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# welcome! from the editor



March is a special month for me. Three years ago, I became a mom. My daughter, Annabelle, was due on April 6, but she made a surprise early appearance on March 31. And this year, March holds even more significance as my husband and I are expecting our second daughter on March 24. Whether she comes early or even a little late (let's hope not), we expect another March baby to join our family.

That means we are gearing up to transition Annabelle to a big girl room and prepare the nursery for baby #2. So we are painting, rearranging and decorating in order to give each daughter a space of her own. It's so much fun to pick out paint colors, area rugs, bedding and new furniture. Baby #2's room will have a mermaid theme, and we are allowing Annabelle to pick out many of the items for

her room—thankfully she still likes purple so many of her nursery items can be used in her big girl room.

For everyone else, March means the first hints of spring. While we may still get some cold weather and snow, we start to see the first signs of green popping up and moods begin to brighten as we anticipate the warmer months ahead. This issue is full of content to help you embrace the re-birth that spring brings—from your garden to home décor and everything in between.

As for me, well, I'll be waddling around waiting for baby #2 to come. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers, and be sure to keep your eyes on our facebook page so you know when she has arrived.



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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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# Pillow

By Amber Bouthot

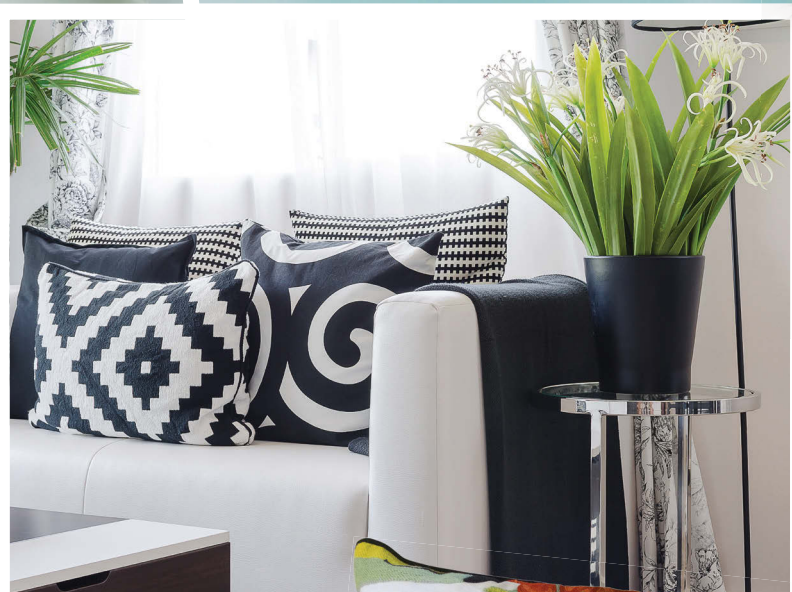
Decorative pillows are an inexpensive and effective way to turn a drab sofa or a tired bedroom into something extraordinary. Not only do they boost comfort, but they can make a real statement, as well. Whether you are looking to add color or pattern, here are some of the trendiest decorative pillows for 2019.



Mix and match colors, textures, and patterns like these gorgeous blue velvet pillows mixed with shag.



Bold black and white solids, as well as patterns, can add interest to any room.



Florals are a great way to add a pop of color to a sofa, chair or bed — and they can be used to influence wall color and other room accessories, too.





# Perfection

*Bring new life to a boring sofa with bright patterned pillows.*



*Over the past few years, we've seen shag make a come back in rugs and tapestries—and now decorative throw pillows. They are a great way to add texture to any room.*



*Long gone are the days of upright and stuffy pillows. Look for pillows that evoke a sense of relaxation — still stylish, but let them sit naturally, instead of coming off as too calculated in placement.*





**By Lauren Caggiano**

*Movie nights are great for both a date night and family night in. You can harness the magic of the cinematic experience by building your own home theater room. It's essential to plan your set-up, do adequate research on the available electronics on the market and select the best décor to enhance your viewing experience. But you don't have to go it alone. Here's what the experts have to say about carving out your own version of this feature.*

Furniture is a must, said Zachary Wurster with Bernhaus Furniture. Think both form and function. When in doubt, he said to opt for "something bold that really sticks out."

Loveseats and recliners are popular go-tos. The style and size will depend on how much space you have to work with. Leather is always a good idea because it's easier to keep clean and will hide stains.

As far as spacing, Wurster offered a few guidelines: "The entertainment unit should be centered on the wall. If you can have two rows of loveseats, space them 2 or 3 deep with a small walk space up the middle."

Don't be afraid to go high-tech, too.

"We have a theater unit from Elran where every seat reclines and has a cupholder and blue LED lights to illuminate the floor," said Wurster.

Speaking of lighting, Chesney Boyer with Wabash Lighting reminds readers that lighting can take the movie-watching experience to the next level.



ABOVE and BELOW photos provided by Bernhaus Furniture







ABOVE Photos provided by Wabash Lighting

"Wall sconces provide a subtle yet practical form of light that creates the atmosphere of a traditional theater setting," she said. "There are quite a few different styles available, so you can really have fun and bring unique style into the space."

Boyer said to aim for 3 to 4 sconces on the walls, perpendicular to the wall with the viewing screen. Location is key, she said, because if you place them on the back wall, you run the risk of casting a reflection on the viewing screen. A high-quality dimmer switch is another worthy investment, in order to allow for varying light levels.

"It would also be wise to consider controlling the lights via a smart dimmer or Wi-Fi-controlled switch," said Boyer. "This allows the homeowner the convenience of controlling the lights from their smart devices."

Last, there is such a thing as too much of a good thing. Harsh lighting can kill the vibe.

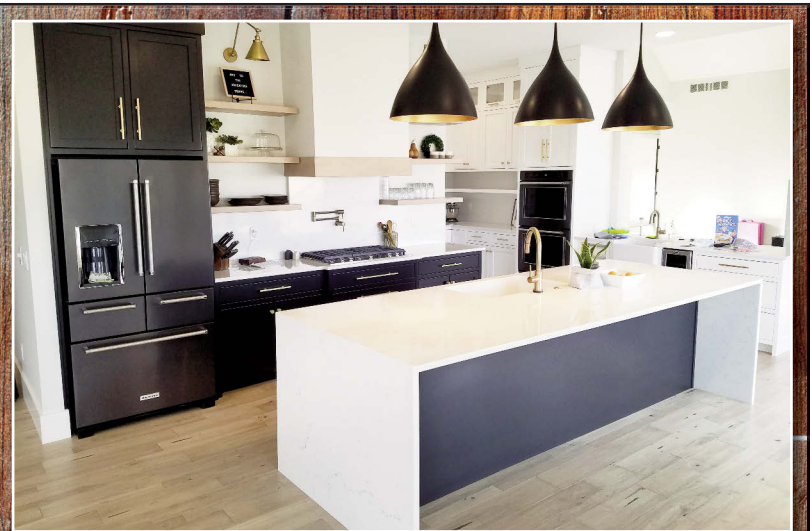
"Typically, the mood in a theater setting is one aimed at relaxation and entertainment," she said. "Choose bulbs that are warm in color temperature and are pleasing to the eye."

Now, the only decision left is to decide which snacks to grab! 🏠

## Resources:

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

**Wabash Lighting**, Fort Wayne, 260.483.8820, [wabashlighting.com](http://wabashlighting.com)



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# Lush Lawns

## Spring Maintenance

1. Service your mower. Schedule early to beat the rush — and be sure to sharpen the blade at least once per year.
2. Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to stop crabgrass before it starts growing. Apply this as soon as forsythia blooms begin to drop, experts suggest, typically between April 1-15.
3. Aerate your lawn. Hard, compacted soil makes it nearly impossible for healthy grass to thrive. Spring is best for this process, when grass is actively growing.
4. Cut your grass once there's been three inches in growth.
5. Apply a light application of slow-release or organic fertilizer. Apply this after the first mowing of the season.

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Spring Clean

Deadline: Mon. March 18

#### MAY

Mom Time

Deadline: Mon. April 15

#### JUNE

For Dudes

Deadline: Fri. May 17\*

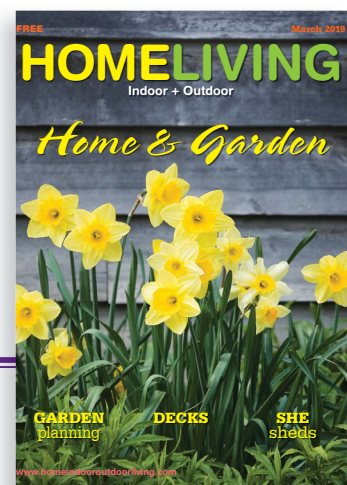
\*denotes early deadline

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# Stacking the deck

## Daring spaces for outdoor entertaining

**By Julie Young**

*If you are looking to boost your home's value and create additional living space for a fraction of the cost of an enclosed room, why not consider a daring deck? Not only do they provide additional living/entertaining space, but they can be built quickly for immediate enjoyment, as well. Of course not all decks are created equally and it's important to consider your needs before breaking ground on your project.*

First, homeowners must consider how they plan to use their deck in order to establish a budget, draft a design and select construction materials. Composite and weather enduring products are more costly than conventional decking material, and in order to ensure that your investment will stand the test of time, it's important to use proven manufacturers and find a contractor capable of completing every aspect of your deck.

