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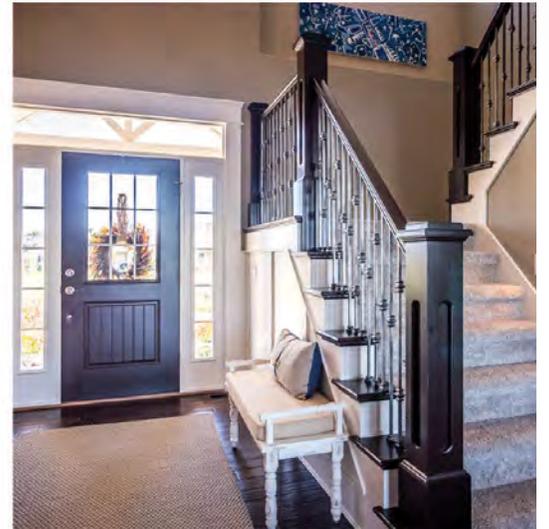
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UPCOMING EDITORIAL THEMES

May

All Things Spring

ad deadline Mon. April 13

June

Preparing for Summer

ad deadline Fri. May 15*

July

Outdoor Projects

ad deadline Mon. June 15

* denotes early deadline

welcome!

from the editor

In the midst of creating this issue, we are faced with an unprecedented pandemic, resulting in the closure of many businesses and schools. People are being urged to stay home and limit social interactions. Guidelines and mandates are changing quickly. We haven't dealt with something like this in our lifetime, and we know this may be difficult for many. Our hope is that you stay safe and healthy during this time.



This issue is dedicated to Real Estate and contains several ideas for things you can do around your home to increase its value, including ideas for improving curb appeal and updates that are worth the money. As we face more time at home, this may be an opportunity to tackle some of those projects you've been putting off.

This issue also includes ideas for carving out time and space for meditation. The outbreak of the coronavirus may be stressful for people. It is for me. Coping with this stress will make you and the people you care about stronger. Consider dedicating some time for self-care—meditation, or even just quiet reflection can go a long way in boosting your mental attitude and reducing stress.

Stay safe. Check on your loved ones. We will get through this. 🏠

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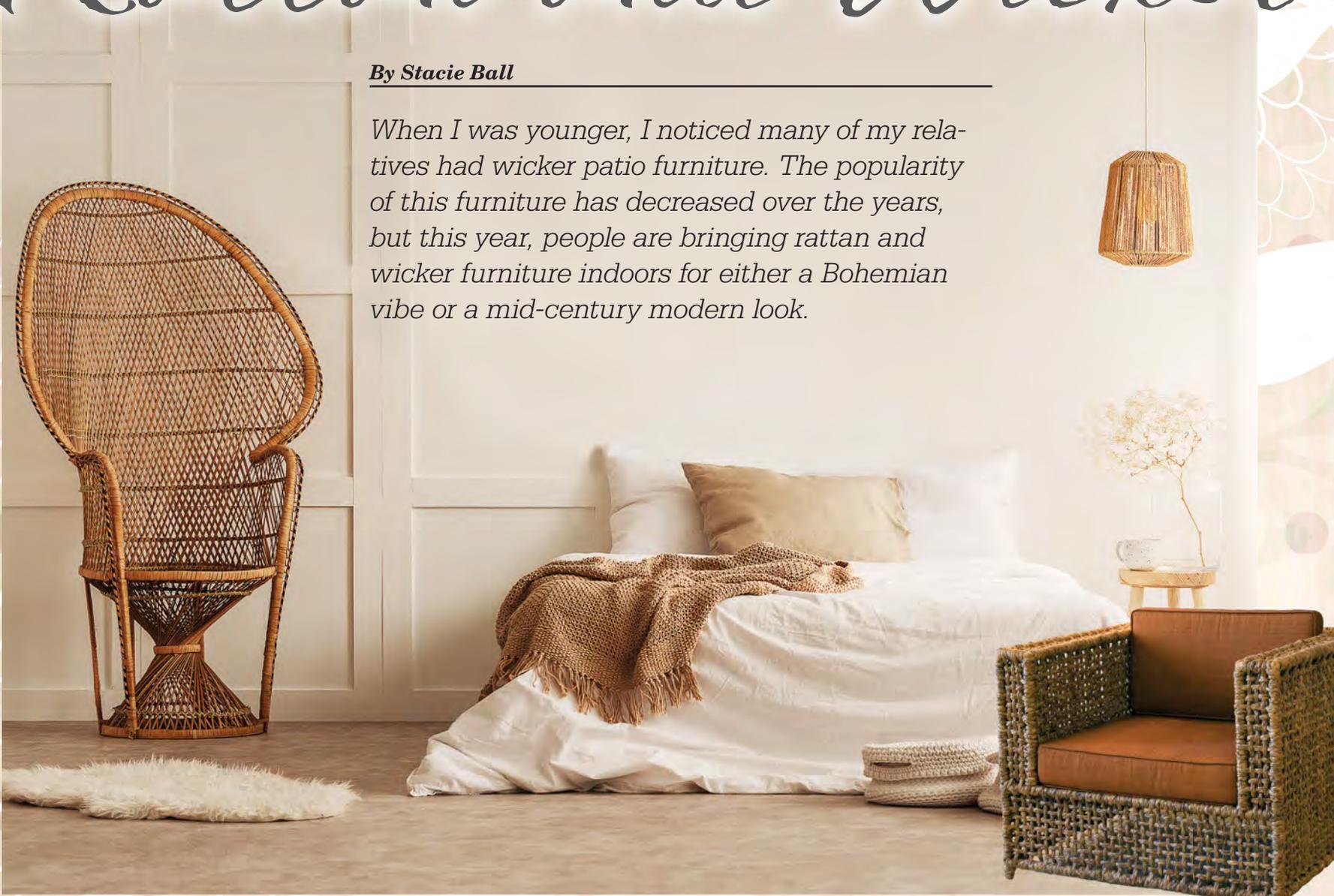
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Rattan and Wicker

By Stacie Ball

When I was younger, I noticed many of my relatives had wicker patio furniture. The popularity of this furniture has decreased over the years, but this year, people are bringing rattan and wicker furniture indoors for either a Bohemian vibe or a mid-century modern look.



