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# welcome! from the editor

We've moved



*Last month, I shared that July marked my family's one-year anniversary in our home and that we were looking forward to many more happy years to come in it. Things can change so quickly!*

In August, we were presented with an opportunity to purchase a home with more space for our extended family, and by the end of the month, we had sold our home and moved into our new one. Phew! With

moving, comes stress but also a lot of fun. In the months ahead, I'll be busy decorating and remodeling the new home and making plans for our summer projects—a new deck and fence, a bedroom build out in the basement and designing my wildflower garden. I'll share the ups and downs with you as I go. There are sure to be some setbacks and obstacles along the way.

In the meantime, I am welcoming September with open arms—and perhaps some optimism for some much-needed rest. The weather cools down. We start to think of autumn and all that comes with it—apple cider, bon fires, pumpkins, cozy sweaters and more.

Of course, with the changing season, comes the need to prepare your home for colder temps. This issue is full of information to help you get your home ready. And, we can't forget about the garden. There's still plenty to do outside to take advantage of milder temperatures, including planting some leafy greens to enjoy in a few short months.

Is there something you'd like us to cover in an upcoming issue? Don't hesitate to contact me. I love hearing from our readers.



Amber

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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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# Kitchen faucets

*By Amber Bouthot*

*The kitchen is the focal point of the house—a place for gathering, socializing and sharing a meal. It is the space that brings everyone together at the start of the day or after a long day away. The year ahead brings new trends in faucets and countertops. Your subtle choices can add so much to the look and feel of your kitchen.*



**When it comes to faucets, a black matte finish is all the rage—following the same trend in kitchen appliances—giving the entire kitchen a sleeker and more sophisticated look.**

**Copper remains a popular choice for faucets and finishes and comes in a variety of shades, including polished, antique and satin. Bronze is another classic favorite that is still en vogue, especially with the rise of the farmhouse look. It also comes in a variety of shades from dark to light.**





# and countertops



Quartz still reigns supreme when it comes to upscale countertops. It can virtually last forever and is easy to clean. It is available in a wide range of colors now, thanks to advances in technology, but the trend is towards lighter and softer colors like grey, taupe, cream or white finishes. The look is intentionally simpler and less complicated.

Don't shy away from mixing and matching colors for your countertops, as well. Many homeowners are opting for white countertops with a more textured or darker island. The old rules of uniformity are gone. Have some fun!



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# Autumn-Loving Leafy Greens

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By Erin Dozois

*There's a reason your mama always said to eat your greens. They're an excellent source of fiber, folate and carotenoids, in addition to vitamins C and K and minerals iron and calcium. They provide more nutrition per square garden foot than any other crop and luckily these eight tasty varieties are well suited for autumn and winter harvests.*



**Arugula.** This peppery leaf is a member of the mustard family and can be found in dishes ranging from salads to pizza. It is easy to grow and can be grown as a perennial as long as it isn't killed by frost. *Try these varieties: Roquette, Runway, Garden*

**Bok Choy.** Although it is often grown as a summer crop, bok choy can be transplanted under cover in autumn. Harvest this oriental vegetable young throughout the winter for salads or let it mature for its succulent stalks. *Also known as: Bok Choi, Pok Choi, Chinese Cabbage*



**Chard.** More productive and easier to grow than its cousin spinach, chard can be harvested as needed six weeks after planting. Make sure to thin seedlings that are growing too close together. *Try these varieties: Bright Lights, Fordhook Giant, Perpetual*

**Kale.** One of today's most popular super foods, kale is a vigorous grower that comes packing vitamins A, C and K. It's easy to grow and goes a long way—just 4 or 5 plants will provide an abundant supply for cooking, smoothies, etc. *Try these varieties: RedRussian, Lacinato, Redbor*



**Lettuce.** Every type is fair game for the garden except the slow-growing iceberg variety. Make several small sowings to ensure there will always be some fresh leaves handy for salads. Water often to prevent bitter plants, but allow the leaves to dry lest they mildew. *Try these varieties: Red Sails, Buttercrunch, Jericho*



## Mustard Greens.

If you're craving a little zest, look no further than the mustard green. Quick and easy to grow, mustards require little in the way of care. Plant them three weeks before the first frost and provide two inches of water a week. *Try these varieties: Florida Broadleaf, Ruby Streaks, Southern Giant Curled*

**Spinach.** Spinach can be eaten raw or cooked and is higher in calcium and vitamins than most of its leafy kin. Protect young plants with a cold frame or thick mulch until the soil reaches 40°. Harvest before leaves turn bitter. *Try these varieties: Red Kitten, Flamingo, Emperor*



**Wintercress.** A spicy green that's great in soups and salads, wintercress is the water-loving, yet hardier cousin of watercress, making it a bit easier to grow for most gardeners. This annual is also a delicious source of vitamin C. *Also known as: Yellow Rocket, Herb Barbara, Yellow Rocketcress* 🌱





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# *Sprucing Up for Fall-* Decorating Trends







**By Deborah C. Gerbers**

*As summer comes to an end, the leaves are starting to change colors, the fall air is getting cool and crisp and autumn is taking center stage once again. Here's a peek at what's trending for fall décor.*

Mixing and matching styles is trending right now. For example, try combining more classic pieces like wingback chairs with more modern furniture, such as metal side tables and industrial-style stools. It's becoming more common to mix industrial light fixtures and metal details with traditional Oriental rugs and even Victorian-era grandfather clocks and other antique items.

This fall is also welcoming velvet, woven fabric pieces and more color—all-white rooms seem to be waning although neutrals do remain popular, according to Cindy German of Wayside Furniture.

"We are seeing more warm tones and neutrals," she said. "Beige is also making a comeback, as well as bronze-colored hues."

Faux finishes, brass details and antique quilts that give a rustic feel to a modern room are also in style. Dark painted walls in colors like navy blue and chocolate brown are replacing the recent trends of farmhouse white and gray—just be sure not to use very dark colors in small rooms as it might make the space feel even smaller. If you're not keen on painting a whole room a deep charcoal, try using accent pieces like burgundy throw pillows or a hunter green area rug.

*continued on page 12*



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Hard surfaces like wood, terra cotta or porcelain tile, and even painted concrete floors are popping up now. Easy to clean and kid-friendly, these types of finishes can offer an industrial or rustic look depending on the material. For dark flooring, try adding a lighter colored rug with some visual interest for texture. Look for woven rugs in a mix of bold colors in a room with mostly white or neutral hues.

