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#### **UPCOMING EDITORIAL THEMES**

April **Real Estate** 

ad deadline Mon. March 16

May All Things Spring ad deadline Mon. April 13

June

### **Preparing for Summer**

ad deadline Fri. May 15\*

\*denotes early deadline

# welcome! from the editor Happy almost spring!

Of course, we are still expecting some snowfall this month, but the arrival of March has me thinking about all things spring. I can't wait to get outside to do some garden prep and get a start on some outdoor projects. We have you covered this month for both—check out our Plant This feature and our Landscape/ Exterior feature on Pergolas. Both should help get you in the mood for spending a little time in the fresh air.



Speaking of getting in the mood for spring... The Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show is

the perfect place to get inspired. Stop by and see us at our booth. The event runs from February 27-March 1 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. More information is available on page 32.

If you want to wait until it's a little bit warmer to head outside, don't worry. We have some indoor projects for you this month, too, including ideas for transforming your attic, incorporating trendy orange into your décor, and ways to clean up your smart phone—I bet you didn't even know this was a thing.

I will be focusing on my indoor plant babies. I don't have a green thumb by any stretch of the imagination, but I have managed to keep two peace



lilies alive for almost 10 years. Both came from my maternal grandparents' funerals, and if there ever were motivation to keep something alive, that will do it. I have placed so much sentimental value on those two plants that I lose sleep when they aren't thriving. I am happy to report that both are happy and healthy, having been repotted into larger pots this week. Do you have a sentimental plant in your home? I'd love to hear about it.

Thank you for reading.











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Living Room

First, start with function. A Mid-Century Modern orange sofa or a high back chair can draw the eye in. You can often find some steals in thrift stores and on Facebook Marketplace. You might need to reupholster a treasure to restore it to its former glory. Regardless, such a piece is bound to bring an element of retro charm to a contemporary space.

Speaking of space, walls can change the whole look and feel of a room. Maybe your living room walls are dull or covered with a boring neutral shade. Try this pro tip to kick things up a notch. Find a fun orange-patterned wallpaper and cover only one wall with it. This can create a dynamic focal point for the room without being too overpowering.

Not sure how to go about it? A bold orange wallpaper plays nicely with navy, tan and white patterns. Voila...instant eye candy! Of course, paint is another option. If you go this route, choose a deeply saturated orange that is either bright and vibrant or rich and earthy. Avoid lighter, less saturated tones, which may look chalky.

window treatments. One of the quickest ways to change the vibe of a room is by switching up the curtains. Orange spice material will give the room some personality and make it look warmer and more inviting at the same time.



# Bedroom

Bedroom feeling a little blah? Spice things up with some orange statement pieces — consider a throw pillow, blanket, lampshade, etc. You don't need much to bring an element of vibrancy and passion into this room.



Is your den looking drab? It's true: your environment can affect productivity. As it's associated with energy and movement, orange can make for an ideal backdrop in a home office.

Shift the attention downward with an earthy orange or spice-colored area rug. You can easily add this to a room composed of predominantly light neutrals or rich charcoal greys and blacks. Plus, a plush rug feels so good underfoot.





# Kitchen

Orange bar stools add wow factor to any kitchen. You can find synthetic leather ones that are as affordable as they are comfortable. These make a great addition to a breakfast bar.

Bonus: Find a way to pair orange with — Classic Blue — the Pantone Color of the Year and your home will be the envy of neighbors.

# what's trending | HOME room





photo provided by Quality Crafted Homes

#### Jaclyn Youhana Garver

Ironing boards. Islands with charging stations. Washer-and-dryer adjacent.

Today's walk-in closets are so much more than a spot to store hanging clothes.

Jhonelle Kees, a design consultant with Quality Crafted Homes in Fort Wayne, has designed many walk-in closets. In some cases, she said clients place all storage into the closet, leaving their bedrooms with simply a bed, two nightstands and maybe a chair. That moves everything from hampers to jewelry into the closet.

"I think clients are creating their master suite as more of an oasis and getaway from the rest of the home," Kees said, "so having a sitting area in the master bedroom appeals a little more than big pieces of furniture just for clothing storage."

She shared some of the most useful—and creative—ways to use the space in a walk-in closet.

## Islands

For especially large closets, Kees said, "a center island is a great additional storage option." The island can be full of shelves and/or drawers and even include a charging station with electrical outlets and USB ports, perfect for laptops, tablets and other electronics. It also lets homeowners keep their cell phones nearby without being too close, like on the nightstand four feet from the pillow.

# Chandel ier

Because if you have an island in the middle of the space, why not opt for beautiful lighting?



photo provided by Quality Crafted Homes

# Ironing boards

These can attach right to the wall and fold down. And if there's not space for an ironing board, then you don't have to walk very far if your walk-in closet also has an ...

# Adjacent laundry room

Walk-in closets with adjacent laundry rooms have two entryways. There's the door to the master bedroom on one side and the door to the laundry room on the other, and this is a growing trend in new home construction.



photo provided by Quality Crafted Homes

# Benches & hook boards

These benches might be simply a space to sit in the closet, or they can replace a mudroom entirely, especially if the laundry room is a few paces away. A hook board above the bench is easy for purse storage, and everyday shoes can slip right under the bench.

Keeping all this in the closet, then, means you don't have to gather your clothing and bring it to the bed or another room in case of a sleeping partner.

"It streamlines everything for getting ready in the mornings if it's all in the master closet," Kees said.  $\blacksquare$ 

#### **Resource:**

Quality Crafted Homes, Fort Wayne, 260.493.1655, qualitycraftedhomes.com

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# comething in the air



Could you have an unwelcome guest lurking in your home? While often unseen, mold can pose a real threat to our health.

Steven Mwaniki, environmental specialist at Paul Davis Restoration, said what makes mold particularly insidious is that there are multiple species and they grow under varying conditions. However, it's also important to keep in mind that mold is what he refers to as a secondary issue. In his words, "something else must be going on for mold to form." For example, in an indoor setting, high moisture or humidity levels are often to blame.

In order to understand mold (and how to prevent it), it's helpful to understand basic biology. In order to survive, Mwaniki said mold needs three things: food, moisture and a controlled environment. Regarding the latter, he noted that some mold thrives in high-moisture environments, while others require less. In general, the more porous the surface, the faster mold will grow. (Some mold can grow in as little as 72 hours). Carpet provides an ideal breeding ground for mold because of its fibers. The same can be said of drywall because it's more permeable than other materials.

So we know moisture is the culprit, but how do you know if your home is at risk? According to Mwaniki, 30 to 50 percent relative humidity is the sweet spot for mold to form. If you keep your thermostat set between 68 and 72 degrees Fahrenheit, you shouldn't have a problem in a typical Midwest climate. If you suspect your home

may be vulnerable to mold growth, it's as simple as purchasing a humidity control device at your local hardware store to monitor the air's conditions.

You can also prevent mold by taking some everyday precautions. Hot showers can create vapor that causes mold to grow in walls. Mwaniki suggests that homeowners run the ceiling fan for at least 5 minutes after a shower to get moisture out of the air. Opening the shower door right away, too, can help your cause.

