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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's time to hit life's proverbial 'refresh' button.

Yes, spring is nearly here.

Increased sunshine, clean-scented breezes—and emerging green and yellow hues slowly but persistently spread throughout the landscape.

Isn't spring incredibly energizing?

With it comes anticipation and a joy we can't hardly suppress (and why would we want to do that?!).

In March we finish 'inside projects' in anticipation for longer days outdoors. We finish organizing and decluttering. Paint projects get completed and we start planning our gardens.

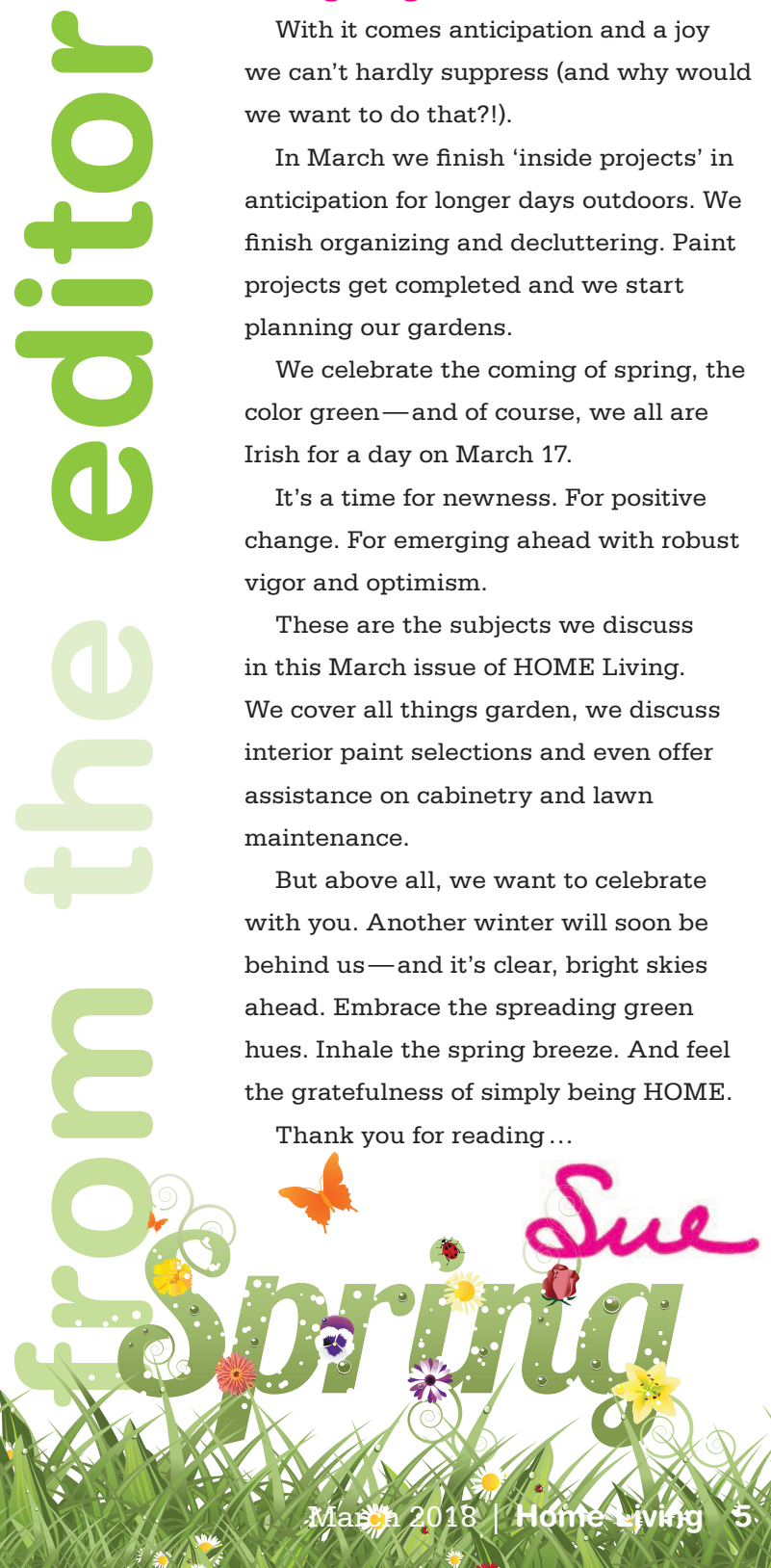
We celebrate the coming of spring, the color green—and of course, we all are Irish for a day on March 17.

It's a time for newness. For positive change. For emerging ahead with robust vigor and optimism.

These are the subjects we discuss in this March issue of HOME Living. We cover all things garden, we discuss interior paint selections and even offer assistance on cabinetry and lawn maintenance.

But above all, we want to celebrate with you. Another winter will soon be behind us—and it's clear, bright skies ahead. Embrace the spreading green hues. Inhale the spring breeze. And feel the gratefulness of simply being HOME.

Thank you for reading ...