A trend that is likely to stay is statement ceilings. Think hammered copper panels, shiplap and textured wallpaper—a ceiling can serve as an accent “wall” to add some unexpected fun to any room. Dark ceiling paint can be a refreshing change from traditional flat white, as well. Edison-style lightbulbs and metal fixtures stand out in any décor too.

As the kids are heading back to school, you can expect some extra chaos and clutter from backpacks, school shoes, athletic equipment and more.



“We find that people are also looking for storage options like wire baskets and entryway benches with places to store various items,” said German.

Most furniture and home goods stores offer numerous options for staying organized. Benches with lids can act as storage chests for winter boots, extra clothes and other items. Hooks for coats and bookbags keep the floor area clear, and little cubbies for each family member keep everyone’s things separate and organized. 🏠

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## Resources:

**Bernhaus Furniture**, Berne, 260.589.8324, [bernhausfurniture.com](http://bernhausfurniture.com)

**Sanborns ...for your home**, Angola, 260.665.9799, [sanbornsfurniture.com](http://sanbornsfurniture.com)

**Wayside Furniture**, Angola, 260.665.3121, [waysidefurnitureinc.com](http://waysidefurnitureinc.com)

# Fall color planning guide

*Millions of people each year look forward to the magnificent colors on display in autumn. Fall offers irreplaceable views, whether you're atop a mountain ridge or thick in the folds of a forest. In addition, the crackle of leaves underfoot and the earthy smell of the soil tempts the senses even more. Some advance planning can help make fall foliage trips that much more enjoyable and awe-inspiring.*

## Peak viewing times

Areas of the northern-most latitude will start to show color earlier than more southern areas. Generally speaking, the leaf-viewing season begins in late September and runs through early November for much of North America. Peak times for viewing depend on areas of travel and time of year. For large swaths of Canada and the United States, plan trips for late-September to mid-October. The Weather Channel offers maps and charts at [www.weather.com/maps/fall-foliage](http://www.weather.com/maps/fall-foliage) for the peak times for many areas of the U.S.

## Pick your destination

Anywhere with deciduous trees provides the opportunity to witness blazing autumn color. During leaf-viewing season, travelers can go coast to coast and see awesome vistas. Some regions are particularly known for their leaf displays. New York's Catskill and Adirondack

regions are prime spots for visitors in the autumn. Those who live further north will find that leaves in Vermont are such an attraction that routes are published indicating where to enjoy the best views. Further south, Central and Eastern Virginia peak in late October. And don't forget the shores of the Great Lakes, which are awash in reds, oranges and yellows by mid-September. The travel resource Frommer's offers more leaf-viewing locales to visit.

## Pack the right gear

While most people are not without a smartphone that can capture amazing high-resolution imagery, serious leaf photographers may want to take out their prized camera equipment for leaf-viewing excursions. Also bring along a map or a GPS-enabled device so you can explore back roads and areas off the beaten path more readily.

There are plenty of apps that can help with foliage-finding adventures, so a phone is a handy tool. When packing, also bring along hiking boots, comfortable layered clothing and any equipment you'd normally take for an afternoon in the great outdoors.

Another idea is to hit the ATM machine prior to the visit. Many smaller towns and their local shops may not take credit cards, so it's best to have cash on hand for food and souvenirs.

## Extend the day

Make leaf-viewing part of a larger series of events for the day. Scope out vineyards where you can sample local wines or plan trips around orchards, where you can come home with beautiful photos as well as fresh-picked apples and pumpkins. You may find a county fair or street festival while exploring. 🏠





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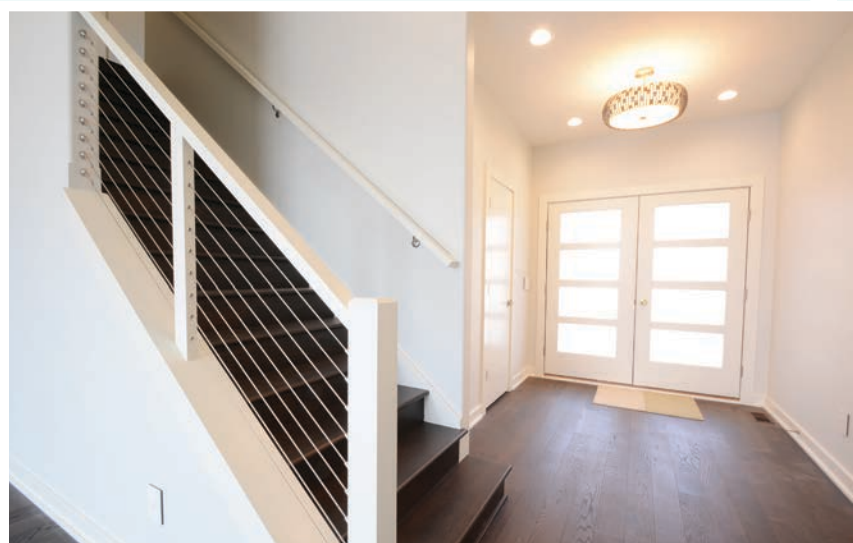
Love  
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Look?

*By Amber Bouthot*

The stairway can play an integral role in your home, welcoming guests as they enter and setting the tone for the look and feel for the rest of the house. Whether sporting classic wooden banisters or embracing a modern look with stainless steel cabling, the choices you make for your stairway can make a bold statement about you.

Our partners at Windsor Homes said that staircase design is usually determined by the floor plan you choose, but there are many options to choose from when it comes to railings, lighting and flooring. Check out these examples from some of their recent new home projects.





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### Resource:

**Windsor Homes**, Fort Wayne, 260.0490.1302, [mywindsorhome.com](http://mywindsorhome.com)

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By: Beth Johnson, HBA of Fort Wayne Executive Director

*The Fall Town & Country New Home and Specialty Retail Tour is a FREE scattered site home show being held the weekends of Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 6-7, from noon to five each day. With a booming housing market and low inventory, there is no better time than now to consider a newly built home. With various price points and floor plans, the tour is sure to please.*

The Town & Country Tour is comprised of 24 homes, nine villas, three developments and nine in-home vendors scattered throughout Fort Wayne, Auburn, Grabill, Leo and New Haven, showcasing some of the best home builders in the area.

For more information, you can visit [www.hometour.fortwayne.com](http://www.hometour.fortwayne.com), search the #buildnowFW on social media outlets, pick up a guide from our sponsor locations, on the racks of Kroger, Scott's and Save-A-Lot grocers, in Fort Wayne

Newspapers on Sept. 23, or call the Home Builders Association of Fort Wayne at (260) 420-2020.