These professionals will not only help steer you in the right direction, but they can also help mitigate any issue that arises. When Dave Deckard of Morsches Builders Mart in Columbia City was tasked with creating a 40'x 58' deck surrounding a 33' diameter pool, it came with a number of challenges. It had to be attached to an existing deck, creating a double elevated space, and he had to provide adequate



### Resources:

**Big C Lumber**, Multiple locations, [bigclumber.com](http://bigclumber.com)

**Morsches Builders Mart**, Columbia City, 260.244.6145, [morschesbuildersmart.com](http://morschesbuildersmart.com)



framing around a circular object. The homeowners also requested an enclosed storage area below the higher deck.

"The project required railing and gates for security along with accent lighting," he said. "With proper planning and forethought on the contractor's part, all of the homeowners' needs and design requirements were met."

It also helped that the homeowner was proactive in securing their contractor early in the season and keeping the lines of communication open. They did their research, made wise decisions regarding material selection and insured that all local codes and regulations were adhered to.

"They knew what they wanted to achieve and were patient with the progress of the project. It takes cooperation from the homeowners, contractor and material provider to make a project of that size a success," Deckard said. 🏠



All images shutterstock.com

### Top tips for designing a daring deck:

- Determine how you plan to use your deck.
- Set budget and create design (Menards offers a number of fantastic deck designs on its website and can help you calculate the cost of materials.)
- Contact contractor and meet to discuss your needs, budget and timeline. Call contractor early in the season if you want to enjoy your deck this summer. Springtime in Indiana is notoriously finicky and inclement weather may result in delays.
- Research materials and make selections based on your budget. Look for No. 1 SYP treated lumber to help prevent issues from developing. Big C Lumber offers homeowners help when it comes to information services and materials regarding their projects. Store manager Nate Shade will be able to point you in the right direction for your residential needs.
- Allow some time and resources for issues that might come up as your project is underway.



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# A Place of One's Own:

## The She Shed

By Deborah C. Gerbers

*She sheds have grown in popularity over the last few years. The female counterpart to the man cave, a she shed provides a private, girls-only space where a woman can go to be alone and do whatever she chooses! Whether she wants to read, play music, watch TV, make pottery, paint or even just have some wine with girlfriends, a woman has her own uniquely designed space to escape.*

### The Reading Room

If you're into books, a she shed designed like your very own library is a perfect haven to focus on reading your favorites. Think about installing bookcases or random shelving for a shabby-chic look to hold all of your literary titles. Need to bulk up your collection? Hit up local thrift shops and used bookstores to find old classics and rare books on the cheap. Find a comfy chair or small sofa, a fun rug, some accent tables and blankets, and you're all set to be surrounded by quiet in your own personal library.

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### The Yoga/Workout Studio

If you're into fitness, a she shed created like a personal gym might be for you. Hang some mirrors, lay rubber mats on the floor, add a set of weights or resistance bands, even a barre for ballet practice—it's up to you! Your "gym shed" can be a quiet, tranquil space for yoga (add candles and even a small tabletop fountain), a high-energy room for weight training and cardio (blast some inspiring tunes and add bright lighting), or just a basic spot for a treadmill or elliptical machine.

### The Art Studio

A she shed can be ideal for artists working in all mediums. Work in ceramics? Add a pottery wheel and shelves for your projects. Like to paint? A small easel and table to hold your supplies fits perfectly. Into drawing and sketching? Think of a used drafting table or antique kitchen table to serve as your desk and a small cabinet with drawers for your charcoal pencils, pens and ink.

### An Eclectic Space

Maybe you don't have a specific idea or theme for your she shed—not to worry. It's your own space for your own use, so just make it yours! Decorate it with things that make you happy—artwork, antiques, comfy pillows, candles and books. Add a space heater for cooler weather, and you have a private room for your friends to come over and hang out for perhaps cards, wine and good conversation.

When you start with a plain old shed, consider it your blank canvas to create whatever you want it to be. The beauty of the she shed is it's all up to you!



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# Tackling Basement Clutter



**By Cathy Shouse**

*Even the most organized among us have a dirty little secret: basement clutter. To make 2019 the year you get rid of the stuff down under, there's no need to channel Tidying Up with Marie Kondo on Netflix. We got the scoop from three local experts.*

Janet Evans of Tiny 'n' Tidy has worked on many basements. "Typically, the trouble is, it isn't very well lit," she said. "It's usually things people don't know what to do with. They think they'll deal with it later. A lot of times, people have things in cardboard boxes and they're on top of one another. It's just a whole mix of things. We make a mess before we make it better."

Her secret weapon? Compressed board that has brackets and hangs on the wall.

**Evans advised to sort into three categories, in this order:**

- 1) Things you definitely want to keep
- 2) Items easily eliminated
- 3) Stuff you think: Why have I been holding onto this?

An easy fix is big furniture you're holding for grown children in case they need it. Evans said, "Give the kids a date to come get it. If they don't, get rid of it."



Emily Fitzgerald is a Certified Professional Organizer and Productivity Consultant who owns OLS Organizing, LLC.

"Kitchens come standard with cabinets and we buy furniture for the rest of the rooms, but sometimes basements don't have any storage, or not much, added to them," Fitzgerald said. "So people store everything on the floor and then it gets too hard to move and is overwhelming."

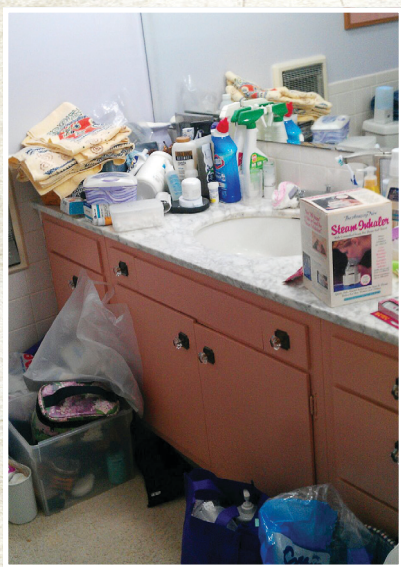
**Fitzgerald's tips:**

- 1) Dedicate a space near the doorway for items to donate or get rid of.
- 2) If you are working in a small storage space, consider pulling some items out into the regular basement area to sort through.
- 3) Pull together different categories of items. Use bright paper and a marker to label as you go (then you can move it around if needed.)

**Examples:**

- Household stuff like extra paint, extra tile, window screens
- Mementos - kids and your own
- Holiday decor





- Extra furniture and card table and chairs, and regular decor (extra picture frames, etc).
- Toys and other items the kids have outgrown. (Maybe you're not sure you're done having kids or just find yourself to be sentimental. By grouping this all together, it will help you see and realize how much you have. It can also then help you determine what you care about the most and what you wouldn't miss.)

Stacey Spuller of Better Organized Spaces said the company works with the brand Inspired Closets and creates solutions for basement storage. They evaluate your items and options to contain it.

"It depends on what they have and what they need," Spuller said. "If their teenager is moving down to the basement, they can add a walk-in closet. The possibilities are endless." 🏠

## Resources:

**Better Organized Spaces**, Fort Wayne, 260.444.2459, [betterorganizedspaces.com](http://betterorganizedspaces.com)

**OLS Organizing**, Fort Wayne, [olsinfo.com](http://olsinfo.com)

**Tiny 'n' Tidy**, Fort Wayne, 260.348.4530, [tinyntidy.com](http://tinyntidy.com)



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<sup>2</sup>Subject to credit approval. Fixed APR of 0.00% for 53 months. For each \$1,000 financed, 5 months of \$0.00 payments followed by 48 amortized payments of \$20.83. Financing for GreenSky® consumer credit programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or familial status.



# Spring Garden Planning

*By Haiden Steingass*

*The arrival of spring is always exciting, but even more so after a polar vortex and erratic Midwest weather patterns. To get your garden back in shape after those frigid temps, be sure to follow these seven tips from experts at Arbor Farms Nursery and Plant Center:*

**1. Take stock of any damage or any clean-up that is left from the colder months.** Check for dead branches or plants and clean up any perennials and annuals that are left in your landscape.

**2. Do your planning.** "Look at gardening books, magazines and catalogs to make choices about plants that you might want and order any seeds that need to be started early in the year," Deb Zumbrun from Arbor Farms Nursery said. "Dream about all of the gorgeous things that you would like to do in your yard while it's still snowing or cold outside!"

**3. Stay on top of preventative pest treatment.** Check with the Purdue Extension Office or a trusted nursery or professional to make decisions about what program you may need to follow.

