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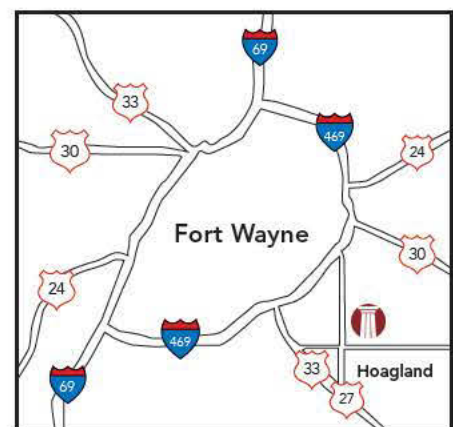
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welcome!



Sue Rawlinson

It's cuddle time.

Cooler weather is on its way, yet we still have plenty of warmth and sunshine. Cold beverages on remaining hot days are excellent, but there's something extra cozy about a warm java when the air gets chilly. And it's a great season for projects both outdoors and in.

Oh, September, how we love you.

Right? Such are the reasons that many proclaim fall as their favorite season of the year. Nature provides glorious views—with treetops and sugar maples boasting their brilliant golden colors and red barns stand out with pride, spotting our region's farm fields.

It's a time for both project planning (for next season) and project *doing* in the now. These are the topics covered in this September issue of **HOME Living**.

With expert advice on patio planning for the ultimate in home relaxation to learning tips on how to reroof your home right, we've covered it all. We explored the elements that make for a great, grand entrance to your personal abode and we've found the coolest features and frills for the fridge in your busy kitchen.

We've explored sugar maples and shared how to create a compost heap for your best gardening and organic materials (it's simple to do!). And we've covered some tips on how to move on a budget. It's all within these pages.

And finally, with the joys of fall and transforming outdoor hues, it's also time for this region's tasty apples to be at their sweet peak. Enjoy a simple apple bread recipe. It'll bring about happy tastebuds and home scents of pure homemade sweetness.

Enjoy your month of September—and enjoy this great issue of **HOME Living**. We made it just for you. 🍁

from the editor



September contents



From The Cover



planning this fall, lean on the pros at Windows, Doors & (so much) More. Check out their ad on page 41.

Cover image provided by Windows, Doors & More, Fort Wayne. For a look like this—and to find experts who partner with you in your home's projects and

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Barn Red + Dusty Teal

By Sue Rawlinson

Photos by HOME Team

September brings about visions of rustic barns against a dusty sky. It's a season of rustic charm—with a quiet nod to autumn days of yesteryear.

It's the colors of rusty barn red and dusty teal that together tie today's color trends with popular country chic design, evoking a subtle celebration of all that's calm, cozy and reclaimed. This color combo insinuates a story that's all about home.

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

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260.459.2110, dogwoodsdecor.com

Timberlin Homes, Fort Wayne
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OFD Total Home, Fort Wayne
260.487.6336, ofdtotalthome.com



Wabash Lighting, Fort Wayne
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Sweet Sugar Maples



By Erin Dozois

It begins to really feel like fall when the deciduous sugar maple starts changing its colors. Their vibrant red, orange and yellow leaves set fire to the deep blue autumn sky. In addition to their beauty, sugar maples have a couple of valuable uses: sugar and timber.

Name:	Acer Saccharum, sugar maple or rock maple (Sapindaceae family)
Known for:	Vibrant, color changing leaves and winged “helicopter” seeds
Fun Fact:	New York, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Vermont all regard the sugar maple as their state tree. Its iconic leaf adorns the Canadian flag.
Why We Love It:	Sugar maples are gorgeous, resilient and easy to grow—and its syrup is a tasty bonus.

Syrup is made by extracting sap from the tree and then boiling it to evaporate its water content. It takes approximately 40 liters of sap to produce only 1 liter of pure syrup, making the sugar maple one of the most important and profitable trees in all of Canada and the northern United States.

Timber. Maple wood is a choice material in the world of sports. It can be fashioned into bowling pins, baseball bats and pool cues in addition to being used in the construction of bowling alleys and basketball courts. Maple can also be found in the manufacturing of musical instruments including violins, guitars and drum shells. Too, its flexibility is perfectly suited for archery bows.

Selecting and Planting

- Plant sugar maples in the early fall to allow root systems enough time to establish themselves.
- Though sugar maples can grow in partial sun, choose an area receiving at least four hours of full sun a day for best results.
- You may decide to start growing your sugar maple in a container to limit any risks involved with bare-root planting outdoors.
- Prepare a growing site with deep, well-drained, acidic or slightly alkaline soil.
- Make sure there is plenty of space for the maple to grow—they can reach up to 75 feet tall and 50 feet wide.

After the Bloom

Sugar maples will continue to grow at a slow to medium rate, gaining a foot or two each year. While these trees are fairly



self-sustaining and tolerant to common stressors, there are a few to-dos that will allow them to grow to their upmost potential:

- Irrigate sugar maples during dry weather, watering the soil until it is moist but not wet.
- Paint the trunk and newly exposed branches with white latex paint to help protect the tree from wilting under hot conditions.
- Apply organic mulch to the base of the tree to keep the soil cool.
- Prune only if necessary to avoid problems with bleeding sap.



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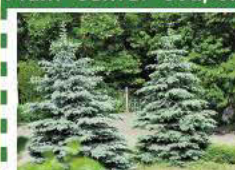
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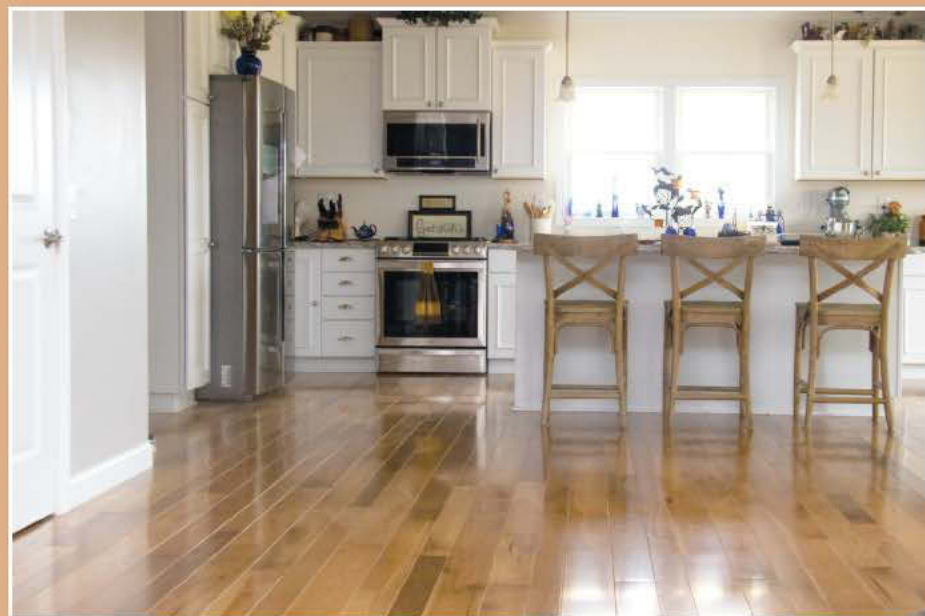
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Barnwood + Rustic Décor



By Cathy Shouse

Leaving town to refresh your spirit may not be on the agenda this fall but tweaking your home décor can renew your outlook. Bringing barnwood and rustic touches into your everyday routines will mentally whisk you to that quiet country retreat you long for. Whether you hang a piece of wood displaying the first letter of your family name tucked away in a hallway, or make wood the centerpiece of your home decor, the changes may inspire you toward a calmer pace.

A Mini Retreat

"I believe people like being able to make their homes into get-aways that resemble a favorite vacation spot, or a memory from a time gone by," said Steve Enright of Bob Buescher Homes. "Reclaimed wood, which was once thought of as disposable, has become a beautiful decorating source. Uses are only limited by one's imagination. We see it in everything from barn doors to beams, mantels, accent walls, frames for pictures and mirrors, backsplashes and bar fronts."