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# Staging to impress buyers



*Homeowners must consider a variety of factors when putting their homes on the market. One of the more important things to remember is the benefits of making a strong first impression on prospective buyers. That's why many homeowners rely on staging when selling their homes.*

Staging requires more than just clearing out clutter or baking a batch of cookies to create a welcoming aroma. Staging helps potential buyers visualize the potential of a home and see themselves owning and living in the property.

While homeowners can effectively stage their own homes, sometimes it is well worth the investment to call in a professional designer or stager. Stagers often work their magic on vacant properties or those that have been sitting on the market awhile. A stager conducts careful research into the market of a particular area and learns about the neighborhood before deciding how to appeal to likely buyers. For example, when staging a coastal home, a stager may go with nautical themes and create the impression of a relaxing and laid-back property for entertaining by the beach.

Certain rules should be followed when staging a home. Furniture, decor and other amenities in the home should not detract from the house itself. Instead, such items should complement the architecture and feel of the space. Here are some additional staging suggestions.

- **Remove personal effects.** Homeowners are urged to replace personal photographs with neutral artwork and remove other decorative items that reflect their personalities. As an example, an avid outdoorsman probably will want to remove hunting trophies. The goal is to help buyers see themselves in the home, and that can be difficult if existing residents' personal effects are everywhere.

- **Put away nonessential items.** Staging helps homeowners create dream spaces. Coffeemakers, backpacks hanging on the wall and dishes in the drainboard may be part of daily living, but they can make it hard for buyers to see a home's potential. Store such items before holding an open house.

- **Maximize lighting.** Whenever possible, take down or open window treatments to display architectural moldings and let in as much natural light as possible.

- **Opt for neutral colors and furnishings.** Use neutral taupe and gray paint to keep homes prime for buyers. Homeowners who have more eclectic or colorful tastes can put their items in storage and rent neutral furnishings until the home sells.

Staging can improve the chances that a house sells quickly. Staging helps potential buyers see themselves in the space without distractions from the previous owners' decorating or belongings. 🏠

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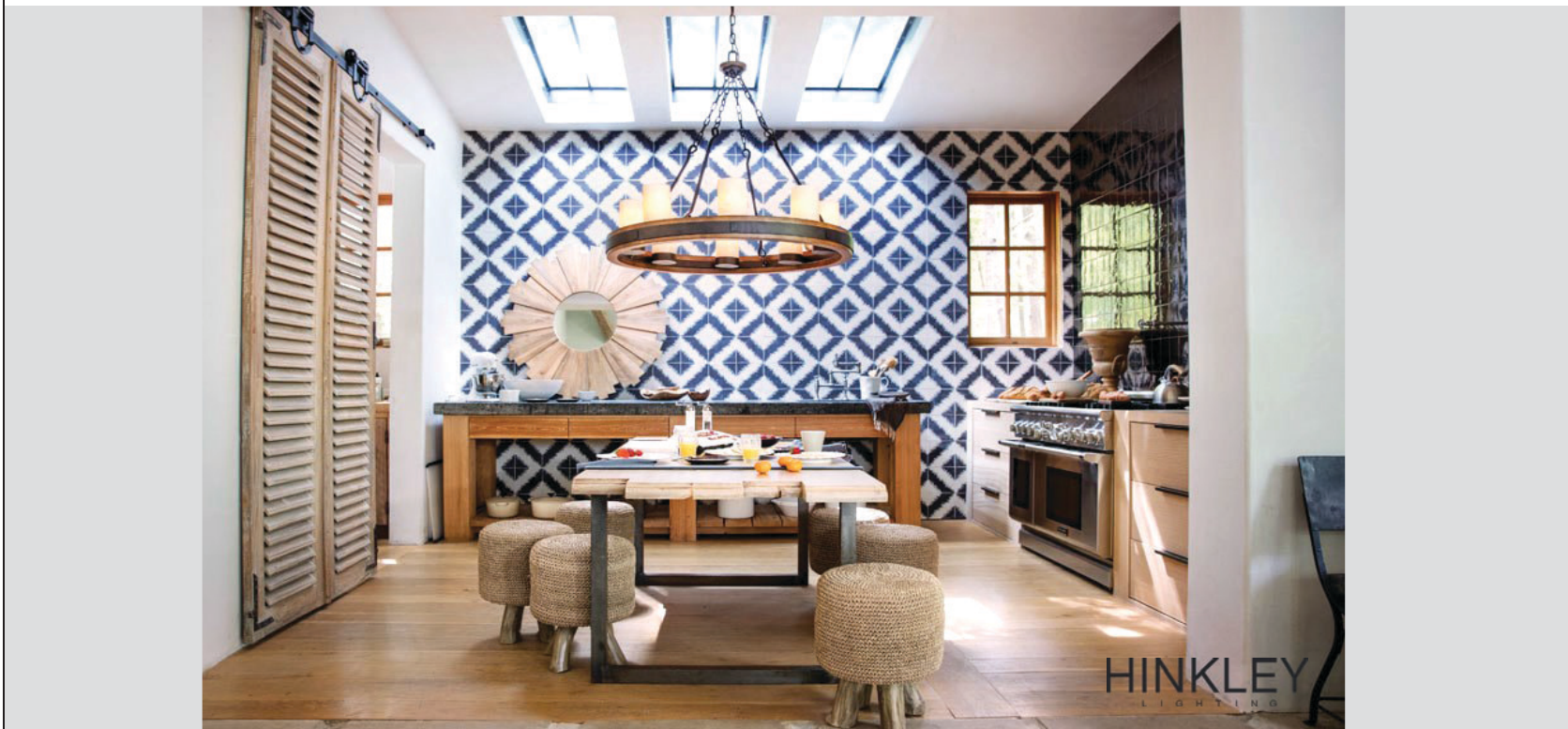
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# Home exteriors

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**By Barb Sieminski**

*Before embarking on any major home project, do your research about current trends and talk to local experts about products available in your area and what may work with your home. This month, we tackle home exteriors—from siding to roofs, there's a lot to consider before beginning the transformation.*

Light-colored roofs are trending now, including roof shingles in a kaleidoscope of colors like pale greens, warm blues, taupe, off-white and beige. Using just a shadow of brighter colors will make your home blend nicely into the background.

According to Bob Benhower, owner of NOB Brick & Fireplace, bricks are pretty traditional and don't bounce around a lot, appearance-wise.

"Bricks that are black, charcoal or brown shades are popular," said Benhower. "Shape-wise, they're trending toward larger in length and height. Instead of the customary 8-inch long brick, many are now running closer to

12 inches in length, and in height, many are 4 inches tall, rather than the usual 2¼ inches.