**4. Use a pre-emergent in landscape beds to keep weeds at bay.** (Of course, you won't do this in vegetable gardens.)

**5. Mulch and edge in areas that need tidied.** This will help with weed prevention too. Clean and check your tools to see if any need to be sharpened or replaced.

**6. Prepare for new growth.** "Cut back any dead perennials that you know typically die back to the ground," Zumbrun said. "Check for any plants that may have heaved out of the ground during the freeze/thaw cycle at the beginning of spring and end of winter. Make sure that those plants are replanted if they are still alive. Cut back any ornamental grasses to about six to eight inches tall to prepare for new growth. Be careful about which shrubs you prune in the spring...some shrubs and trees have already set buds for this year's bloom; if you prune in spring you have removed the bloom!"

**7. Don't get ahead of yourself.** "One major issue for our climate is late frosts," said Brianna Dailey from Plant Center. "Many people are excited to welcome spring and are ready to start planting as soon as the weather turns warm. Be careful not to get ahead of the weather, though, as late frosts are common in our region and can ruin your hard work. The 'safe date' for planting garden items, such as fruit and vegetable plants, as well as other annuals isn't until Mother's Day." 🏠

## Resources:

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

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





# *Attract Hummingbirds* To your backyard

**Do you know you can attract Hummingbirds to your garden? These small, colorful birds with iridescent feathers face some serious threats: habitat loss and climate change. You can help! Plant flowers and plants to allow these birds to refuel during their long migratory journeys. You can do your part to keep your backyard a friendly place for these beautiful birds.**

- Hummingbirds depend on flowers for nectar.
- Hummingbirds prefer tubular and pendant-like flowers; they're a great fit for the hummingbirds' elongated beaks and tongues.
- Hummingbirds flowers of choice include hostas, petunias, coral bells, salvia and cardinal flower.
- When a hummingbird feeds on these nectar-rich blooms, it gets both nectar and insects—and consequently, also helps to pollinate the flower.
- Nothing is quite so alluring to the hummingbird than the color red. Red flowers will draw these birds to your backyard faster.
- Hummingbirds are not picky, however; they will accept hues of red from pink to orange, although brilliant shades of red are the most irresistible.
- The trumpet vine is another favorite of these feathered friends. Its wonderfully fragrant blooms are orange and red, and the honeysuckle vine attracts hummingbirds like magnets. These vines take easily to a trellis, arbor or similar supports, as the vines can grow up to 30 feet in length.
- Once a steady source of nectar is available, nearly all hummingbirds are fearless and bold in returning repeatedly to the source of nectar.
- You can also buy packets of nectar mix or make your own by boiling one part sugar in four parts water, replacing mixture (and cleaning feeder) every two to three days.
- Provide a steady water supply. Hummingbirds need very shallow water, about a quarter- to a half-inch deep. They often will use traditional birdbaths for drinking and bathing by zipping across the water, just touching the surface and dipping their bills down for a sip or two. 🏠



# DIY Do It Yourself Room Refresh

By Amber Bouthot

Every month, we highlight reader-submitted photos of DIY projects. We know you put a lot of time and effort into your home—whether you own or rent. We want to see your projects and share them within the pages of our magazine. If you've recently completed a project, we want to hear from you. It can be something as simple as a craft project or as large as a home addition. If you did it yourself, it can be featured.

This month's Reader DIY comes from Rebecca Boone—she and her husband transformed a downstairs bathroom and the area around it.

## 1- What was your inspiration for the project?

We wanted to feature a shiplap wall and sliding barn door somewhere in the house. The wall outside our lower level bath proved to be a practical spot. It afforded the expanse of wall space needed to be functional. And, that bathroom's door had yellowed over the years so it needed repainted or replaced.

Some updates were needed inside the bathroom, too. The 20-year-old wallpaper was beginning to separate at the seams. The toilet paper holder was barely hanging onto the wall. I wasn't looking to do a major remodel - just elbow grease and paint.

I tackled the bathroom refresh first by removing the wallpaper and the swing door and trim. Once the walls were freshly painted, the vanity's poor shape really stood out. The '90s glazing technique was looking worn and dirty. I considered buying a new vanity, having fallen in love with a turquoise one. Yet, at \$1,700 it was more than I wanted to spend on a rarely used



After

Before





bathroom. I decided to paint the existing one.

That proved to be the most challenging part. Applying multiple coats and sanding in between required time and patience! Painting with accuracy in tight and low spaces was taxing. There were many times throughout the process when I was tempted to abort the painting idea and just buy the new one!

## 2- Where did you get your supplies?

We got our paint at Maumee Paint. It is Benjamin Moore: Edgecomb Gray for the walls and Yarmouth Blue for the vanity.

I had originally planned to reuse the existing square mirror but remembered having a black round one stored away. The black offered a nice contrast to the blue vanity and tied into the barn door hardware. The color and shape inspired the fun and funky lights (available thru Wabash Lighting).

The install of the shiplap and barn door went fairly smoothly. Once the door pull and lock gets installed, the project will be complete.



## 3- How long did it take you from start to finish?

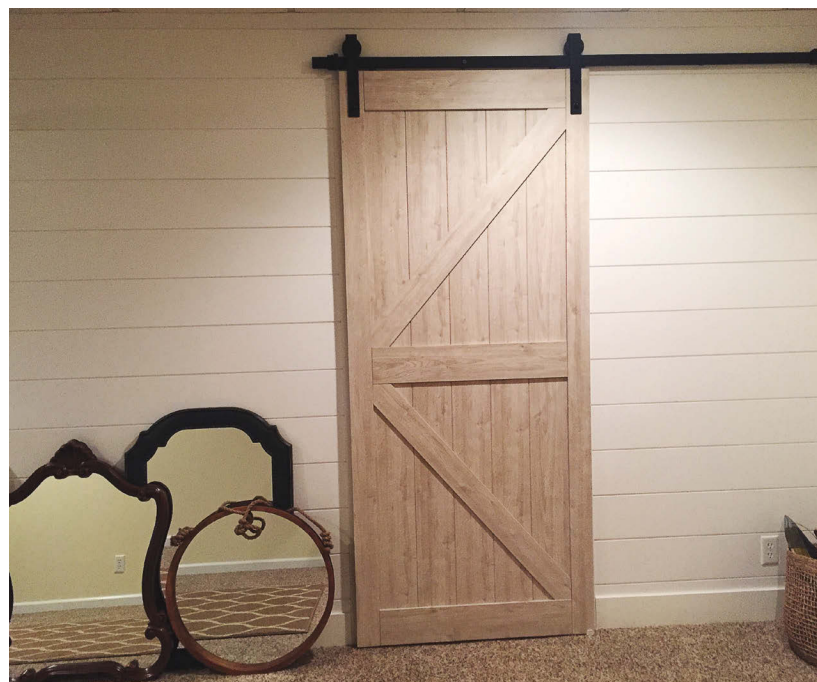
Roughly 80-90 hours – Working on it in the evenings and weekends.

## 4- What was the total cost of the project?

About \$900.

## 5- What did you like best about the undertaking?

I love home projects and interior design/decorating. I think it is important to not only refresh your home to maintain its value, but also to make it a space you're comfortable in and that meets your needs. 🏠



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# Slow Cooker Chicken Pho



**By Amber Bouthot**

*I was first introduced to Vietnamese food several years ago when a friend took me to Saigon, a locally owned Vietnamese restaurant located just south of downtown Fort Wayne. I was hooked on a dish called Pho Tai from day one—a large bowl of savory beef soup, served with bean sprouts, jalepenos, basil and lime. It's the perfect dish for a brisk spring day. Recently, I started dabbling with making my own Pho at home, and this recipe was an instant hit with my family.*

## Ingredients:

- 8 cups low-sodium chicken broth (two 32-ounce boxes)
- 2 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce
- 10 whole star anise
- 6 whole cloves
- 1 2-inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 2 bone-in chicken breasts (about 2½ pounds total), skin removed, trimmed
- 6 ounces rice noodles
- 6 cups chopped bok choy
- 2 cups mung bean sprouts
- 2 cups fresh basil leaves
- 1 cup fresh mint leaves
- 1 cup fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 fresh Thai chile or serrano, thinly sliced
- 1 lime, cut into 6 wedges

## Preparation:

Combine broth, brown sugar, fish sauce, star anise, cloves, ginger and cinnamon stick in a 5- to 6-quart slow cooker. Add chicken breasts, meat-side down. Cover and cook on high for 4 hours (or on low for 8 hours).

Transfer the chicken to a cutting board. Remove spices and discard. Add noodles and bok choy to the slow cooker. Cover and cook on high for 30 minutes.

