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welcome!

from the editor

Anyone else feel like it has been a long month? Between working full time from home, having both kids to educate and entertain, and the constant barrage of troubling news, each day brings new mental and emotional challenges. I know I am not alone in feeling this way. I am so thankful that warmer weather is on its way.

Summer will likely look a little different this year—with large events being cancelled or postponed and many businesses choosing to cut back hours and continue curb-side service. Luckily, there is plenty to do around the HOME, and we are here to help. From outdoor décor ideas and the summer garden checklist to shade solutions and achieving a lush lawn, there is plenty to do to keep you busy and your home looking its best.

If you are itching for an outing, be sure to check out our Day Trip feature: Northeast Indiana Forest Preserves. We are so lucky to live in a region with such beautiful natural areas. Take advantage of that, get outside and enjoy some fresh air.

How are you filling your days as we head into summer? I would love to hear from you. Email me anytime at ambouthot@the-papers.com. 🏡



Amber Bouthot

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Vol. 12 No. 2

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Adding Flair to Your Outdoor Furnishings

Photo provided by Sanborn's For Your Home

By Kristin King

Summer is approaching, which means it's time to freshen up your decor and bring newness and warmth into the mix. We're not talking about just your interior spaces though, we're talking about your outdoor decor too. With so many options available these days, it's easy to make your patio, porch or deck just as homey and welcoming as your living room. Spruce up your space with pillows, outdoor rugs and totes that will help make your home a little slice of paradise, perfect for entertaining and relaxing.



Photo provided by Sanborn's For Your Home



Photo provided by Sanborn's For Your Home



ceramic lantern as a centerpiece for your table; they come in so many fun colors and provide light in the evenings. Add some personality with outdoor wall art like tapestries, metal sculptures or even hanging plants--all of which are trending and a budget-friendly way to liven up your walls, giving your guests some-

thing to talk about. And of course, when in doubt: pillows, pillows, pillows. Pillows are perfect for outdoor decor because they're easily interchangeable, a manageable way to add color to your furniture and they're comfortable.

When it comes to adding even more accessories to your space, Sanborn told us that "fire-tables have been a growing trend." Not only are they a lovely way to bring warmth and light without the hassle of a wood-burning fire pit, they can also be a nice alternative for those who have little to no yard as they come in table-top sizes.

No matter what you choose, adding some love to your outdoor decor will certainly help you create a peaceful space to enjoy those long summer nights with friends and family. 🏡

Resource:

Sanborn's For Your Home, Angola, 260.665.9799, sanbornsfurniture.com

For the inside scoop on what's trending this year, we spoke with Jenny Sanborn of Sanborn's For Your Home in Angola who felt that while color trends seem to be a bit "all over the place" this summer, we will certainly see staples like classic navy and similar water-blue colors dominating outdoor accessories.

"Turquoise and peacock blue are trending" noted Sanborn, as something that we will see reflected in pillows, rugs and even wall art. With her shop located so close to the surrounding lakes, she tends to see a lot of the primary colors that are so well-associated with the lake crowd.

"We always have such a great response to the poly adirondack chairs in those classic colors," she said. Not too surprising as colors like blue and red can be excellent jumping off points for framing the rest of your decor or simply having a bit of fun with some boldness.

It may seem like a daunting task to choose accessories for your patio or deck, but even the smallest touches can go a long way. Try using a

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Finished Basements



By Stacie Ball

When I was younger, the basement at my parent's house was complete with an old-school furnace, half-cement half-dirt walls, and that musty, basement smell. We used our imagination to pretend it was anything from a theatre to a restaurant. These days, people are trading in those shadowy storage spaces for cozy, functional areas.



Before making plans to finish a basement, experts at HGTV suggest checking the floor, walls and surrounding areas for water damage. They suggested "protecting the floor with a waterproof epoxy sealant" and covering the walls with "a polyurethane vapor barrier or insulation that is enclosed in the material." Finally, "Inspect the ceiling for exposed pipes or electrical wiring and install a drop ceiling, if necessary." Once the space is protected and ready, there are several other things to keep in mind.

"When planning a finished basement, people should really consider how they intend to use the space," said Anita Martin from Country Mill Cabinet Company. It's possible to create a comfortable family space, a recreation area or a combination of both. Depending on the amount of space, there may be room for an extra bathroom or a guest bedroom. Some people are even including home gyms, gun storage, a craft room or office space, and a bar or kitchen for entertaining.

Another thing people need to consider is the size of their basement. Martin has suggestions for smaller basement areas, as well as larger areas.

"A small space might become a reading nook with a bench seat and comfy pillows and cushions, or perhaps a wine or coffee bar area," she offered. "A large space could accommodate an area for a lot of seating, such as a large sectional with a raised bar and seating behind the sectional or sofa. Add a large screen TV with a cool fireplace and mantle for relaxing. Include a bar/kitchen area that includes the essentials like

an under-the-counter refrigerator, wine cooler, microwave and bar sink for easy entertaining and clean up."

