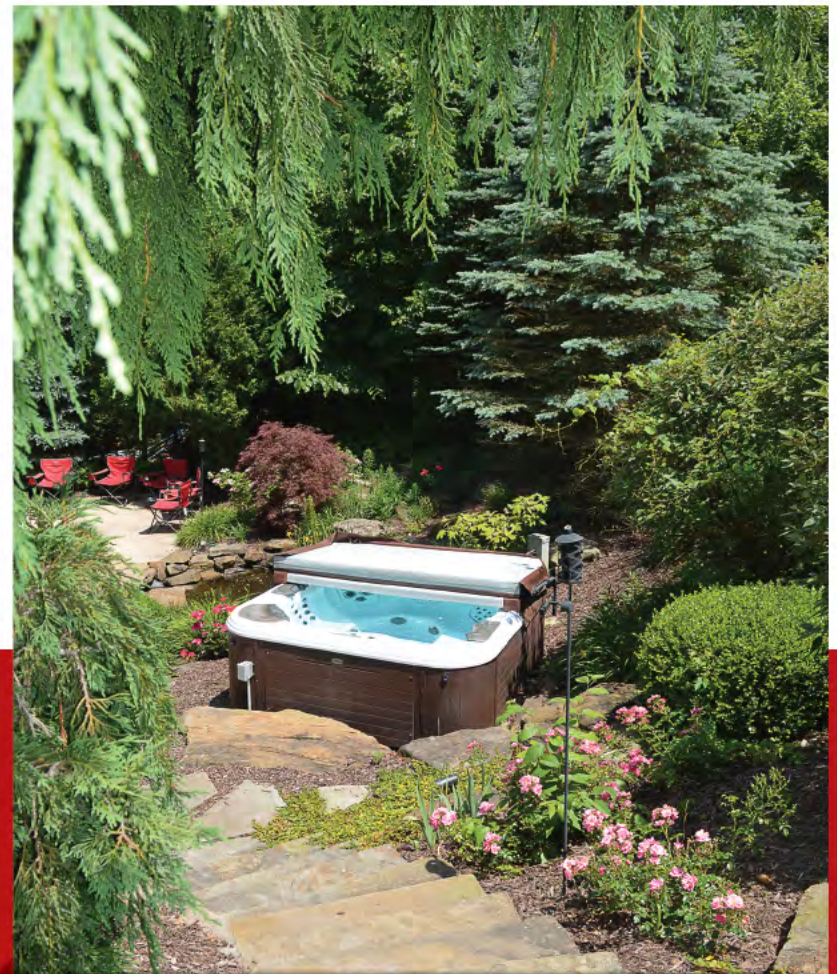
Intricate designs with these pavers encase the fire pit area and selective use of stones and boulders further enhance this private, natural, wooded setting.



Furniture that's beautiful, sturdy and the ultimate in luxurious comfort was all purchased from Loggins Fireplace & Patio.



Looks like a rock—but, it's not. While it will, indeed, rock (as a verb) this speaker blends in naturally with the wooded area. Ready for tunes outdoors? Simply turn on your own rock.



This hot tub from Nierman Brothers is tucked, hidden within the carefully designed landscaping. The hot tub includes speakers and colorful lights—for custom-created relaxation for the homeowners. 🏠

Resources:

Landscape + Pavers: Anderson Lawn & Landscaping, 260.693.1459

Outdoor speakers: Audio Visual Lifestyles, 260.436.4669

Patio furniture + fire pit: Loggins Fireplace & Patio, 260.436.5800

Pool + hot tub: Nierman Brothers Pool & Spa, Fort Wayne, 260.490.2080, niermanpoolandspa.com

6 Steps to Loving Lake Life Like Never Before



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By Beth Behrendt

The whole point of a vacation home is to leave the “real world” behind, right? These design tips for lake home outdoor spaces will help you be immersed in all the joys of life on the water.

No. 1: Maximize the view.

Dean Raber with Raber Patio Enclosures & Furniture suggested, “A must-have for lake living is a high-quality deck made from low-maintenance PVC flooring. It’s the perfect space for outdoor dining and entertaining.”

There are numerous railing options for decks. To maximize the view, consider glass panels instead of traditional railing materials. They provide protection from the wind but won’t obscure the beautiful views.

No. 2 Furnish the space.