What is it?

Before purchasing, it is important to know the difference between wicker and rattan. Many people think wicker is the material used to make the furniture, but wicker is actually a weaving process. Natural wicker furniture is often made from rattan, but only acquires the name wicker if it has been woven together. Rattan is a robust, dependable, high quality wood that has been around for thousands of years. It started out being used for baskets and shelters, but because of its versatility, it is now being used for a variety of furniture pieces. Rattan was previously known as only an outdoor furniture choice but is now being integrated into living rooms, dining rooms and bedrooms.

Furniture



Create an artistic, relaxing space

Bohemian décor, also referred to as “boho chic,” is a very artistic and eclectic approach to decorating. The ultimate goal is to create a comfortable, relaxing space. Use pieces with natural fabrics and mix colors, textures, patterns and embellishments. Rattan and wicker furniture are perfect for this look because they are made of natural materials and are often hand-made. Most bohemian décor includes wicker lamps, peacock chairs, hanging chairs and rattan lounges. Integrate beaded chandeliers or curtains, colorful patterned throw pillows or cushions, and woven baskets and rugs to create an original look.

Create a classy space

Mid-century modern décor is very different from boho chic. This style values uncluttered and sleek lines, minimal ornamentation and functionality. It can include pops of bright color and various materials (think the furniture on “Mad Men”), but does not include a variety of patterns and colors. Pieces appropriate for this style seem to have more of a defined geometric shape, usually square or rectangular, and more of a tightly woven pattern. Wicker pieces like sofas, chairs and end tables usually match, and the room has more of a classy feel.

Wicker and rattan furniture can be found at various furniture stores and many places online. There may even be some great finds at thrift stores, garage sales or even a relative’s attic. 🏠



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Organized chaos: *A mudroom that works*

By Lauren Caggiano

Mudrooms can be a catch-all for items like shoes, coats, bookbags, etc. in your home. It can also function as a laundry room. But how do you make the most of this room while keeping it clean? It calls for an intentional approach, especially if you're renovating or retrofitting an existing space to convert it into a mudroom.

First, you might consider starting with what lies below. Experts suggest choosing flooring that is durable and easy to clean, especially if you have kids or pets. Think brick, stone or ceramic tile. If you're more budget-conscious, you might opt for vinyl, which boasts many choices in both colors and design. Also, don't forgo a washable indoor mat, which can trap dust, mud and other allergens. Always choose an indoor mat with a non-skid backing to prevent accidents.

Lighting is another important variable. You might consider both overhead and task lighting. In general, you'll want to take into account how the room will influence the rest of the home. For example, if the mudroom will be the main entry and exit for the family, include plenty of outlets in the design to accommodate charging devices.

Once you have the infrastructure down, think about how the form will impact the function. If you have children, shelves and storage areas can help you maintain a neat and tidy space. The same goes for storage solutions like hooks for hanging, bins for sports equipment, racks for shoes, and shelves for supplies.

Jhonelle Kees, with Quality Crafted Homes, helps people design their dream homes. She said organization is the name of the game when it comes to mudrooms and homeowners should plan with that priority in mind.

"It can be an organizational hub for the home – a drop zone for bookbags, shoes, mail – keeps these items from cluttering a kitchen counter or getting dropped inconveniently elsewhere. Some customers are incorporating a white board or chalkboard in the space to keep calendars of family activity – another must for busy families," she said.

Kees said other features can pack a punch when it comes to taming a mudroom.

In her words, "lockers/benches/cubbies for small items/cell phone charging stations/chalk or white boards. Make sure the size of the space accommodates the size of your family – enough cubbies for individual storage, hooks for each person for coats, bags, etc."

Another important element for the mudroom is a spot to sit down to put on and take off shoes. An ottoman or a bench of some sort might do the trick. Just be sure it's easy to spot clean.

When in doubt, keep this adage in mind: A place for everything and everything in its place. 🏠

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Home Updates that Hit a Homerun

By Mary Jane Bogle

Anyone thinking about home improvements should always keep resale in mind. Which upgrades are worth the money? Which will yield the highest return? Do kitchen and bath remodels still offer the biggest bang for the buck? The answers might surprise you.

While kitchens and bathrooms are always a good place to start when it's time to update your home, you're not always guaranteed a great return on that investment. Many variables can impact resale, including your neighborhood, price point, types of finishes and scope of work.

For example, you probably won't recoup the cost to replace laminate countertops with granite in a small starter home, whereas people looking at homes in a custom-built neighborhood will expect solid surfaces and high-end finishes. Not sure where you should invest? Here are a few guidelines to consider before tearing out those walls.

Bathrooms

When remodeling the bathroom, a few changes can go a long way. New lighting and vanities, along with a fresh coat of paint, will make the bathroom feel light and clean. If you have a bigger budget, replacing an outdated (and quite large) jet tub with a soaker tub is a good option. According to Kevin Hunter at Windows Doors & More, you might even be able to add a tiled shower or extra closet with the space you gain. In general, bigger is better when it comes to bathroom tile, and white and grey tiles are still top sellers.



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Kitchens

Contrary to popular opinion, tackling a huge kitchen remodel might actually net less in resale than implementing some smaller-scale updates.

Re-facing cabinets and replacing hardware are great places to start. New sinks and faucets help, too. And remember that most of today's buyers expect stainless steel appliances, no matter what the price point. You can accomplish all these changes without the huge investment and gigantic mess a complete remodel entails, and the projects won't take nearly as long.