Think Outside the Box

"Rustic decor has really influenced lighting, plumbing and hardware as well," Enright said. "The flooring manufacturers have reproduced simulated rustic flooring with durable finishes. We are seeing influences in all phases of building without having to commit totally. 'Barn doors' have morphed into sliding track doors of all styles—some solid, some with windows, some contemporary."

While there are no rules, some arrangements may be more suitable to new construction and others fit an older home.

"Architectural corbels in cased openings are an effective way to introduce some history and age into newer construction projects," said Jodi Golm of Timberlin Homes. "My favorite recent project involved a client salvaging an old 'oats' door from the family farm and using it as the pocket door to the pantry."



Resources:

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

Dogwoods Décor, Fort Wayne, 260.459.2110, dogwoodsdecor.com

Timberlin Homes, Fort Wayne, 260.458.8000, timberlinhomes.com

Above lower right photo provided; All other photos shutterstock.com

Things to consider

"There are many reputable local barn and architectural salvage companies who specialize in this area," said Golm. "Prices range dramatically, so just make sure materials are properly treated to address pest issues and sealed to prevent chipping paint. Materials are only half of the story—more dramatic installation patterns such as chevron or diagonals are being seen more often as well."

There are many places to get inspiration.

"Pinterest and Houzz are great resources for ideas. Farmhouse and rustic decor is more popular than ever thanks to the efforts of several HGTV icons," Golm said. "Clients appreciate a curated look with pieces that tell a story or had an interesting 'past life.' If I'm using reclaimed barn wood for a wall, I will likely keep the trim white. If I'm going with a white painted 'shiplap,' I love the look of pairing it with wrought iron or warm natural wood accents. Texture is important too. Many homeowners prefer adding layers of texture like stone, natural fiber pillows and rugs, and the occasional basket or wood crate to create an alluring space over the use of bold colors or patterns."

Heidi Anderson, owner of Dogwoods Home Décor, especially likes rustic ceiling beams, as well as a variety of different woods. "If you have too many of the same types of wood, it looks boring. It's always interesting to mix more traditional touches with the rustic." 🏡



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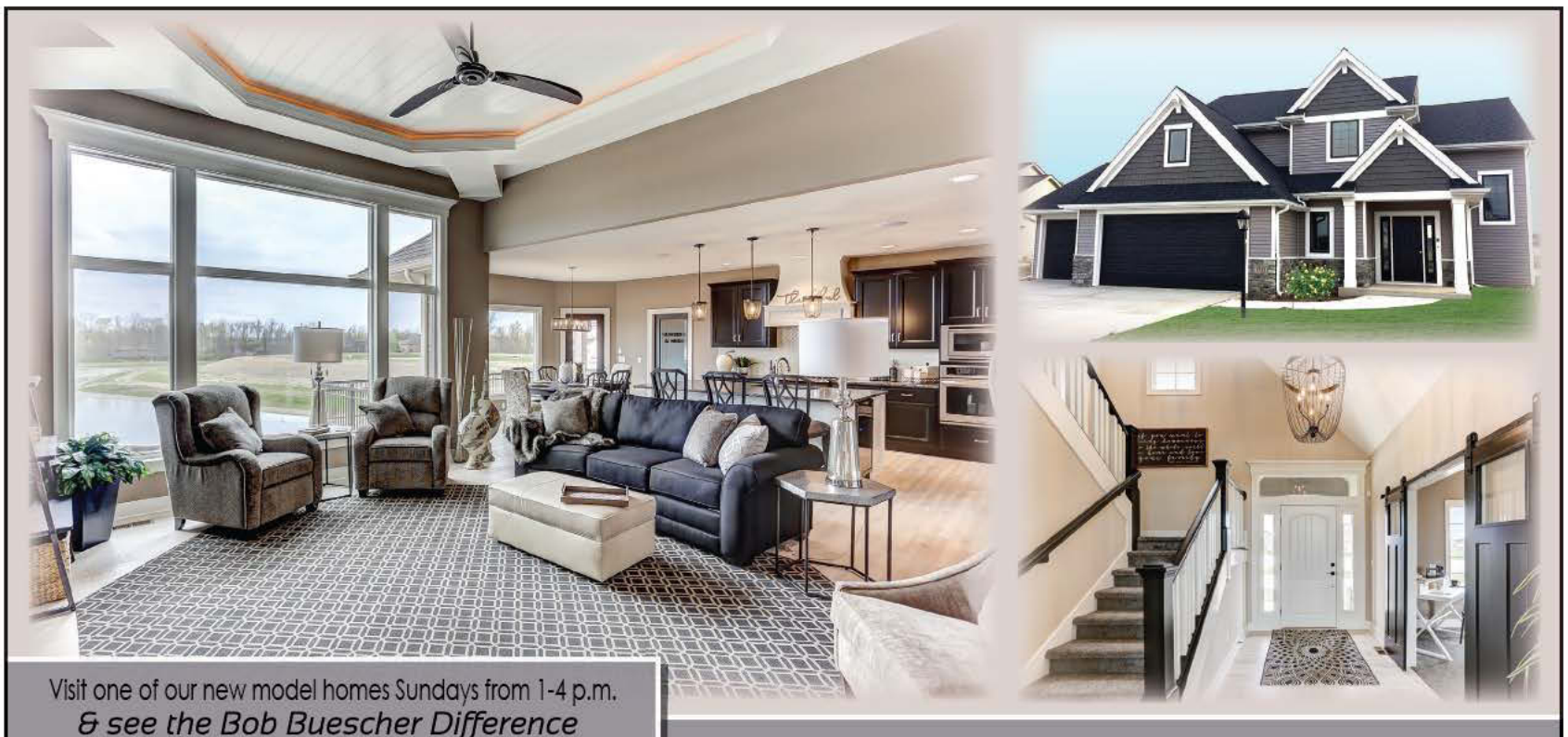
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Patio Planning

By Barb Sieminski

One of the fun projects of autumn is planning a patio. We've got some great tips on how to go about it and what questions you should ask before engaging a contractor and landscaper.

Stone + Clay, Naturally

According to Bob Binhower of NOB Brick & Fireplace, there are many concrete products in various forms, such as triangles, squares and rectangles.

"There are also several kinds of natural stone that can be laid down for patios, walkways and such," said Binhower, who owns the business.

"I think the most durable are the clay brick materials because they won't fade over the years like some other products, and they hold up better to abuse.

"We do sell a lot of outdoor patios and fireplaces for patios, and have a huge display of several companies' products that use patios."

Shade It

The homeowner might also consider using a DIY shade tree pergola kit or canopy kit, which puts shades or canopies over patios. As for patio furniture, seek products made of sturdy materials like metal, wood, plastic or resin in Adirondack chairs, lounges, tables, et al. And look for new designs in eco-friendly synthetic wood tables.