Another thing to consider is your budget. You want to get the best type and quality of materials for your money. Martin explained, "Good quality products may cost more up front but they will be long lasting and may increase the home value, as well." She also recommended taking your surroundings into account, "A waterproof floor would be good if there is a lake or pool nearby."

Country Mill Cabinet Company is happy to help with your design. Martin offered, "We can provide custom cabinetry for a basement bar/kitchen, media/gaming storage cabinetry, office or craft room cabinetry and bathroom vanities and linen cabinets as well."

Not sure of a color scheme? Martin described, "Rustic wood species and warm brown and gray tones are still trending in basement bar/kitchenette areas but with a simpler, contemporary door style for an updated look."

If you plan to embark on this incredible journey of turning your basement dreams into reality, may you have good luck, a dry basement, and happy building. 🏠

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Resource:

Country Mill Cabinet Company, Laotto, 260.693.9289, countrymillcabinets.com



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The 4-1-1 on Fence Materials

Photo provided by J & R Fence and Deck

By Lauren Caggiano

Fences are used by homeowners both as a functional and aesthetic element. And through the ages, these structures have been constructed from various materials, but which is the right fit for you? That depends on a few factors like budget, performance requirements and personal preference.

Justin Hogeston with J&R Fence and Deck, said vinyl is the most popular material in a residential setting. That's because it usually comes with the best warranty and is long lasting. Synonymous with durability, it won't warp, splinter, rot, split or blister. Looking at the big picture, he said this could be the best option, because although it may require more money upfront, you can save money in the long run because the warranty tends to be more generous.

However, homeowners aren't limited to vinyl for fencing projects. According to Hogeston, wood is a close second, although more costly. It does require maintenance, as you need to stain it with a clear preservative every few years. Cedar is the choice variety for fencing because of its resistance to rot and insects. The Midwest's rain and snow mix can be a detriment as far as wood is concerned.

Another natural element, aluminum requires the least amount of maintenance. While cast iron dominated the scene for years, today's ornamental metal fencing is powder-coated galvanized steel or aluminum, or a combination of aluminum and solid metal. Homeowners should plan on hosing it down every now and then. If rust forms, it can either be brushed off or the metal can be treated with a rust-inhibiting primer and a fresh coat of paint.

Composite is another go-to product. Its composition of both plastic and wood mean you get the best of both worlds. Plus, you aren't locked into a specific look. This material comes in a number





Photo provided by J & R Fence and Deck



Photo provided by J & R Fence and Deck



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of variations in terms of both textures and colors. It's also appealing because it convincingly simulates the look of wood and like vinyl is low maintenance. Another point to consider: composite fencing is eco-friendly. The majority of materials used in its manufacture are recycled. Some manufacturers employ a nearly waste-free manufacturing system. However, composite products cannot be recycled easily.

Not quite sold on any of these options? No worries. Look no further than ornamental metal fencing, which combines the best qualities of other materials. Like composite, a variety of styles are available to choose from. And you can customize the look with finishing touches like cast finials, spears and rings. Best of all, metal is highly durable yet low maintenance.

Last, chain-link fencing is on the table. Its sturdy, maintenance-free, durable and economical. Though it almost always looks more practical

than visually enticing, you do have some flexibility with mesh size, wire gauge and even color.

When it comes to fencing, like any home improvement project, it helps to have an idea about budget, preferences and commitment level ahead of the decision. And remember, before finding your dream fencing materials and styles, check with your local government or homeowner's association. Some areas have height and privacy regulations for fences. 🏠

Resource:

J&R Fence and Deck, Hoagland, 260.615.8206, facebook.com/Jrfence/

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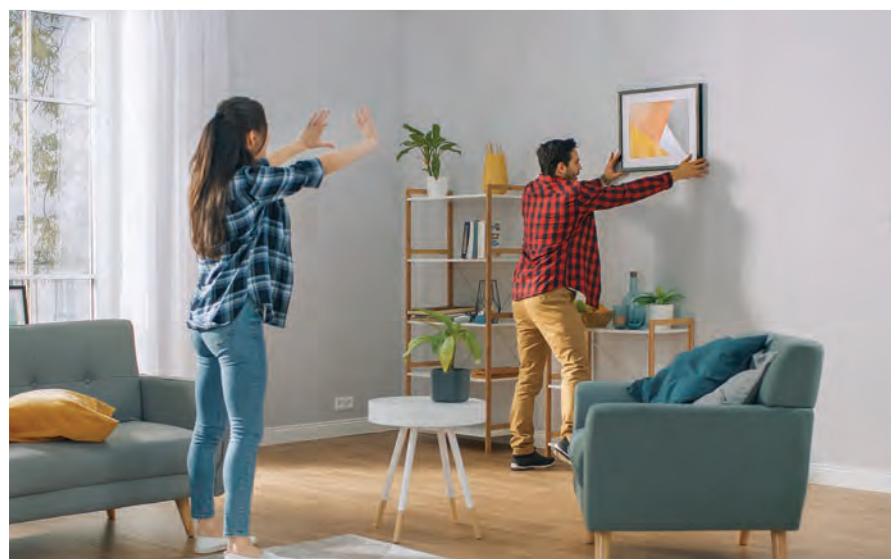




Weekend Projects

By Deborah C. Gerbers

Spring fever has set in for most of us, especially after spending extra time at home. No matter your stage of life, nesting and redoing your space is a good way to occupy your time. Here are a few tips on transforming a room (or rooms) in a weekend in ways to fit your budget.