A hot design trend for 2017 is a seamless transition from the interior space to the outdoor space. Outdoor décor items—side tables, ottomans, rugs, throw pillows and the like—that look like they were created for the indoors are popular.

“Coastal” colors—think bright blue, ivory, and sand—are particularly popular for outdoor décor. Natural materials, like rattan and teak, are trending for outdoor furniture. “Natural Finish Poly is the latest new trend,” Raber said. “It is a poly

material with a wood grain texture and color. People like the no-maintenance, but with the look and feel of wood. It cleans easily and hides scratches well.”

Adirondack chairs are a classic for lake living. Raber recommended, “Make sure they are comfortable. Poly is made to last. There are lots of styles—even fish shaped chairs—and colors to choose from.”

No. 3 Landscape for low-maintenance and high utility.

A popular landscape trend for lake homes is to incorporate rocks and boulders. Boulders can take the place of steps or even lakeside seating. Rocks and stones can highlight garden spaces, make walkways, and cut down on the amount of grass to be maintained.

Accent natural landscaping with large “statement” planters filled with one, easy-to-care-for plant like boxwoods or hydrangeas. Planters can also be made into edible gardens for the freshest cooking: fill planters with herbs, tomatoes, lettuces, strawberries, peppers, etc.

No. 4 Entertain and enjoy.

Roger Plaughter, manager of Classic Stereo, said, “Some lake homes are installing outdoor televisions. Even more popular are outdoor sound systems and making sure Wi-Fi coverage extends far outside of the home. Speakers installed in the landscaping or mounted to the house are still common, but portable speakers that folks can take down to the dock to stream music from their phones are also popular.”

Plaughter said other digital enhancements to lake life include, “Security installations and remote monitoring of AC/heat, lights and security cameras.”

No. 5 Create outdoor rooms.

Outdoor kitchens or bars continue to be popular. Outdoor mudrooms for hanging towels and storing shoes and toys are another hot idea. Small, more private spaces for coffee, conversation or cocktails are in demand. Raber suggested, “Pergolas are always a great addition to any setting, offering shade and great visuals.”

No. 6 Accessorize.

“Umbrellas, lighting and fire tables are great accessories to every outdoor living space,” Raber said. String lights, lanterns and hurricane candleholders enhance home and landscape lighting. Don’t forget comfy napping options like a hammock (for you) and an outdoor dog bed (for your best friend).

Live and love the lake life this summer, like never before. 🏠

Resources:

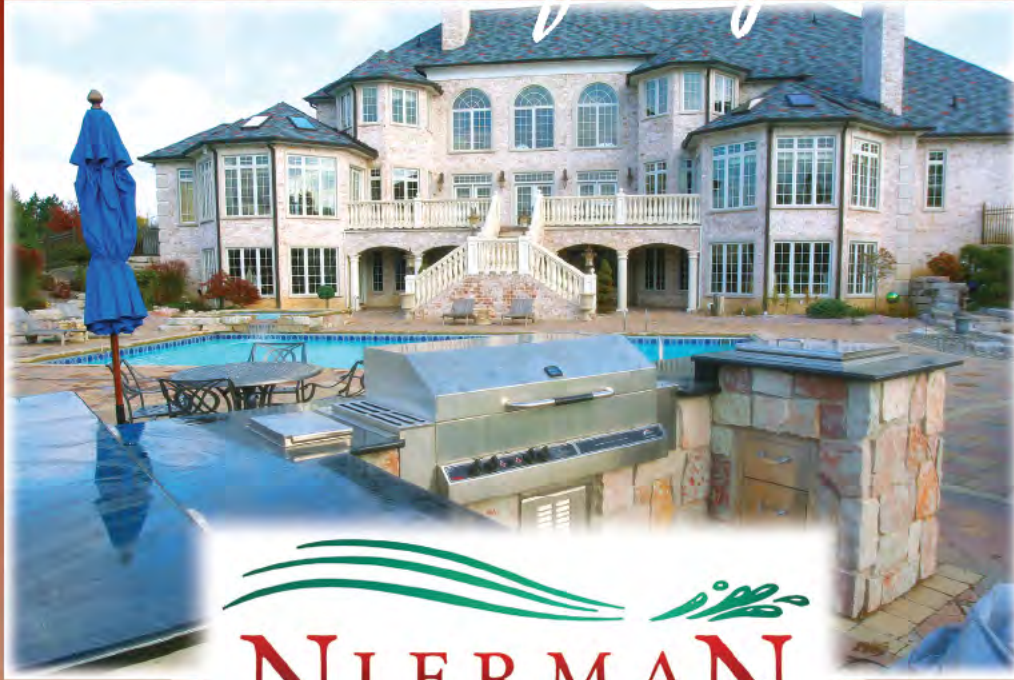
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Tech Out Your Deck



By Emily LaRue

Outdoors. There's simply no better place when Mother Nature bestows her warm temps. And being able to step out your back door and onto a beautiful, comfortable deck to enjoy it all? Yes, please. Read on for the best deck materials and what's cool in outdoor gadgets.