Remove the chicken from the bone and shred with two forks. When the noodles are tender, stir in the shredded chicken. Serve bowls of soup with bean sprouts, basil, mint, cilantro, sliced chile and lime wedges on the side so everyone can add their own toppings. 🏠



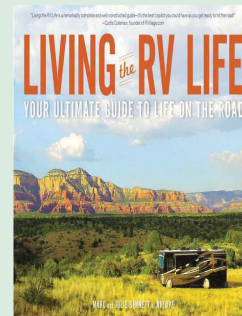


# March Books

By Steve Penhollow

March is the month when the grip of winter weather loses some of its firmness. You may start thinking of travel or spring cleaning. Or both!

Here are two great new March reads that will help you get into the spring spirit.



## Living the RV Life: Your Ultimate Guide to Life on the Road

By Marc and Julie Bennett

Adams Media \$22.99

ISBN-10: 1507208987

ISBN-13: 978-15072089843

Since the recreational vehicle was invented, married couples have fantasized about chucking it all and touring the country for the rest of their lives

in mobile homes. A classic film of the 20th century, "Lost in America," is devoted to all the things that can go comically wrong after a couple decides to commit to this very lifestyle.

What the 20th century did not have was "Living the RV Life: Your Ultimate Guide to Life on the Road."

The book was written by two people who have proved that this life can happen: Marc and Julie Bennett. The book covers casual RVing, as well as the more serious variety. There is information on choosing and purchasing your RV, camping in various situations and under various scenarios, and how to run a household-on-wheels.



## Uncluttered: Free Your Space, Free Your Schedule, Free Your Soul

By Courtney Ellis

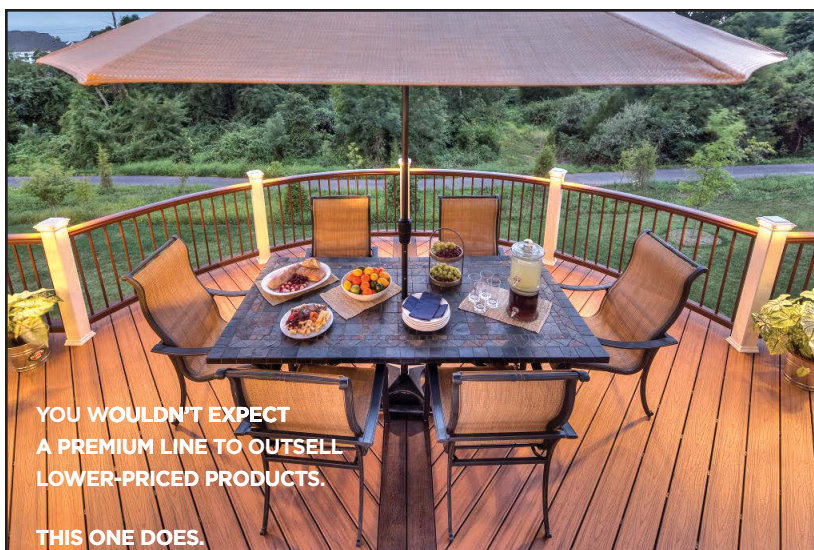
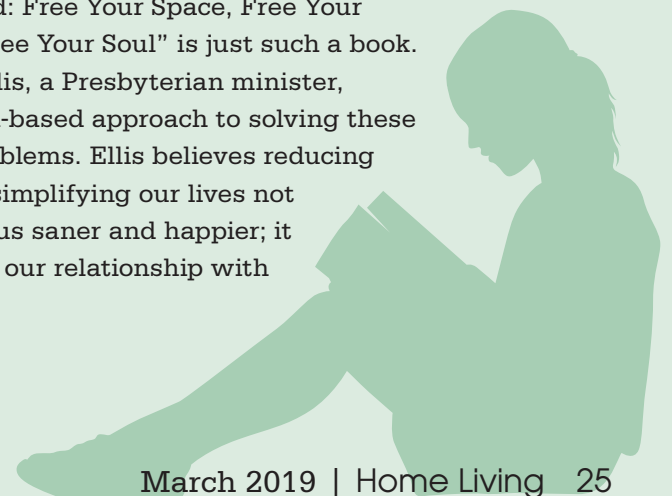
Rose Publishing \$16.99

ISBN-10: 1628627913

ISBN-13: 978-1628627916

Books about decluttering our lives clutter up our bookstores. Every so often, however, a new one comes along that seems to speak to readers in a unique and powerful way.

"Uncluttered: Free Your Space, Free Your Schedule, Free Your Soul" is just such a book. Courtney Ellis, a Presbyterian minister, takes a faith-based approach to solving these common problems. Ellis believes reducing clutter and simplifying our lives not only makes us saner and happier; it strengthens our relationship with God. 🏠



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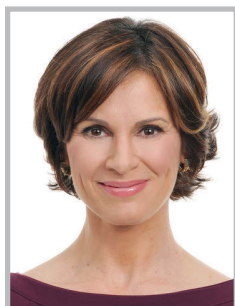


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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## ELIZABETH VARGAS

Award-winning anchor and correspondent Elizabeth Vargas has covered news stories and conducted interviews around the world. She is also the author of the bestselling *Between Breaths: A Memoir of Panic and Addiction*. Vargas currently hosts *A&E Investigates*.

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# Ask an Environmentalist:

## *What are some next-level tips to be a recycling pro?*

By Jodi Leamon

*Recently, Allen County residents Sara and Todd came to me with an important question: “How well do we need to rinse out containers before placing in recycling bins? We’ve read that a little bit of stuff in the bottom is okay and that you waste more resources by rinsing them out.”*

Their question points to the fact that we are all now being asked to deposit our recycling materials in a condition that is “Empty, Clean, and Dry.”

It is important to fight contamination in our recycling stream as a result of new, tough regulations set by China on the conditions of exported goods. The takeaway message is that recycling is a commodity that has to be sold and re-used to make something else for it to be a successful way to save natural resources; therefore, the cleaner that material is, the higher its value.

However, if you are required to clean your recycling, you are necessarily using more resources, so where should you draw the line?

If you are able to give your can, bottle or container a quick shake that leaves it mostly dry, you are good to go. The rule of thumb is less than a teaspoon of residue should be left inside any recyclable item. A light rinsing is sometimes needed for stickier remains and should be followed



by a jiggle over the sink and re-capping if applicable. (Caps off/on is another recycling conundrum I have just solved for you as a bonus.)

Now here are some next-level tips that will make you a recycling pro.

I have heard of some people putting their recycling into the dishwasher to get it really clean. To me, this is definitely overkill. To maximize the efficiency of your machine, it should be as full as possible with actual dishes. I guess if you cram some sticky plastic tubs in there on top of an already full rack, it doesn't compromise your space, but again, I don't see the need.

What I prefer to do with a container that doesn't relinquish its remnants in a quick swish is to fill it partially with water and simply leave it in the sink for a while. Usually, I'll be prepping, cooking or cleaning something else that requires using water, and this way I'm doing double duty by using the runoff to further soak the item in question.

Then I pop it onto the drying rack to take care of the “dry” part of the equation.

Many times, there is just a little bit of something left in the bottom of a container that's perfectly fine, but not really enough to save. Still, it seems like too much to waste.

I found some amazing fixes for this problem recently, too. There are dozens of recipes that will help you clean out the bottom of a peanut butter jar in delicious ways, for instance. Martha Stewart has the answer to a little bit of mustard remains in the form of a vinaigrette. You can clean out your fridge and empty out those containers with recipes for using up condiments of all kinds.

Fighting food waste, tidying up the fridge, making awesome recipes, and getting my recycling right—now, that's sustainability-nerd heaven!

I hope you find it as exciting (or at least as approachable) as I do. 🏡

*This article was originally published in the online magazine Input Fort Wayne. Visit [InputFortWayne.com](http://InputFortWayne.com) for weekly regional stories about what's next for northeast Indiana.*

The advertisement is for the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum. It features a logo at the top with the text "AUBURN CORD DUESENBERG AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM" and an illustration of a vintage car. Below the logo, the address "1600 South Wayne Street, Auburn, IN 46706" and the website "automobilemuseum.org" are listed. Three bullet points with checkmarks highlight the museum's offerings: "ART DECO DECOR &amp; ARCHITECTURE", "OVER 120 VEHICLES ON DISPLAY", and "LESS THAN 20 MINUTES FROM FORT WAYNE". At the bottom, there is a photograph of a large, ornate hall with a checkered floor, where a bright green vintage car is prominently displayed. Other vintage cars are visible in the background.