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Paint 'n More

By Sue Rawlinson

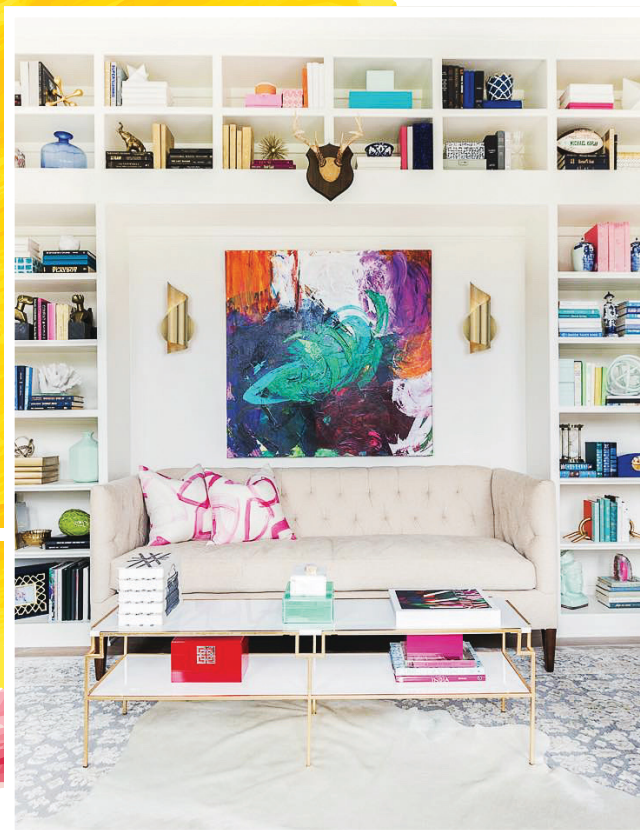


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Spring is almost sprung and drab landscapes are about to burst into color. So, why not bring some of nature's vibrancy indoors? Yes, let's have colorful fun with an array of ideas and products from right here in the fabulous region of the Fort.



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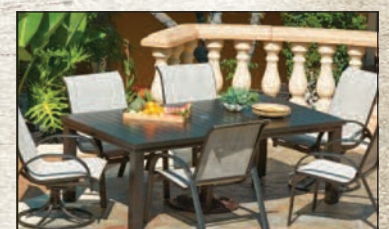
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Spring Starflowers

By Erin Dozois

Spring starflowers, or springstars, are small herbaceous perennials that grow from bulbs and flower in the spring. Native to Argentina and Uruguay but widely cultivated and naturalized in Great Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand, these springtime staples are perfect for massing in borders, alpine gardens and can be naturalized in lawns.

Name: Ipheion uniflorum (Amaryllidaceae family)

Fun Fact: Springstars are actually related to onions, sharing the allium subfamily. While the flowers smell like honey, the foliage has a distinctly onion scent when crushed.

Known for: Solitary six-petal flowers (ranging from pale to deep purplish blue) sprouting from flat, shiny, grass-like leaves.

Why We Love It: Gardeners everywhere wait all winter for the appearance of starflowers to herald the arrival of spring—which means plenty of green-thumb-themed activities are soon to ensue!

SELECTING AND PLANTING

WHEN: One of the most important aspects of cultivating spring starflowers is knowing when to plant them. The bulbs will require a chilling period to bloom, meaning the plant needs to go through a dormancy period before they are ready for growth. For springstars, this means the ideal time to first plant the bulbs is in the fall. Spring's warmer temperatures will then force the flowers out of dormancy. This will ensure plants will not become floppy and will produce enticing flowers and attractive arching foliage for years to come.

BULBS: Preliminary bulb care is essential to successful starflower growth. When properly cared for, each bulb will produce numerous flowering stems with slender, deeply green foliage.

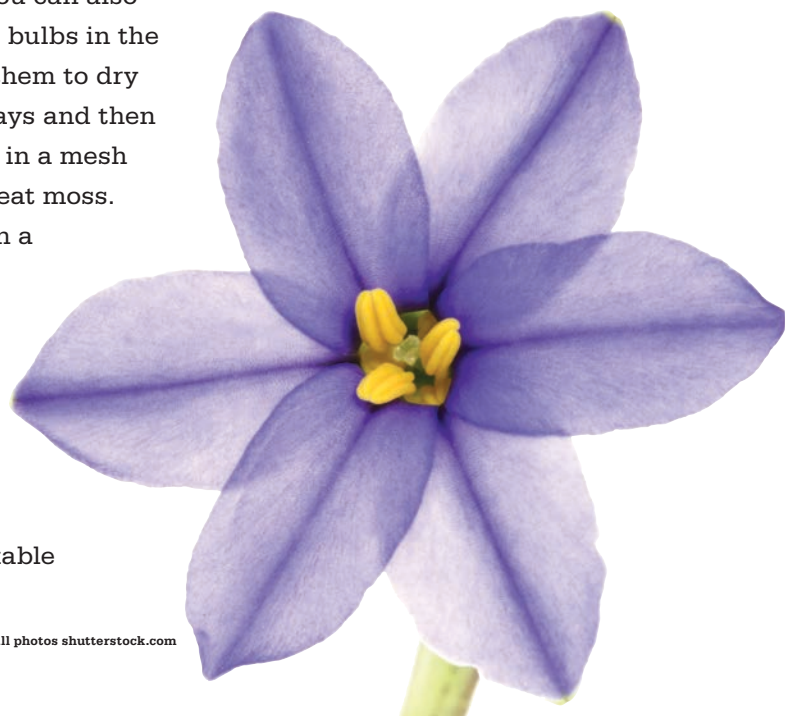
SITE: Choose a site receiving full sun to partial shade—the more sunlight, the better. It is crucial that soil be able to drain freely to prevent bulb rot. You may also opt to grow your starflowers in containers, especially if you're living in a colder climate. Again, good drainage is vital to the plant's thriving.