Maintenance-Free

A backyard deck is not only an attractive area of a home, but can add to the resale value as well. However, we might hesitate to add one because of the maintenance involved. And it's true—a deck can be another to-do list item if it needs regular scraping and staining. But, start with the best materials from the get-go and avoid the work that comes with wood decks. John Lyons, sales representative for Windows, Doors and More, recommends Azek deck boards for durability and style. "Azek is the top of the line around the country," he said. Perhaps this is because Azek boards are a composite material (mostly plastic) so it does not have the vulnerability of lumber. The boards

come in natural colors, have a wood-like texture, and will last for years with little maintenance. Another popular material is Lumberock composite decking, which also has a natural look and is less likely to decompose.

Listen Up

When it comes to summer gatherings or just relaxing after work, tunes on the deck are always a welcome addition. Investing in quality speakers is the best starting point. And since you want the music near you, purchase wireless, battery powered speakers. Too, think outside the (speaker) box; they're not for outdoors only. Bring them inside and use with laptops or any 'music desert' area of the home.



Get Fired Up

Grills are nice, but maybe it's time for a new outdoor cooking adventure with a wood-fired pizza oven. They come in portable and built-in models. Prices vary from several hundred dollars to over a thousand dollars, but the taste from a wood fired oven is unparalleled. They cook quickly too. A medium thin-crust pizza can cook in a matter of minutes. And while there'll be a slight learning curve with operating the oven, that tasty pie will be worth it.



All You'll Need is Popcorn

Nothing says summertime like an outdoor movie. And with an all-in-one home theater projector, which allows for picture and sound to come from the same place, they are easier than ever for home use. Some models even have a smartphone dock to stream movies. For the viewing area, spread a blanket or two over the deck, add some pillows and lawn chairs and it's premiere time. Don't have a projection screen? No worries. A white sheet and some clamps will do the job. Add to that summertime feeling and string some outdoor lights over the movie area along with a campfire for cooking up s'mores. The projector will come in handy for movie nights, big sporting events or even on the next camping trip.



Resources:

- Big C Lumber**, Auburn, 260.925.4410, bigclumber.com
- Jonesville Lumber**, Jonesville, MI, 517.849.2181, jonesvillelumber.com
- Morsches Builders Mart**, Columbia City, 260.244.6145, morschesbuildersmart.com
- Windows, Doors and More**, Fort Wayne, 260.399.6043, wdmfactorystore.com

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Checklist for July

By Erin Dozois

Hot weather is upon us as we head into the dog days of summer. Most crops should be planted and growing by now, perhaps leaving you to twiddle those green thumbs and wonder what's next. Aside from the routine maintenance that plants require (watering, weeding, replacing mulch, pest control, etc.), the following are some additional tasks and projects to keep you busy:

Tasks

- Fertilize plants if weather conditions aren't dry.
- Wrap a paper bag around ears of growing corn to keep away corn-loving critters.
- Harvest berries before the birds and squirrels can eat them.
- Raise the blade on the lawn mower to allow grass to grow taller. This will help conserve moisture and keep roots cool.
- Start planning your fall vegetable garden.
- Support maturing vines and tall plants with trellises or stakes.
- Order spring blooming bulbs now for the best selection.