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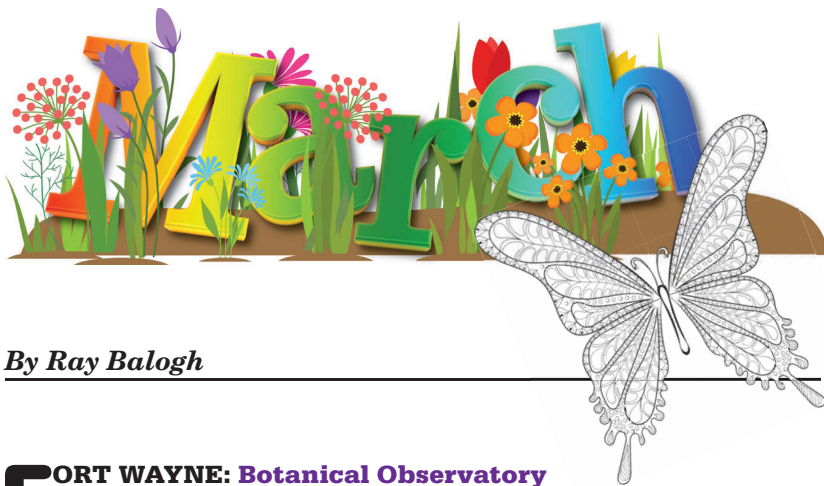
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By Ray Balogh

## FORT WAYNE: Botanical Observatory

- "Hundred Acre Woods" Winter Exhibit (through April 21), regular admission
  - Painted Lady Release, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 23, call for ticket prices
- Adults \$5, children (3-17) \$3, children (2 and under) free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Botanical Conservatory, 1100 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne. 260.427.6440

[botanicalconservatory.org](http://botanicalconservatory.org).

## FORT WAYNE: Embassy Theatre

- March 2, "An Evening with Leslie Odom Jr." by the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, call for ticket prices
- March 3, "The Wizard of Oz," 7:30 p.m. Sunday, \$65/\$50/\$35. Emerald City pre-show party at 6 p.m., \$15 general admission
- March 7, "Finding Neverland," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, \$65/\$50/\$35
- March 9, "Jo Koy — Break the Mold," 8 p.m. Saturday, \$110/\$45/\$35
- March 16, "Beethoven's 9th — An Ode to Joy" by the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, call for ticket prices
- March 21, "Something Rotten!" 7:30 p.m. Thursday, \$65/\$50/\$35
- March 30, "Salute to America" by the Fort Wayne Philharmonic 7:30 p.m. Saturday, call for ticket prices

Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne. 800.745.3000

[fwembassytheatre.org](http://fwembassytheatre.org).

## FORT WAYNE: Memorial Coliseum

- Feb. 28-March 3, Home and Garden Show, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, \$10 adults; \$6 seniors (62 and older), free kids under 15
- Feb. 28-March 3, "Disney on Ice: Worlds of Enchantment," 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; \$45.50/\$32.50/\$25.50/\$22.50/\$20.50/\$15.50
- March 7, Shinedown with Papa Roach and Asking Alexandria, 7 p.m. Thursday, \$78.50/\$63/\$43
- March 7, Casting Crowns "Only Jesus Tour," 7 p.m. Thursday, \$65/\$45/28
- March 22-24, Lucky Duck consignment sale, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, \$10 Friday, free Saturday and Sunday
- March 23-24, Shipshewana on the Road, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, \$5 adults, free kids 12 and under
- March 28, "Winter Jam 2019 Spectacular" Christian music tour, 7 p.m. Thursday, \$15 donation at the door

Parking \$6 main lot, \$10 preferred lot. Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne. 260.482.9502

[memorialcoliseum.com](http://memorialcoliseum.com).

## WABASH: Honeywell Center

- March 5, "Church Basement Ladies: Rise Up, O Men," 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, \$25/\$18
- March 8, Wabash County Honors Band & Choir, 7:30 p.m. Friday, free admission
- March 10, Manchester Symphony Orchestra, 3 p.m. Sunday, \$15 adults; free for youth 18 and under, Manchester University staff and students
- March 14, Anita Renfro, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, \$50/\$25/\$18
- March 17, Buckets N Boards music and comedy, 2 p.m. Sunday, \$50/\$20
- March 19, Blackberry Smoke "Break It Down Acoustic Tour" Southern rock with Ida Mae, 7:30 Tuesday, \$100/\$45/\$32
- March 29, Ball State University Singers, 7:30 p.m. Friday, \$35/\$25/\$15

Ford Theater, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St., Wabash.

260.563.1102

[honeywellcenter.org](http://honeywellcenter.org).

## VAN WERT: Niswonger Performing Arts Center

- March 2, Travis Tritt "The Acoustic Tour," 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, \$55/\$50/\$45/\$40/\$35
- March 10, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" live show, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, \$35/\$30/\$25/\$20/\$15
- March 16, The Texas Tenors, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, \$50/\$40/\$30
- March 17, "Rain: Tribute to the Beatles," 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, \$50/\$45/\$40/\$35
- March 24, "Church Basement Ladies: Rise Up, O Men," 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, \$40/\$35/\$30/\$25

Niswonger Performing Arts Center, 10700 SR 118, Van Wert.

419.238.6722

[npacvw.org](http://npacvw.org).

## 1 AUBURN: First Friday

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## 1 WABASH: First Friday

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[wabashmarketplace.org](http://wabashmarketplace.org).

## 1 -31 FORT WAYNE: Traveling Exhibitions

American Brilliant Cut Glass: New World Innovation from 1876-1917 (ongoing)

Adults \$8, students (pre-K through college) \$6, seniors (65 and older) \$6, families \$20, free admission for veterans and veterans' families, free general admission 5 p.m.-8 p.m. every Thursday. 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).

## 3 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](https://facebook.com/decaturingianafleamarket).





### 3 FORT WAYNE: Mather Sunday Lecture Series

"Stockbridge Audubon Society — Celebrating 120th Anniversary," presented by Terri Gorney. Free admission. 2 p.m. Sunday, The History Center, 302 E. Berry St. 260.426.2882  
[fwhistorycenter.com](http://fwhistorycenter.com).

### 9 DECATUR: Artisan Craft Market

Handmade crafts, jewelry, candles, soaps, baked goods, home decor, clothing and accessories, purses, wood and metal items, paintings and prints. Breakfast and lunch available. Free admission. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Riverside Center, 231 E. Monroe St.  
[chscherry@gmail.com](mailto:chscherry@gmail.com).

### 11 FORT WAYNE: "Drum Circle with a Christian Flare"

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, using more than 25 international instruments. Professionally facilitated instruments supplied. No musical background required. Refreshments and lots of freebies. Kids welcome. 10 a.m.-noon Monday, 2610 Foxchase Run. Call Nancy at 260.227.2716.

### 12 FORT WAYNE: Band Concert

Performed by Fort Wayne Area Community Band, in its 39th year; conducted by Dr. Scott Humphries and Susan Jehl. Music includes "Beyond the Horizon," "An Irish Rhapsody," "The News-Sentinel March," "Pie In The Face Polka," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, free for children under 18. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, John Rhinehart Music Center, Purdue Fort Wayne campus, 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. Contact Rod King at 260.493.3318.

### 14 FORT WAYNE: "Sweet Gifts From the Hive"

Hand arts program, guest speaker Cindy Sheets will talk about honey, tasting and recipes. \$20/person. 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Thursday, registration and refreshments 9 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Historic Swinney Homestead, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd. Call 260.432.7314 for reservations  
[settlersinc.org](http://settlersinc.org).

### 15 ROANOKE: Jen & The Foggy Creek Band

Bluegrass, country and Americana band featured in benefit for Roanoke Volunteer Fire Department. \$12. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Cottage Event Center, 9524 U.S. 24, Roanoke. 260.483.3508.

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### 21 FORT WAYNE: 9th Annual Guided History Tour and Lunch

Tour the historic Swinney House, one of Fort Wayne's five oldest houses, and the Allen County Courthouse, followed by lunch at the Swinney House. \$25/person, reservations and payment by March 14. No transportation provided, but downtown parking suggestions will be offered. Age 14 and older. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Historic Swinney Homestead, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd. Call 260.747.1501 or 260.747.1229 for reservations  
[settlersinc.org](http://settlersinc.org).

### 21 FORT WAYNE: "What You Need to Know About CBD Oil"

Learn how to achieve and maintain optimal homeostasis vital to good health. Presented by Gregg Russell, Pharm.D. Free admission, space is limited. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Fort Wayne Custom RX, 425 E. Dupont Road. Register for class at  
[sharon@fwcustomrx.com](mailto:sharon@fwcustomrx.com).

### 22-24 PIERCETON: Spring Gathering

Open house with sales. Farmhouse, primitive, rustic, nautical decor; furniture, upholstered furniture, lighting, rugs, pictures, candles, floral, linens, purses, lotions, soaps, jewelry, more. Refreshments, drawing for adult Easter basket valued at more than \$100. Free admission. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Beyond the Barn, 105 N. First St. 574.253.3362.

### 23 FORT WAYNE: Cinderella Dress Day

Health fair and prom event with free dresses, accessories and prom prizes. Open to female students, grades seven to 12. Presented by the Fort Wayne Medical Society Alliance. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Grand Wayne Convention Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd. 260.420.1011  
[cinderelladressday.org](http://cinderelladressday.org).