Resources:

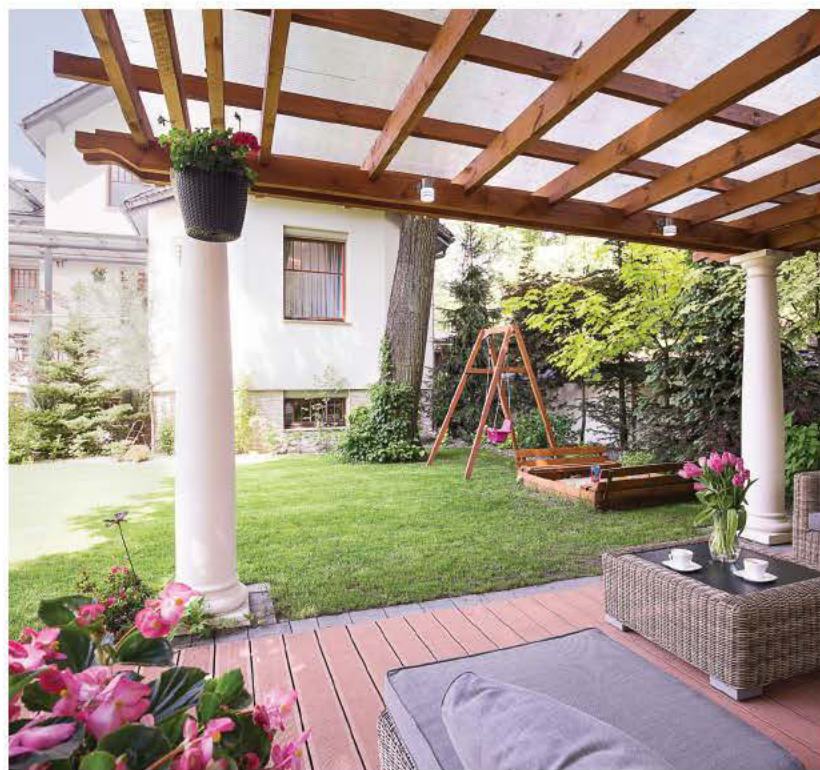
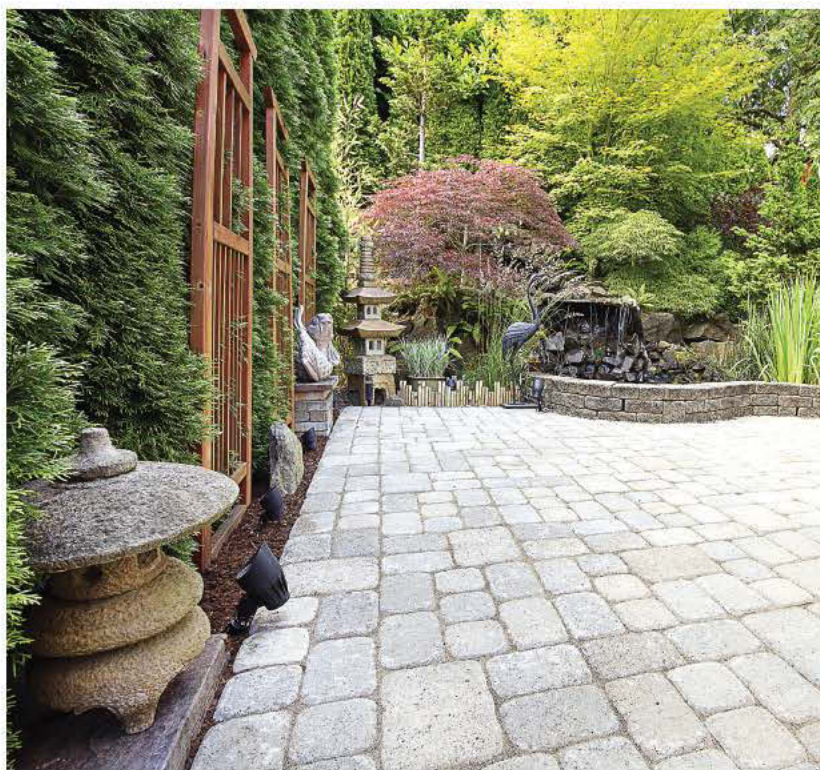
Arbor Farms, Fort Wayne, 260.637.5816, FortWayne.arborfarmsnursery.com

Living Quarters, Syracuse, 574.457.2929, livingquartersstore.com

NOB Brick & Fireplace, Fort Wayne, 260.483.2126, NOBbrick.com

Supreme Crete, Fort Wayne, 260.444.8852, supremecrete.com

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Plant It

Deb Zumbrun of Arbor Farms suggested that many homeowners desire privacy along with their patios—and one way to achieve this solitude is with a wide variety of plants.

"We suggest a varied selection of evergreens, flowering shrubs, grasses and perennials depending on what the homeowner likes," said Zumbrun. "Sometimes privacy can be achieved using trellises and fencing along with the plants. And if there are items such as smokers or grills, the homeowner may want to provide plants that hide the uglier aspects of these patio dwellers, but they will also want to make sure that the cook still can be in contact with guests."

Kevin Rutherford, manager of Supremecrete, mentioned the availability of new styles every year to help with repairs or overlays. "There are a lot of different innovations available that weren't available ten years ago," said Rutherford.

If canopies or pergolas aren't in the budget for shade, plants can be used unless you want to broil in the sun on your new patio, especially from heat reflecting off the concrete.

"Stick to shade trees that are not 'dirty,'" said Zumbrun.

"Some crabapples have persistent fruit that does not drop from the tree, or you may select a tree that's a hybrid that doesn't set seed. Skyline honey locusts do not set seed, have small leaves and don't have the thorns of the common locust.

"Decide, too, if you want fragrance. Fragrant shrubs such as lilacs, some hydrangeas, mock orange and summersweet enhance the patio experience. Homeowners should decide what time of year they are most likely to use the patio and what the use might be. One thing to keep in mind about fragrant and flowering shrubs is that they are likely to attract bees along with butterflies.

"Some people love to unwind during the evening by puttering in the garden. How nice to do so while grilling out or visiting with family and friends... those who don't enjoy puttering should select plants that have a more tamed appearance and easier maintenance," Zumbrun said. "Boxwoods combined with other flowering shrubs that are low-maintenance are good choices then. Plants should not hinder movement on the patio and should not hang into the areas of seating, eating or cooking." 🏠



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Roofing it Right

By Lauren Caggiano

When it comes to repairing or replacing a roof, it doesn't pay to cut corners. Local experts weigh in on how to get the job done right, the first time around.

Size it up

First, it's important to compare apples to apples. Roofers speak in terms of squares. One square is 100 square feet of area, or a 10-foot by 10-foot square area. A typical 2,000 square foot house has about 1,500 square feet of roof—or, 15 squares.

Pitch, or steepness, is another relevant factor. The steeper your roof, the more difficult the project. Likewise, roofs with intersecting rooflines add another layer of complexity and cost to your project.

Materials Matter

Material is another variable. According to Jeremy Hammel with Morsches Builders Mart in Columbia City, asphalt or steel shingles are the most commonly used in the Midwest. "Asphalt shingles are a thicker, heavier and more durable shingle," said Lou Salge with Four Seasons Design & Remodeling.

Kevin Hunter with Windows, Doors & More agrees, adding that high winds and tornado-like conditions call for solid materials.

Asphalt shingles start with a fiberglass mesh filled with asphalt then covered with a surface of sand-like granules. These shingles are available in a single-thickness, or thicker laminated style.

While more costly than traditional shingles, metal roofs can last longer. Metal roofing comes in both panels and shingles and is often used on either low or steep pitched roofs. There is an aesthetic component as well. Metal shingles typically simulate traditional roof coverings, similar to wood shakes or shingles. In addition to the form factor, metal shingles are lightweight and are more wind resistant.

Resources:

3 Rivers Remodeling, Fort Wayne, 260.482.5558, 3riversremodling.com

Four Seasons Design & Remodeling, Angola, 260.665.2772, craftsman-design.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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Longevity + Weather

Regardless of material, you'll want to protect your investment. Some roofs can last up to 50 years, depending on such factors as fungal growth and intense sun and wind. Speaking of weather, the best time to schedule a roofing project is during the spring or fall, because the temperatures tend to be mild and it's better conditions for the crew.

Once the work is done you should be concerned about the longevity of your investment. Warranties, though, are only as good as the company they were made by. Stick with a known manufacturer and contractor for peace of mind. Don't cut corners by hiring a low-cost roofer with no reputation or credibility—it could cost you in the end.

Quality Lasts

"A roof done right is better in the long haul," said Hunter. A quality contractor can mean quality work.

"Just because you have a ladder and a hammer doesn't make you a roofer," said Craig Winters with 3 Rivers Remodeling.