Projects

- Scratch fun designs into gourd shells, and watch the patterns grow as gourds mature.
- Add ambiance to the garden by assembling a birdbath.
- Attract butterflies by placing a shallow pan of water outside.
- Collect and press late summer flower blossoms. Dried flowers are great for arts and crafts.
- Install a rain barrel to collect and reuse rainwater for your lawn and garden.
- Make pickles and other canned goods.
- Throw a garden party to celebrate your efforts and share your masterpiece with friends.
- Spruce up or purchase comfy and stylish patio furniture.
- Create or tend to a fire pit. 🏠

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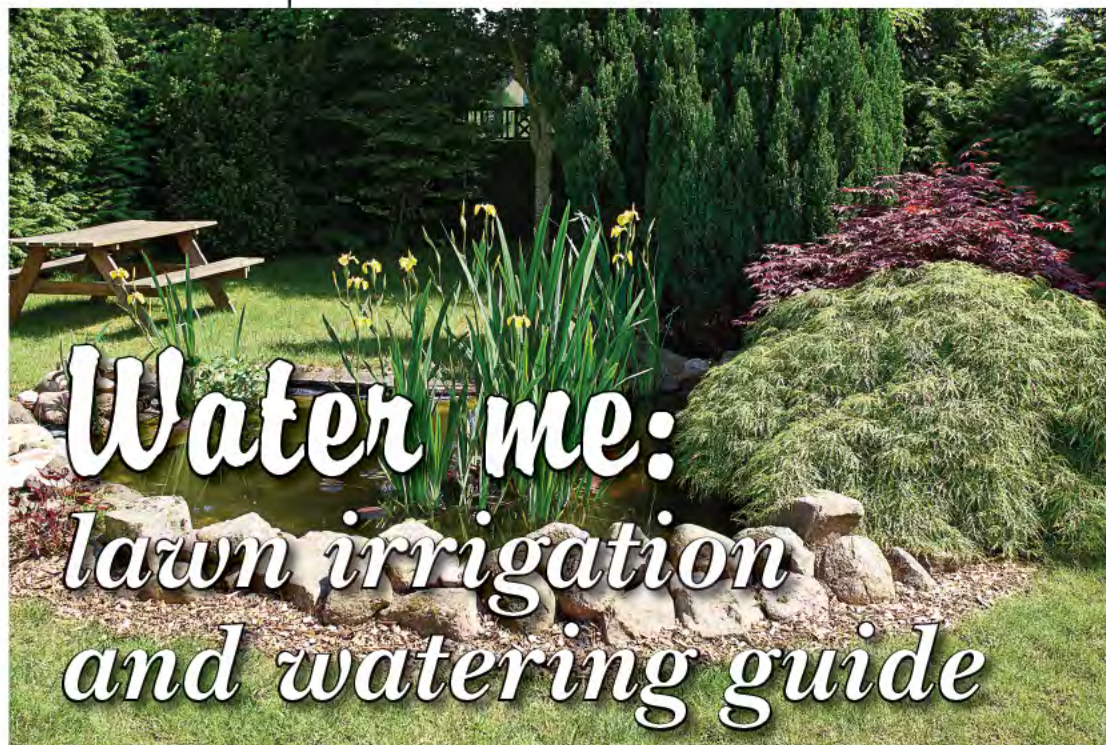
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By Barb Sieminski

As I write this on a lovely June day, the temperatures are in the 90s—a great time to jump in the pool, run through the hose or drench your kids with a loaded super-soaker. And if your property isn't home to an irrigation system or a backyard fountain, consider getting one; the benefits are great.

The definition of irrigation is simply, "the supply of water to land or crops to help growth, typically by means of channels," and there are four irrigation methods—surface, sprinkler (also known as overhead), drip/trickle and subsurface. The most efficient form of irrigation is the drip type because if it contains dissolved salts, less water is applied to the earth than with above-ground methods. And sprinkler systems are more resourceful than surface watering in leaching out salts.

There are several types of irrigation systems from which to choose.

- * Surface irrigation, which is water being distributed over the land by gravity with no mechanical pump
- * Localized irrigation
- * Drip irrigation
- * Sprinkler irrigation
- * Center pivot irrigation
- * Lateral move irrigation
- * Sub-irrigation
- * Manual irrigation

In drawing up a residential irrigation system, plotting, planning and designing are good guidelines. First, you will need to get a

permit, as required by city laws. Measure the property, indicating the house location. Draw the plot plan to scale on graph paper, noting trees, lawn, shrubs, ground cover and large trees. Divide the property into areas including the front yard, back yard and side yards.