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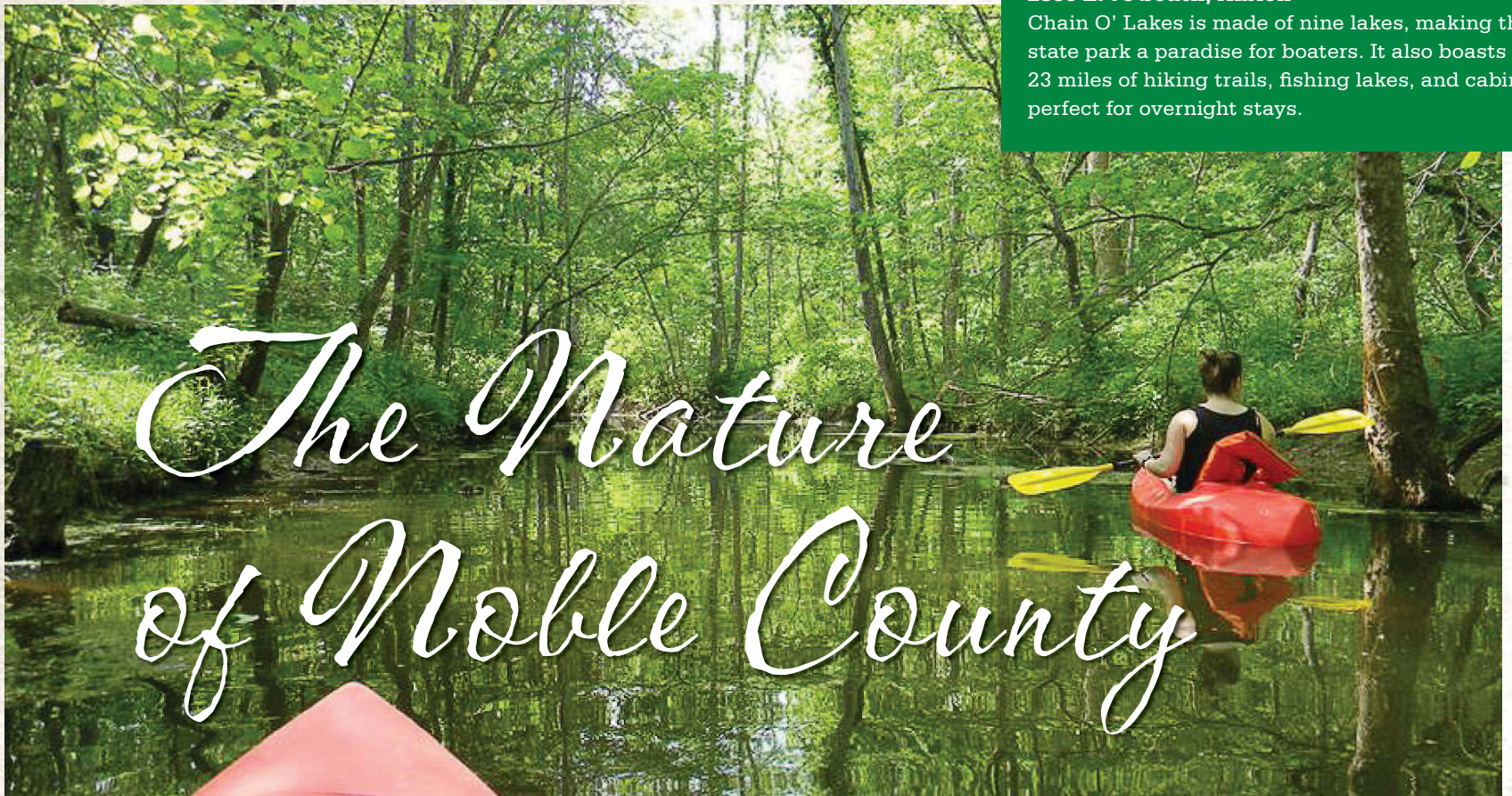
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## Chain O' Lakes State Park

2355 E. 75 South, Albion

Chain O' Lakes is made of nine lakes, making the state park a paradise for boaters. It also boasts 23 miles of hiking trails, fishing lakes, and cabins perfect for overnight stays.



*By Jaclyn Youhana Garver*

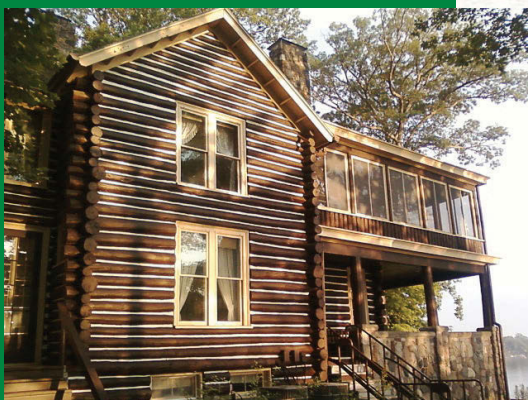
*Noble County is something of a haven for nature lovers. Full of local history, trails, nature preserves and more, the county even boasts an historic building as home to its convention and visitors bureau.*

*We asked them — the Noble County Convention & Visitors Bureau — and ACRES Land Trust, a land conservation group for areas in northeast Indiana, about some of their favorite bits of nature throughout Noble County. Here's what they said.*

### Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site

1205 Pleasant Point, Rome City

Gene Stratton-Porter is the state's most famous female author. She started writing about nature for magazines and eventually turned to novels. When you visit her historic site, be sure to check out the Cabin at Wildflower Woods, which Stratton-Porter designed. The cabin has three fireplaces, including one made of Hoosier artifacts and stones from other states. The space is decorated as Stratton-Porter might have, and it includes many of her furniture pieces and personal items, including her library.

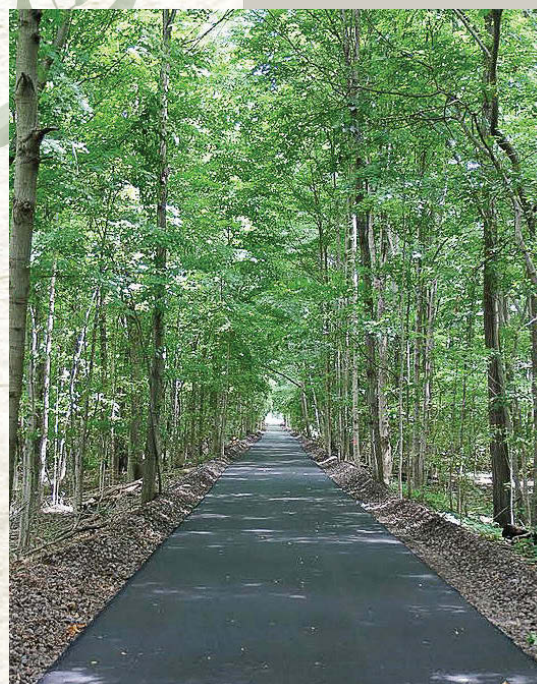


### The Fishing Line Trail

CR 850 N., Rome City

Noble Trails, a trail development non-profit, is creating a network to connect Noble County communities.

The Fishing Line Trail is a portion of this network, and it will eventually connect Rome City and Kendallville. To get to the open section of this trail, take County Road 900 N east from State Road 9. Follow the signs to Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site. Access the trail on the south side of County Road 850 N.





## Art Hammer Wetlands

CR 1050 N., Eagle Island Road, Rome City

The largest preserve in Noble County, the Art Hammer Wetlands is home to a swamp and upland forests, low wetlands, a lake and portion of the Elkhart River.



Photo: <https://naturalbloomington.com/photographs/set/7215768253171544>

## The Lavender Lane

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## DeCamp Gardens

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educational activities, the annual Tomato Tasting Festival, and workshops ranging from Cheese Making to Flower Arranging Made Easy.



## Florence Badger Nature Preserve

9091 E 300 S., Laotto

Though this trail is less than a half mile long, the scenery is especially beautiful: upland woods, beech trees, oaks and even badgers.



### Resources:

ACRES Land Trust, Huntertown, 260.637.2273, [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org)

Noble County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Rome City, 260.854.2115, [visitnoblecounty.com](http://visitnoblecounty.com)



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**Service:** local, state, national, and international community and service projects



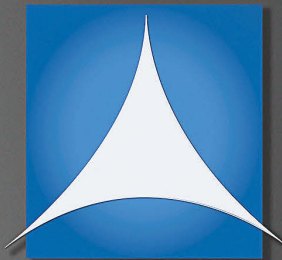
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## Shelly Gray



# CALIBER HOME LOANS

### LET US GUIDE YOU HOME

*by Jaclyn Youhana Garver*

**What is modern life's most stressful event?**

- a) Hosting Thanksgiving dinner
- b) Buying a house
- c) Applying for college
- d) Going to a job interview

According to a survey of 2,000 Americans released last summer by Homes.com, the answer is b)—40 percent of those surveyed named buying a house as the most stressful thing they've done in their life.

"First-time homebuyers are often stressed and overwhelmed when making such a large purchase," David Hoegerman, Homes.com senior manager of content, told HousingWire, a news outlet for the U.S. housing and mortgage markets. "As a result, they are looking for guidance and assistance to help make the process easier and smoother."