"Also, stone made of concrete that looks like real stone, but it is lightweight and 2 inches thick, can be applied on the interior right against plasterboard. When using lightweight concrete stone, a drainage system must be installed between the existing outside wall and the stone that keeps the water from penetrating into the home and causing mold damage. Another thing that people are doing is changing the color of the mortar that's used between the brick or stone, which will give it a completely different appearance."



## Resources:

**3 Rivers Remodeling**, Fort Wayne, 260.482.5558, [3riversremodeling.com/3rivers](http://3riversremodeling.com/3rivers)  
**Builders FirstSource**, Fort Wayne, 260.637.3191, [bldr.com/locations/huntertown-lumber](http://bldr.com/locations/huntertown-lumber)  
**Builders Mart**, Columbia City, 260.244.6145, [morschesbuildersmart.com](http://morschesbuildersmart.com)  
**NOB Brick**, Fort Wayne, 260.483.2126, [nobbrick.com](http://nobbrick.com)  
**Rose Brick**, Fort Wayne, 260.373.1919, [rosebrick.com](http://rosebrick.com)  
**Springer Construction Inc.**, Fort Wayne, 260.747.0909, [springerconstructioninc.com](http://springerconstructioninc.com)



Examples of some of the longer brick available now; harkening back to some of the Frank Lloyd Wright designs from the past, where everything old is new again (photo credits: NOB Brick)



A "Cultured Stone" product, which is lightweight stone made of concrete and lightweight aggregate. There are hundreds of choices of different colors and shapes (photo credits: NOB Brick)



A modular brick sometimes referred to as a "standard size" brick but, technically, in the old days a standard size brick was a full 8 inches long. This one is 7 5/8" long and will lay to a full 8" with a 3/8" mortar joint. Modular size brick were supposedly made 3/8" shorter to make it easier for architects to lay out jobs (photo credits: NOB Brick)



House siding trends favor both light and dark but dealers are noting a combination of the two more often. A traditional wood exterior is another popular choice with homeowners. This faux wood can mirror the grain of real cedar and stand up to harsh weather from extreme heat to brutal winds or subzero temperatures. Want to upgrade to a trim? Check with your dealer who has accessories to color-match the trim to the siding.

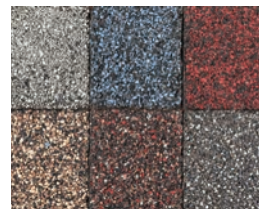
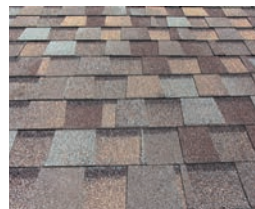


As people are becoming more green-minded, so is the siding industry with a focus on sustainability. Such siding leaves a small environmental footprint. Durability is also desirable so your façade won't chip or crack. One popular choice is steel siding, which is not only 100 percent recyclable but is made with recyclable materials. Say farewell to chipping, fading, peeling; steel siding is maintenance-free.

You can also mix and match for a rustic look by using a variety of board widths in the same location. And there's rainware, which is designed to ensure efficient water runoff, leaving improved drainage. And you can get rainware in a variety of designer colors that coordinate with your home's exterior.



Soffits comprise the flat area under the eaves acting as a conduit between the siding and rooflines. Soffits facilitate energy costs by preventing attic heat buildup. It can also protect your home from damage and help extend the life of your roofing materials and prevent winter moisture buildup. Also, it is required by most shingle manufacturers



to validate the shingle warranty. Aluminum soffit is available in a variety of shades to highlight your home's exterior.

It's a good idea to do some research on all of these items, so that you have your questions ready when you make your trip to the dealer. There's a whole new world of home exteriors online to explore and help you select just the right one. 🏠

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# September ✓ To Do's

*By Haiden Steingass*

As we bid farewell to the sweltering days of summer, it's important to look ahead into the colder months and prep your yard to withstand all the changes that are on the way. September is a vital month to care for your garden and landscape and prep it for springtime growth. To help transition your yard from summer to fall, follow these 12 checkpoints this month.



1

**Take care of the grass.**

September is a great time to reseed, plant new grass, or use a lawn repair mix that helps fill in bald spots in your yard.

2

**Continue to water** and mow the grass, cutting it shorter near the end of the month.

3

**Plant pansies.** They're blessed with the ability to withstand the cold weather, and they add a pop of color to your yard that doesn't have to be withering yellow, red, and orange.

4

**Plant trees and shrubs.** Roots will grow deep and strong before the next blooming season if you plant them now.

5

**Aerate.** Give your yard a chance to breathe and recover by aerating in late September. This allows them to develop strong roots before the coldest months of the year.

6

**Don't prune anything.** It signals to your plants: "grow" – not something you want right before the first frost.

7

**Rake up the leaves.** They may be pretty to look at – or a great way to entertain the kids – but as soon as they become wet and heavy, they have the potential to suffocate your grass.

8

**Use a broadleaf weed killer.**

There's nothing worse than a yard freckled by dandelions. Plus, if you use the weed control in September, you won't see them sprouting back up in the spring.

9

**Clean up flowerbeds.** Get rid of annuals and foliage that are no longer blooming or are diseased. This will minimize pests and the spread of disease.

10

**Divide perennials like peonies, lilies and irises.** Moving them to a new location in September gives them enough time to get adjusted to a different growing environment before the first frost.

11

**Dig up tender bulbs.** Be sure to do this before the first freeze, allowing them to go dormant rather than starting to bloom before spring.

12

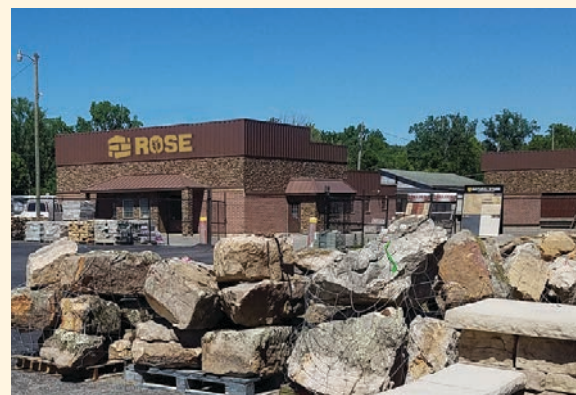
**If you plan to plant spring bulbs,** wait until the very end of September – or even October – to do so. 🏠



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# Don't Fall for Fall Tree Care and Maintenance Myths

*By Lauren Caggiano*

---

*Fall is the time to divert our focus from tending our gardens to investing in our trees. Local experts share best practices and debunk a few myths that might get in the way of cultivating healthy trees.*





You should plant in the spring for the best outcome possible, right? Wrong. According to Brianna Dailey, administrative assistant at The Plant Center Inc., that's not optimal.