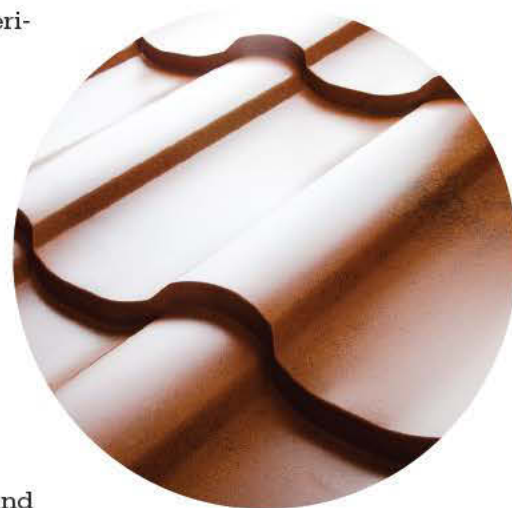


"Training and field experience is key."

The chosen roofing company should be licensed and insured, too, at minimum. This protects the homeowner and their assets. As Hunter points out, if an uninsured worker should fall off your roof while on the job, the liability and burden falls on the homeowner.

In other words, do your homework. Winters offered some general advice for vetting contractors: "Choose local business and keep your money local. There are plenty of us around," he said. "Also, check to make sure your contractor is registered with the BBB and/or Angie's List and can provide you with local references. A permanent office is helpful too... not (a contractor just) working from a home or out-of-town shed."

Roofing it right with nearby pros; it's just another reason to shop local. 🏠



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Attract Hummingbirds To your backyard

- Hummingbirds depend on flowers for nectar.
- Hummingbirds prefer tubular and pendant-like flowers; they're a great fit for the hummingbirds' elongated beaks and tongues.
- Hummingbirds flowers of choice include hostas, petunias, coral bells, salvia and cardinal flower.
- When a hummingbird feeds on these nectar-rich blooms, it gets both nectar and insects—and consequently, also helps to pollinate the flower.
- Nothing is quite so alluring to the hummingbird than the color red. Red flowers will draw these birds to your backyard faster.
- Hummingbirds are not picky, however; they will accept hues of red from pink to orange, although brilliant shades of red are the most irresistible.
- The trumpet vine is another favorite of these feathered friends.

Its wonderfully fragrant blooms are orange and red, and the honeysuckle vine attracts hummingbirds like magnets. These vines take easily to a trellis, arbor or similar supports, as they vines can grow up to 30 feet in length.

- Once a steady source of nectar is available, nearly all hummingbirds are fearless and bold in returning repeatedly to the source of nectar.
- You can also buy packets of nectar mix or make your own by boiling one part sugar in four parts water, replacing mixture (and cleaning feeder) every two to three days.
- Provide a steady water supply. Hummingbirds need very shallow water, about a quarter- to a half-inch deep. They often will use traditional birdbaths for drinking and bathing by zipping across the water, just touching the surface and dipping their bills down for a sip or two. 🌸

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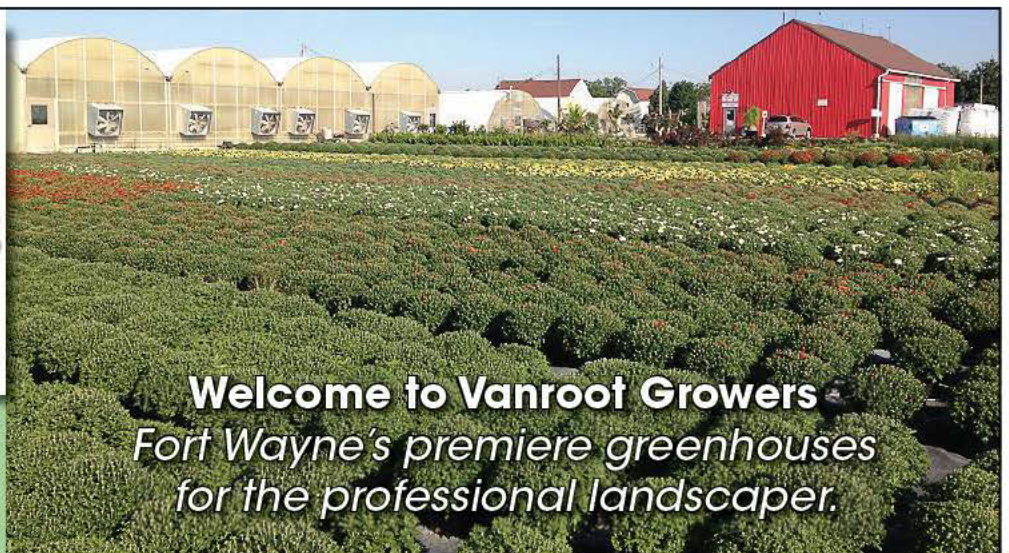
Checklist for September

By Erin Dozois

September can be a fun time of year for all things lawn and garden. Your hard work during the spring and summer months have likely yielded impressive-looking flora and bountiful fruit and veggie crops ready for harvest. It's also the time of year to plant winter gardens and plan what you'll be growing in the spring.



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TASKS FOR SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Sow seed of next year's biennial flowers.
- ☐ Plant spring-flowering bulbs.
- ☐ Start growing spinach and kale in a cold frame for winter salads.
- ☐ Patch any bald spots on the lawn, covering grass seed with compost.
- ☐ Use grass clippings, spent plants and leaves to cultivate fertile compost. **
- ☐ Instead of raking, attach the grass collection bag to the mower to easily create chopped leaves for the compost pile.
- ☐ Dig up, divide and replant overgrown perennials.
- ☐ Create a barrier to keep hungry deer out of colorful, tempting perennials.
- ☐ Spot spray dandelions and other cool-season weeds.
- ☐ Harvest and dry herbs.
- ☐ Completely clear out the summer vegetable garden.
- ☐ Plant cover crops or add compost to winter vegetable beds.
- ☐ Chop firewood to use in the chilly months to come.
- ☐ Pick green tomatoes and let them ripen indoors.
- ☐ Freeze late-summer crops.

** PROJECT: CREATE YOUR OWN COMPOST!

Feed your crops the very best with this cheap and easy recipe for the perfect compost:

- ☐ Adequate moisture
- ☐ Brown plant matter: shredded newspaper, wood chips, dry leaves
- ☐ Green plant matter: kitchen waste, grass clippings
- ☐ Activators: garden soil rich in organic matter

Turn the pile with a pitchfork or compost aerator every week to keep all the ingredients blended and working together. Test the compost's moisture density. Too little moisture will slow decomposition, and too much will make a mess. Repeat these steps for approximately three months or until compost is a dark, crumbly soil that smells like fresh earth. 🏠

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Grand Entrances: Lights 'n Landscapes

By Deborah C. Gerbers

Just like a person's smile is often the first thing people notice, the entrance to a home can speak volumes as well. From the street to the front walk to the entryway foyer, it's important—and fun at the same time—to create just the right look for your home to make guests feel welcome.

There are several elements that go into creating a grand entrance to a home. To begin, landscaping encompasses plants, trees, groundcover, lighting elements, rocks and stone accents, as well as the walkway leading up to the home itself. The Plant Center Nursery has a wide variety of beautiful plants available such as weeping willows, tulip, spruce, pine, oak and maple trees; shrubs like boxwood, yucca and yew; and perennials like hibiscus, peony and wisteria, as well as several types of decorative grasses like Shenandoah Switch and Red Baron. Picking the right combination of plants is a great way to spruce up your yard's landscaping.

When it comes to walking up through the yard, remember to pay attention to the sidewalk and pathway décor. According to Lisa Needler, showroom division manager at Wabash Lighting, exterior landscape lighting along pathways can instantly upgrade the look of a home. "We recommend that people invest in long-lasting, high-quality exterior lighting (typically LED) that can stand up to elements," she said. "It may cost a bit more initially, but is worth it in the end to have a quality product to stand the test of time."