Enter Shelly Gray. She is a loan consultant with Caliber Home Loans in Fort Wayne. She worked in banking for nine years, giving her a special expertise to help homebuyers who are working on credit.

Gray started at Caliber in August of last year and says she enjoys helping people as they're about to make such a huge—and yes, stressful—purchase.

"We understand this is many times the single largest purchase in one's life, and we do not want to add any stress," Gray said. "I want my buyers to feel empowered and aware of what (they need to do) and why they are being asked to do so many things."

Gray remembers one client who was recently divorced. She had no down payment and thought it would take years before she would be able to buy a home.

"(Gray) explained that it wouldn't be an issue. She made what is a stressful process not as stressful ... She never made me feel like I was asking stupid questions. For a first-time home buyer, that's a big deal," wrote one client in a customer review.

While Caliber is a national company—its headquarters are in Coppell, Texas, and it has branches in all 50 states—its understanding of the local market and customer service standards make Caliber especially tuned-in to northeast Indiana, Gray said.

"We have knowledge of local players and the power of a national lender," she said. "We make sure that you are informed and understand what is going on around you during the loan process."

Plus, Caliber keeps and services most of its loans, maintaining escrow accounts and taking mortgage payments.

"If you close with Caliber, 96 percent of the time, you'll be with us forever," she said. "You will always know who to reach out to with questions."

And that customer service and relationship building is her favorite part of the job: "I love being able to help people achieve one of their biggest, and sometimes most challenging, purchases of their lives." 🏠

## Shelly Gray

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## Getting ready to move?

### Tips to improve your packing

- When moving books, pack them only in small boxes. Books are heavy!
- Stack dishes upward when packing. They'll be less likely to break.
- Pack the items you will need first in a clear, plastic bin—and keep it in clear sight.
- Label each box, listing contents but also the room to which the box should go.
- Pre-clean the kitchen and bath(s) at the new home before all your belongings arrive. You'll be glad you did.
- Place plastic wrap over opened toiletries, then replace lids. It'll keep items from leaking and save a big mess later.
- Take a photo of how your electronics are wired to make reassembly a no-brainer. 🏠

*\*rates effective as of March 2019 issue publishing deadline date*

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# How to Care for Your Septic System

*Article provided by the Indiana Builder's Association*

*Septic system maintenance is not complicated, and it does not need to be expensive. Upkeep comes down to four key elements:*

- **Inspect and pump frequently**
- **Use water efficiently**
- **Properly dispose of waste**
- **Maintain your drainfield**

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## Inspect and Pump Frequently

A septic service professional should inspect the average household septic system at least every three years. Alternative systems with electrical float switches, pumps or mechanical components should be inspected more often, generally once a year. A service contract is important since alternative systems have mechanized parts.

Four major factors influence the frequency of septic pumping:

- **Household size**
- **Total wastewater generated**
- **Volume of solids in wastewater**
- **Septic tank size**

When you call a septic service provider, he or she will inspect for leaks and examine the scum and sludge layers in your septic tank. Keep maintenance records on work performed on your septic system.

Your septic tank includes a T-shaped outlet, which prevents sludge and scum from leaving the tank and traveling to the drain-field area. If the bottom of the scum layer is within six inches of the bottom of the outlet, or if the top of the sludge layer is within 12 inches of the outlet, your tank needs to be pumped.

To keep track of when to pump out your tank, write down the sludge and scum levels found by the septic professional.

The service provider should note repairs completed and the tank condition in your system's service report. If other repairs are recommended, hire a repairperson.

## Use Water Efficiently

The average indoor water use in a typical single-family home is nearly 70 gallons per individual, per day. Just a single leaky or running toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons of water per day.

All of the water a household sends down its pipes winds up in its septic system. The

more water a household conserves, the less water enters the septic system. Efficient water use improves the operation of a septic system and reduces the risk of failure.

EPA's WaterSense program has many simple ways to save water and water-efficient products.

- **High-efficiency toilets.** Toilet use accounts for 25 to 30 percent of household water use. Many older homes have toilets with 3.5- to 5-gallon reservoirs, while newer, high-efficiency toilets use 1.6 gallons of water or less per flush. Replacing existing toilets with high-efficiency models is an easy way to reduce the amount of household water entering your septic system.
- **Faucet aerators and high-efficiency showerheads.** Faucet aerators, high-efficiency showerheads, and shower flow restrictors help reduce water use and the volume of water entering your septic system.
- **Washing machines.** Washing small loads of laundry on your washing machine's large-load cycle wastes water and energy. By selecting the proper load size, you will reduce water waste. If you are unable to select a load size, run only full loads of laundry. Try to spread washing machine use throughout the week. Doing all household laundry in one day might seem like a time-saver; but it can harm your septic system, not allow your septic tank enough time to treat waste, and could flood your drainfield

## Properly Dispose of Waste

Whether you flush it down the toilet, grind it in the garbage disposal, or pour it down the sink, shower or bath, everything that goes down your drains ends up in your septic

system. What goes down the drain affects how well your septic system works.

Your septic system is not a trash can. An easy rule of thumb: Do not flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper.

Never flush:

- **Cooking grease or oil**
- **Flushable wipes**
- **Photographic solutions**
- **Feminine hygiene products**
- **Condoms**
- **Dental floss**
- **Diapers**
- **Cigarette butts**
- **Coffee grounds**
- **Cat litter**
- **Paper towels**
- **Pharmaceuticals**
- **Household chemicals like gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, and paint or paint thinners**

## Think at the sink!

Your septic system contains a collection of living organisms that digest and treat household waste. Pouring toxins down your drain can kill these organisms and harm your septic system. Whether you are at the kitchen sink, bathtub or utility sink:

- **Avoid chemical drain openers for a clogged drain. Instead, use boiling water or a drain snake.**
- **Never pour cooking oil or grease down the drain.**
- **Never pour oil-based paints, solvents, or large volumes of toxic cleaners down the drain. Even latex paint waste should be minimized.**
- **Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal. This will significantly reduce the amount of fats, grease and solids that enter your septic tank and ultimately clog its drainfield.** 🏠



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# SCAN

By Lauren Caggiano

*It takes a village to prevent and stop child abuse, and that's exactly the approach nonprofit SCAN is taking in fulfilling its mission.*

"We work with parents and the community to stop child abuse and neglect," said Whitney Craig, SCAN's grants and communications manager, adding that they focus a lot of their efforts on education and prevention. SCAN's staff of 200 people works with clients in their homes, as well as on site, serving 34 counties in the state. They get cases on referral from the Indiana Department of Child Services and other community agencies.

In this way, the size and scope of the agency is often underestimated. "SCAN is a lot bigger than it appears," she said. And it's unique in that it has a focused mission of keeping kids safe.

To that end, SCAN's support staff work with at-risk mothers, fathers, and children from birth to young adult to effect change. Sometimes that means helping families learn

new skills and to better adapt, with the help of their caring team. Other times it means helping parents and their children navigate a divorce. Regardless, of the situation, it all goes back to one key priority: helping kids "work through trauma so that they can live a happy and peaceful life."

SCAN is also tasked with ensuring that cycles of abuse and neglect don't perpetuate within the next generation. For example, Craig said the Courtyard Program is designed for youth to transition from adolescence into a successful adulthood.

SCAN is carving out a brighter future for everyone involved. This vision is something the agency takes to heart. Sometimes the message gets distorted, though, and people think they look to break families apart. That couldn't be further from the truth.

"Instead, we work toward the best interest of the child," she said. "That can mean restoring the family unit and/or helping with therapy." The course of action depends on the family's situation and willingness to engage.

Craig wants the community to know there's no typical client. "Every family is so different, and their needs are so different," she said. "We're ready to handle whatever our families need."

SCAN depends on donations from the community, as well as grants to sustain its work. Officials also plan and execute several signature fundraisers to further their cause. Many are familiar with their annual Brown Bag Lunch in March and Duck Race in June. The former is a team effort, as more than 150 volunteers deliver 2,900 meals from Casa Restaurant throughout the community. The same goes with the Weigand Construction Duck Race. Countless volunteer and staff hours go into selling the ducks.

These events help to ensure a bright future for the nonprofit and the families who depend on it for services. But you can't talk about the future without looking to the past. Craig said SCAN was started 45 years ago by one woman with a passion to end child abuse and neglect in Allen County.

SCAN carries out that legacy today. In Craig's words, "we're always here to help."