Eric Ludemann of Rock Creek Irrigation in Huntington noted that July is Smart Irrigation Month. He offered some tips on maintenance for residential irrigators:

- Have your system inspected to be sure all areas are working properly. This will ensure adequate coverage and show if any repairs are needed.
- Check operation of the irrigation controller. This will show if the controller will perform correctly when needed.
- When planning landscape or any other outdoor changes, be sure to figure that changes will be needed to the irrigation system and have your irrigation professional look at the project beforehand. Most people forget this until after the landscape project is complete, and that makes the irrigation changes more difficult to figure out.
- Check operation of the rain sensor. If it doesn't work properly, you will water your lawn when not needed.



Resources:

- A-Plus Irrigation**, 260.704.4566
- Crescent Avenue Gardens**, 260.483.0911
- Rock Creek Irrigation**, Fort Wayne, 260.437.2921, rockcreekirrigation.com
- Woodland Water Gardens & Nursery**, 260.244.0050

Determine system design capacity. How much water is available for residential irrigation? Will the water used be city water or will it be drawn from a lake or well? Also, a pressure gauge should be attached to the



outside faucet closest to the water meter; you will then need to know what size the water meter and the service line are before proceeding. Decide what kind of sprinkler you will use, from large area rotors, rotating stream spray sprinklers or small area fixed-spray sprinklers. Your professional centers can answer more questions on how to proceed.

Further information can easily be found on the internet, and if you're challenged by DIY irrigation systems and want to do your own without professional help, check out online classes (irrigationtutorials.com) for designing your own systems.

Another project is a backyard fountain, according to Jo Corle of Woodland Water Gardens & Nursery in Columbia City, who shared the therapeutic value of this yard addition. "The sound of water is soothing and a conversation piece," Corle said. "People enjoy sitting around it, and if you have wildlife in your yard they will come to it.

"A pond-less water fountain is easy to maintain and has a low monthly operating cost. Pond-less features and fountains can be two different things: a fountain is a pre-made product that can range anywhere from \$100 plus the pump and basin, to a custom pond-less feature made with boulders, and small and large waterfalls, which can run from \$3,000-5,000 and more.

"We have all of these features right here in our showroom for people to view and enjoy," said Corle. "And no matter what the cost of the water feature and fountain, both offer the same enjoyment and low maintenance." 🏠

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A Hot Topic: Grilling Methods

By Steve Penhollow

There are many ongoing arguments in the world of backyard grilling and backyard barbecuing and one of them is this: gas versus charcoal.

Even *Wired* magazine is of two minds on the subject.

In the summer of 2013, it ran dueling articles, each purporting to prove scientifically that gas or charcoal is superior.

"Charcoal purists will try and tell you that their preferred fuel leads to better flavor," wrote Mark McClusky in his pro-gas piece.

"This is, well, nonsense. Your food doesn't know what's creating the heat below it, and once charcoal is hot, there aren't any aromatic compounds left in the coals ... (the) characteristic flavor of grilled food comes from the drippings, not the fuel."

Counterpoint was provided by *Wired* editor Joe Brown in his pro-charcoal piece: "True fact: A gas grill is more convenient. But it also creates less flavorful food. What charcoal brings to the party is a healthy heaping of aroma compounds, the other half of the power couple that is flavor."

Bestselling author and barbecue expert Meathead Goldwyn gives the nod, as regards flavor, to charcoal in a blog post on his *Amazing Ribs* website.

"Charcoal makes more smoke than gas, with a broader range of tasty flavor molecules," he wrote,

"because it is burning complex organic molecules, among them cellulose and lignin. Gas is a simple molecule, and when fully combusted, produces no flavor, just water and carbon dioxide."

The quicker the meat is cooked, he wrote, the less influence the smoke will have on its flavor.



But if you want to combine the convenience and control of a gas grill with the flavor of a charcoal grill, Chris Peters at Morsches Builders Mart can hook you up.

Morsches, with locations in Columbia City, Huntington, Warsaw, Goshen and Wabash, sells one grill and one grill only: the Traeger Wood Pellet Grill.

The Traeger Wood Pellet Grill imparts the smoky taste you crave to the meat of your choice, but it does it in a far less labor-intensive way.

Traeger Grills are fully automated, Peters said, and function more like ovens than grills. Temperatures can be set and maintained.

"It's an electric grill that is basically like a convection oven but it uses wood pellets instead of gas or charcoal," he said. "The biggest advantage is that you can basically set it and walk away. You don't have to worry about flames flaring up or the mess of charcoal."

It is far more universal than a gas or charcoal grill, Peters said.


"You can smoke, bake, grill, braise..." he said. "That's kind of our slogan. It's the most universal grill that's on the market."