SOIL: Whether growing in containers or not, choose a mixture of peat and loam for the planting medium, planting bulbs 2 to 3 inches deep with the pointed side upward. Though not required if soil has been recently tilled, incorporating bone meal or a good bulb food at planting is a nice idea for optimal growth.

AFTER THE BLOOM

SPRING: Care is minimal in the spring. The only real work required is to pull the mulch away from the first little sprouts to help them emerge. Keep soil moist until those first sprouts begin to show, at which time watering is only required when the topsoil gets dry. Be sure to watch for slug and snail damage and treat accordingly with organic or purchased remedies.

BEYOND: Divide clumps every few years. If plants become invasive, remove seed heads and divide annually. If growing in containers, bring them in to overwinter. Let foliage die back and place pots in a cool, dark, dry area. You can also remove the bulbs in the fall, allow them to dry for a few days and then place them in a mesh bag with peat moss. Store bag in a cool, dry place and plant the following spring when the soil is workable again. 🏠





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Color Me Happy:

paint color schemes - which fits you?

By Shannon Rooney

Painting is a quick way to give an old room a new look. It doesn't require a lot of supplies and you can DIY it with a little planning and elbow grease. The toughest part of the job might be choosing your color scheme. Are you a neutral or pastel kind of homeowner? Like an accent wall or painted trim? We've got some recommendations for choosing the right colors to complement your home's personality—and yours.

Ask the Experts

At the planning stage in a project, you may want to seek advice from professionals. The paint and design experts at Maumee Paint and Supply in Fort Wayne are happy to help you select a color scheme and advise on type and finish. Most customers bring in samples or swatches of their flooring, countertops or other design elements,

says Connie Zehr at Maumee. The staff there will then help pull it all together.

"They're pretty much sticking to neutrals," says Zehr of her customers' preferences, with the gray family being a clear favorite. When in doubt, take home some color samples and test them on small spots of the walls you plan to paint.

Step Out of Your Color Comfort Zone

To really shake things up, aim for either brighter or "moodier" colors, like a happy yellow or a dark red. Both ends of the spectrum create a certain feeling in a room. Currently, popular colors on the lighter side include a light yellow, more buttery than sunshiny, and a softer berry color. On the darker side, deep blues with green undertones create a sophisticated look.

Resources:

James Zehr Painting and Decorating, Huntertown, 260.705.2884, jameszehrpaintinginc.com

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

All photos shutterstock.com



Keep it in the Color Family

Whatever color you choose, make one the basis for the adjacent rooms. For definition between rooms without painting every room the same color, try different shades in the same color family. Choose a color for one room, then paint the adjoining spaces two to three shades lighter or darker with colors from the same color chip.

Read the Undertones

Paint colors all have undertones of corresponding colors. Learn to “read” those undertones by using the paint chip as your guide. The darkest shade will reveal the undertones of the entire chip. For example, refer to the deepest green to see whether the others will sport shades of blue, gray, or yellow undertones. This way there will be no surprises when that color goes up on the wall.

Pay Attention to Detail

Are there certain aspects of the room that you want to highlight, like a favorite piece of furniture? If so, pick a shade from the upholstery or a piece of artwork to put on the walls. To highlight trim, go dark and add drama. Black trim gives a sleek look without dipping into contemporary style. On the other hand, use a solid, deep shade, like charcoal gray, on both the wall and trim, which will help ground the room, giving it a solid backdrop. 🏠



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Perhaps your interest has recently piqued regarding villas. You've heard more about them lately, but have yet to peek inside. Or, maybe it's simply just time to downsize from the big family home into something more quaint and 'you-sized.' Does this sound familiar?

If so, you're in luck. Making the switch to villa living may provide a smaller living space than in your past—but a smaller space can mean grander living. Villas, as you'll see here from those built by Windsor Homes, provide beautiful, smart spaces that simply ooze with class, charm and sophisticated living.

Thinking about villa living? We think you're on to something.

more Villa Living on page 18

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Masonry — James Schmucker Masonry, Grabill, 260.341.6793

Paint — Maumee Paint, Fort Wayne, 260.490.8656, maumeepaint.com

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Drawers, Doors...More:

A primer on kitchen cabinet refacing

By Lauren Caggiano

With hundreds of style choices on the market today, selecting your kitchen cabinets can seem like no small feat. But no fear—let the experts show you how to get the job done right, on time and on budget.

Costs

According to Louis DelaGrange of Wood Enhancing by DelaGrange, it's important to make sure expectations align with reality. He said the average kitchen remodel with quartz countertops will range from \$12,000 to \$20,000, depending on the size of the space.

But what if you don't want to spend the big bucks? Refacing instead of replacing entirely can be a cost-effective and more efficient option. The refacing process can take several days, so homeowners need to plan accordingly to avoid any unpleasant surprises.

The homeowner should also have an idea for their preferences and what might complement other elements in the

kitchen. Certain trends are in demand and might appeal to a broad segment.

Trends

"The thing that is hot today is that everyone wants the perimeter to be cream or white on hickory wood," DelaGrange said.

Other trends include pops of color like espresso, ebony, onyx or gray on kitchen islands, to add some contrast. The distressed look is particularly hot.

"If you plan everything properly, you'll really have a 'wow' factor," he said. That may call for hiring an interior designer to ensure the space flows well. He or she will also know about other best practices.