"Fall is the best time of year to plant, as there is less risk of the new plant becoming stressed and dying through the hot summer months if a homeowner forgets to water," Dailey said.

Fall is also prime time because new plants have time to establish themselves before winter and ahead of harsh summer heat. A little bit of preparation can go a long way, too.

"Our climate in northeast Indiana can be very unforgiving in the colder months, so it is important to ensure that all plants are insulated well against the cold with a good layer of mulch or stone," Dailey explained. "The fluctuating temperatures in springtime can be hard to evade, but you can use plant covers to protect delicate buds and new growth in the spring if weather turns bitter again."

Choosing the hardiest varieties can yield favorable results. Dailey said any plants labeled as safe for Zone 5 can be planted outside year-round in our area. Regardless, it's best practice to do some research and ask questions about size and best conditions for healthy growth. Don't assume that you can squeeze a large tree into a smaller space.

And there's definitely a sweet spot when it comes to watering. Deb Zumbrun with Arbor Farms recommends that homeowners check for dry soil surrounding trees as they prepare for the winter.

"As trees lose their leaves, they use less moisture, but Evergreen trees should be kept moist until the ground freezes," Zumbrun said. "Many people put their hoses away much too early and forget that Evergreens need moisture to keep needles and leaves healthy through the dry, cold months."

She also reminds readers that more water is not necessarily better. Most trees need an average equivalent of 1 inch of rain per week to be happy—some need more and some need less, depending on location and tree type.

Speaking of the ground, soil choice matters more than homeowners might think. Contrary to myth, replacing the native soil while planting a tree will not help the tree thrive.

"As a matter of fact, it's more likely to damage or kill the tree," said Zumbrun. "Use the native soil where you are planting the tree and do some small amount of amending in the area of the tree if needed. We don't recommend using any more than one-third total of non-native soil to plant a tree."

Upkeep is another factor. Arbor Farms recommends a good set of sharp, clean, pruners and maybe a garden hose to keep those evergreens moist. Resources like local arborists and the Purdue extension office also may come in handy, too. 🏠

## Resources:

**Arbor Farms Nursery**, Fort Wayne, 260.637.5816, [arborfarmsnursery.com](http://arborfarmsnursery.com)

**The Plant Center**, Fort Wayne, 260.432.7370, [plantcenterinc.com](http://plantcenterinc.com)



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# Fall Maintenance

**ABOVE:** Mowing in the fall (photo credit: Mutton Power Equipment)

**By Barb Sieminski**

*Wave goodbye to summer (we hate to see it end, too) and get ready to welcome a blaze of colorful autumn in your neighborhood. With the changing seasons, comes important household maintenance that should be performed to ready your home for fall and winter.*

We asked Mark Bulmahn, president of Masters Heating and Cooling Inc. what homeowners should consider as the weather turns colder. Of course, heating and air conditioning maintenance is at the top of his list. According to Bulmahn, in addition to knowing where the filters are located on each unit, it is important to have them checked and serviced yearly to ensure there are no issues. He also advises homeowners to consider installing carbon monoxide detectors in their homes.

Joe Mutton of Mutton Power Equipment suggests cleaning up all the leaves and debris from the yard, which is imperative to a healthy spring lawn; matted leaves kill the grass and leave dead spots the following year.

He also said, that fall is a great time to start your snowblower; starting equipment regularly ensures it is ready when you need it. And, don't forget your mower blades. Getting your blades sharpened in the fall also ensures a good clean cut in the late growing season and helps with mulching leaves.



## Resources:

**Masters Heating & Cooling Inc.**, Fort Wayne, 866.824.4328,  
[mastersheatcool.com](http://mastersheatcool.com)

**Mutton Power Equipment**, Fort Wayne, 260.436.6967, [muttonpower.com](http://muttonpower.com)

All images shutterstock.com unless otherwise noted.



# Fall Maintenance Checklist

Here's a checklist of more home-and-yard tasks as we head into fall and winter:

- ☐ Be sure your gutters and downspouts are cleaned often. Don't let leaves and other debris collect in them.
- ☐ Inspect your roof for leaks.
- ☐ Exchange screens for storm windows and doors.
- ☐ Replace the filter in your furnace at least once a month in winter.
- ☐ Drain the gas from your lawnmower before putting it away for cold weather.
- ☐ Drain your hose and shut off exterior faucets, making sure your hose is not attached to your faucet where it can crack and break with icy weather.

- ☐ Doors and windows should be checked for cracks and sealed with color-matched caulk.
- ☐ Check chimney for obstruction and make sure damper is operating.
- ☐ Seal air leaks in the attic, basement and crawl space, as well as around windows and doors.
- ☐ Weather-strip doors leading to the outside.
- ☐ Clean windows on the south side of the house to augment sunlight exposure.
- ☐ Wrap and insulate waterlines against freezing temps.
- ☐ Lower the temperature of your water heater to 120°F.
- ☐ Change batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ☐ Insulate insides of windows with durable clear plastic sheets.
- ☐ Close curtains or shades at night and open them during the day. 🏠

**RIGHT:** Carrier 95 percent furnace and a filter that filters pollen dust out of airstream. Shown at a trade show (photo credit: Masters Heating & Cooling)



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# Sausage and Sweet Potato Hash

*By Amber Bouthot*

*As the autumn months approach, my family starts begging me for this seasonal breakfast dish. It highlights some of the season's best produce: apples and sweet potatoes. Add in some onions and red peppers, and top it off with a poached egg, and you've got a dish that will start your family off on the right foot each day. It will make your home smell amazing too!*



## For the sausage:

- 1 lb. ground pork
- 1 tsp. fennel
- 1 tsp. smoked paprika
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. sage
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1/4 tsp. white pepper

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl until spices are well distributed. Cook over medium-high heat in a cast iron skillet until browned.