A more involved tip is to check your home's ventilation system. Is it up to snuff? He said the home's exterior can be the first line of defense in keeping moisture out. Tiles placed around the home can also help with controlling moisture. Downspouts should point away from the home so that water doesn't get

When in doubt, call in the experts. Mold remediation is not a DIY job, because it's a toxic substance.

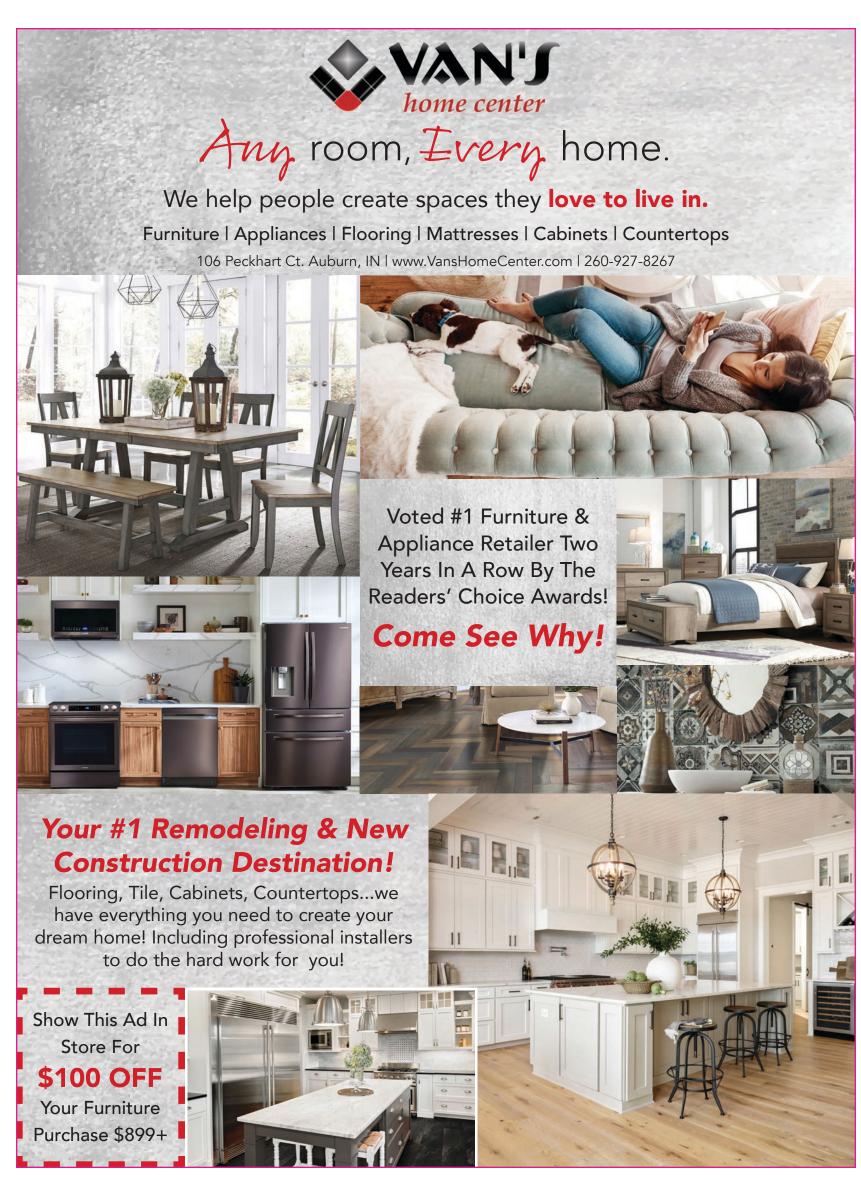
"When someone touches mold on a wall, for example, it can spread and the person can inhale the spores," Mwaniki said. "This can be especially dangerous to someone who has a compromised immune system and/or is elderly."

Mold can linger in the air for as long as 10 years, he added. And it can be hard to identify as the source of health issues, as symptoms can mimic a cold, allergies or other ailments and go undiagnosed.

If you suspect mold is making you or your family sick, don't hesitate to pick up the phone. A trained inspector can come into the home and determine if the environment is plagued by mold and help homeowners take steps to safely remediate it and prevent a future recurrence.

#### Resource:

Paul Davis Restoration, Fort Wayne, 260.436.7510, pdrneindiana.com













# Attic Transformations

By Mary Jane Bogle

For many, an attic is an unused storage space at best, a hoarder trap at worst—collecting all kinds of holiday décor, high school memorabilia or an heirloom baby crib coated with lead-based paint. That's not to say you can't tap into your attic's unused potential, converting it into a home theater, playroom or even a guest bedroom.

Want to reclaim that square footage? Here are some tips and tricks for transforming the attic into a room you actually use.

Home Theater - Most people think of installing home theaters in basements or internal rooms, but an attic can work just as well. Mount a TV on one wall, install speakers on the others and bring up some low seats or beanbag chairs. Voila! You're all set to enjoy your favorite flicks. Of course, if



the attic is unfinished, you will need to tackle that project first with insulation, drywall, paint and flooring.

Play Room - Small attics without much headroom are the perfect space for small people, aka kids. Your roofline's odd angles could prove the perfect construction for funky bookcases, reading nooks or toy storage. And wouldn't it be great to keep the noise—and inevitable mess—separate from the rest of the house?

Guest Bedroom - If you have the space, consider creating a private hideaway for out-of-town visitors. Adding a small bathroom, if possible, can enhance your guest's experience and increase your home value at the same time. Other ideas for attic conversions include a home office, craft room or even your own private library.

No room for any of the above? No problem. Chances are you can still tap into that unused potential. Add some nice flooring, custom shelving and closet rods or shoe racks, and you've just doubled your closet storage space—perfect for seasonal items. And while you might already be using the attic for storage, finishing the space can make all the difference between a dark, dusty chamber filled with cobwebs to a bright, open organizer's dream.

Before you start dreaming about any of these spaces, however, you need to make sure your plan will actually work. Consider the following factors and talk to a contractor ahead of time, and you'll be certain to save yourself a huge headache or budget buster down the road.

Access: Pull-down stairs won't cut it, so make sure you have room to add a small, permanent staircase.

Comfort: How is your attic heated and cooled? Chances are, it's not, so you need to find out if you can run ductwork to the space. If not, you may want to consider a small heat pump, which can heat and cool the attic through a single unit, either mounted in the window or on the wall.

Safety: You also need to determine whether the floor joists can handle the new load. And don't forget about any new electrical wiring or a safe escape in case of fire. (Egress via properly sized casement windows might be just the answer you're looking for, as long as you have room to install them.)

Needless to say, most attic conversions aren't designed for the average DIY enthusiast, but you can always add some sweat equity by handling finishes yourself, saving on your budget and helping you  $\,$ customize the space. With a little time and effort, along with some strategic planning, you can transform your attic from a holiday décor graveyard into the space of your dreams.