Form Meets Function

That's the aesthetic aspect, but what about function? Kitchen cabinet designs fall into two basic types: face-frame cabinets and frameless styles. Both types consist of a box made from some type of sheet wood. What differs is how the box is constructed. Face-frame cabinets have additional material that

Resources:

Country Mill Cabinet Co., LaOtto, 260.693.9289, countrymillcabinet.com

DS Woods Custom Cabinets, Decatur, 260.692.6565, dswoodscustomcabinets.com

Wood Enhancing by DelaGrange, New Haven, 260.341.0165



makes up the front. However, in frameless styles, the edge of the sheet stock makes up the front. Bottom line: face-frame cabinets typically have more space between the doors and provide a classic look, while frameless cabinets evoke a more modern feel.

Also related to look and feel are drawers and doors. There's no shortage of different types of hardware on the market to enhance the quality of the cabinet. Soft-close concealed hinges and self-closing piston drawer slides are the most popular.

Regardless of type of cabinet and details, some care and maintenance are required on the part of the homeowner. Delagrang recommends a high-quality varnish and cleaning them once a week with a damp cloth. The key is to avoid dish soap, because it eats the finish.

If you find yourself overwhelmed with all these choices, a visit to a showroom will allow you to see a lot of these options up close and personal and make a more informed decision. Another tip: don't discount the power of reputation. (References, references and references!) Inquire with contractors and ask if it's possible to see product samples and stay away from companies that aren't cooperative with your requests.

Take your time and choose wisely—and remember it's an investment that will give back for years to come. 🏠



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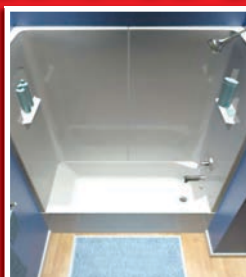
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Lush LAWNS

— how to get, keep and maintain them

By Barb Sieminski

There is a lovely but little-known song by the late John Denver that comes to mind when yearning for the warm summer days. “Cool an’ Green an’ Shady” brings to mind the fresh greening of our world as northern Indiana prepares for a vibrant spring.

Resources:

Copp Farm Supply, Columbia City, 260.244.6465, coppfarmssupply.com

Crescent Avenue Gardens, Fort Wayne, 260.483.0911, crescentavenue.com

E & R Seed LLC, Monroe, 260.692.6827



If you are looking ahead to creating your own lush lawn, you'll need these items: lawn aerator, grass seed, rake, garden hose with sprinkler attachment, fertilizer and lawn mower.

Ideally, the prep actually starts in the fall when you aerate your lawn. In the spring and into summer, plan on seeding warm weather grass (Bermuda, Zoysia, and St. Augustine are good choices) when temperatures rise above 65°F during the day. Northeastern Indiana is in seed-planting zone 7.

Pull weeds as soon as you see them, and water your lawn and apply lawn fertilizer regularly. Mow your lawn properly, and before you do so, let it reach 3-3½ inches and maintain that measurement the rest of the summer. This lets the grass blades shade out weed seeds, and come summer it shades the soil, which reduces evaporation. Improper watering is the cause of unsightly thin spots. So even if your lawn looks like a putting green now, remember to grow it higher for best results.

Speaking of mowing, will this be the year to pitch that old clunker and treat



yourself to a new, improved lawnmower model? Taking advantage of the latest in mowing can improve your grass-cutting time and leave time for outdoor activities to enjoy with the family.

There are a few new innovations in the way of lawnmowers, says Gale Shuster, general manager of Crescent Avenue Gardens in Fort Wayne. "Walk-behind mowers, especially models 20357 and 20355, which are 22-inch cut, have come out with reverse and a rear-wheel drive,"

said Shuster. And what's new and great in ride-ons? "The zero-turns, which are riding mowers, feature a 'My Ride Suspension System' with a welded deck."

Remember to get your lawn items early before the spring rush begins.

The nice thing about having thicker grass is once it is abundant and healthy it takes such little work to keep it that way. Soon your beautiful thick grass will be turning the neighbors' faces green with envy. 🏡

- 1. Remove weeds and debris, including stones and branches from the grass.**
- 2. Be sure to rake the lawn surface to remove any dead grass, moss or lawn clippings.**
- 3. Aerate your yard and spread lawn seeding soil to fill any low holes.**
- 4. Sow your lawn seed and aim for even coverage of the yard. Begin germination by watering carefully. Use a fine-spray watering can or sprinkler so the seeds won't wash away.**
- 5. Water daily until established.**



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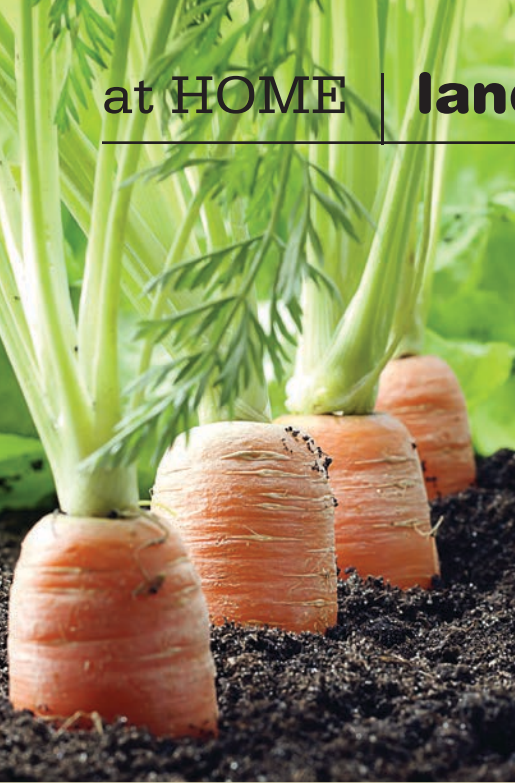


www.bueschings.com



Spring (planting) is in the Air!