With an even bigger budget, it can be worth your time and money to open up the kitchen to the rest of the living space. Just watch for issues with electrical outlets and make sure you aren't tearing out a load-bearing wall.



Updates on a Budget

Don't have the money to tackle even modest remodels? All is not lost. Here are some options to boost your home sale without overinvesting:

- Enhance your curb appeal with a good power wash and freshly painted front door. And never underestimate the value of tasteful landscaping, colorful flowers and fresh mulch.
- Brighten up the bathroom by re-grouting tile and replacing caulk around sinks and tubs.
- Give your interior walls a fresh coat of paint, especially in high-traffic areas. Consider choosing popular-yet-neutral colors.
- Add attic insulation. Believe it or not, today's buyers are beginning to favor energy-efficient homes and might even ask to see copies of your utility costs. Making your home energy efficient now yields the added benefit of a more comfortable space for you to enjoy while you wait for those offers to come rolling in. 🏠



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The Best Time to Buy — or Sell — a Home



By Mary Jane Bogle

Most people think spring is the best time to buy or sell a home—and for good reason. Spring is the peak selling season, with more inventory in the market from April to May than any other time of year. Families with school-aged children are anxious to make the move before school starts up again, and tax return checks can help boost down payments.

Curb appeal is greatest in spring, too. It's hard to imagine what the yard looks like when it's buried under two feet of snow, or when trees and landscape beds are barren. Want to show off a pool or grilling island? It's tough to do in freezing temperatures.

And then there's the move itself. No doubt about it. Visiting open houses—or moving all your belongings—is much easier in warmer weather. Planning for a move in early or mid-summer? Then you need to get serious about finding a house in April or May.

But the spring market offers some challenges, too. Families pressured to move based on the school calendar might feel compelled to make quick decisions, which they may regret later. And while more inventory sounds great for buyers, they may find themselves in tough negotiations or even bidding wars, since everyone else is looking for a home in the spring market, too.

In other words, spring might not be the best time to buy or sell. Listing your house in late fall or winter might yield fewer potential buyers, but chances are they'll be serious about finding a home. Think about it. Winter buyers probably need to find a home quickly based on

family circumstances or a job change. That puts more power in the seller's court.

Sometimes, the best time to buy or sell might have nothing to do with the weather at all. Selling a home during a booming economy, or with lots of local job growth, can yield a higher price for sellers, no matter what time of year they list. Likewise, buying a home when mortgage rates are low makes a lot of sense, even if you've missed the peak season.

Clearly, the best time to buy or sell is highly personal and might have a lot more to do with market trends or your family's needs than the calendar might dictate. As a general rule of thumb, it's a good idea to set a personal timetable. Identify when you would like to be in the new home and work backwards from there.

That's where contacting a local real estate agent really pays off. Agents know how long houses stay on the market in a particular area or even a specific neighborhood. And if you know you want to live in a certain part of town, watching the market for that perfect home can definitely be worth the wait, even if that means you're buying in August or September. Bottom line, the best time to buy or sell is when it makes sense for you. 🏠

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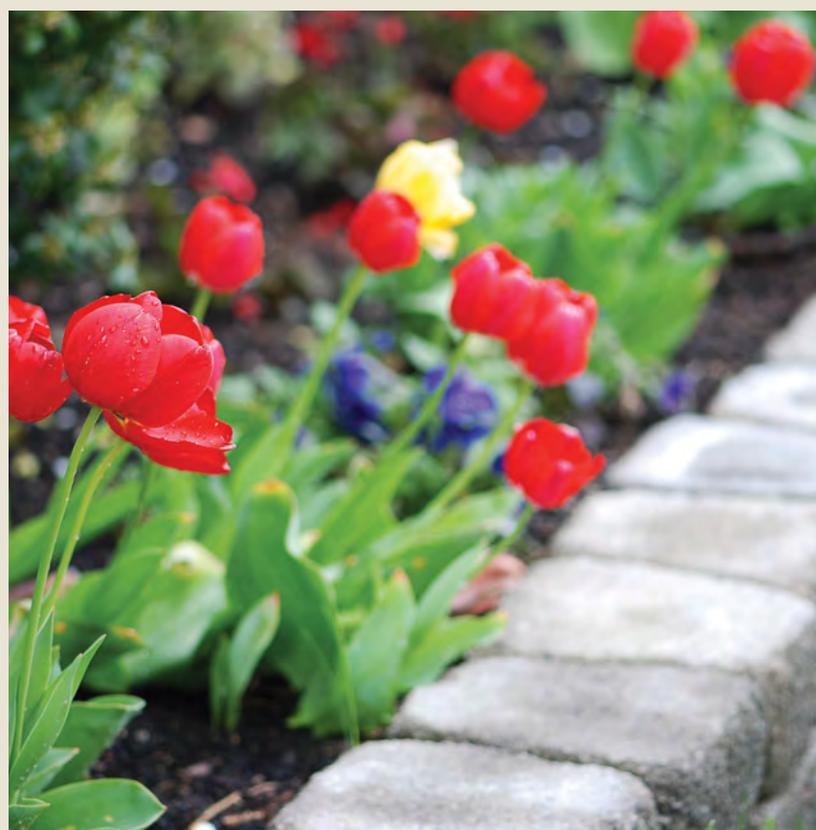
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Maximize Curb Appeal



By Deborah C. Gerbers

Spring is here, so it's time to start thinking about mowing the yard, planting flowers and making our homes look their best overall. We consulted with the landscape design experts at Jim Brubaker Designs for some easy ways to maximize the curb appeal.

"As we leave the bleakness of winter, it's all about color, color, color!" Jim Brubaker emphasized. "We all need some color right now, so I would suggest adding colorful flowers as soon as possible."

Brubaker suggested adding colorful potted plants and boxed planters filled with pansies. He also recommended planting perennials and spring bulbs (planted in the fall) for beautiful colorful blooms year after year. It's up to you which colors you choose — daffodils offer various vibrant shades of yellow, and tulips come in a variety of pinks, reds, purples and more. Try grouping bulbs together for dramatic bursts of color come springtime.