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# Weather the Storm

By Mary Jane Bogle

After long, cold winters, spring is always welcome in Indiana, but it isn't without danger. Most Hoosiers know that warmer weather can bring thunderstorms and even tornadoes, but are you really prepared? Here's a quick guide to help you weather the next storm.

#### Where to Go

Most storm injuries occur from flying debris, so having a safe, secure space to wait out the weather is crucial. Experts recommend an interior room on the lowest level, away from windows and doors. Know where your safe room (or closet) is and practice getting there quickly. A few storm drills can go a long way to helping everyone—especially young children—know what to do when disaster strikes.

The jury is still out on the safest place to shelter if you're traveling. If you opt to stay in your vehicle, be sure to secure everyone in a seatbelt or car seat and avoid parking under an overpass. If you choose a ditch, make sure it isn't filled with water, which can attract lightning or flood quickly.

#### What to Bring

Having a storm kit ready to go is a good idea. The kit should include:

- Flashlights with extra batteries (Crank flashlights work well, too.)
- Cell phone charger
- First aid kit
- Bottled water and snacks, such as granola bars
- Whistle (in case you get trapped and your phone won't connect)
- Medicines
- Work gloves

Store these items in a plastic tote, one for your car and one for your home, either in your safe room or in a spot that's easy to grab along the way. You might want to keep tie-downs handy, as well, so you can anchor any potential flying debris in your backyard.

If possible, wear shoes or boots with heavy soles and close all curtains and drapes, which can help keep glass from flying through your home. Grab a blanket to cover your head and arms.

#### When to Go

Watch or Warning ... which one is worse? Warning. A watch means you should watch the weather. A warning means DANGER! A tornado has been spotted in your area. Keep a weather radio handy and listen for warning sirens. When in doubt, seek shelter. Never stay outside to watch the storm.

#### **What Happens After**

If a tornado or severe storm does hit, be sure to stay in your safe place until you are certain the storm has passed. Try to avoid broken glass or debris as you emerge (here's where the boots and work gloves come in handy). Shut off utilities if your home has sustained damage. Take photos of the damage as soon as possible, which will help your insurance adjustor process your claim, getting you on the road to recovery as soon as possible.

#### **More About Tornadoes**

- Can develop during any season
- Mainly strike during spring and summer
- Occur most often from 3 to 9 p.m.
- Develop wind speeds up to 200 mph
- Can destroy anything in a path up to one mile wide and 50 miles long



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These days, our smart phones are almost a necessary part of our existence. We conduct work via email, FaceTime with relatives, share photos, spend time on social media, text message everyone, keep up on the news, and sometimes use it for actual phone calls. With all of these resources at our fingertips, smart phones can get clogged up (both literally with grime and digitally with memory). Now is a great

time for a smart phone spring-cleaning.

To physically clean and de-gunk your phone, you can use special cloths for the glass screen and sanitizing wipes for the case and exterior. You might also consider canned air to blow out dust from ports to improve charging power and increase efficiency for headphones, cords and speakers. There are also specialized repair stores that will perform a professional deep clean with miniscule vacuums and sanitizers.

Remember those thousands of pictures and videos just sitting in your phone taking up storage space? Upload them to your computer and/or online photo sites so you may erase them from your phone and free up space. You may also want to consider a shared cyber account (like iCloud) where your memories will be safe while not clogging up your phone. There are many services that allow you to automatically sync your photos to another storage space, thereby freeing up your phone memory.

Additionally, take a look at your apps and determine which ones you actually use with regularity. You might be surprised to find some you no longer need that will also free up space once you delete them. And don't forget to close out of open windows

and tabs; leaving them open can drain your battery, as well.

Smart phones should also be turned off regularly and charged up from zero battery. And speaking of batteries, yours may need an upgrade or replacement to hold a longer charge. Take a look at your charger as well—is the cord frayed? Does the end piece look damaged? How about the plug or block? Having a charger in good condition can ensure a more efficient connection and charge.

Most smart phones remind you when they are due for a software update. Don't ignore alerts for these; being out of date on the latest updates can negatively affect the performance of your phone. If you're still having issues or your phone seems slow, you might want to look into a factory hard reset by a professional. Make sure to back up your photos and other data when you do this, though, so you don't lose anything important.

Finally, try to limit your screen time, or at least monitor it. There are apps that can track this for you. Maybe challenge a friend or spouse to see who can have the least screen time at the end of each week. It's tempting to constantly scroll and text, but as humans we need a break from digital media. At night, try turning over your phone or at least silencing alerts so you can have a restful night without interruptions.

# The Ultimate Room-by-Room Spring Cleaning Checklist

#### **ENTRYWAY**

- O Sweep floors
- O Mop floors
- O Clean door
- O Clean doormat
- Organize shoes
- O Hang jackets



### **LIVING ROOM**

- O Dust/polish furniture
- O Wash blankets and pillows
- O Vacuum sofa and chairs
- O Dust blinds
- O Clean window sills
- O Clean or vacuum curtains
- O Clean ceiling fan
- O Dust and clean lamps
- O Dust electronics
- O Dust and clean décor
- O Sanitize remotes
- O Mop or vacuum floors
- O Shampoo rugs or carpets

### **DINING ROOM**

- O Dust China
- O Launder table linens
- O Dust and polish furniture
- O Clean light fixture
- O Dust blinds
- O Dust curtain rods
- O Clean window sills
- O Clean or vacuum curtains
- O Mop or vacuum floor
- O Shampoo rugs or carpet

#### **KITCHEN**

- O Clean stove top
- O Clean oven
- O Clean microwave
- O Clean dishwasher
- O Clean refrigerator
- O Wipe drawers and shelves in fridge and freezer
- O Defrost freezer
- O Discard old or expired food
- O Clear countertops
- O Degrease cabinet doors and backsplash
- O Remove items from cabinets and thoroughly clean
- O Dust top of high surfaces
- O Deodorize and degrease the kitchen
- O Wash dish rags and clean sponges
- O Mop floors
- O Shake out dust and dirt from floor mats

O Wipe baseboards

**BEDROOMS** 

- O Dust furniture
- O Donate unused clothes
- Organize closets
- O Wash bedding
- O Vacuum carpets
- O Flip mattress
- O Dust blinds
- O Dust curtain rods
- O Clean window sills
- O Clean or vacuum curtains
- O Mop or vacuum floor
- O Shampoo rugs or carpet

# LAUNDRY ROOM

- O Clean washing machine
- O Clean dryer vent
- O Clean lint traps
- Organize laundry supplies
- O Mop floors

#### **BATHROOM**

- O Discard expired medications and personal care products
- O Clean makeup brushes
- O Clean vanity
- O Wipe mirror
- O Clean tub and shower
- O Clean showerhead
- O Replace shower curtain liner
- O Scrub tile grout
- O Clean toilet
- O Clean hardware
- O Sweep Floors
- O Mop floors



### GARAGE

- O Declutter tools, sporting equipment and toys
- O Sweep floor
- O Clean garage door
- O Replace batteries in door openers
- O Clean windows

#### **THROUGHOUT** THE HOUSE

- O Test smoke alarm batteries
- O Replace air filters
- O Clean air vents and registers
- O Clean light fixtures
- O Replace light bulbs
- O Sanitize door handles
- O Sanitize light switches
- O Wipe walls
- O Wipe baseboards







By Cathy Shouse

Nothing compares to the pleasure and relaxation of enjoying the great outdoors while working in the dirt, preferably under a sunny sky. Gardening and landscaping are the perfect antidote to being cooped up all winter.