By Deborah C. Gerbers





What to Grow, When?

Growing vegetables can be tricky unless you're familiar with your climate and frost season. Here is a basic guide for the best times to begin planting different veggies (indoors until after the frost):

March – April

Beets
Broccoli
Cauliflower
Peas
Radish
Spinach
Tomato
Turnips

April – May

Carrots
Kale
Lettuce
Onions
Peppers

May – June

Brussels Sprouts
Cabbage
Corn
Cucumber
Squash

Winters in northern Indiana can be cold and seemingly endless—but fear not, spring is almost here! Soon enough snow will melt away, yards will begin to turn green again and flowers will be blooming, all bringing a sense of growth and renewal to end a dreary season of winter. So, get out those gardening gloves and start dreaming about spring.

It's never too early to begin thinking about and planning your spring planting, whether it be grasses, trees, flowers or vegetables. Certain types of plants do better in our region than others, and there are certain times you'll want to plant them. For example, perennial flowers that thrive in the Midwest include: coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, aster, hydrangeas and gold-enrod, among others. And while Indiana is known for its corn, you can grow just about any grains and vegetables here, with the right timing and proper care. Most farmers and gardeners agree that vegetables like peas and turnips are generally the first ones to grow, so you can plant those earlier than others. Seedlings can be started indoors for lettuce, herbs, and vegetables like carrots. Once the last frost has passed, it's safe to move them outdoors.

We asked some local area experts for their spring planting tips, and what their seasonal favorites are:

"Typically, in the spring you'll want to plant your 'cold crops,' which include broccoli, potatoes, all varieties of lettuce, radishes, peas and grains. Harvest time will depend on maturity, but you can start clipping lettuce and even broccoli once it reaches 6-8 inches tall. Sometimes with those you can begin harvesting in May, depending on weather too."

—Kate Goshorn, Copp Farm Supply

"Flower-wise, pansies are fairly hardy and do very well in our region; they can even handle a little frost. As far as vegetables, peas are always the first ones out of the gates, as well as broccoli, beets and radishes. Early springtime is when you'll also be looking for your fall-planted bulbs to come up. And since I'm more knowledgeable in the mulch area, I'd add that it's a good idea to start mulching in the spring before those bulbs even start to come up. It can be easier to spread it out while they're still underground rather than trying to mulch around the flowers themselves."

—Dan Buesching, Buesching's Peat Moss and Mulch

"During this dreary time of year, the one thing everyone is looking for is color! Because of the chance for late frost here, I suggest planting annuals no earlier than Mother's Day. One of my absolute favorites is the begonia. There's a variety of begonias called Whoppers that are similar to a modern-day wax begonia. They are special because they reach up to two feet in height and have a great 'show.' There is also the Angel Wing begonia that has a big impact with blooms and tolerates full sun. Everyone wants color right now, and there are so many different options and color combinations like blues and reds, peaches and oranges."

—Jim Brubaker, Brubaker Designs 🏡

Resources:

Bueschings, Fort Wayne, 260.625.3358, bueschings.com

Copp Farm Supply, Columbia City, 260.244.6465, coppfarmsupply.com

E R Seed LLC, Monroe, 260.692.6827

Jim Brubaker Designs, Fort Wayne, 260.436.3639, jimbrubakerdesigns.com

Plant Center, Fort Wayne, 260.432.7370, plantcenterinc.com

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Must-have Garden Tools

By Sue Rawlinson

I admit it. I love digging in the dirt. Give me a choice between an afternoon of gardening or just laying in the sun? I'd choose being productive in my green garden oasis every time.

But while great gardens require a great deal of effort, the work needn't be difficult. Any project can be completed well (and easily) with the right tools.

And when it comes to gardening? The rules are no different.

Enjoy a quick checklist to transform your thumb into a lucky Irish shade of emerald.



Resources:

Arbor Farms Nursery, Fort Wayne, 260.637.5816, arborfarmsnursery.com
Buesching's, Fort Wayne, 260.625.3358, bueschings.com
Copp Farm Supply, Columbia City, 260.244.6465, coppfarmsupply.com
Crescent Avenue Gardens, Fort Wayne, 260.483.0911, crescentavenue.com
E R Seed LLC, Monroe, 260.692.6827
Felger's Peat Moss, Fort Wayne, 260.693.3134, felgerspeatmoss.com
Main's Flower Garden, Fort Wayne, 260.749.5307
Plant Center, Fort Wayne, 260.432.7370, plantcenterinc.com



Rototiller

every great garden begins with a quality rototiller to easily break up the ground, turn over soil—and even remove last year's weeds from this year's garden. Of any tools to make an investment in, this is the one.

Wheelbarrow

it's your new best friend who carries all the weight for you. Consider the wheelbarrow as your garden's storage cart. Keep all gardening tools in the wheelbarrow, ensuring all you need will be at-hand while in the garden—and cleanup is as easy as pushing the wheelbarrow back into the garage or shed.

Long-handled wire weeder

you'll thank us later. This tool is a dream for cutting weeds out of the garden. No more hand-picking weed-by-weed. The tool does it for you.

Pruners

always have these in-hand when heading to the garden. Bountiful gardens require consistent maintenance, and your pruners are the No. 1 tool to help keep plants thriving. Use to prune away growth, thus encouraging new growth (on some plants) and to rid dead or diseased foliage from otherwise healthy plants. Pruners keep your garden in tip-top shape.