Potted plants are also a good way to add color. The main focal area of the home should be the front door, Brubaker explained. "You want to create a warm, welcome entrance for your guests.

I would suggest two containers out front filled with daffodils or hydrangeas for their brilliant colors. You may also consider hanging a flowery wreath on the front door to give a welcoming feel," he said.

If you have a front walkway, consider lining it with small decorative bushes, or flowering perennials like hostas and lilies. Climbing flowers like clematis can be planted right next to the house and can provide brilliant colors and fragrant blooms throughout spring and early summer. Although they can be left to crawl as they grow, clematis do best when supported by pea staking, which lifts the flowers higher.

Planting decorative grasses like zebra grass, feather reed grass and Japanese blood grass can add visual appeal and a variation in height for your gardens. Cut them back regularly and cut them down to the ground in the fall, and they should come back year after year. You may also consider adding a decorative rock garden for visual interest, or a small fountain, waterfall or pond if space allows (for a soothing water element to your space).

Other ways to enhance the curb appeal of your home are to trim bushes and trees; clean the gutters and rid them of debris; fertilize and water the yard to maximize green color throughout the season; and generally tidy up the property and get rid of dead leaves, branches and other unsightly things. Raking the landscaping and adding a fresh layer of mulch will not only help your plants thrive, but it will also give a cleaner, newer look for the spring.

Embrace the springtime and make your home look its best! 🏠

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Meditation your way:



How to curate a home sanctuary

By Lauren Caggiano

A dedicated room for meditation can be the perfect haven to prepare for a busy day or unwind from a hectic one. How you go about designing yours will vary according to your preferences and priorities, but there are some general tips to keep in mind if you're adding on to your home or rethinking the purpose of an existing space.

But where and how to begin? First, Jhonele Kees with Quality Crafted Homes, said it's important to take a step back and consider how your home as a whole makes you feel.

"There isn't a place better than one's home for providing a sense of tranquility," she said. "Your home should be your sanctuary from the rest of the world."

If yours doesn't evoke this feeling, it may be time to make some changes, starting with a room or corner in your home. Kees said the location and nature of the space will vary according to your layout and practical considerations.

"Setting aside a specific space is wonderful, but not always practical in today's open floor plans," she said. "Perhaps a corner nook, in the great room, with good lighting and comfortable seating would need to suffice in many homes."

Beyond these factors, Kees said homeowners should keep one priority in mind.

"Should the home have a space that can be dedicated to meditation, that room should have no outside distractions," she said. That means eliminating the television and soft lighting, and limiting the sound to tranquil music, as it can provide a calming effect.

For Kees personally, the hearth room provides a space for her to recenter and reset. It's her place for quiet reflection and spiritual growth.

Speaking of growth, Kees said your meditation room should reflect your priorities and hopes and dreams. Also, how you define meditation and the benefits you might derive from it will depend on your belief system. Some people lean towards a more spiritual approach, while others might want elements of a particular religion integrated. Regardless, most people report a sense of grounding and increased sense of well being after a practice. 🏠

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Fruit Trees

By Cathy Shouse

Choosing trees can be one of the more significant decisions for your gardening and landscaping needs. That's because trees are large and draw more attention than other plants, their shade may play a part in the cooling of your home, and they can take years to grow to their full potential. It's a larger investment of time and money than is required of other plants. If you're interested in planting fruit trees, there is even more to consider.

Amy Henry is a landscape designer at Arbor Farms Nursery, and she said, "My primary role is designing for the placement of trees, shrubs, and perennials around home, nearer to the structure. I work with shaping of the beds, staggering the colors and textures, and the bloom times, as well as the height. With fruit trees, we carry apple, pear, peach, and cherry trees."

"I have customers who will place fruit trees in an orchard, or out away from the house, more in their yard," she said. "Trees that are part of the layout near the house tend to be Japanese Maple, Hydrangea tree, Lilac tree, Rose of Sharon tree and Crabapples."

In general, fruit trees can be a great way to have fresh fruit at home. But when the fruit is in season and dropping from the trees, you don't want it to land where people will be walking, and it may not make your lawn look as manicured as you like. That's why planting the fruit trees separate is a good idea. Fruit trees are also fairly high maintenance and you need to follow a regular schedule of pruning and spraying. If you can't make a commitment to all that fruit trees need, it might be best to steer clear of them. Once you have decided, the rewards will outweigh the sacrifices. Henry said Arbor Farms typically sells fruit trees in the spring, the normal time to plant.

First-Year Tips for Fruit Trees

During the first year, the tree can easily die from not getting enough water or nutrients. Keep the tree well-watered, especially during dry weather. A good soaking once or twice a week is much better than surface watering daily, though during very hot weather, it can be worth doing both. It's also vital to keep the area around the tree completely free of weeds and grass, as they will compete with the young tree, which is why mulch mats are very effective.

Finally, don't forget to remove all blossoms from the tree in the first year. Although it's tempting to let some fruit develop, doing so will place more stress on the tree as it establishes, and forgoing the first year's fruit will result in a much healthier tree and better harvest in years to come. 🏠



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Sensational Sandboxes

By Stacie Ball

Sandboxes have come a long way since I was a kid. We played in sand that was thrown in a tire; we played in sand that was tossed into a simple wooden frame; and we played in piles of sand that just happened to be under a tree. Read on to discover some of the best sandboxes on the market today, plus some cool DIY ideas.



Step 2 Play and Store Sandbox with Lid



This sandbox is made of plastic, complete with a lid and 4 seats. It is large enough for a group of children to play together, and the lid keeps out weather and critters.

Purchase an under-the-bed storage bin with a lid (and wheels, if you choose). Dump in two bags of sand and sand toys from the dollar store. Voila! You could also create a stand for the bin using PVC pipes.