When it comes to the front door entryway and foyer lighting, Needler advises homeowners to update their home's light fixtures every five to seven years. "If interior lights are outdated,

All photos shutterstock.com

Resources:

Plant Center, Fort Wayne, 260.432.7370, plantcenterinc.com

Rock Creek Irrigation, Huntington, 260.437.2921, rockcreekirrigation.com

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

Wabash Lighting, Fort Wayne, 800.558.8820, wabashlighting.com

it's one of the first things guests will notice," she said. "Stay on trend and update your fixtures to increase the overall value of your home."

At Wabash Lighting, there are trained lighting consultants on staff to help problem solve for people who might not have an exact idea of how they want to illuminate their homes. Needler said their experienced consultants can help educate customers about what's popular now and what kinds of elements will work for which homes. "Right now, we are seeing a lot of open-cage foyer glass, candlestick fixtures, crystal elements, the Magnolia home look—which is a shabby/country chic feel," she said.

While many home projects can be DIY-friendly, Needler highly recommends people seek out the help of professional contractors for major home improvement jobs. And, she said, don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone when selecting lights and decorative elements for your entryway. "Take a leap!" she



said. "Everything doesn't have to match the rest of the home's décor to be beautiful and pack a visual punch. There are so many things that can provide that 'wow factor' ... for example, a transom window by the front door allows people driving by the house to see a gorgeous light fixture."

However you decide to light and landscape your home, have fun and be daring. The entrance to your home will be one of the first things people notice, so make sure yours has a great aesthetic impact. 🏠

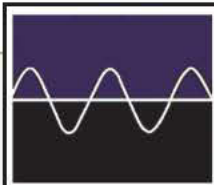
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See Yourself in a Better Light!



Fridge Frills

By Barb Sieminski

The newest star on the runway showing off new styles and colors—and most of all, new technology, is the once-lowly refrigerator. There are now many frills in this much-used inhabitant of the most popular room in the house.

Look for French doors as an upgrade, and also a single door bottom freezer refrigerator. A plethora of colors are available as well. Have you seen the freezerless refrigerators? With these beauties, the water doors boast filtered water and ice.

According to sales person Tim Hegge of Stucky Brothers, one of the big attractions is the electronic feature of ice and water in the refrigerator door. "That water is filtered and the filter removes more than 99 percent of all impurities from the water," explained Hegge.

Also, there is a dispenser light, which easily shows the glass in low light for those midnight snacks, for which you crept into the kitchen.

"You would also have a digital display read-out on the front of the refrigerator that shows temperature on both the refrigerator

and the freezer and it also indicates whether or not you need to change the filter, and various other prompts," he said.

Bold new colors like black stainless steel are a very popular color, said Hegge, and LED is another attraction. Another feature is humidity-controlled crisper drawers. One refrigerator also boasts phone and email support as well as Live Chat as a quick means of contacting the manufacturer.

One of the most advanced refrigerators is the Counter Depth Food Showcase Samsung 21.5 cubic feet side-by-side refrigerator. It has an innovative two-door system, with the exterior door giving you instant access to the items you love, while the inner case lets you store larger, fresh food items. This appliance also offers high-efficiency LED lighting, brightening all corners of the interior. An ice case is in the freezer for out-of-the-way storage.

The door is overlaid with fingerprint-resistant coating so nothing mars the surface. And of course it's ENERGY STAR-compliant.

Hang on, there's more — tempered glass spill-proof shelves make cleaning spills much easier. There's even a door alarm which alerts you if the fridge or freezer isn't completely shut.

All photos shutterstock.com

Resources:

Stucky Bros, Fort Wayne, 260.482.8402, stuckybros.com

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



Now, the colors you've been waiting for. Here's just a sample of the colors that are available in refrigerators: stainless steel, white, black, beige and bisque, metallic, slate, red, brown, black stainless, blue and yellow and retro designs might feature trendy tags like

pink lemonade, beach blue, buttercup yellow, cherry red and Jadite green and orange.

Then there are freezerless refrigerators that save electricity as well as offering more space, and these can be purchased full-size or compact.

LG Studio offers a 24-cu.ft. InstaView Door-in-Door Counter-Depth Refrigerator with ColdSaver Panel which, according to its ad, is "a mirrored glass panel that illuminates with two quick knocks, allowing you to see inside the easy access compartment without ever opening the door."

This fridge displays a three-door counter depth French door layout and also touts a smaller ice and water-maker, the Slim-SpacePlus on the outside door and allows more shelf space and more door bin space. One caveat to those parents who enjoy posting their kids' artwork on the fridge: magnets will not stick to the front of this refrigerator. And for very young children who might be rummaging around for a snack, the appliance comes with a child lock feature. One fridge even offers five select shelves labeled deli, market, pantry, root cellar and beverage. 🏠

Extraordinary Never Goes Out of Style

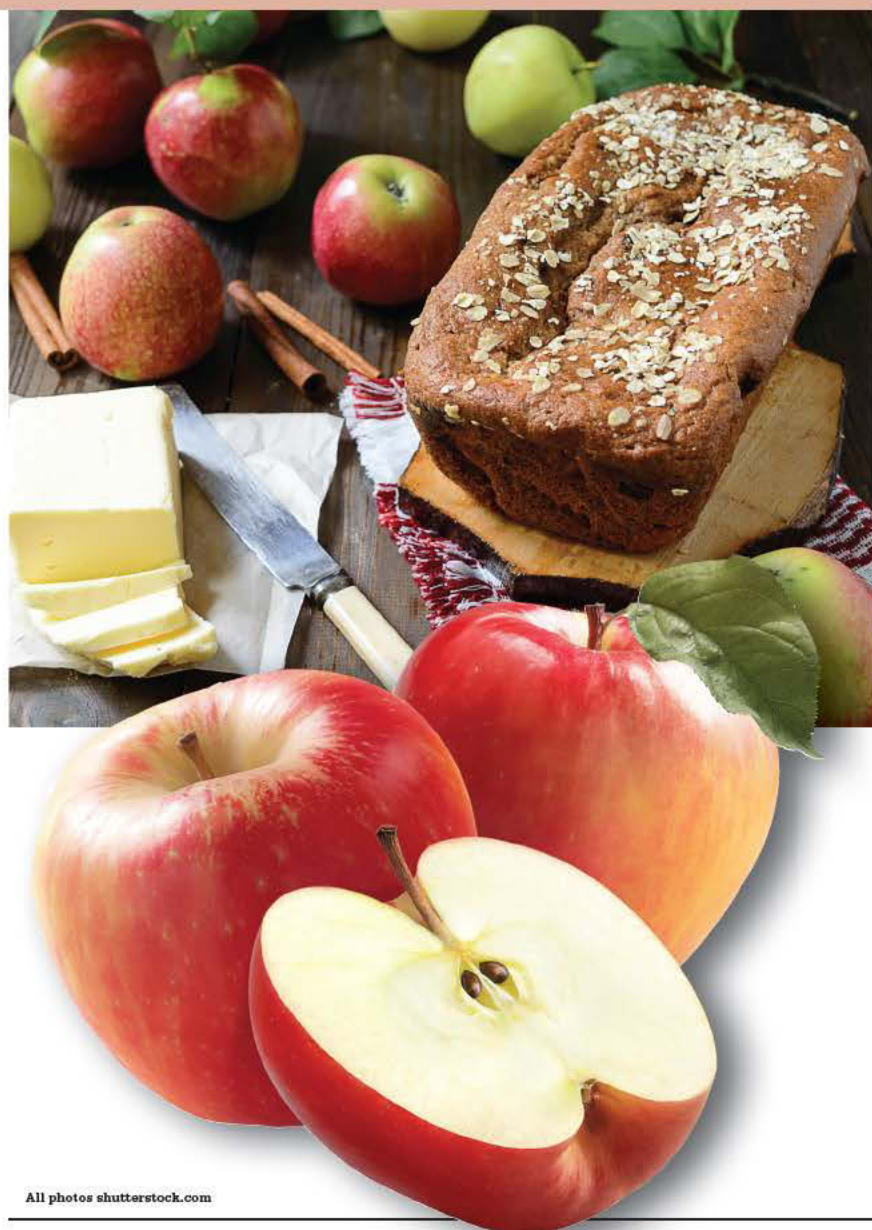
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Quick 'n Easy Apple Bread

By Sue Rawlinson

September begins the beautiful changing of nature's colors—and the sweetest harvest of apples in the region. So why not enjoy the season's sweetness and fill your home with the scent of freshly baked bread that simply says, "You're home."