## For the hash

- 1 sweet potato, chopped into 1/4 inch cubes
- 1 small green apple, chopped into 1/4 inch cubes
- 1 red onion, diced
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 2 sprigs thyme

Add all ingredients to the cast iron skillet with the sausage and cook until veggies soften and caramelize. Top with poached egg and enjoy! 🏠





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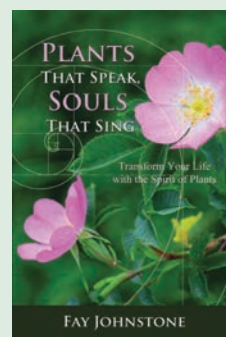
## book nook | HOME community September Books

*By Steve Penhollow*

*In your garden, September is a time for weeding and deadheading, not to mention pumpkin and sweet corn harvesting.*

*On those especially chilly days, September is also a time for curling up with a good book or two.*

*Perhaps these tomes about exploring the spirituality of the natural world and the Provence of author Peter Mayle will do the trick.*



### **Plants That Speak, Souls That Sing: Transform Your Life with the Spirit of Plants**

**By Fay Johnstone**

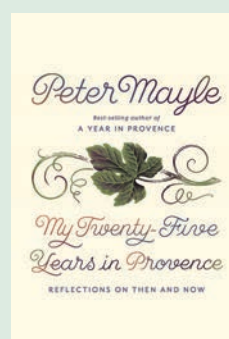
Findhorn Press **\$14.99**

ISBN-10: 184409751X

ISBN-13: 978-1844097517

This is a different sort of plant book, one that's time has come. Fay Johnstone isn't so much concerned with helping plants grow as she is with the ways

that plants can help us grow. Johnstone believes that most people are estranged from nature, so she has filled a book with exercises for re-establishing one's spiritual relationship with the natural world. She wants us to believe in plant spirituality, and perhaps even in a sort of plant sentience. Whether the reader fully embraces these ideas or not, Johnstone's book is full of exercises that will calm the minds and soothe the souls of mild skeptics and plant proselytes alike.



### **My Twenty-Five Years in Provence: Reflections on Then and Now**

**By Peter Mayle**

Knopf **\$25**

ISBN-10: 0451494520

ISBN-13: 978-0451494528

In the late 1980s, an advertising copywriter and author of sex education books named Peter Mayle changed his life when he wrote a travel memoir

about the south of France called, "A Year in Provence."

Thanks to the success of that book, Mayle spent the remainder of his life writing frothy fiction and non-fiction about France—its food, folks, foibles and foliage. "My Twenty-Five Years in Provence: Reflections Then and Now" is Mayle's final Provence

volume. He passed

away in January

at the age of

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# September CALENDAR

By Ray Balogh

## Aug. 25-Sept. 2 AUBURN: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival

Collector car auctions, 800-car cruise-in, parade of classic automobiles, live music, kids' area, swap meets, pancake breakfasts, fireworks, vintage market. Free admission. Hours vary Monday-Sunday; various locations. 260.925.3600 [acdfestival.org](http://acdfestival.org).



## Aug. 31-Sept. 3 ANGOLA: Labor Day Weekend Celebration

Camping, live music all weekend, arts and crafts, vendors, food. Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets, hammocks. \$5/person general admission. Hours vary Friday through Monday, Buck Lake Ranch, 2705 W. Buck Lake Road. 260.665.6699 [bucklakeranch.com](http://bucklakeranch.com).

## Aug. 31-Sept. 3 LIGONIER: 27th Annual Marshmallow Festival

Rides, parade, marshmallow bake-off, entertainment, games, contests, merchandise, food. Free admission. 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday, downtown.

## 1-31 FORT WAYNE: Traveling Exhibitions

- Myths, Glyphs, and Archetypes: Selected Works by Don Kruse (through Sept. 9)
- 46th International Glass Invitational Award Winners (through Sept. 23)
- Winslow Homer: From Poetry to Fiction, The Engraved Works (through Sept. 23)
- American Brilliant Cut Glass: New World Innovation from 1876-1917 (ongoing)

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](http://fwmoa.org).

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

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

## 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 WABASH: Farmer's Market

More than 20 fruit and vegetable vendors, food trucks, flowers, local honey and more. Free admission. 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, Honeywell Center parking lot, 275 W. Market Street. 260.563.0975 [wabashmarketplace.org](http://wabashmarketplace.org).



## 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 FORT WAYNE: YLNI Farmers Market

All volunteer producer-only market hosts more than 20 stands of local produce, live music and children's activities. Free admission. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, 302 E. Berry St. [ylni.org/farmers-market](http://ylni.org/farmers-market).

## 2 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/decaturingindianafleamarket](https://facebook.com/decaturingindianafleamarket).



## 4, 11, 18, 25 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](mailto:info@lrwp.org), [lrwp.org](http://lrwp.org).

## 6-8 GRABILL: Country Fair

Buggy rides, handmade crafts, food vendors, parade, children's games and contests, entertainment and merchants' tent. Free admission. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, downtown. 260.627.5227 [grabillcountryfair.com](http://grabillcountryfair.com).



## 6-9 ROANN: Covered Bridge Festival

Carnival rides, games, food, cruise-in, tractor pulls, corn hole contest, trolley rides, community church service. Free admission. 4 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, downtown. 765.833.2136 [roanncoveredbridgefestival.com](http://roanncoveredbridgefestival.com).



## 7 AUBURN: First Friday

Late night shopping, live entertainment, local culinary delights, locally crafted beverages, more. Free admission. 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Friday, downtown. 260.333.0883.

## 7 WABASH: First Friday

Live entertainment, food, kid's activities, shopping, evening specials and more. Free admission. 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Friday, downtown. 260.563.0975 [wabashmarketplace.org](http://wabashmarketplace.org).



## 8 COLUMBIA CITY: Vintage on Chauncey

Outstanding vendors from near and far will display antiques, vintage, farmhouse, repurposed, refurbished, eclectic and artisan items. Lunch available from cafe or food trucks. No admission. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Vintage Antique Marketplace, 202 N. Chauncey St. 260.248.7479 [vintageantiquemarketplace.com](http://vintageantiquemarketplace.com).



## 8 **BERNE: Swiss Heritage Festival**

Recreation of 1800s village with artisan demonstrations, live entertainment, food, world's largest cider press. Free admission. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Swiss Heritage Village and Museum, 1200 Swissway Road. 260.589.8007  
[swissheritage.org](http://swissheritage.org).

## 8 **WABASH: Dokken with Jack Russell's Great White**

Hard rock band Dokken, touring since the early 1980s, teams up with vocalist Jack Russell and his band. \$100/\$39/\$29. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Ford Theater, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102  
[honeywellcenter.org](http://honeywellcenter.org).

## 8-9 **LIGONIER: Stone's Trace Pioneer Festival**

Civil War encampment, trade crafts, period entertainment, black powder skills, kids' activities. Adults \$7, children 11 and under free. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 5111 Lincolnway South. 260.856.2666  
[stonetrace.com](http://stonetrace.com).

## 8-9 **FORT WAYNE: Swinney Homestead Open House**

Walk through tours of the historic 1844 Swinney Homestead in Swinney Park. Members of Settlers Inc., will share the history of the homestead and the Swinney family. Free admission. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Historic Swinney Homestead, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd. 260.637.8622.