As for the flavor, Peters said the flavor of food prepared in a Traeger grill is superior to that of comparable food prepared with a charcoal grill.

Still, do most grill-masters really want a no-fuss, no-muss cooking method?

Or do they want to be fully in charge of the process and of their strong opinions about the process?

It takes all kinds.

Luckily, there are all kinds of grills for all kinds of grillers. 

All photos shutterstock.com



Resources:

Collier's Fireplace, Warsaw, 574.269.3393, trustcolliers.com

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

Mini Apple Pies



Ingredients:

CRUST:

- 2 cups flour
- 2/3 cup butter (chilled)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons water

FILLING:

- 5 medium apples (peeled and chopped into small pieces)
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 6 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons butter (chilled)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. In food processor, blend flour, salt and butter until a pea-like consistency.
3. Add water and blend just until mixture is sticking.
4. Combine by hand until well blended.
5. Roll out on lightly floured surface (about 1/4-inch thick).
6. Cut dough into 12, 4-inch circles (use a cup as your cutter).
7. Press each circle into muffin cups in muffin tin. Press all the way up sides to form individual bowls.
8. Mix filling ingredients with a spoon and scoop into individual muffin bowls.
9. Cut butter into 12 little pieces and place one piece on each pie.
10. Decorate tops of pies with remaining crust (or leave plain if you wish).
11. Bake at 425 degrees for 16 minutes (or until crust is light brown and apple mixture is bubbly).
12. When cool, loosen with spoon or butter knife, and pies should pop right out. 🏠

By Sue Rawlinson

What celebrates America better than sweet apple pie? Not much, we say.

But for a fun variety that's a little different this July, try America's favorite dessert in a miniature size. Consider it a homemade-baked-pie-meets-finger-food treat. Convenient, easy to eat and ever so tasty, it's a great choice to serve in honor of America's birthday party at your house.

Happy Birthday, America.



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July Calendar

By Ray Balogh

1-4 WARREN: 50th Annual Salamonie Summer Festival

Free concerts, parade, fireworks, antique tractors and engines, games, contests, sporting events, kids' activities, food. Free admission. Saturday through Tuesday, downtown. 800.356.4440
warrenindiana.us.

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 FORT WAYNE: South Side Farmers Market

Market with 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.

1-30 FORT WAYNE: Thomas Leffers Art

View art display by Thomas Leffers throughout the month. Wunderkammer Company, 3402 Fairfield Ave. 260.705.8270
tlafw.com

2 DECATUR: Monthly Flea Market

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

5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29 AUBURN: Farmer's Market

Local vendors sell produce, flowers, herbs, spices, baked goods and other products. Free admission. 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday, east side of Main Street between 7th and 9th streets. 260.925.3113
daba4auburn.org.

5, 12, 19, 26 NEW HAVEN: Farmer's Market

Fresh local products, locally prepared foods, locally made crafts, jewelry. Live music, nonprofit educational displays, kids activities. Free admission. 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday, Schnelker Park, 956 Park Ave. 260.749.2212
localharvest.org/new-haven-farmers-market-M53141.

7 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.

7 AUBURN: First Friday

Cruise-in, late night shopping, live entertainment and more. Free admission. 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Friday, downtown. 260.333.0883
www.facebook.com/firstfridaysdowntownauburn.

7-8 ANGOLA: Balloons Aloft

Some of the finest hot air balloon pilots compete for prizes over northern Indiana lakes country. Includes hot air balloon illumination at twilight. Free admission. 4 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday, 7 a.m.-twilight Saturday, Angola High School, 350 S. John McBride Ave. 800.525.3101
angolaballoonsaloft.com.

7-15 FORT WAYNE: 49th Annual Three Rivers Festival

More than 80 events, including live music, junk food alley, craft and merchandise vendors, midway rides. 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Free admission. 260.426.5556
threeriversfestival.org.

15 FORT WAYNE: "Dragonflies"

Learn about these amazing insects and explore where they can be found on the marsh. Boots recommended. Free admission. 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Eagle Marsh barn, 6801 Engle Road. 260.478.2515
info@lrwp.org, lrwp.org.

22 FORT WAYNE: Garden Close-Up: Jungle Plantimals

Discover plants with animal names; includes scavenger hunt. Adults \$5, children (3-17) \$3, children (2 and under) free. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Botanical Conservatory, 1100 S. Calhoun St. 260.427.6440
botanicalconservatory.org.