Easy Apple Bread

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cup white flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup fine shredded peeled apple
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- ¼ teaspoon shredded lemon peel
- ½ cup chopped walnuts, if desired

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In mixing bowl, combine flour, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, baking powder and nutmeg.
3. In another mixing bowl, combine sugar, shredded apple, vegetable oil, egg and lemon peel; mix well. Add flour mixture; stir just until combined. Stir in chopped walnuts, if desired.
4. Pour batter into a greased 8x4x2 loaf pan. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 60 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes on a wire rack.

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Rebecca Boone

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Upcoming Editorial Themes

OCTOBER

Fall Fun

Deadline: Mon., Sept. 18

NOVEMBER

Thankful Homes

Deadline: Mon., Oct. 16

DECEMBER

Holidays at HOME

Deadline: Fri., Nov. 10*

*early deadline

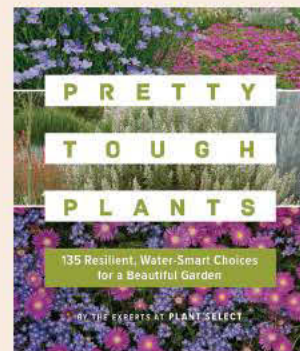


HOME community | **books**

September Books

By Steve Penhollow

Autumn is a time for putting your garden to bed, so to speak—for putting your beds to bed. It's also a good time to start preparing for winter and start dreaming of next spring. Here are two books to help you with all those endeavors.



Pretty Tough Plants: 135 Resilient, Water-Smart Choices for a Beautiful Garden

by Plant Select

Timber Press; \$24.95

ISBN-10: 1604697350;

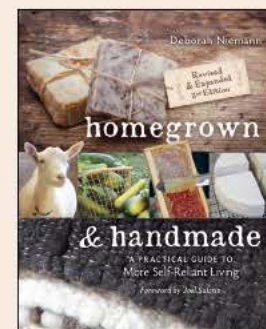
ISBN-13: 978-1604697353

Autumn is not too early to start planning for next year's garden and a new book from the nonprofit organization Plant Select should help homeowners create gardens that are more resilient and require less upkeep.

"Pretty Tough Plants: 135 Resilient, Water-Smart Choices for a Beautiful Garden" is a guide to creating a garden that requires less water, less coddling and is friendlier to the surrounding environment.

Most of the plants touted by Plant Select are just as beautiful as more common varieties but are not as well known. They have all been rigorously tested by Plant Select in various, recommended environments.

This book features easy-to-follow instructions for acquisition, care and maintenance.



Homegrown and Handmade: A Practical Guide to More Self-Reliant Living

by Deborah Niemann

New Society Publishers; \$29.99

ISBN-10: 0865718466;

ISBN-13: 978-0865718463

The latest edition of this popular tome has just been released.

Deborah Niemann is a homesteader and author who strives in the book to help readers break away from their bad eating and consumer habits by teaching how to grow our own food and to make products we would otherwise buy at a store.

Niemann shares hard-won knowledge about activities familiar to most readers (like growing vegetables) and activities that may not be quite as familiar (like raising rabbits or making soap).

She casts a harsh light on the packaged and convenience foods that make up many people's diets.

"Homegrown and Handmade: A Practical Guide to More Self-Reliant Living" isn't just for people with lots of real estate to work with. It also has a lot to offer a homeowner with an average suburban backyard. 🏡

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SEPTEMBER Calendar

By Ray Balogh

1 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.



1 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.

1-4 LIGONIER: 26th Annual Marshmallow Festival

Parade, rides, entertainment, games, pizza eating and cutie contests, marshmallow bake-off, food and merchandise vendors. Free admission. Friday through Monday, various venues throughout town. 260.302.2052 marshmallowfestival.com.

1-4 VAN WERT: Van Wert County Fair

Adults \$7, youth \$5, 12 and under free. Grandstand: general admission \$2, box seat \$3, pit pass \$15. Friday through Monday, 1055 S. Washington St. 419.238.9270 vanwertcountyfair.com.

1-5 AUBURN: Auburn Cord Deussenberg Festival

Collector car auctions, parade of classics, cruise-in, live music, ice cream social, craft show, flea market, antiques, food, more. Free admission. Friday through Tuesday, communitywide venues. 260.925.3600 acdfestival.org.



2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30 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 Sunday through October, east side of Main Street between 7th and 9th streets. 260.925.3113 daba4auburn.org.

2, 9 FORT WAYNE: Farmer's Market

Vibrant open-air outdoor market sponsored by Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana. Free admission. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, corner of Wayne and Barr streets. ylni.org/farmers-market.

3-6 WABASH: Artsfest

Includes Jazz on the Lawn, gallery walk, concerts, bourbon tasting, movies, plays, family festival, collage workshop, Dinner in the Spotlight. Admission charge for some events. Tuesday through Sunday, various venues. 260.563.1102 honeywellfoundation.org/artsfest.

7-9 GRABILL: Country Fair

Buggy rides, handmade crafts, food vendors. Merchant tents with 130 booths. Gospel, country, bluegrass music. Free admission. Thursday through Saturday, downtown. 260.627.5227 grabillcountryfair.com.



7-9 ROANOKE: 64th Annual Fall Festival

Free concerts, kids' games, parades, demolition derby, tractor pull, helicopter rides, cornhole tournament, carnival rides, antique tractors. Free admission. Thursday through Saturday, Roanoke Park, Seminary Street, Roanoke. 260.672.8116 roanokefallfestival.com.

7-10 ROANN: Covered Bridge Festival

Free concerts, parade, vendors, rides, games, car show, trolley rides, farm tractor pulls. Saturday breakfast on covered bridge. Free admission. 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Thursday, 5 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Sunday, SR 16 two miles west of SR 15. 765.833.2136 roanncoveredbridgefestival.com.

8 WABASH: Larry Gatlin and the Blackwood Quartet

Legendary singer and songwriter Larry Gatlin will be joined by the Blackwood Quartet, known as the first family of Gospel music. \$74/\$30/\$20. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102 honeywellcenter.org.

9 NORTH MANCHESTER: Eel River Arts Festival

Art, music, food, family fun, farmer's market. Free admission. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, downtown. 260.578.3009 or 260.982.7644 eelriverartsfestival.com.

9-10 LIGONIER: Stones Trace Pioneer Festival

Civil War encampment including demonstration of black powder skills, trade crafts, period music and entertainment. Kids' activities, food. \$5/person, children 12 and under free. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 5111 Lincolnway South. 260.856.2666 stonestrace.com.



9-10 FORT WAYNE: **Open House**

Fort Wayne's historic 1844 Swinney Homestead will be open for walk-through tours. Free admission. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd. 260.424.7212 settlersinc.org.

16 FORT WAYNE: **Open House**

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

16-17 FORT WAYNE: **Settler's Pioneer Village**

Experience black pot cooking and historic hand arts demonstrations during Johnny Appleseed Festival. Free admission. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon Sunday, Johnny Appleseed/Archer Park, 1502 Harry W. Baals Drive. 260.424.7212 settlersinc.org.