## Nonprofit:

SCAN, Fort Wayne, 260.421.5000, scanfw.org





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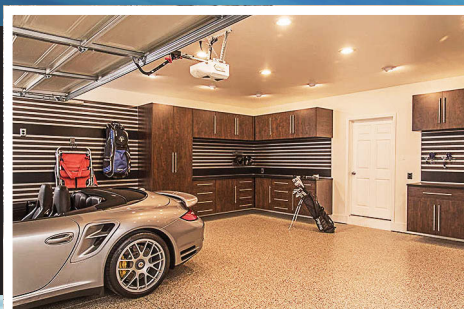
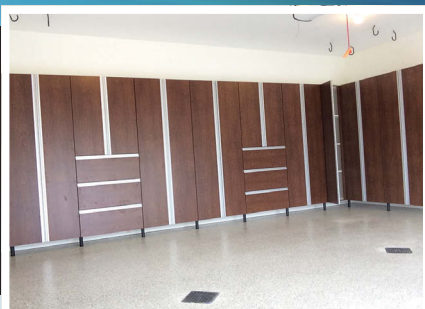
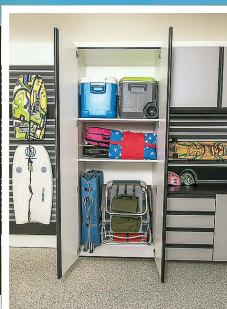
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Photo by Rob Banayote

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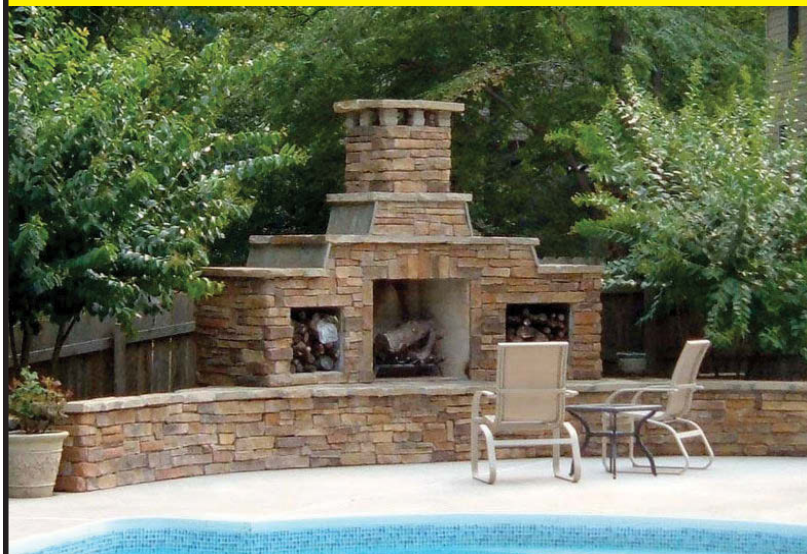
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For more information, event and program schedules, visit [www.home-gardenshow.com](http://www.home-gardenshow.com)



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# Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show

Thursday, Feb. 28, through Sunday, March 3

*Celebrating  
46 Years*



*The 46th annual Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show is going to the dogs – a team of high-energy, highly entertaining disc and trick dogs, that is.*

Elite Performance K9s will be featured at this year's Home & Garden Show, scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 28, through Sunday, March 3, at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. The talented Indianapolis-based canine troupe that appears throughout the U.S. will thrill with their skills at noon, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, and at noon and 3 p.m. on Sunday. All performances will take place in the Family Fun Area and are free with Home & Garden Show admission.

Elite Performance K9s join other special features, presentations by Master Gardeners, Family Fun Area vendors and over 650 exhibitors showcasing the latest and greatest products for home interiors and outdoor living areas. An anticipated 50,000-plus guests of all ages will be educated and entertained by attractions they'll find in every aisle.

"The Home & Garden Show is one of the Tri-State area's most popular annual events," said Karen Tejera, owner of Fort Wayne Shows Inc., producer of the Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show. "We've worked an entire year to put together this year's edition, with so much to see and do, learn about and incorporate into your own environment.

"Our guests will find brand new features, glorious gardens, knowledgeable experts and lots of family fun," she continued.

Among products and services on display will be items for kitchen, bath, exterior landscaping, interior décor, windows, siding, roofing, gutters, patios, decks, driveways and more. There also will be a bounty of cash-and-carry items for in-show shopping.

Additional special features will include a giant sand sculpture created in the Garden Gallery during the show by eight-time Guinness World Records-holder Ted Siebert,

plus presentations on gardening in Indiana and the Midwest by Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, aka The Hoosier Gardener.

The much sought-after "Show Bucks" return - every hour a random winner is selected to receive \$100 in Show Bucks, which can be used to purchase items at the show from participating exhibitors.

The Family Fun Area also returns to delight young and young at heart. Themed "Fairy Tales," the area features hands-on activities, displays, demonstrations, exotic animals, adoptable animals - and the Elite Performance K9s.

Show hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. General admission is \$10; seniors (62+), \$6; children under 15, free. Parking is \$5 per vehicle in convenient Coliseum lots. Visit [www.home-gardenshow.com](http://www.home-gardenshow.com) to save \$2 on general admission tickets and for additional show information.

Presenting sponsor of the Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show is Windows Doors & More. 🏠





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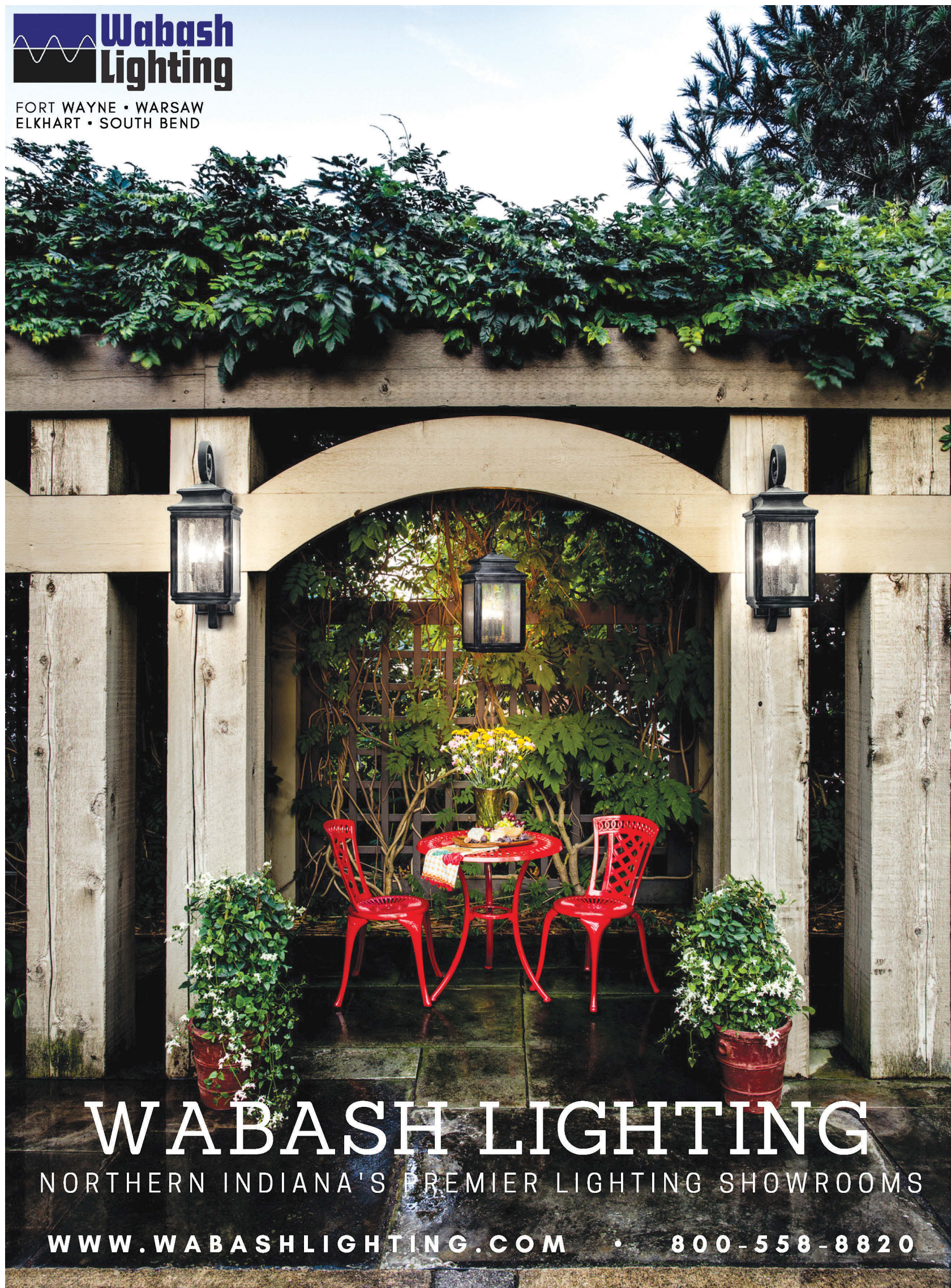
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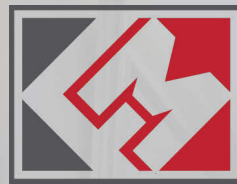
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"A single crocus blossom ought to be enough to convince our heart that springtime, no matter how predictable, is somehow a gift, gratuitous, gratis, a grace."

—*David Steindl-Rast*







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