Little Tykes Big Digger Sandbox



This box comes with several accessories, including a dump truck. When open, the lid can be used as a ramp. When closed, kids can play on top, using it as a track for the dump truck.



Upcycled DIY Sandbox

Remove the drawers from an old dresser and take them apart. Cover the back of the dresser with MDF boards. Attach an additional piece of wood to the bottom of the dresser to create a backrest, and use the back and sides of one of the drawers inside the dresser to create a bench. Attach the drawer fronts to create a lid for the sandbox. Cover everything with two coats of weatherproof paint, and attach two drawer pulls to the cover to serve as handles.



DIY Sandbox Tutorial with Cover

Build a frame using (4) 1 x 8 x 6 pieces of wood. Put three wood screws in each corner. Give it a coat of stain if desired and a coat of poly-acrylic. Line the bottom with weed barrier to prevent weeds, moles and other undesirables. To add the cover, build a frame by securing two pieces of wood at the halfway point of either side of the sandbox. Use a level to keep them even and then put a dowel between the pieces of wood. Create a tent using UV/Outdoor fabric. Tie a nylon rope to each corner, pull it tight and hammer into the ground.



Kidkraft Pirate Sandboat

This box is shaped like a pirate ship, complete with pirate decorations. It is made of weather-resistant wood and includes a bright blue canopy to help protect against the sun. It is large enough for several kids to play.



Visit the sources listed below for more specific details.

Sources:

1. <https://www.thespruce.com/best-sandboxes-4589115>
2. <http://awesomesauceasshattery.com/2015/07/08/the-upcycled-diy-sandbox/>
3. <http://stuffparentsneed.com/works-for-me-diy-sandbox-for-25/>
4. <https://ateachingmommy.com/the-30-30-minute-do-it-yourself-sensory/?spref=pi>
5. <https://tarynwhiteaker.com/diy-sandbox-with-cover/>



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Chicken Enchiladas

By Amber Bouthot

Looking for a quick and easy weeknight meal the entire family will love? Look no further. Here's a 5-ingredient meal that will be ready in 30 minutes or less.

Ingredients:

- 15 oz. red enchilada sauce
- 2 cups precooked and shredded chicken breast
- 6 flour tortillas
- 1 cup shredded Mexican mixed cheese
- garnishments include radishes, cilantro, green onion and lime juice (amount to your preferences)

Preparation:

Combine the precooked shredded chicken and enchilada sauce in a saucepan over low-medium heat and heat for 5 minutes.

Place 1/3 cup of chicken and enchilada sauce mixture in each tortilla, roll up and place seam down in a 8 x 12 non-stick cooking pan.

Use remaining enchilada sauce that is left in your pan and drizzle it on the top of your rolled up enchiladas.

Sprinkle cheese on top of all enchiladas, cover pan with tin foil and bake in the oven at 400 degrees for 20-25 minutes.

Top your enchiladas with diced radishes, cilantro and green onions. Squeeze lime juice on top for an extra zing of flavor.

*Optional: serve with a side of rice or riced cauliflower. 🏠



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Dining Room Upgrade

By Amber Bouthot

Every month, we highlight Reader DIY Projects. 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.

Photos provided



This month's Reader DIY project comes from Thad and Travis Gerardot who upgraded their dining room in their historic home.

What was your inspiration for the project?

We bought our house two years ago and are both first-time homeowners. When we were looking for houses, we knew we wanted an older home in the city. We fell in love with our home the moment we walked in. Our house is almost 100 years old and has all the character that goes along with its age. We later found out that we were only its 5th owner, and our home was designed by a popular turn of the twentieth century architect, Joel Roberts Ninde. Knowing that this home has a rich history and had previous owners who kept it in good shape, we wanted to take care in modernizing but preserving the charm that drew us to it. That meant, in a day in age where everyone is painting their wood white, keeping the original stain of our wood and picking colors and furnishings that complemented it.

How long did it take from start to finish?

The thought of doing improvements for the entire house was overwhelming, so we decided to tackle our house one room at a time. We pick a room, plan out the color and theme and then paint, update and furnish. We usually take a month break before we pick a new room. It took about a month and a half to complete the room, including the planning, sourcing and then executing. There are still small pieces we are adding to the room because we don't think you should just buy something to fill a space. It has to be something you enjoy because it will be in a space you see every day.

Was it easier or harder than you anticipated?

It was a mixture of both. Luckily our house is in very good shape, so the changes we are doing are more cosmetic than functional. With us both being first-time homeowners and neither of us being naturally handy individuals, we used several resources online and on YouTube to help us complete the room. There were moments that were frustrating, but the feeling after we completed it was worth it.

What was the total cost of the project?

We were able to completely furnish everything new (except the dining room table) and update the room for \$850. We pride ourselves on finding bargains and most of the time we spent on this project was finding the right components at the right price. It also helps to shop during Christmas season as everything was marked down.

What did you like best about the undertaking?

Our favorite part was shopping! It is always exciting to bring something new home or having a new package on the porch.

What was the most challenging aspect?

Changing the dining room chandelier during a cold, dark winter night was the most difficult step. I kept dropping screws and my husband was constantly searching with his phone light to locate them. That was a strong test of our marriage.

Where did you source the materials?

We knew that updating our entire house would take a lot longer if we weren't strategic in sourcing materials within our budget. This was by far the longest part of completing the room. We signed up for every major home furnishing and decor retailer's email list, set up price alerts on items we wanted, and used apps like Honey to tell us if it is the best time to buy. We ended up purchasing from Wayfair, Target, Walmart, Overstock and Kirklands, used Sherwin Williams paint (Cyberspace and Requisite Gray) and purchased locally from Honey Plant and Stitch Witch for the macramé hanger and plant. We also found that Google's shopping search tool was very helpful when we wanted to look across retailers for very specific items at a very specific price. 🏠



In each issue, we provide a list of community events. Due to the CDC recommendations to stop the spread of the coronavirus, many April events have been cancelled, postponed or rescheduled. Please check the websites of our community partners for details specific to their venues and events.