Although March can be an unpredictable weather month, don't let that stop you from doing whatever you can outside. Dreaming of growing that perfect red tomato? Or are flowers and shrubs more your style? Whatever your jam, we've got you covered. The beauty of getting started now is that you'll be in better shape when the ballgames and barbecues begin. You just may be the one to host.

We've rounded up expert advice on some activities you can do to prepare until it's prime outdoor season. Check out our list and keep it handy so when the weather cooperates for a day or two, you will be able to check items as completed. Remember, sometimes just thinking about and planning for getting outside is enough to lift your spirits.

Laurinda Spieth has worked in Bueschings Peat Moss & Mulch's office for about 13 years and has learned some things by osmosis. She also has a garden at home.

"A lot of it depends on the weather," she said. "If they haven't already cut out the old stuff from last year, like tomato plants, that all needs removed, especially for a vegetable garden. In early spring, people will put compost in and fill in the places where the old plants were with dirt mixtures. We've got three main types. One is a peat moss and black dirt mix. The other is peat moss, black dirt and 20% nature soil, or compost. The other is all nature soil. You can just mix any of them into your existing dirt."





The days of looking at seed catalogs in the mail are gone. "Most people stay local for their seeds," Spieth said.

Dave Geller, owner of Arbor Farms Nursery, provided these tips for your spring garden:

#### **Preparing for that next landscape project:**

- 1. Develop a landscape plan.
- 2. Set a budget.
- 3. Secure a contractor as soon as possible (they book up fast).
- 4. Frost free date for our area is May 15, avoid planting sensitive plants before this date.

#### **Existing Landscaping beds:**

- 1. Add compost to beds.
- 2. Mulch.
- 3. Prune shrubs that bloom on new wood (Rose of Sharon, Hydrangea, Roses, Spirea).
- 4. Avoid pruning Spring blooming shrubs (Magnolia, Lilac, Forsythia). 1



Arbor Farms Nursery, Fort Wayne, 260.637.5816, arborfarmsnursery.com Buesching's Peat Moss & Mulch, Fort Wayne, 260.625.3358, bueschings.com



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# Do It Yourself



By Amber Bouthot

Every month, we highlight projects our readers have completed. We want to see your projects and share them within the pages of our magazine. 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. Email Amber at ambouthot@ the-papers.com.

This month's Reader DIY project comes from Mary Richardson who recently refreshed her master bedroom.

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

My inspiration was the bedspread! I found it at TJ Maxx and designed the whole room around it.

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

A weekend for the bulk of it, but I added a lot along the way. It's a work in progress.

#### 3-Was it easier or harder than you anticipated?

It was just a little harder. This bedroom had a wallpaper border around the top that I had to remove before I painted, and that was not enjoyable! The tree decal was also difficult to put up because each branch had to be applied individually.

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

Under \$300 ,

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

The lights are my favorite part. I think they're so cool and really add to the room. They were so easy to assemble and put up. I think I did it



**Before** 

in 10 minutes. The last thing I added to the room was the chair in the corner and I think it made it all come together.

#### 6-What was the most challenging aspect?

That tree decal! There's actually 2 of them on that wall and they took forever to put up.

#### 7-Where did you source the materials?

2 hanging lights are from IKEA, paint and paint tools from Lowe's, decal from What Is Blik, chair was from reNEW in Gerogetown, and bedspread from TJ Maxx.

# **HUGE SAVINGS! IN-STORE**

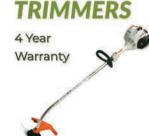
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Stephanie Felger of Felger's Peat Moss & Landscaping Supply feels that the popularity of outdoor living spaces as an extension of the home is what has heightened the popularity of pergolas. Felger's carries custom and made-to-order Heartland Pergolas that are delivered in kits and assembled on site. They are constructed of vinyl and have an aluminum core for strength.

In addition, they offer varying shade levels, two color options, several beam size and shape options and different end styles to fit customer's tastes. Available accessories include ceiling fan mounts, hurricane clips that provide extra wind warranty and beam attachment brackets. Prices, of course, vary with the size of the pergola.

Felger's provides customers with a detailed worksheet to list size requirements and options so they can prepare an accurate price



quote. The company does not do on-site quotes or installation, but works with a number of certified landscape installers who are familiar with the product that can expertly erect the pergola to the customer's liking.

These lattice-type structures are perfect for the do-it-yourselfer. In fact, they can be purchased in kit form and delivered in boxes, complete with instructions on what tools are necessary and how to go about assembling it.

According to Felger, a do-it-yourselfer, along with a couple of friends, should easily be able to put one up. She added that there are great YouTube videos available to help with the process.

To get a good idea of the varying styles, prices and looks of pergolas, just Google pergolas and be amazed at all the possibilities and varieties. Sizes range from a small arbor trellis for growing vines to room-size 12 by 14-footers. And prices range widely as well, starting around \$400 up to \$15,000. Prices, of course, are dependent on the size, choice of material (wood, vinyl, metal), roof line (flat, peaked, arched) and the number of improvements such as end shades and motorized, retractable fabric canopies for maximum sun

A pergola is a great way to improve the character of your landscaping and an innovative way to enjoy your outdoor space.



#### Resource:

Felger's Peat Moss & Landscaping Supply, Fort Wayne, 260.693.3134,

felgerspeatmoss.com

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# Shopping list

#### (for one person

- o Unsweetened almond milk
- o 3 whole bananas
- o One small bag of frozen blueberries
- o One small bag of frozen cherries
- o Unsweetened coconut water
- o One small bag of frozen mangoes
- o 2 oranges
- o One small bag of frozen pineapple
- o One small bag of spinach
- o One small bag of frozen strawberries

# Day 1

- o 1 cup spinach
- o 1 cup water
- o ½ cup mangoes
- o ½ cup pineapple
- o 1 banana

Blend spinach and water until smooth. Add fruit and blend again.



# Day 2

- o 1 cup spinach
- o 1 cup almond milk
- o 1 cup strawberries
- o ½ cup mangoes

Blend spinach and milk until smooth. Add fruit and

blend again.

# Day 3

- o 1 cup spinach
- o 1 cup almond milk
- o ½ cup pineapple
- o ½ cup cherries
- o ½ banana

Blend spinach and milk.

Add fruit and blend again.



# Day 4

- o 1 cup spinach
- o 1/3 cup water
- o 1 orange
- o 1/3 cup strawberries
- o 1/3 cup blueberries
- o ½ banana

Blend spinach, water and orange until smooth. Add remaining fruit

and blend again.

# Day 5

- o 1 cup spinach
- o 1 cup coconut water
- o ½ orange
- o ½ cup mangoes
- o ½ banana

Blend spinach, water and orange until smooth.