## 10 and Oct. 13 **FORT WAYNE: "FrankenBrew"**

Two-part event:

- Monday, Sept. 10, learn about the science behind the brewing process and help decide ingredients for the FrankenBrew, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m., Hop River Brewing Company, 1515 N. Harrison St.
- Saturday, Oct. 13, get a chance to taste the FrankenBrew and enjoy Frankenstein-themed activities, 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m., Science Central, 1950 N. Clinton St. \$25 through Aug. 27, \$30 through Sept. 10 for part one; \$40 through Sept. 29, \$45 through Oct. 13. 260.424.2400  
[sciencecentral.org](http://sciencecentral.org).

## 14-16 **PIERCETON: Fall Gathering**

Fall and Christmas decor, farmhouse, rustic country, primitive, nautical items. Free admission. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Beyond the Barn, 105 N. 1st St. 574.253.3362  
[facebook.com/beyondthebarn2](https://facebook.com/beyondthebarn2).

## 15 **Northern Indiana/Southern Michigan: Builders Association of Northeast Indiana Builders Parade Express Tour**

Four new homes and two remodeled homes highlight a whirlwind day of eye-popping properties that will intrigue and inspire! \$5.00 for admission to all six homes. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
[ba-ni.com](http://ba-ni.com).

## 15-16 **FORT WAYNE: Settlers' Pioneer Village**

Experience black pot cooking and historic hand arts demonstrations during the Johnny Appleseed Festival. Proceeds support maintenance of historic Swinney Homestead. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Johnny Appleseed/Archer Park, 1502 Harry W. Baals Drive. 260.424.7212  
[settlersinc.org](http://settlersinc.org).

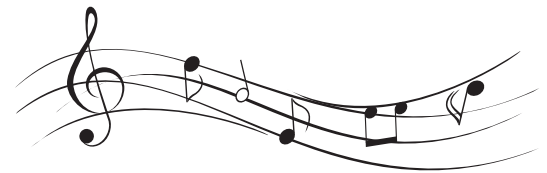
## 15-16 **FORT WAYNE: Johnny Appleseed Festival**

Period festival with food, crafts, antiques, music, farmer's market, military encampment, trappers and traders, children's activities. Free admission. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Johnny Appleseed/Archer Park, 1502 Harry W. Baals Drive. 260.427.6003  
[johnnyappleseedfest.com](http://johnnyappleseedfest.com).



## 18-22 **BLUFFTON: Street Fair**

Midway, vendor booths, food, games, parades, idol contest, free entertainment, horse show, horse and pony pull. Free admission. Hours vary Tuesday through Saturday, downtown. 260.824.4351  
[blufftonstreetfair.com](http://blufftonstreetfair.com).



## 21 **FORT WAYNE: "The Sound of Music"**

Showing of 1965 musical. Dress up as your favorite character and sing along to the soundtrack. Arrive early for a pre-show Grande Page organ performance. \$10 general admission. 2:30 p.m. Friday, Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000  
[fwembassytheatre.org](http://fwembassytheatre.org).

## 22-23 **HUNTINGTON: 43rd Annual Forks of the Wabash Pioneer Festival**

Pioneer village, encampment, military drills, entertainment, farmers' market, antiques, crafts, vintage base ball, children's games, food. Adults \$3, students \$1, children under 5 free. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Hier's Park, 547 S. Briant St. 800.848.4282  
[pioneerfestival.org](http://pioneerfestival.org).

## 28 **FORT WAYNE: Serving Our Seniors Munch and Movie**

Celebrate Labor Day with a fun, family friendly movie honoring everyday workers. Free admission. 1:30 p.m. Friday, Life Care Center, 1649 Spy Run Ave. RSVP to Diana Mohr at 260.449.6806  
[lifecarecenteroffortwaynein.com](http://lifecarecenteroffortwaynein.com).

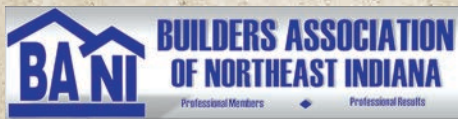
## 28-30 **ANGOLA: Fall Festival**

Arts, crafts, food, live music, antique tractors, kids' activities, carriage rides, live demonstrations, camping. \$5/person. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 2705 W. Buck Lake Ranch Road. 260.665.6699  
[bucklakeranch.com](http://bucklakeranch.com).

## 29, 30-Oct. 6, 7 - **Fort Wayne: Home Builders Association of Fort Wayne Fall Town & Country New Home and Specialty Tour**

See the beautiful work by some of the best home builders in the area with 24 homes, nine villas and three developments throughout Ft. Wayne, Auburn, Grabill, Leo and New Haven. Free admission. Saturday and Sunday 12 p.m.-5 p.m.  
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## Extraordinary views await visitors at the BA-NI Home Tour

By Julie Young

*For nearly three decades, the Builders Association of Northeast Indiana (BA-NI) Home Tour has provided visitors with access to some of the most extraordinary abodes in the state, and this year is no exception. With four new homes and two remodel projects, this year's express tour will offer up a whirlwind day of eye-popping properties that are sure to intrigue and inspire.*

Chris Evans, one of the co-executive officers for BA-NI, said that in the past, the home tour has occurred over two consecutive weekends in August, but this year the association opted to condense both the builders' parade and remodel tour into a one-day event that will take place on Sept. 15 from 10-a.m.-5 p.m.

"It is our hope that scheduling it for September gives families time to get back into the swing of the school year and still make

time to take in the tour," she said. "We have four new homes and two remodels on the tour and they are truly some of the most awesome homes we have ever had on the tour."

Two of the homes are in Noble County on Sylvan Lake and Pretty Lake and one of the homes is located in Coldwater, Mich., at the old Blackberry Patch Golf Course. Evans said that although these homes are the outliers they

are worth going out of your way to see.

"Almost all of the homes are on lakes, which offer some of the prettiest views in the area," Evans said. "One of the remodeled homes is super modern, which is unlike anything we have ever had before. It's really cool for people to see something like this in the Midwest where things tend to be Craftsman, Cottage or Traditional."

For \$5, guests will have access to all six homes and Evans said those who visit all six properties on the tour will be entered into a drawing for \$500 in cash.

"We know it will be a challenge for folks to see all of the homes in one day, but it will be well worth it if they are the ones to win," she said.