Pruning saw

same beauty as the hand pruners, but for bigger jobs.

Hand trowel + hand fork

when you need to dig beneath a plant's roots or just dig holes perfectly sized for tomato plants and the like, these go hand-in-hand like, well, a trusty trowel in a gardener's hand.

Fertilizer

keep a bag of granular fertilizer in your wheelbarrow so it's handy when planting new veggies and flowers.

Forks and Spades

these are a dream to help break up dirt as needed. Your back will thank you.

Rake

to level soil, there's no better tool. Also, flip the rake upside-down to smooth loose soil into a flat, neat surface.

Sun hat

keep skin cancer away and protect your scalp and neck.

Hoe

the perfect tool for perfectly straight planting rows.

Edger

this keeps garden edges neat and tidy—and it's very easy to use.

Knee pad

let's face it. There's a lot of kneeling when it comes to gardening. Make yourself more comfortable by utilizing a quality foam pad—and avoid scraped or sore knees.

Garden hose and sprinkler

keep these in the garden year-round, so when needed, it's an easy turn of the nozzle.

Garden gloves

manicures are expensive—and there's nothing worse than having visible dirt beneath the nails. Too, hands quickly get roughed-up in the garden. Take care of your skin.

Garden rain boots

save your sneakers. Use waterproof boots that you don't mind getting wet and muddy—and switch to washable Crocs or flip-flops in hot weather. 🏡

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Radish Salad

Little says 'spring is sprung' more clearly than the first harvestable crop from the garden. Yes, the beautiful radish.

Green gardener thumbs begin to itch in March. Soon, ruby radishes will be ready to be pulled from the dirt. These colorful, peppery roots make for a tasty, healthy salad—one that's sure to awaken the tastebuds from winter's hibernation.

Ingredients:

- 2 teaspoons white wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh oregano (or basil)
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 pinch sugar
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 pinch pepper
- 1 green onion, sliced
- 1 small white onion, sliced in rings
- 20 medium radishes, trimmed and sliced thin

Directions:

1. In a small bowl, combine vinegar, oil, oregano, garlic, sugar, salt and pepper.
2. In a large bowl, toss radishes with vinegar-oil mixture.
3. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving. 🏠




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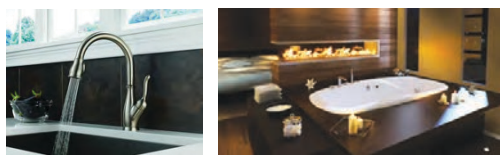
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March Books

By Steve Penhollow

March, it is said, comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. It can be hard to wrestle with that lion while he sticks around. Thoughts naturally turn to future days of lamblike weather and lamblike living.

Here are two March reads about creating for yourself the simplest, yet most fulfilling life imaginable.

The Less Is More Garden: Big Ideas for Designing Your Small Yard

By Susan Morrison

Timber Press \$29.95

ISBN-10: 1604697911

ISBN-13: 978-1604697919



March is a good month to begin planning your garden and it's a good month for getting a head start on your garden.

Tomato and pepper seeds can be started

indoors in advance of an early spring planting, for example.

Perhaps you live in an urban or suburban setting with very little garden space.

"The Less Is More Garden: Big Ideas for Designing Your Small Yard" is a book aimed at helping you maximize that space.

Morrison bucks some conventional wisdom. For example, she crushes the myth that a large deck or patio will make a backyard look and feel more spacious. Her preference is for several smaller alcoves and niches.

Morrison thinks gardens should be tailor-made to the homeowners' specific needs. She eschews conventional and cookie cutter solutions—and has a talent for helping make small garden spaces look large and lush..

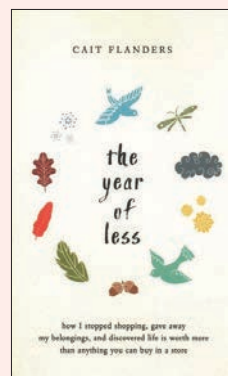
The Year of Less: How I Stopped Shopping, Gave Away My Belongings, and Discovered Life Is Worth More Than Anything You Can Buy in a Store

By Cait Flanders

Hay House \$19.99

ISBN-10: 1401954871

ISBN-13: 978-1401954871



guide to better living.

Sick of consumerism and of fighting personal debt, Flanders decided to set a challenge for herself. She would spend a year buying nothing but "consumables," the barest essentials.

The exercise not only got her finances under control, but it helped her confront her personal demons.

This book is for anyone who has used shopping to fill holes in their lives. Flanders writes with honesty about all her enervating coping mechanisms: not just shopping, but also food and alcohol.

Ultimately, Flanders comes to understand that her problems will not be solved by stuff and that there is a more rich and fulfilling life beyond materialism. 🏠

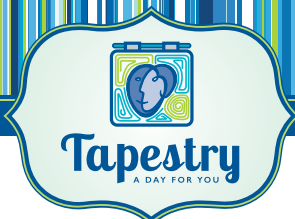
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March Calendar

By Ray Balogh

1-4 FORT WAYNE: Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show

More than 650 exhibitors of the latest in contemporary home and garden products and services, seminars, unique landscapes. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502

memorialcoliseum.com.



1-4 FORT WAYNE: "Disney on Ice: Reach for the Stars"

Dozens of talented Disney characters take to the ice in a dazzling extravaganza. \$30/\$12. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502

memorialcoliseum.com.