Add fruit and blend again.



#### **Botanical Conservatory**

By Ray Balogh

- "Dog Days of Winter" garden exhibit (through April 12), regular admission
- Sweetheart Orchid Display (through March 8), regular admission
- Saturday-Sunday, March 7-8, "The Great Train Connection," 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Sunday, regular admission

Adults \$5, children (3-17) \$3, children (2 and under) free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday. 1100 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne. 260.427.6440, botanicalconservatory.org.

#### **Embassy Theatre**

- Sunday, March 1, "Nate Bargatze: Good Problem to Have," 7 p.m., \$46/75\$20.20
- Thursday, March 5, Scotty McCreery, 7:30 p.m., \$46.50/\$36.50/\$26.50
- Friday, March 6, The Choir of Man, 7:30 p.m., \$35/\$25
- Saturday, March 7, Rend Collective, 7 p.m., \$57/\$37/\$19.50, all seats general admission
- Sunday, March 22, 2020 Film Series, "9 to 5," 2 p.m., doors open at 1 p.m., free admission 125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne. 800.745.3000, fwembassytheatre.org.

#### **Memorial Coliseum**

- Sunday, March 8, Newsboys United "Greatness of Our God" Tour with Mandisa and Adam Agee, 7 p.m., \$100/\$30/\$20
- Friday-Sunday, March 13-15, Alpaca Owners Association National Halter Show, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday
- Friday-Sunday, March 20-22, Lucky Duck Consignment Sale, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
- Saturday-Sunday, March 28-29, Shipshewana on the Road, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

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

- Wednesday, March 4, "The One & Only Ivan," 10 a.m. and noon, \$10
- Friday, March 13, Wabash County Honors Band & Choir, 7:30 p.m., free admission
- Sunday, March 15, "Finding Neverland," 7:30 p.m., \$58/\$45
- Saturday, March 28, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, 7:30 p.m., \$100/\$39/\$29

Ford Theater, 275 W. Market St., Wabash. 260.563.1102, honeywellcenter.org. Niswonger Performing Arts Center

- Sunday, March 8, Speaker Series: Bryce Carlson, 3 p.m. \$10
- Saturday, March 14, "Finding Neverland," 2 p.m., \$75/\$65/\$55/\$45/\$35
- Saturday, March 21, Enrich Community Concert Series "I Am... He Said: A Neil Diamond Celebration," 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., \$45/\$35/\$25
   10700 SR 118, Van Wert. 419.238.6722, npacvw.org

#### Fort Wayne Museum of Art

Exhibitions

- Glass Sculpture from the Collection (ongoing)
- Planes, Trains & Automobiles: Classic Toys and Americana (ongoing)
- Theotokos: Contemporary Visions of Mary by Elly Tullis (through March 8)
- 2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards (through April 11)
- Hidden Truths: New Paintings by Francisco Valverde (through May 17)
- Woolgatherers: Paintings by Heather Day (through May 31)
- Hope Dies Last: The New Armenia Photographs by Michelle Andonian (March 14 through July 12)
- Friday, March 6, ARTrageous Gala & Auction fundraiser, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, March 26, Art & Writing Club for middle and high school students, 5 p.m., free admission

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), 311 E. Main St., Fort Wayne. 260.422.6467. fwmoa.org.

#### Shipshewana Blue Gate Theatre

- Friday, March 6, The Guess Who, 8 p.m., tickets from \$29.95
- Saturday, March 7, Sawyer Brown, 8 p.m., tickets from \$24.95
- Friday, March 13, Mutts Gone Nuts, 8 p.m., tickets from \$14.95
- Saturday, March 14, Night Ranger, 8 p.m., tickets from \$29.95
- Tuesday, March 17, The Browns Celtic Experience, 7 p.m., tickets from \$19.95
- Friday, March 20, Anthem Lights, 8 p.m., tickets from \$19.95
- Saturday, March 21, Jeff Foxworthy, 1 p.m. and 8 p.m., tickets from \$44.95
- Thursday, March 26, Stolen the Musical (through May 23), various times, tickets from \$38.95
- Friday, March 27, Bellamy Brothers, 8 p.m., tickets from \$19.95
- Saturday, March 28, "Hank & My Honky Tonk Heroes" Hank Williams Tribute, 7 p.m., tickets from \$24.95
- Saturday, March 28, Postmodern Jukebox, 8 p.m. tickets from \$29.95

760 S. Van Buren St., Shipshewana. 888.447.4725, thebluegate.com.



#### Strode Center for the Arts

- Saturday, March 7, Fort Wayne Ballet, 7 p.m., free admission
- Sunday, March 8, Robert Satterlee, 7 p.m., \$10
- Saturday, March 14, Cinema at the Stroede: "Plaza Suite," 7:30 p.m., free admission
- Friday, March 27, Luke McMaster, Icons of Soul, 7:30 p.m., \$10
- 319 Wade Ave., Defiance. 419.784.3401, defiancearts.org.

#### 1 ANGOLA: Pokagon Toboggan Run

Quarter-mile refrigerated run. Sleds available first-come, first-served. \$13/hr. per toboggan; \$7 entrance fee (in-state), \$9 (out-of-state). 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 450 Ln 100 Lake James. 260.833.2012, tobogganrun.com.

### 1 FORT WAYNE: Mather Sunday Lecture Series

Don Doxsee presents "A History of the Allen County Bar and Courts, 1824-2019," lecture and book signing. Free admission. 2 p.m. Sunday, The History Center, 302 E. Berry St. 260.426.2882, fwhistorycenter.com.

#### 1 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/decaturindianafleamarket.

### 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 FORT WAYNE: "Little River Ramblers"

Hike and explore the interesting plants and wildlife of Eagle Marsh. Bring binoculars for a close-up view. Sponsored by Little River Wetlands Project. Free admission. 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Tuesday, Arrowhead Prairie, 6801 Engle Road. 260.478.2515, info@lrwp. org, lrwp.org.

#### 5 FORT WAYNE: Volun-beer

Help Little River Wetlands Project clean seeds collected from the marsh. 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, Hop River Brewing Company, 1515 N. Harrison St. 260.478.2515, lrwp.org.

#### 6 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.

#### 7 FORT WAYNE: iNaturalist Training

Learn how to observe changes and use the app iNaturalist to contribute to biodiversity science. 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Little River Wetlands Project office, 5000 Smith Road. 260.478.2515, lrwp.org.

## 12 FORT WAYNE: "Breakfast on the Marsh: Indiana Forest Alliance"

Guest speaker: Elizabeth Tollefson discusses the Indiana Forest Alliance organization, projects they are working on, and their interest and efforts with Francis Slocum and Salamonie. For 50 years and older. A light breakfast will be served. Call to preregister. Free admission. 8:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Thursday, Indiana Wesleyan Education & Conference Center, Room 102/104, 8211 W. Jefferson Blvd. Register with Aly Munger at a. munger@lrwp.org or 260.478.2515, lrwp.org.