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1175 Pleasant Point, Rome City, IN 46784



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**UrNest Construction, LLC "Rolloninn" Pretty Lake**  
4485 S 895 E, Wolcottville, IN 46795



**"Feline Groovy"**

**Four Seasons Design & Remodeling, Inc.**  
**"Feline Groovy" Lake Gage**  
6510 W Orland Rd, Angola, IN 46703



# Questions to ask before embracing DIY

*Home improvement projects are as popular as ever. In its 2017 True Cost Survey, the home improvement site HomeAdvisor found that, between February 2016 and February 2017, homeowners spent an average of just over \$5,000 on home projects. That marked a nearly \$1,900 increase from the year prior, indicating that homeowners are increasingly opening their wallets to transform their homes.*

In addition to spending money to improve their homes, many homeowners are spending their time on projects as well. While DIY projects can provide a sense of fulfillment and personal attachment to one's home, prospective do-it-yourselfers should ask themselves some questions before picking up their hammers and getting to work.

## Do I have any physical limitations?

No matter how much home improvement television shows may simplify projects, prospective DIY'ers should know that such undertakings are typically very difficult and oftentimes physically demanding. Homeowners with existing health conditions or other physical limitations may not be capable of performing certain tasks or may need to take frequent breaks, which can delay projects.

## Do I have the time?

Many home improvement projects require a significant amount of time to complete. Homeowners whose time is already stretched thin with commitments to work and/or family may not be able to complete projects within a reasonable amount of time. That's fine if working on a part of the home that won't affect daily life, but can prove stressful or problematic if the project is in a room, such as a kitchen or bathroom, that residents of the home use each day. Novice DIY'ers should be especially honest with themselves about the time they have available to work on the project, as such homeowners are bound to experience a few time-consuming missteps along the way.

## Can I afford it?

While DIY might seem more affordable than hiring a contractor, that's not necessarily true. Novice DIY'ers may need to buy or rent tools, costs that can add up. Contractors already have the



tools necessary to begin and complete projects, so the cost savings of DIY might not be as significant as homeowners think. Before going the DIY route, homeowners should solicit estimates from contractors, comparing the estimates to how much a project will cost if homeowners do it themselves.

## Can I go it alone?

Many home improvement projects require more than one set of hands, and it's risky and even foolish for first-time DIY'ers to assume they can begin a project and see it through to completion entirely on their own. Homeowners whose spouses, partners, friends or relatives are willing to chip in may think that's enough. However, the DIY skills of those who volunteer may be a mystery until the project begins. Novice DIY'ers should enlist the help of a friend or family member with home improvement experience. If no such person is available, it may be wise to hire a contractor instead.

Home improvement projects may seem simple on television. But prospective do-it-yourselfers must make honest assessments of their skills, time and budgets before taking on a DIY project. 🏠

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# Windsor Homes

## Pat Feely

By Barb Sieminski

*Windsor Homes has been in business more than 40 years and has a catchy motto: "A better experience comes from experience." That is what Pat Feely, director of field operations, tries to impart to each of his clients.*

"I oversee the entire construction process from start to finish," said Feely, a Detroit native. "At the end of it, I meet with the customers to walk them through an 'orientation' process to familiarize them with the different features of their new home. I also address and schedule any warranty items as needed."

Feely has been with the company since March 2017, and he has amassed a wealth of knowledge and experience in that short time to better serve his customers. Before joining the team at Windsor Homes he did sales/estimating at VFP Fire Systems, a fire sprinkler company.

His responsibilities include material ordering and meeting with homeowners to educate them on the ongoing construction process and address any questions or concerns. He tries to set the expectation so his customers know what to anticipate throughout the process.

"I also assist with change orders and communicate them to the construction team through a construction software program," said Feely. "Part of my job is to participate in

weekly meetings with our contracting team to review new jobs and discuss ongoing ones."

- **How many employees do you supervise?** At Windsor Homes we all have our assigned responsibilities, so I wouldn't consider my role as a supervisory one. We all collaborate very closely with each other so we improve with every job.
- **What do you find especially thought-provoking about your job?** The most challenging aspect is good communication and time management to keep each construction project clean, organized and safe.
- **Education?** I graduated from Bishop Dwenger High School in 1989, and then I earned my B.S. in business management and organizational leadership in supervision from Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne (Purdue).
- **Family?** My wife Michelle and I have two children, Ryan, 18, and Lauren, 15, and a dog, Rascal, 9, a West Highland Terrier who thinks he owns all of us!
- **What do you like best about your job?** By far, the many different people I work with. I enjoy the flexibility of having office time and checking on jobsites. The best part is the environment between

Windsor employees and the contracting team. We all take our jobs very seriously, and we simultaneously try to make it enjoyable, too.

- **What organizations, if any, do you belong to?** I have been assistant fire chief at the Huntington fire department as a part-time paid firefighter/EMT since 1989.
- **As a golfer, where do you golf and what has been your best score?** I golf anywhere but most often at Autumn Ridge. My best score was at Bridgewater Golf Course in Auburn where I shot an 83.
- **What would surprise people about you?** I have an identical twin brother so you can never be sure whom you're talking to! When we were in high school, we would sometimes switch classes. All the students could tell the difference between us but the teachers had no clue. We had a lot of fun in school switching identities.
- **Best advice?** My parents taught us that if you give respect, you get respect. I preach to my kids that their personalities and how they treat people, accompanied by a strong work ethic, will help make them successful. 🏠

### Windsor Homes

Pat Feely, Windsor Homes, Fort Wayne  
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## Tips for moving in the fall

*Fall is a great time to move. Not only has the busy and more expensive summer moving season passed, but temperatures dip into a more comfortable range, as well. With each season comes it's own set of moving challenges. Here are some tips and tricks to consider if you are planning a move this fall.*

**1-Negotiate a lower price for a moving truck.** Since the peak summer moving season is behind us, supply and demand is in your favor on this one. Don't be afraid to shop around and negotiate for a lower price.

**2-Set up utilities in advance.** This goes without saying for moves at any time of the year, but it's especially important as colder temps descend. You don't want to spend the first night in your new home freezing because you can't turn on your furnace.

**3-Clear pathways.** Autumn leaves are so pretty, but can be cumbersome when you are trying to move. Place your broom near entrances at your current and new homes so you can sweep aside any leaves before anyone starts walking back and forth from the truck.

**4-Dress appropriately.** The best advice is to dress in layers. It may be brisk in the morning, but by the time afternoon rolls around, you may be glad you wore some shorts under your sweatpants.

**5-Have a back up plan.** Fall weather can be unpredictable. Be prepared to postpone moving day if the weather is too inclement.

*\*rates effective as of September 2018 issue publishing deadline date*



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