16-17 FORT WAYNE: **43rd Annual Johnny Appleseed Festival**

Period festival with food, crafts, antiques, music. Demonstrations: tinsmiths, apple pressers, blacksmiths, potters. Free admission. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Johnny Appleseed Park, 1502 Harry W. Baals Drive. 260.427.6003 johnnyappleseedfest.com.

19-23 BLUFFTON: **Bluffton Street Fair**

Parades, horse show, horse and pony pull, magic show, food, games, vendors, idol contest, free live entertainment. Admission charge for rides. Tuesday through Saturday, 4-H Park and other venues in downtown. 260.824.4351 blufftonstreetfair.com.

22-24 ANGOLA: **Civil War Days**

Civil War battle reenactment, musket loading demonstrations, cannon demonstrations, speed loading contest, food, more. Free admission. Friday through Sunday, Commons Park, 299 S. John St. 800.525.3101 angolain.org.

23-24 HUNTINGTON: **42nd Annual Forks of the Wabash Pioneer Festival**

Mid-1800s encampment, military drills, pioneer village, vintage baseball, farmer's market, antiques, crafts, food, children's games. \$3 adults, \$1 students, children under 5 free. 10 a.m.-6 a.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Hiers Park, 547 S. Briant St. 260.356.0138 or 260.366.5094 pioneerfestival.org.

23-24 & 30-October 1 FORT WAYNE, KENDALLVILLE, AUBURN, NEW HAVEN: **Fall Town & Country New Home and Specialty Retail Tour**

Presented by the HBA of Fort Wayne, the scattered-site home show is comprised of 23 homes, 9 villas, 2 home building sites and 8 in-home vendors. Free admission. 260.420.2020 hometour.fortwayne.com.

30 KENDALLVILLE: **"Fabulous Fall"**

Noble County Master Gardeners' fall symposium presented by seven gardening and plant experts. Vendors, suppliers, crafters, information booths. \$35 pre-registration/\$45 at the door includes continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, handout materials. 8 a.m.-3:40 p.m. Saturday, Destiny Family of Faith Church, 445 N. Riley St. 

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Take the Tour



Home Builders Association of Fort Wayne Fall Town & Country New Home & Specialty Retail Tour

Welcome Home

Fall Town & Country New Home and Specialty Retail Tour

Dates: September 23 & 24 and September 30 & October 1

Hours: Noon-5 p.m., each weekend

Admission: FREE to the public

Jessica Scheurich, president of the HBA of Fort Wayne Inc., has announced the Fall Town & Country New Home and Specialty Retail Tour will be held the weekends of September 23 & 24 and September 30 & October 1.

The scattered site show is comprised of 23 homes, 9 villas, 2 home building sites and 8 in-home vendors currently booked to discuss their products/services at many of the homes.

This show will satisfy the needs of determined buyers with homes in all areas of the Fort Wayne region, with presence in the northwest, northeast, southwest and southeast quadrants as well as homes in Kendallville, Auburn and New Haven, displaying a wide range of floor plans in all price categories.

Admission is free to the public. Homes will be open from noon until 5 p.m. each weekend. The guide will be available in the Fort Wayne newspapers on Sunday, September 17, in rack

distribution at Scott's, Kroger and Save-A-Lot grocers, as well as sponsor locations.

For additional information on this year's event contact Maurine Holle, executive director of the Home Builders Association of Fort Wayne Inc. at 260.420.2020 or visit the Town & Country New Home Tour at hometour.fortwayne.com.

This year's home tour is presented by the HBA of Fort Wayne and sponsored by Fort Wayne Newspapers, 3 Rivers, Carter Lumber, 97.3WMEE and WOJK 105. The tour's website is sponsored by Nob Brick and Fireplaces. 🏠

23 Homes by Participating Builders:

Bob Buescher Homes
Colonial Homes, Inc.
Foster and Park Homes, LLC
Heller Homes
Ideal Builders
Lancia Homes
Majestic Homes
Star Homes by Delagrang & Richhart, Inc.
Timberlin Homes LLC
Westport Homes
Windsor Homes

9 Villas by Participating Builders:

Carriage Place Homes, Inc.
Delagrang Homes, LLC
Hickory Creek Homes
Matt Lancia Signature Homes
Quality Crafted Homes
Star Homes by Delagrang & Richhart, Inc.
Windsor Homes

In Home Vendors:

3 Rivers
Fifth Third Bank
Centier Bank
Guaranteed Rate
Hallmark Home Mortgage
Ruoff Home Mortgage
Salin Bank & Trust Co.



2 Home Building Sites by:

Performance Property Group
Sturges Development Group

Craig Winters

3 Rivers Remodeling

By Lauren Caggiano

3 Rivers Remodeling is in the community and for the community. Well established with a solid reputation, it is the go-to authority for improving your home's exterior appearance. Keep this business in mind for roofing installations, window replacements and installations, fresh new siding, as well as installation of decks, patios, sidewalks and gutters.

Which of the services you offer yields the biggest ROI? In other words, where should customers invest their money?

The best investment is usually in something with energy savings. Think doors, windows and insulation in the attic, which we do a lot of the time when we install roofing.

Tell me about your crew. What makes them so great?

My staff is a blessing. Without each piece of the puzzle (staff members), things would be much more difficult. We have individuals who specialize in each trade. In other words, roofers do roofing projects each day, door and window guys just do doors and windows, etc. You wouldn't want your electrician doing your plumbing, in other words.

Tell me about your approach to building relationships with customers and vendors.

I have spent nearly 20 years now in this trade in Fort Wayne and am born and raised here. Relationships are key to success and making daily trials and tribulations work out in our favor. Teamwork makes the dream work.

What's the smallest or largest project you'll take on?

We mainly focus on roofing, siding, windows, doors and decks. We do not do interior work and we are not usually doing small projects. We are not a handyman service and so smaller projects are not our specialty. We mainly stick to large, complete remodel projects, like full roofs, complete siding and window jobs, etc.



Craig Winters

What are the advantages of renovating over buying a new home?

We are working on homes all the time that are dated and make them to almost replicate new construction with bold new colors, styles and designs of artificial stone, cedar and the new lineup of shingle and siding colors. It is an exciting time to be in remodeling.

What is one thing you wish consumers better understood about your industry?

There is a lot of demand right now, as the economy is booming. Everyone wants to get it done in the spring or fall, but a lot of people don't plan ahead. Setting up projects and obtaining materials takes time, as well as obtaining building permits, etc. You have to allow this to be a process and plan it out. Give your contractor time to get the parts and pieces and then assign the crews to complete the project. It's not something you can just order one week and expect to have it done the next.

How do you use technology to your advantage?

We do use some drones and overviews for roof measurements; however, you have to climb on a roof to see the problems and give an accurate bid. Competitors that just shoot from the hip and big box stores are not assessing each roof and home's individual needs and problem areas. This needs to be done by a trained professional and not a bot. It is why people get upset or are unhappy. Just because you have a ladder and a hammer doesn't make you a roofer. Training and field experience is key. My team has more guys with hundreds of projects under their belts to make sure things are done correctly and in a timely manner. 🏠

Craig Winters

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

260-710-0815

Daniel and Briana Niedens

Prestige

By Steve Penhollow

Photo by Sue Rawlinson

Daniel and Briana Niedens are the owners of Prestige, a full-service stone fabricator and installer based in Fort Wayne.

Daniel took some time out of a busy schedule to answer some questions about his business.

Q: When did you and your wife open the business?

A: We purchased the existing business three years ago.

Q: What had you been doing before that?

A: Primarily, kitchen and bathroom remodeling. We just carried our expertise from that world into this one. We scaled down our offerings from basically everything to manufacturing countertops.

Q: What are the different types of products that you offer?

A: Granite, quartz and marble.

Q: What's hot right now?