# 12 FORT WAYNE: "A Lucy Pocket and Candlewicking"

Hand arts program: make a Lucy locket pocket. 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Thursday. Registration and refreshments 9 a.m.-9:30 a.m. \$20 includes project materials. Swinney Homestead, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd. Reservations at 260.432.7314 or 260.747.1501, settlersinc.org.

#### 14 FORT WAYNE: Nest Box Monitor Training

Learn how to safely check on and record what is happening in nest boxes. 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Little River Wetlands Project office, 5000 Smith Road. 260.478.2515, lrwp.org.

#### 14 DECATUR: Artisan Craft Market

Local artisans, professional artists, gourmet cupcakes, handmade items, more. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Riverside Center, 231 E. Monroe St. 260.724.7171, decaturin.org.

### 19 FORT WAYNE: Guided History Tour and Lunch

Tour the Historic Swinney House and have lunch, then proceed to the Allen County Courthouse for a guided art and history tour. 14 and older, transportation not included. \$25, with registration and payment by March 12. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday. 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd. 260.747.1229, settlersinc.org.

### 21 FORT WAYNE: Field Trip: Chicago Flower & Garden Show

Sponsored by Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation. Call 260.427.6000 for reservations or register online at fortwayneparks.org.

#### 21 FORT WAYNE: Cinderella Dress Day

Free dresses, free health fair, open to female students grades 7-12. All attendees should bring a legal form of identification. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Grand Wayne Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd. 260.420.1011, cinderelladressday.com.

# 21 FORT WAYNE: Gardener Symposium: Spring Brings Flower Power

Educational symposium, Master Gardeners will receive 5 CE hours. \$40. Registration and refreshments at 8:15 a.m. Saturday, educational talks until 3 p.m., lunch provided, Walb Union Classic Ballroom, Purdue Fort Wayne, Union Circle Drive, 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. Register at bit.ly/gardeners\_symposium. 260.481.6826.

## 21 FORT WAYNE: Public Hike: Spring is Here!

Celebrate the arrival of spring by sowing seeds and going on a spring signs exploration hike. Dress for the weather, waterproof boots recommended. Free admission. 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, meet at Boy Scout office parking lot, 6801 Engle Road. 260.478.2515, lrwp.org.

# 25 FORT WAYNE: 31st Annual Health and Wellbeing Fair

Free health screenings, wellness assessments, educational tools, community resources and activities that promote health and wellbeing such as stress relief, therapy dogs and more. Blood health screenings (cost varies). Free gift drawings. Free admission. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, Fieldhouse, Gates Sports Center, Purdue University Fort Wayne, 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. 260.481.6647, pfw. edu/healthfair.





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# Thursday, Feb. 27, through Sunday, March 1

The Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show showcases experts in antiques, gardening, grilling and all things contemporary home improvement.

The 47th annual Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show, scheduled for Thursday, February 27 through Sunday, March 1, at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, will feature Dr. Lori's Free Antique Appraisal Comedy Show. With unique antiques to appraise combined with Dr. Lori's vast knowledge and quick wit, every show is full of interesting facts and humor. Showgoers may bring one antique item per show, per person, for a free appraisal. Shows will take place Thursday through Saturday at 3pm and 6pm and Sunday at 12pm and 3pm.

With over 30 years of horticulture experience, 20 plus authored books on gardening, and the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program, nationally known gardening expert Melinda Myers will be speaking during show hours on Thursday and Friday at 2pm and 7pm, Saturday at 2pm, 5pm and 7pm, and Sunday at 12pm and 2pm.

Other features include the return of Midwest Grillin' Experts Mad Dog & Merrill whose aim is to make everyone better grillers and have fun while doing it. They will be on stage in the Garden Gallery Thursday through Saturday at 12pm, 4pm and 7pm and Sunday at 1pm and 3pm. Additional signature features include the Hourly \$100 Show Buck Giveaways, chainsaw carving demos with expert Paul Moon, a \$1,000 Cash Giveaway, and more.

"As the premiere Home & Garden show in the tri-state area, we're excited to offer our quests the chance to learn from these experts and bring home some great ideas," said Becky Williamson, producer of the Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show. "Attendees will find anything they're looking for in terms of gardening, home improvement, trusted vendors, entertainment and family fun."

Always a hit among families with young children at the show, the Family Fun Area allows participants to touch and feel unique animals, get their pictures taken with characters, watch martial arts and dance demonstrations, learn how to make a balloon creation and more.

When: February 27 - March 1

Hours: Thursday and Friday 11am-9pm

Saturday 10am-9pm Sunday 11am-5pm

Tickets: \$10 at the door \$6 for Seniors 62+ Free for kids 15 & under.

\$2 off discount coupons are available online at Home-GardenShow.com.

Tickets are discounted to \$5 after 5pm on Thursday, February 27. Parking at the Coliseum is \$6. A portion of all ticket proceeds and revenue will be donated to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Fort Wayne to contribute the means necessary to build a show sponsored home for a member of the Fort Wayne community. 1



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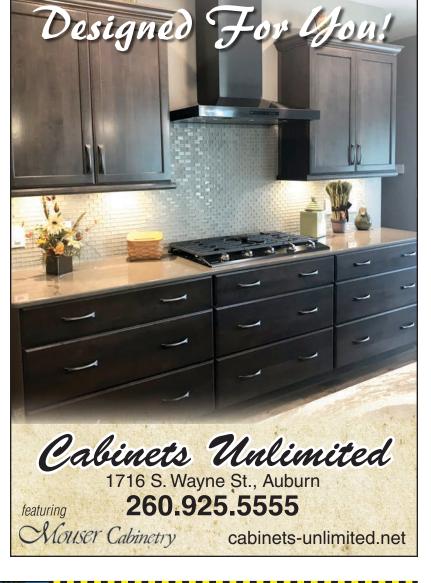






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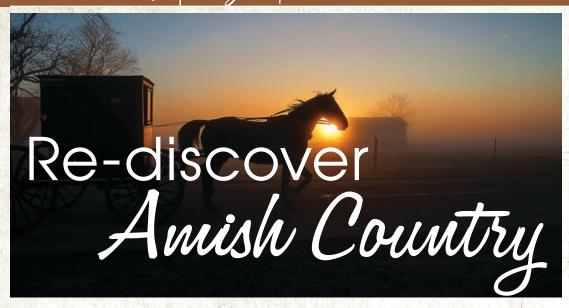
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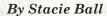
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#### **Dinina**

The Shipshewana Visitor Guide describes the food as, "homegrown, homemade and hormone free." Here are a few of the most recommended eateries in the area.

- Das Dutchman Essenhaus- This is a family-style, all-you-can-eat restaurant, complete with beverage and dessert. A family friend always makes it a point to hit this restaurant on every trip to Shipshewana.
- Blue Gate Restaurant and Bakery- This restaurant allows you to eat buffet-style. family-style or order off the menu. They offer Amish favorites like fried chicken, slow-roasted beef, chicken and noodles, homemade bread with their famous peanut butter spread, and over 20 kinds
- Rise 'n Roll Bakery and Deli- This place has doughnuts that are nothing short of heavenly. They also offer soups, sandwiches, baked goods, jams, jellies and butter nut crunch. The best part is, they always have free coffee and samples.