1-31 FORT WAYNE: Traveling Exhibitions

- American Brilliant Cut Glass: New World Innovation from 1876-1917
 - 2018 Scholastic Art and Writing Award Winners (through April 8)
 - This Marvelous and Turbulent World by Andrew Schoultz (24 through May 27)
 - Paul Bremers: Looking Beyond the Mirror (through Feb. 18)
- Adults \$7, students (pre-K through college) \$5, seniors (65 and older) \$5, families \$20, free general admission 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, \$1 last Saturday of each month. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday (closed Mondays), Fort Wayne Museum of Art, 311 E. Main St. 260.422.6467

fwmoa.org.

1 through April 8 FORT WAYNE: "Fairy Tales" Winter Garden Exhibit

Adults \$5, children (3-17) \$3, children (2 and under) free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (until 8 p.m. Thursday), noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Botanical Conservatory, 1100 S. Calhoun St. 260.427.6440

botanicalconservatory.org.

3 FORT WAYNE: "Down the Line 12"

Five local bands perform tributes to Stevie Wonder, Phil Collins, Radiohead, The Police and Styx. \$20 early entry, \$15 general admission. 7 p.m. Saturday, Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000

fwembassytheatre.org.

4 DECATUR: Flea Market

Nearly 100 indoor vendors, 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.

6, 13, 20, 27 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, Eagle Marsh barn, 6801 Engle Road. 260.478.2515

info@lrwp.org, lrwp.org.

8 FORT WAYNE: Breakfast on the Marsh: Environmental Landscaping

Business owner Laura Stine will talk about the importance of environmental landscaping and the steps you can take to improve your yard. Call to preregister. Free admission. 8:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Thursday, Indiana Wesleyan Education & Conference Center, Room 102/104, 8211 W. Jefferson Blvd. 260.478.2515

info@lrwp.org, lrwp.org.

10 DECATUR: Artisan Craft Market

Craft vendors and direct sellers of handmade crafts, jewelry, candles, soaps, baked goods, home decor, clothing and accessories, wood and metal items. Breakfast and lunch available. Free admission. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Riverside Center, 231 E. Monroe St. 260.223.7828

facebook.com/adamscountywintermarket.

All photos shutterstock.com



11 FORT WAYNE: "In the Mood"

String of Pearls Orchestra and In the Mood singers and dancers perform a nostalgic 1940s musical revue. \$40/\$25. 3 p.m. Sunday, Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne. 800.745.3000
fwembassytheatre.org.

14 FORT WAYNE: Short Hikes for Short Legs: Show Me the Green!

Start with interactive fun at the barn looking at different "green" items common on the marsh, then go outside and explore all that has turned green for the spring. Boots recommended. Free admission, open to children 3-5 accompanied by responsible adult. 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Wednesday, Eagle Marsh barn, 6801 Engle Road. 260.478.2515
info@lrwp.org, lrwp.org.



14 FORT WAYNE: Lunch and Learn

Bring your lunch and learn about risk factors and signs of heart disease, daily lifestyle habits, screenings with Dr. Mark O'Shaughnessy of Fort Wayne Cardiology. Sponsored by Parkview Heart Institute. Noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, Room 114, Walb Union, IPFW, 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. 260.481.6647
ipfw.edu/wellness.

16 WABASH: Atlanta Pops Orchestra with Chloe Agnew

Irish songs, standards, Broadway music, movies and fan favorites featuring one of the original members of Celtic Woman. \$45/\$35/\$25. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102
honeywellcenter.org.

17 WABASH: Classic Albums Live: Hotel California

Toronto-based concert series musicians perform the entirety of the Eagles album. \$50/\$25/\$18. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102
honeywellcenter.org.

20 FORT WAYNE: "Rockin' Road to Dublin"

Sensational Irish dance with original choreography to fusion of rock and Irish music. \$50/\$45/\$27. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000
fwembassytheatre.org.

21 FORT WAYNE: Earth, Wind & Fire

Hall of Fame band with eight Grammys, four American Music Awards and Soul Train Legend Award. Tickets range from \$195 to \$318. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000
fwembassytheatre.org.

23 FORT WAYNE: Lunch and a Movie

Theme: "Romance is in the Air/ Valentines." Free admission. 1:30 p.m. Friday, Life Care Center, 1649 Spy Run Ave. RSVP to 260.422.8520
lifecarecenteroffortwaynein.com.

23-25 FORT WAYNE: Lucky Duck Consignment Sale

30,000 square feet packed with newborn and junior clothing, toys, movies, decor, bikes, books; maternity and women's clothing sections. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502
memorialcoliseum.com.

24 FORT WAYNE: Greening of the Marsh

Walk through the marsh looking for signs of spring. Boots recommended. Free admission. 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Eagle Marsh barn, 6801 Engle Road. 260.478.2515
info@lrwp.org, lrwp.org.

24 WABASH: Tim Hawkins

Riotous stand-up comedy, accompanied by amazing singing voice and guitar chops, in a family-friendly performance. \$55/\$45/\$35/\$25. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102
honeywellcenter.org.

24-25 FORT WAYNE: Shipshewana on the Road

Gift, food and craft show offering interesting, innovative, creative, unique trinkets and treasures. \$4/person, children 12 and under free. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 269.979.8888
memorialcoliseum.com.



28 FORT WAYNE: 29th Annual IPFW Health Fair

More than 90 vendors providing screenings, education, cooking presentations, fitness tips, gift drawings, refreshments. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, Walb Union and International Ballroom, IPFW, 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. 260.481.6647 or 260.481.6746
ipfw.edu/health.