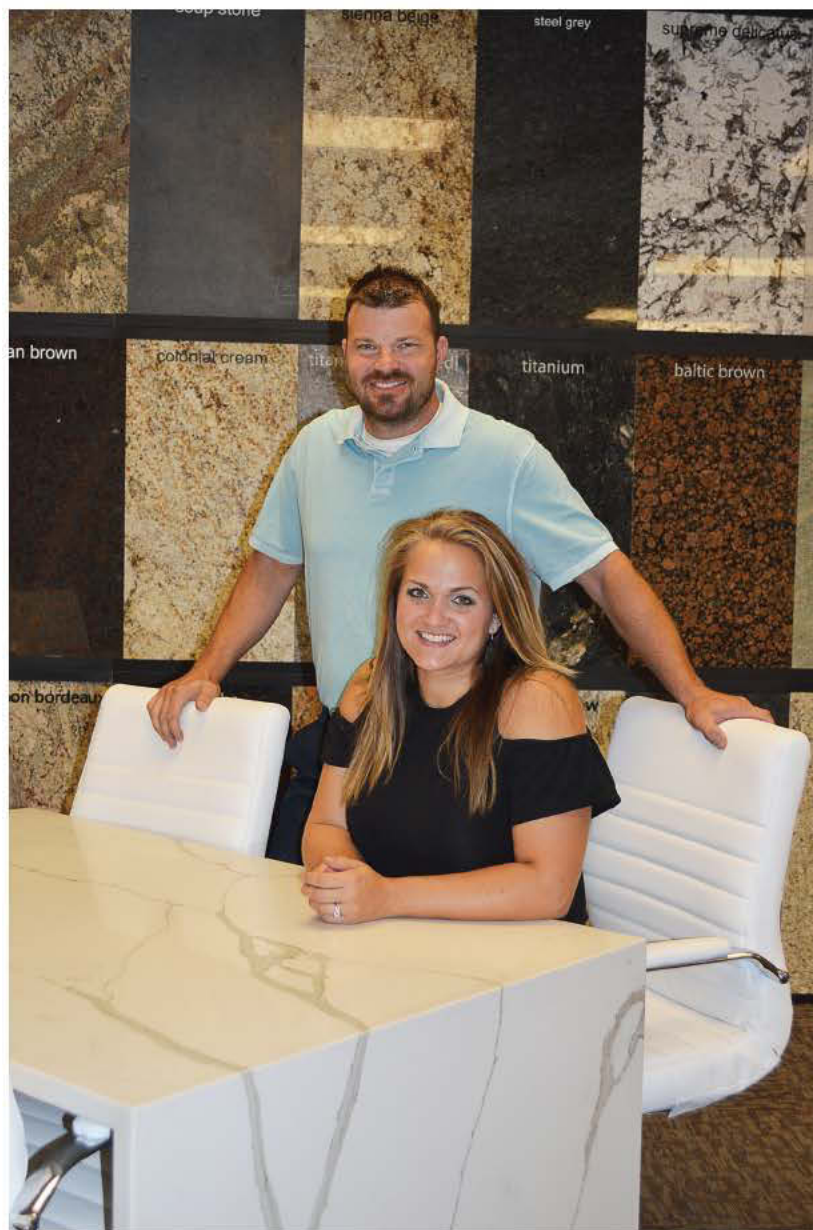
A: Product wise, I would say quartz has made a big surge on the market. People are attracted to it: minimal maintenance. We're not doing much marbles anymore. People are finding them to be a higher maintenance item. With quartz replicating marble, a lot of the marble market is being taken over by quartz. You've got the look of the marble, which is a high maintenance market, with the low maintenance of quartz.

Q. What are some of the misconceptions customers have when they first come into your shop?

A: Quartz is a popular product, but I think a lot of times it is oversold as a maintenance-free product: the indestructible this or that. That's not really the truth. There really isn't such a thing (as no maintenance).

Q: So I am guessing that educating customers is a priority in your shop?

A: Absolutely. People come into us with a lot of embellished information. So we try to help them make the most informed



Daniel and Briana Niedens

decisions possible based on their lifestyle and what they need. Just because a product is 'hot,' it doesn't mean it's what they need. We ask a lot of questions: Whether they plan on having kids. Whether they plan to cook every day or to never cook at all.

Q. Are there luxury products that you offer?

A: We are starting to see the touches of semi-precious stones. Those are getting a bit ridiculous in cost. There's always going to be someone who wants the latest and the greatest and the biggest and the baddest. We're starting to see suppliers, wholesalers, bring in a semi-precious slab materials market. They're very exclusive, very high-price materials. 🏠

Daniel and Briana Niedens

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2. Rally your compadres. Ask your friends for help. Hire college-aged kids. Have friends with pickup trucks? Ask for their help, too. A small gift of appreciation later is much more cost-efficient than hiring expensive moving companies.

3. Pack snacks. This tip isn't just for moms on the go. Pack snacks for the day; make sandwiches and pack bags of chips and waters. A full cooler that's easily on-hand saves money—and is much appreciated during break-time from the busyness of moving furniture and mountains of boxes.

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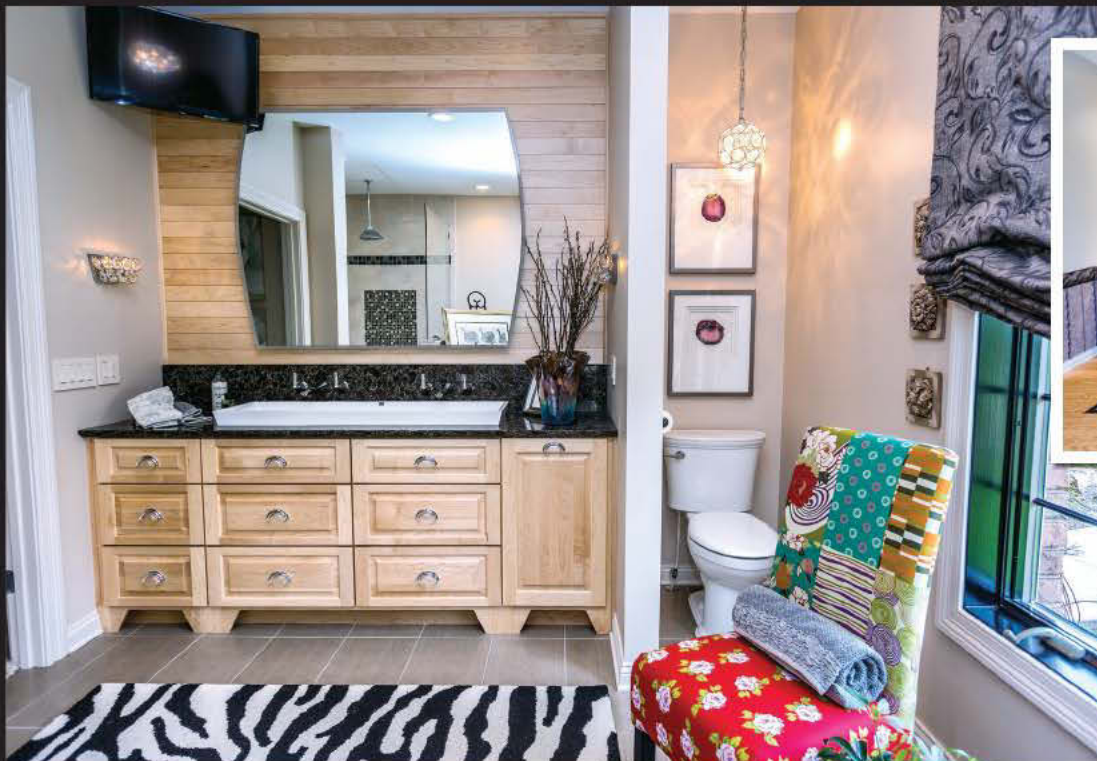
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A man and a woman are lying on their stomachs in a field of tall, green grass. The man, on the left, has curly brown hair and a beard, and is wearing a white t-shirt and a silver chain necklace. The woman, on the right, has long brown hair and is wearing a white t-shirt. They are both looking at each other with gentle expressions. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

through the screen door

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your story begins."*

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