#### Shopping

There are so many beautiful shops to visit, filled with handmade art, crafts, furniture and things you never thought you needed. When asked about their favorite place to go shopping in Shipshewana, most people said, "All the little shops around town." You can't go wrong, wherever you choose to go, but some of the favorites mentioned were E&S Sales. Yoder's Meat and Cheese. Yoder's Shipshewana Hardware, Heritage Ridge Creamery (delicious cheese) and Yoder's Red Barn Shoppes.

Another one of the most visited places in Shipshewana is the flea market. It is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8-4 during the season. This year the season is from May 5- September 30.

#### **Favorites for Kids**

- Dutch Creek Animal Farm- Take a safari-style wagon out to see and feed domestic and exotic animals. It is only 10 minutes outside of Shipshewana.
- Shipshewana Carousel- Fun for all ages, this 1906 Dentzel Carousel is located on the 3rd floor of Davis Mercantile.
- Menno-Hof- This museum tells the Amish-Mennonite story using multimedia presentations and colorful displays. Experience a 16th century courtyard and the ship the Amish boarded to America. Feel the destructive force in the tornado house and relax in the calm of the meeting house. This is a great way to learn more about the Amish culture.
- Buggy Rides- Did you know you can even take buggy rides? There are about 5 businesses who offer different kinds of buggy rides and tours.

#### Sundays

Since most of Shipshewana's 670 residents are Amish, nearly all businesses are closed on Sunday so people can observe the Sabbath with their families. Use Sunday to take a break from technology and rejuvenate! There are several beautiful parks to picnic in, go biking, take a hike, or take a kayak or canoe ride.

Plan your visit today at Shipshewana.com!













Perhaps you're the outdoorsy type. Have no fear; the Shipshewana area has plenty of camping and outdoor activities for you.

#### Camping

#### Shipshewana North Park Amish Log Cabins **Lodging and Campground**

Just 3 miles north of town, offering RV camping, as well as Amish Log Cabins and camping cabins.

#### shipshewanacampgroundnorth.com

#### **Shipshewana Campground South Park**

Located in Shipshewana, just a ½ mile north of US 20 and within walking distance of area restaurants, shops, flea markets and more. 150 full service RV camping sites, two pavilions, Laundromat, picnic tables and free Wi-Fi.

#### http://shipshewanacampground.com

#### Shipshewana RV Park

Located directly adjacent to the Shipshewana Flea Market grounds and newly expanded. Camp store and RV service center on site. shipshewanatradingplace.com

#### **Outdoor Activities**

#### **T&L Country Canoes**

Enjoy a leisurely trip down the scenic Fawn River via canoe or kayak. Opens April 19 for the season. One to seven hour rentals available. tlcountrycanoesllc.com

#### Shipshewana Bike Rental LLC

Experience Shipshewana via bicycle, offering three-speed cruisers and single speed tandems. Tourists can ride where they wish, including the well known Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Hourly and daily rentals are available. shipshewanabikerental.com

#### **Blue Gate Amish Tours**

Offering back roads tour to get guests up close and personal with the Amish community. All tours are conducted in a climate controlled passenger bus. thebluegate.com

#### **Pumpkinvine Nature Trail**

The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, the Maple City Greenway and the MapleHeart Trails are a regional network of trails that connect Elkhart, Goshen, Middlebury and Shipshewana. Offering over 25 miles of paved trails for biking, skating, walking, running and more. pumpkinvine.org





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# Rose Brick Jodd Hoy

#### By Barb Sieminski

If ever there were a song to sum up Todd Hoy's professional days, it might be "You Light up my Life," because the General Manager of Rose Brick takes special delight in brightening his customers' lives by selling a variety of fireplaces.

Though Hoy has been with Rose only since February 2018, his background of 25 years in the brick and fireplace business, is impressive.

"Rose Brick is a solid family-owned company that supports its employees and prides its success on great customer service," he said. "My line of work has been a career thrill for me - just being able to meet so many great people in the building industry and working with them through the building process whether it's an expansive commercial project or someone's dream home has been wonderful."

The fireplace he personally owns now is from Rose Brick—a Travis Industries Fireplace Xtrordinair unit.

"It boasts several options, the best flame pattern and the quality is second to none.

They will custom-design any size you might desire. This is just an upgrade; my previous fireplace was nice, too. This one has larger flames and logs. My personal taste is traditional fireplaces with large campfire logs and large flame patterns."

Rose Brick's best selling fireplace is the Fireplace Xtrordinair 4237, which is available in several options.

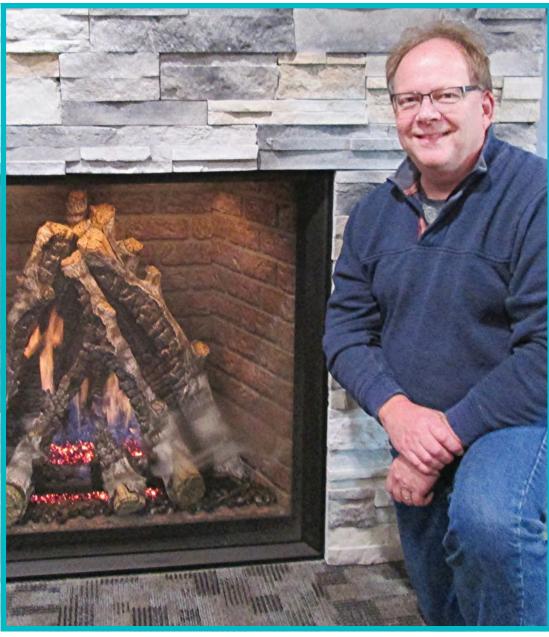
"I like the extra large viewing area and the extra large campfire logs," Hoy explained." This unit is also one of the most efficient

Hoy, a Fort Wayne native who has been part of several associations over the years, admits the accomplishment he is most proud of is the one where he has increased sales by 300% in the first 19 months of opening in Fort Wayne.

"I want to point out that none of this would have happened without the outstanding employees behind me," said Hoy. "Their dedication and knowledge is what makes us great. All I do is supply them the tools to be successful. They do all the hard work."

A dedicated people-pleaser, Hoy recalled a quote he heard once that he has made his life's motto.

"I don't remember where this idea came from but someone once said, 'If you're not growing, you're dying. If you're not improving yourself and earning the respect of your employees and treating people



Todd Hoy

Photo by Barb Sieminski

with respect, you will not be successful.'" Hoy said. "That goes for all aspects of life."

Hoy and his wife, Julie, have been blessed with five children -Chris, Amanda, Casey, Mitchell and Nic - and 6 grandchildren with whom they enjoy spending time.

"Julie and I love spending time doing crafts or working out in the 10 acres of land and trees, doing a variety of things," said Hoy. "We love to bird-watch, and have a list of all the different types of birds that has grown to more than 100. We also take delight in gardening shrubs and flowering plants. For myself, I enjoy getting on my tractor and spending a few peaceful hours mowing the lawn."