27 AUBURN: Cruise-In

Door prizes, 50/50 raffle, dine and shop. Show vehicles must be registered. Sponsored by Downtown Auburn Business Association. Free admission. 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, Courthouse Square, downtown. 260.925.3113,
daba4auburn.org.

27-29 BERNE: Swiss Days

Food, crafts, competitions, family-friendly rides, quilt show, horse pull, concerts, tours, polka music, parade, games. Free admission. 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, downtown. 260.589.8080
bernein.com.

29 NORTH WEBSTER: Ninth Annual Dixie Day Festival

Art fair, truck and bike show, sidewalk sales, historical Dixie boat rides, car and boat shows, games, antique tent sale, open air market, food vendor row. Free admission. 10 a.m. until dark, downtown and Mermaid Festival grounds. 574.834.7076
northwebster.com.

29-30 ORLAND: Vermont Settlement Festival

Full days of family fun, primitive village, car show, parade, concessions, mud volleyball, arts and crafts. Free admission. 6 a.m. Saturday to 6 p.m. Sunday, Orland Town Park. 260.829.6411
orlandchamber.net.





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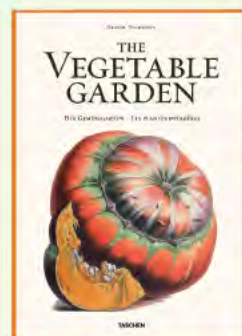
July Books

By Steve Penhollow

Summer is a time of fresh produce and flights of fancy.

Not all flights of fancy have to be purely fanciful, of course. Some can be purposeful as well.

Here are two books to help you add a little purpose to your flights of fancy.



The Vegetable Garden: Illustrations, Descriptions, and Culture of the Garden Vegetables of Cold and Temperate Climates

by Vilmorin-Andrieux & Cie and Werner Dressendörfer

Forgotten Books; \$23.57

ISBN-10: 0259566195;

ISBN-13: 978-0259566199

Forgotten Books, a London-based restorer, re-printer and re-packager of antique texts, recently released a new edition of "The Vegetable Garden," a legendary French botany book from 1885.

"The Vegetable Garden" was originally published by Vilmorin-Andrieux & Cie, a company formed by vegetable merchant Philippe Victoire de Vilmorin and his father-in-law, Pierre Andrieux, who served as "Botanist to the King."

These men engaged the services of 15 painters with naturalist training to produce 46 meticulously crafted color plates. Running vegetable-related commentary is provided in the book by historian and librarian Werner Dressendörfer.

"The Vegetable Garden" pleases and edifies on several levels. It works as an art book, as a history book and as a practical guide. It contains copious information about the provenance, characteristics and care of vegetables that still holds up today.



The Home Design Doodle Book

by Marian Parsons

Belle City Gifts; \$14.99

ISBN-10: 1424554136;

ISBN-13: 978-1424554133

"The Home Design Doodle Book" is one of the more ingenious "adult coloring books" ever devised.

Its creator is Marian Parsons, a.k.a. Miss Mustard Seed, a blogger who turned a talent for inexpensive interior transformations into a successful national business.

"The Home Design Doodle Book" is a guided sketchpad that helps the reader flesh out his or her decorating ideas. It not only spurs doodling, as promised in the title; it encourages gluing and painting as well.

It is not a passive book. It is a call to actions. Several calls to several actions, in fact.

"The Home Design Doodle Book" is like having your own interior designer for the cost of a hardcover.



Andrea Zehr

Mike Thomas Associates

By Deborah C. Gerbers

Andrea Zehr is a realtor and broker at Mike Thomas Associates. The Carroll High School grad and married mom of two is a self-proclaimed country gal and passionate "Fort Wayner" who loves to focus on getting to know people, hard work, challenges, change, solving problems, having fun, personal growth, her family, adventure and helping others.

- How did you start your career in real estate?

I've always marched to the beat of my own drum and learned early on that I wanted to be in control of my family's and my livelihood. I knew I wanted my own business in something I am passionate about, that continues to challenge me, has flexibility in the way I accomplish tasks, allows me to be me, and keeps us moving (no pun intended). I began looking into real estate investing and my husband, Jake, encouraged me to go ahead and get my broker/agent license, as this was part of the plan. I dove right in at Mike Thomas Associates, where they welcomed me into their family and I never looked back. I still sometimes think, 'Wow! I am living it... Another day in paradise.' I am so grateful.