- ASPIRE Plastic Surgery, 260.427.7473, aspireplasticsurgery.com
- Botanical Conservatory, 260.427.6440, botanicalconservatory.org
- Decatur Artisan Craft Market, 260.724.7171, decaturin.org
- Decatur Flea Market, 260.517.8182, facebook.com/decaturindianafleamarket
- Eichhorn Jewlery, 260.724.2621, eichhornjewelry.com
- Embassy Theatre, 800.745.3000, fwembassytheatre.org
- Fort Wayne Parks and Recs, 260.427.6017 or fortwayneparks.org
- Fort Wayne Museum of Art, 260.422.6467, fwmoa.org
- Harlan United Methodist Church, 260.657.5364
- The History Center, 260.426.2882, fwhistorycenter.com
- Honeywell Center, 260.563.1102, honeywellcenter.org
- Little River Wetlands, 260.478.2515, lrwp.org

- Memorial Coliseum, 260.482.9502, memorialcoliseum.com
- Shipshewana Blue Gate Theatre, 888.447.4725, thebluegate.com
- Stroede Center for the Arts, 419.784.3401, defiancearts.org
- Swinney Homestead, 260.747.1501, settlersinc.org
- Tapestry, pfw.edu/tapestry
- Wabash Marketplace, 260.563.0975, wabashmarketplace.org 🏠



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Tips for Working From Home



By Amber Bouthot

Many of us are confronted with working from home for the first time—and many more are trying to do so with kids at home, as well. Here are some tips to help you find as much productivity as you can.

1. Build a permanent work space

If possible, set up a permanent space for working. While this may not be realistic for everyone, escaping the hustle and bustle of the kitchen table will help you focus.

2. Maintain regular hours

Sticking to a schedule can greatly increase your productivity. If you fall out of routine, you may struggle to regain it. It also helps you maintain some semblance of work-life balance.

3. Set ground rules with people in your space

Set ground rules with other people in your home or who share your space. If you have children at home, they need clear rules about what they can and cannot do during working hours.

4. Stay connected with colleagues

Loneliness, disconnect and isolation are common problems in remote work life, especially for extroverts. If possible, set up regular Zoom meetings and video meetings with colleagues. It's important to figure out how much interaction you need to feel connected and included.

5. Update your to do list every morning

When working from home, it can be challenging to keep track of what you have to do throughout your workday. It's easy to lose sight of priorities, tasks and deadlines. Start your day by reviewing priorities for the day. When you make your task list, stick to it. It's tempting to just leap into your email, but with a little extra focus, you can move the needle while working from home.

6. Don't work in your PJ's

We know — this is one reason why people love working from home. If you enjoy working in your PJs, then you are killing your productivity. “Dress for success” isn't just a corporate catchphrase; it really matters when you work from home. Beyond psychologically getting you in the right mindset for work, you'll be ready to handle any kind of video chat or check-in with a teammate. You'll be prepared to get work done, and you will be mentally and physically prepared for the day.

7. Exercise and stretch regularly

Exercise naturally boosts endorphins, which increases happiness, enjoyment and interest levels, all of which are important for productivity. Regularly stretching helps you maintain great posture. At a minimum, stretch throughout the day so you don't get sore or hinder your quality of life.

8. Stay off social media

Social media can be a giant time-suck if you aren't careful. Minimizing mindless use of social media helps avoid distractions, so you can focus on getting more done. 🏠

Spring Town & Country Tour

April 25-26 and May 2-3



Build Your Life
The home you imagine
can be a reality.



By: Beth Johnson, HBA of Fort Wayne Executive Director

The Spring Town & Country New Home Tour is a FREE scattered-site home show being held the weekends of April 25-26 and May 2-3 from noon to five each day. With minimal existing homes on the market, it's time to imagine building your life from the ground up. Are you dreaming of a tile backsplash or an island with a big sink? When you build a new home, you get the opportunity to pick all these things and more! During the tour, start imagining your life in a new home by visiting 31 homes and six villas with select in-home

vendors. Or, you can find your perfect lot in two featured subdivisions. With various price points and floor plans, the tour is sure to please.

New this year, we're adding some door prizes to the mix. Enter to win by checking in at the homes or participating in our contest on Facebook.

Get details on all the entries by visiting www.hbafortwayne.com/tour, follow our Facebook page for posts on all the homes, pick up a guide from our sponsor locations or

on the racks inside Kroger, Scott's, Save-A-Lot and Walgreens stores. The guide will also be distributed in Fort Wayne Newspapers on April 19.

The spring tour is presented by the Home Builders Association of Fort Wayne and sponsored by 3 Rivers Federal Credit Union, 97.3WMEE, Fort Wayne Newspapers, K105, Miller Heating & Air, Pella Windows & Doors and Rabb Water. 🏠

Homes & Villas by Participating Builders:

- Bob Buescher Homes, Inc.
- Delagrange Homes, LLC
- Granite Ridge Builders, Inc.
- Heller Homes
- Lancia Homes
- Majestic Homes
- Matt Lancia Signature Homes, LLC
- MBN Properties
- Olthof Homes (open Saturday's only)
- Preston Allen Homes, LLC
- Prime Homes FW, Inc.
- Quality Crafted Homes, Inc.
- Slattery Builders, Inc.
- Star Homes by Delagrange & Richhart, Inc.
- Timberlin Homes, LLC
- Windsor Homes

Subdivision Developers:

- Maggos Builders, Inc.
- Sturges Development Group

In-Home Vendors:

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- 3 Rivers*
- Fifth Third Bank*
- Hallmark Home Mortgage, LLC
- IMI
- Partners 1st Federal Credit Union
- Rabb Water*
- Ruoff Home Mortgage





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Cataract Falls

By *Jaclyn Youhana Garver*

The largest waterfall in Indiana is located in the town of Spencer, just an hour southwest of Indianapolis, or about three hours from Fort Wayne—a perfect distance for a day trip that will make you feel like you've traveled to a whole other region of the country.