31 FORT WAYNE: "Forever Young"

Multiple award-winning production about five best friends who discover the healing power of music. \$69/\$49/\$39/\$29. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000
fwembassytheatre.org. 🏠



The Fort Wayne HOME & GARDEN SHOW

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With over 650 exhibitors, the Fort Wayne Home & Garden show is preparing to celebrate 45 years with fun for the whole family. Coming to the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum March 1-4 with new features, beautiful gardens, educational seminars, and fun for the whole family, we think it's a can't-miss event.

- The World Famous Twiggy, the Waterskiing Squirrel
- MBN Properties from the HGTV pilot *Small Town Big Flip*
- Mad Dog & Merrill, self-proclaimed "grillologists"
- More than 20 master gardeners from the tri-state area

- More than 650 vendors
- Family Fun Area
- Visit HOME Living team at their booth

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Thursday and Friday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for an adult, \$6 for seniors, and kids 15 and under get in free. There is also the option to download a coupon and save \$2 at home-gardenshow.com.

The show takes place at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, located at 4000 Parnell Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. There is a \$5 parking fee. Visit home-gardenshow.com for more information. 🏠

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Rebecca Boone

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Wabash Lighting

Lisa Needler

Story and photo by Barb Sieminski

When did Wabash Lighting open as a separate entity of Wabash Electric, and when did you begin working for them?

A. Wabash Electric opened its first lighting showroom space in the Wabash location in the 1980s. Our Fort Wayne location came about in 1992, with other locations around northern Indiana in the following years. My title is Lighting Showroom Division Manager. I originally started in 2003, leaving in 2009 and came back in 2012. Overall, I have nearly 12 years in the trade.

What was your background before you began working with Wabash?

A. I had been working as a manager for CVS Pharmacy, but always had a good eye for design. I graduated from Adams Central High School, and spent several years as an art student at IPFW before becoming an interior design student. While I was a student for design, I went to work for Wabash. They trained me in all the lighting skills available at the time and I have pursued further industry training where I could get it. I have my CLC, which qualifies me as a certified lighting consultant.

Why did Wabash Lighting become a separate subsidiary of Wabash Electric?

A. We aren't actually separate. We just started to re-brand ourselves a couple years ago so that we could really push the design and decorative work that we do. Many people didn't understand the full extent of the products we carried and the special skills our consultants can bring to the project. They thought we were electricians. Our goal was to create an image of how we can help them have a beautiful, yet affordable home.



How many employees do you supervise?

A. I oversee roughly 30 sales and support staff across four different showroom locations.

How would you define your role, and how are customers assisted in their selections?

A. I mainly oversee the purchase of new products for display, deals made with vendors for special pricing, contracts with builders and designers, and supervise the training, hiring and such of the employees in my division. The sales staff at Wabash utilizes many tools on the showroom floor to help customers. Our website, www.wabashlighting.com, is probably our No. 1 resource with finding products within the budget requirements of our clients. We can create wish lists, see what all is in the same collection of light fixtures, and get spec sheets for the client within minutes. We also have vendor reps who come to the showrooms for product training to help staff understand how to best fit the needs of our clients.

What's trending now in the home lighting field?

A. So many trends! Probably the most popular design trend that is still very hot is the farmhouse chic look. Many people associate that with the Chip and Joanna Gaines looks of driftwood, shiplap and weathered metal finishes. It's comfortable, clean and here to stay for quite awhile! Another trend is for tech. Lighting controls that sync with your thermostat and other automated features are becoming increasingly more popular. LED lights are now the norm, but getting dimmers and lighting controls to properly control them can be difficult.

Is there anything else you'd like readers to know?

A. We handle all kinds of lighting products, from the very budget-friendly and economical to the fully customizable variety. Wabash Lighting values integrity and service in all they do, and makes every attempt to sell the best products for the right price. We make every attempt to be competitive, whether that's with local box stores or our online competitors. Don't hesitate to give us a try!

Wabash Lighting

Lisa Needler, Fort Wayne, 260.483.8820,
www.wabashlighting.com

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March's Checklist

Organizing: Pitfalls to Avoid

With the eventual emergence of spring (it's coming!) and what we hope are the last bitter-chilled days of the season, it's a great time to get organized indoors. Spring into action and check out these common household flops—to avoid them from overpowering your home's organization.

- **Non-functional entryway.** The coat closet might work well for you, but for the home's main mess-makers? Not so much. Create an entry where kids can easily hang their own coats—and place a basket into which boots can quickly be tossed.
- **Glass cabinetry might not be your friend.** But it should be. Let go of (ugly) dishware you don't use + ensure your plates stack up. Otherwise, mismatched disarray is in plain view.
- **Containers aren't always functional.** We have good intentions, but the truth is many containers simply exist, wasting space and aren't put to use. Get rid of them—or fill them appropriately.
- **The refrigerator stores food; it needn't serve as the family message control center, too.** Real estate experts will be the first to advise: clean off the fridge. Of course, keep items most important or near to the heart, but most refrigerators are slathered with unnecessary paper.
- **Littering, loitering laundry.** You know what we mean. You start a load, dump it in a basket when dry—you'll fold later. Three other piles of dirty laundry remain on the ground awaiting their turn for a bath. Instead, do laundry when you have time to finish what you start—otherwise, the laundry room becomes a perpetual eyesore. Keep laundry clean and fresh. If you start it, get 'er done. 🏠

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