- What are the biggest mistakes you see people make when buying and selling?

Losing sight of the big picture. Sometimes people will get caught up in one minor thing and it can take over their positive mindset, losing sight of an easily achievable goal. That's where I counsel them to take a deep breath in and a step back. They thank me later.

- What is the market like in northeast Indiana right now? Are we still in a seller's market?

The market is a little more balanced than it was at the beginning of the year; however, there are still more buyers than there are houses to accommodate them. Building is a great option for some, as well. Right now is still a great time for buyers, as the interest



Jake and Andrea Zehr

Photo by Sue Rawlinson

rates continue to be very good and no one can predict for sure when that will change... so if you are ready now, go for it.

- What advice do you have for people looking to sell their homes during the summer?

Do the obvious minor repairs you are aware of and trust in your realtor's advice as to what other items should be addressed that could be the difference between a smooth listing/sale or a rocky road. Make your home super clean, decluttered, cool (AC time) and the outdoor areas inviting.

- What are your top tips for people looking to buy this summer?

1. Be open-minded about what you are looking for: Online descriptions and pictures can be a far cry from what is truly there. Also, some clients end up wanting something completely different than what they thought they wanted.
2. Be flexible with your time and availability to see properties: The second homes hit the "For Sale" market, thousands of eyes are looking. You need to get in, ASAP.
3. Have fun and be optimistic: It is hard to accomplish any goal when "Negative Nancy" is in town.

-Last but not least, a question for Jake. How has it been working together with your wife?

Jake:

It has been great because we do not have conflicting schedules. It helps in maintaining flexibility for our family life as well as working around our clients' schedules. 🏠

Andrea Zehr

Mike Thomas Associates, Fort Wayne, 260.494.2852,
mikethomasrealtor.com

Jake Zehr

Mike Thomas Associates, Fort Wayne, 260.249.7200,
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Packing Tips

Moving can be stressful enough. With so many details, so many boxes, so much purging—it's hard to keep things straight, much less think to optimize packing efforts. Enjoy a list of tips from area moving experts—to make your move just a little easier.

1. **Instead of using boxes, pack clothes in suitcases and other luggage items. This saves boxes for other items.**
2. **Set aside blankets, pillows, sleeping bags and towels. Use them later for additional padding during the move.**
3. **Keep essentials handy in a separate box. Include a change of clothes, chargers, necessary toiletries and a towel. You'll be glad you did.**
4. **Know your measurements. Before moving day, measure your larger furniture items. This will alleviate unfortunate surprises—like the couch that just won't fit through the door!**
5. **Use wardrobe boxes to move hanging clothes. No fuss. And no tangled hanger mess. 🏠**

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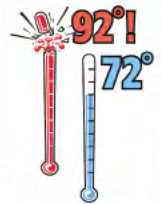
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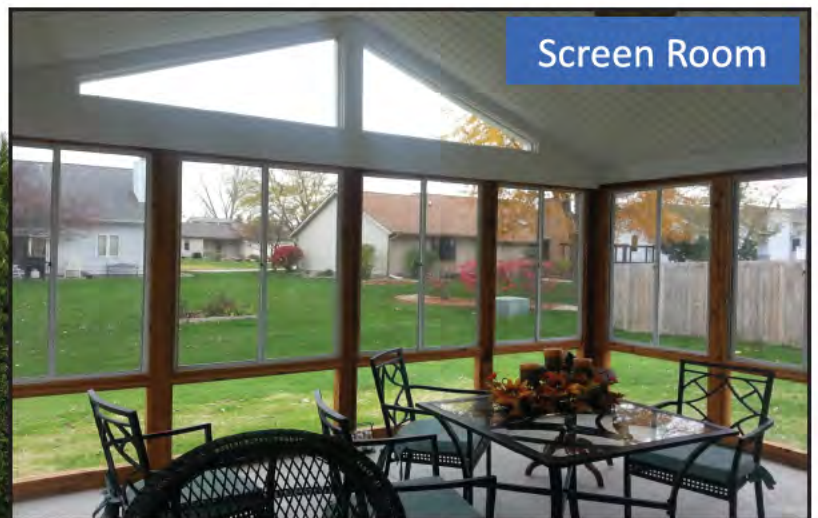


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