Hoy concluded with one aspect of his company that was especially

"Being able to donate materials to a local project here in Fort Wayne – CASS Housing – that creates family-driven housing solutions for adults with developmental disabilities—is rewarding. It's always a good feeling to give back to the community that supports you year round."

#### **Todd Hov**

Rose Brick. Fort Wayne. 260.373.1919. rosebrick.com



The kitchen is king when it comes to making an impact on a home's identity. Few other spaces in a home can even come close to the significance of the kitchen—making it truly the "heart of the home."

But having a beautiful bathroom is just as, if not more, important for many homeowners. In fact, according to a recent survey by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), bathrooms overtook kitchens as the most popular remodeling project.

Earlier this year, NAHB released the survey results, which rank the most common remodeling projects from the previous year. While many of the top projects have remained consistently popular over the years, kitchens and bathrooms continue to jockey for the top spot.

"Small-scale renovations are slowly becoming just as popular as large-scale projects, as seen with bathroom remodeling becoming more common than kitchens," said 2018 NAHB Remodelers Chair Joanne Theunissen, CPG, CGR, a remodeler from Mt. Pleasant, Mich. "Home owners are finding cost-effective and shorter-timeframe upgrades not only add comfort to their homes, but they also add value."

#### **Topping the List**

Among the remodelers who participated in the survey regarding the projects they completed within the last year:

- 81% did bathroom remodeling
- 78% did kitchen remodeling
- 49% did whole house remodeling
- 37% did room additions
- 30% did window/door replacements

Rounding out the top 10 list of common remodeling jobs were: building decks, repairing property damage, finishing basements, performing general handyman services, and replacing or repairing roofs.

#### Going 'Green' is Key

While remodeling is commonly associated with kitchens and baths, demand for green upgrades continues to swell as home owners seek to save on utility costs, improve air quality and increase the value of their homes.

An additional survey by NAHB
Remodelers showed that high-performing,
low-emissivity (Low-E) windows are the
most common green-building product
installed by residential remodelers.
Programmable thermostats and high-efficiency HVAC systems also ranked highly
among the most common green products
used.

Home remodeling projects continue to be a popular alternative for those who aren't yet ready to buy a new home, as well as for senior home owners who prefer to stay in their current home. For these consumers, there are a wide variety of modifications that can make their home safer and more comfortable.

The possibilities you have to remodel your home are endless.







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# Revin Funter

#### By Jaclyn Youhana Garver

When Kevin Hunter moved to Fort Wayne from Middletown, Ohio, he and his bride of three months told themselves, "If we don't like it after a year, we'll just move back home."

That was 31 years ago. It took 90 days to decide that Fort Wayne was home.

Hunter is the owner of Windows, Doors & More, and he's been with the company in some form since he moved to town.

#### **First impressions**

When the Hunters left Middletown, which is about 35 miles north of Cincinnati, the city had just over 52,000 people. Fort Wayne had about four times that.

That was the first thing the couple noticed about their new city: It was so much larger than home.

They'd heard that it was the "City of Churches" and found that to be true. They loved how much there was to do, especially when compared with southern Ohio.

Then, of course, there was the people.

"People are so friendly and so welcoming," Hunter said. "They are willing to give you a shot. Fort Wayne does not treat people that come into its city like outsiders."

#### City changes

When Hunter first moved to town, he had heard about the city in its heyday. The family missed the times when downtown was a bustling hub of stores, when Fort Wayne was booming, he said, adding that he's pleased to see the city's revitalization.



Kevin Hunter, owner of Windows, Doors & More, with his family. From left: Babette Lam, Trevor Hunter, Chad Hunter, Kevin, Denise Hunter, Hannah Hunter, who is holding granddaughter Aubrielle, and Justin Hunter

"The exciting part for us is seeing downtown becoming what many of its citizens growing up in the area remembered," he said.

Hunter ticks off some of the spots that didn't exist—at all or in their current states—when he moved to town 31 years ago: There's Parkview Field and the developed Riverwalk. Minor league hockey and baseball teams. The parks and the lake regions. The restaurant choices. Bike trails.

#### **Family life**

Hunter and his wife first moved to Fort Wayne because he had accepted a job with Home Guard Industries, which manufactured windows and doors. He worked in sales and traveled across the country.

When his family started to expand—he now has three children—it became more and more difficult to spend so much time on the road. After 10 years in manufacturing, Hunter

left the factory and moved to the retail side of the business, Windows, Doors & More. He became majority owner in 1999.

"Over the years, some of our customers have become like family," Hunter said, recalling that a few days ago, he reached out to a customer who'd been in and out of the hospital, just to check up on them.

In addition to the people he's met through work, Hunter has found community at church—they attend St. Joe Community Church—and through his three children. Hunter coached them at Concordia Lutheran School and in St. Joe Little League.

Now, his children are adults. After they left for college, each one returned to Fort Wayne.

"Fort Wayne is certainly all our children have ever known, and they're staying, as well," Hunter said. "They have fallen in love with Fort Wayne."



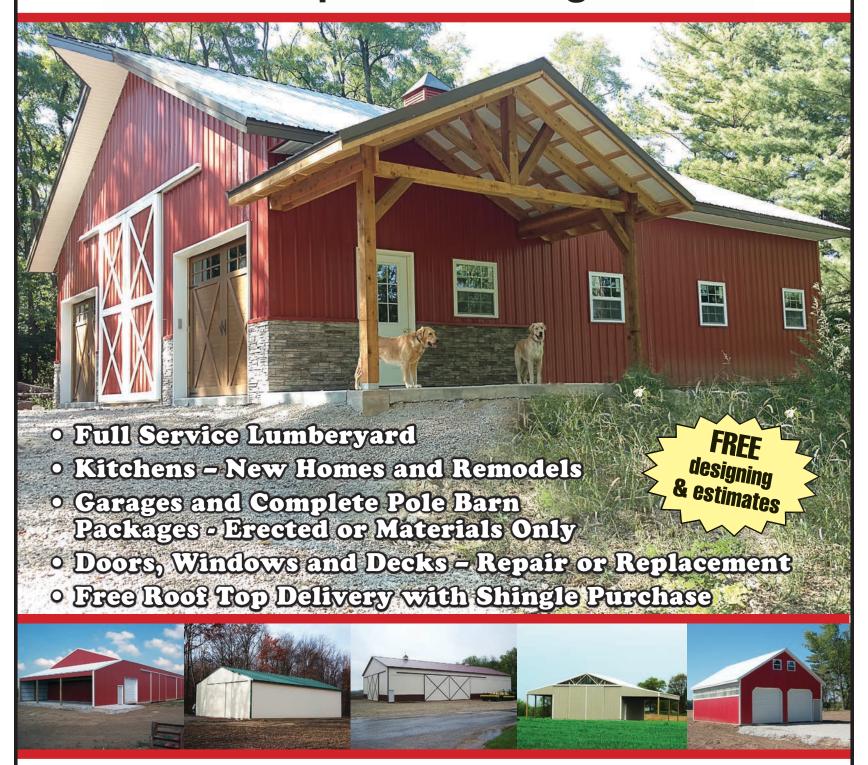






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# Happy spring, HOME readers







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