If you go, we've got your to-do list.

photos provided



Cataract Falls

Two falls combine to form the 86-foot tall Cataract Falls. There are taller falls in Indiana, but by volume, Cataract is the largest. It's a part of Mill Creek, which feeds into Cagles Mill Lake, a reservoir built to protect flooding on the Eel and White river watersheds, according to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The covered bridge

Though Cataract Covered Bridge has existed for nearly 150 years, it has been rebuilt a handful of times over the years. In 1875, a flood destroyed the bridge, according to the Indiana DNR, and more recently, it fell onto Mill Creek's west bank due to general age and stress.

Today's 140-foot bridge spans Mill Creek and is one lane.

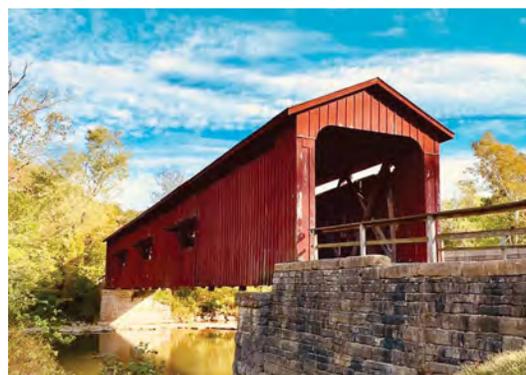
Lieber State Recreation Area

Cataract Falls is located in the Lieber State Recreation Area, which offers a variety of activities for visitors. The campgrounds have a bathhouse, bird watching, fishing, hiking trails, jet skiing, boat rentals, a marina and more.



McCormick's Creek State Park

Twenty minutes south of the falls, you'll find McCormick's Creek State Park, which is Indiana's oldest state park, dedicated in 1916. Its amenities include tennis courts, a swimming pool, a nature center and a saddle barn. There are 10 trails, ranging in difficulty from easy to rugged, plus one that is wheelchair accessible.



Owen Valley Winery

The Owen Valley Winery's tasting room is open from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesdays to Sundays. It's a part of the Indiana Uplands Wine Trail, which includes nine wineries in the south central Indiana region and often features concerts and special events.

Where to eat

The town of Spencer had just over 11,000 people as of 2017—to compare: the Memorial Coliseum's capacity is 13,000—and Trip Advisor lists eight restaurants in the town. If you don't pack a picnic lunch, we recommend **Hilltop Restaurant**, which has beautiful summer views (the restaurant is, in fact, on a hill) and is known for its famous fried chicken. You can also get steaks, seafood and barbecue.

The Chambers Smorgasbord buffet as a 36-item salad bar and a large hot bar with a rotating menu including ham, roast beef, Salisbury steak, catfish and clams.

The Civilian Brewing Corp is a family-friendly brewpub with a variety of sandwiches and desserts that, frankly, look to be worth the three-hour drive alone.

For more information, visit: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2960.htm>. 🏠

Tapestry:

A Day For You

POSTPONED



Keynote Speaker
Ashley Judd

Tapestry, an uplifting annual event for women, scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2020, has been postponed until June — date TBD.

Per the CDC's 3/15/2020 announcement, "The CDC recommends that for the next eight weeks, organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States," Tapestry has no choice but to adjust our schedule.

Therefore, we have decided to postpone Tapestry until a date in June. We are working with Parkview, Purdue University Fort Wayne, our keynote speaker (Ashley Judd) and our constituents to secure a date. Once confirmed, we will issue an announcement and roll out a plan of action.

We are so grateful for each and every one of our supporters. We are thankful for your patience as we navigate during this unprecedented time.

Tapestry has been celebrated every year since 2002 and is a day focused on inspiration, renewal and education, welcoming women in all stages of life, while also raising funds for scholarships for students studying health sciences at Purdue Fort Wayne and Indiana University Fort Wayne.

Guests are invited to spend the day shopping, relaxing with friends and listening to entertaining and educational guest speakers. Most importantly, the day is about having fun and spending time with friends, co-workers and other women in our community.

This year's keynote speaker is Golden Globe and Emmy-nominated actress, social justice humanitarian, and author Ashley Judd. Judd is one of the five women featured on the cover of Time Magazine's 2017 Person of the Year issue which recognized "The Silence Breakers" as "The Voices that Launched a Movement" and brought the issue of work place sexual harassment and abuse to the forefront.

At Tapestry, attendees will have the chance to shop over 170 sponsor booths from local businesses, artisans and boutiques, as well as enjoy a silent auction. During the morning, there will be various educational breakout sessions that focus on topics like cooking, design, stress relief, fashion, and women's medical and health related issues. In the afternoon, the keynote speaker, Ashley Judd, will take the stage to inspire the audience.

While enjoying a much-needed day off, there is a deeper meaning behind Tapestry. The event is in place to help other women reach their educational goals. Proceeds raised support the Tapestry Parkview Endowment and Scholarship funds and provide scholarships to studying nursing, dentistry, medical imaging and other degrees in the health sciences. In the past nineteen years, more than \$1,000,000 has been raised, and 101 students have received scholarships. The 2020 Tapestry Scholarship Recipients, as well as the 2020 Linda L. Ruffolo Dedication Award Honoree, will be recognized at the event.

For more information, visit the Tapestry website at pfw.edu/tapestry. 🏠

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R.P. Wakefield

Jay Orn



By Barb Sieminski

When asked to share something that would surprise people about him, Jay Orn, 15-year account executive and director of outside sales at R. P. Wakefield Company, had the perfect answer.

"People can't believe that I left Arizona to come live in northeast Indiana," said Orn, who now calls Hamilton Lake home. "I hear it often."

Born in Milwaukee, WI, Orn and his family moved to Lake Havasu City, AZ, when he was 2 years old.

"My parents were both from the Fort Wayne area," said Orn. "My mom was the oldest of 11 siblings and was the only one to move away. We would come back and visit every year. In 1990, my parents decided to move to Hamilton, IN.

"After graduating from Northern Arizona University with a B.S. in sociology, I stayed in Havasu, but when my parents had a house fire at their Hamilton Lake cottage in 1993, I moved to Indiana to help them rebuild."

Orn's first job was flipping burgers at Burger King at age 16 in Havasu; from there he worked for a roof truss builder and a marina on Lake Havasu during summer break from college. Fast-forward to a job at DANA Corporation in Fort Wayne where he stayed for more than 10 years and from there he came to R.P. Wakefield Company.

Orn's biggest thrill so far at R.P. Wakefield was becoming the outside sales executive. The challenge he finds in his work is short deadlines. If he were not an account executive, Orn would be designing his own line of wood products.

Orn's duties include tracking down new clients and keeping existing client relationships strong. Rather than supervising others, he is responsible only for his own work.

"My business philosophy is simply 'Do the Next Right Thing,' and treat my customers as I would want to be treated," said Orn, who describes himself as energetic, detailed and hopeful.

Hobbies include being with family (wife Richele and two sons, Zachary and Alex) and two yellow Labs – Arthur, 6, and Noah, 3.

"I also enjoy woodworking, golfing, watching the boys play baseball, basketball, and being at the beach or in the water where I can snorkel or SCUBA-dive," said Orn, who has been married to Richele for 21 years.

Books that have made an impression on Orn's life include the Bible and "The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Asked where he would go if he could travel anywhere, Orn's wish would be "flying a fighter jet off the deck of an aircraft carrier."

Credit goes to Jim Valvano, late American college basketball player, coach and broadcaster, who made an impression on Orn's life with his philosophy: "Don't give up. Don't ever give up." 

Jay Orn

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John Urbahns

By Jaclyn Youhana Garver

John Urbahns got his first job out of college on a whim: On a drive back from Indianapolis, where he'd just finished an interview, he passed through Fort Wayne.

"I figured I was in a suit and tie from my interview in Indianapolis and might as well stop in and see what's going on in Fort Wayne," said Urbahns, who was living in Fremont at the time.

Urbahns had just graduated from Ball State University, where he studied urban planning and development. He didn't have a job location in mind beyond "somewhere in the Midwest," but, he said he was by no means focused on Indiana.

He stopped in at the planning department at the City of Fort Wayne, in his suit, to see if there were any openings. He was told the department got approval the previous night to hire two new people, the jobs would be posted in a few weeks and he should submit his résumé.

"I figured I'd be in my first job for two years and then I'd be off somewhere else," he said. "Eighteen years later, I finally left the City of Fort Wayne."

Today, Urbahns is the president and CEO at Greater Fort Wayne Inc., the point of contact for economic growth and business services in Fort Wayne. He stayed at the first job for so long in large part because of the opportunities there. He was able to move up in the organization and grow his career, eventually moving up to the city's director of community development.

When he moved to Greater Fort Wayne, he saw a chance for something new, while remaining in community development.

"Greater Fort Wayne's mission is to build a nationally recognized economy in Allen County," Urbahns said, "the type of economy other communities can look toward and strive for."

It's a long-term goal: how might Fort Wayne look in 20 years?

"Population growth is tailing off nationwide," Urbahns said, "but Fort Wayne is outpacing that growth, in part because over the last 10 to 15 years, the city has made efforts to invest in itself, seen



in projects like Parkview Field, growth along the riverfront and trail systems.

"Those types of investments lead to others wanting to invest here and seeing the opportunity here," he said. "Looking at changing demographics, a lot of communities won't be relevant in 20 years. Things we're doing downtown are positioning ourselves to be a key city, especially in the Midwest."

The goal is to become a model local economy.

"My job is to make sure there's an opportunity for my kids when they get older so they don't feel the need to move to Indianapolis, Chicago or another market," he said, "because there's great job opportunities here, and there's a great quality of life here." 🏠

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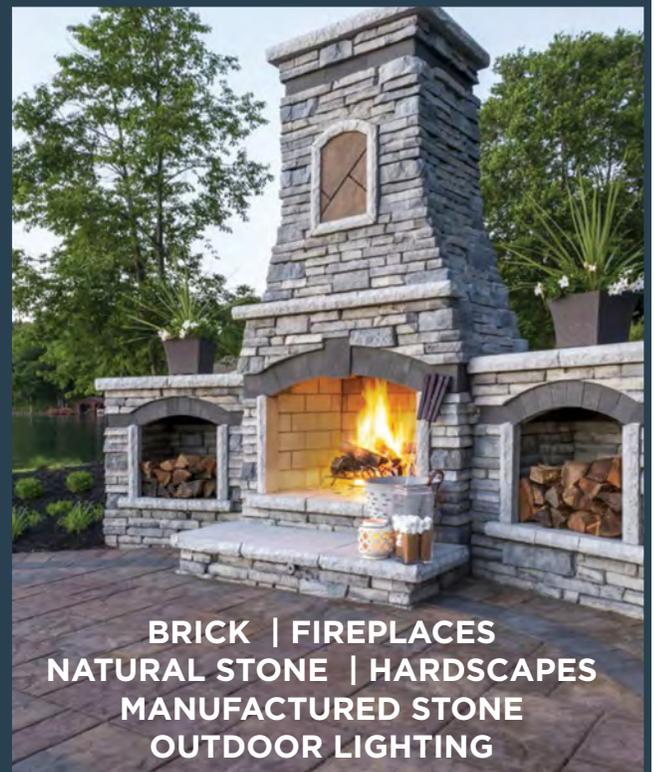
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