Under \$50

Thrift shopping is a great way to find unique, lower cost items to spruce up your space. Hit up flea markets, online market places, and local garage sales for gently used chairs, rugs, mirrors and other accessories for a low price. Mix and match colors and patterns for a whimsical, one-of-a-kind look.

Or, take what you have and make it new again—sand down tables or chairs and either re-stain or paint a completely new color. Consider new bedding or throw blankets to add new accents to complement existing furnishings. If you're really feeling ambitious, old carpeting can be ripped up and floors sanded down to reveal the beauty that's hiding beneath. A good quality floor stain and some basic tools can be fairly inexpensive for refinishing floors, if you don't mind getting down and dirty with some hard work.

\$50-\$100

For about \$30 per gallon of paint and \$10-\$20 for a good brush and/or paint roller, you can totally change the look of a room by changing the color. Use your imagination—plain white walls can be either a subtle change into neutral greys or creams, or if you want major change, go for a bold, bright color. Simply painting the room a brand new color can completely update the look in a major way.

New draperies or window treatments are another way to redecorate a room without breaking the bank. Opt for high-quality, lower cost products by shopping around, or if you're handy at the sewing machine, make your own drapes with whimsical fabric patterns. You can also use any leftover fabric to recover throw pillows with some simple hand stitches.

Free

Redecorating a room using almost no money can be an exciting challenge. Swap furniture and accessories from other rooms in your house for a whole new look without spending a dime. Or, ask friends and neighbors for a group swap of pillows, blankets, wall hangings, mirrors and anything else you're willing to get rid of in place of "new-to-you" items.

Simply rearranging furniture can really renew a space without buying anything new. Mix up the flow of a room by changing the placement of furniture and wall decorations, keeping in mind the entrance and windows you'll use.

Redecorating any space can be easy and cheap, and a fun way to spend your time at home while the weather warms up! 🏠



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Achieve a Lush Lawn

By Hillary Knipstein

The grass doesn't have to be greener on the other side of the fence. With summer temperatures beckoning us outdoors, and a global pandemic urging us to spend more time at home, this is the perfect time to start creating a lush lawn on our own side of the fence. Here are some tips for maximizing your lawn.

Mowing

For best results, mow frequently and don't lop off too much. It's best to mow when grass is between four and four and a half inches tall. Ideally, grass should be cut to between three and three and a half inches tall, a height that can help prevent issues with weeds and diseases. When you're finished, don't bag the clippings (unless they're clumped!). Clippings left on the lawn help return nutrients to the soil.

Fertilize

For established lawns, choose a fertilizer high in nitrogen. For newly-seeded lawns, choose a starter fertilizer, which is high in phosphorus. At a minimum, plan to fertilize the lawn in September and again in mid-May. Follow the instructions on the fertilizer bag to calculate the proper application rate. For the most even application, use half of the fertilizer while walking east to west, and the other half when walking north and south.

Treat the Soil

Poor soil is a common barrier to a lush lawn. Stephanie Felger from Felger's Peat Moss recommended Jonathan Green products to help prepare the soil to support a healthy lawn. She suggested the natural product Love Your Soil to help turn compacted soil into a nutrient-rich source that allows the lawn to flourish. Additionally, Felger said "Mag-I-Cal" products balance and optimize the soil's pH levels.

Water

It's better to water infrequently as needed rather than on a set schedule. Watch carefully for signs that grass is under water stress



like change in color or footprints remaining. At the first sign of water stress, apply half an inch to an inch of water to the soil. To measure how much water you're applying, set empty cans around the area being watered, and monitor how much water is accumulating. The ideal time to water the lawn is in the morning when temperatures are cooler and there is typically less wind. Avoid watering the lawn at night if possible.

Weeding

Weed control is a crucial component of an enviable lawn. Herbicides can help control broadleaf weeds like dandelions and spurge. While herbicides are most effective when applied in the fall, they can also be applied in the fall and summer. Look for a product that contains 2,4-D, mecoprop, and dicamba. For summer application, Kate Everly, from Copp Farm Supply, suggested Weed and Feed. Everly also cautions against mowing immediately before or after applying herbicide. "You'll want to wait at least 3 days either way." In any case, never apply herbicide to a newly seeded lawn. 🏡

All photos Shutterstock.com

Resources:

Copp Farm Supply, Columbia City, 260.244.6465, coppfarmsupply.com
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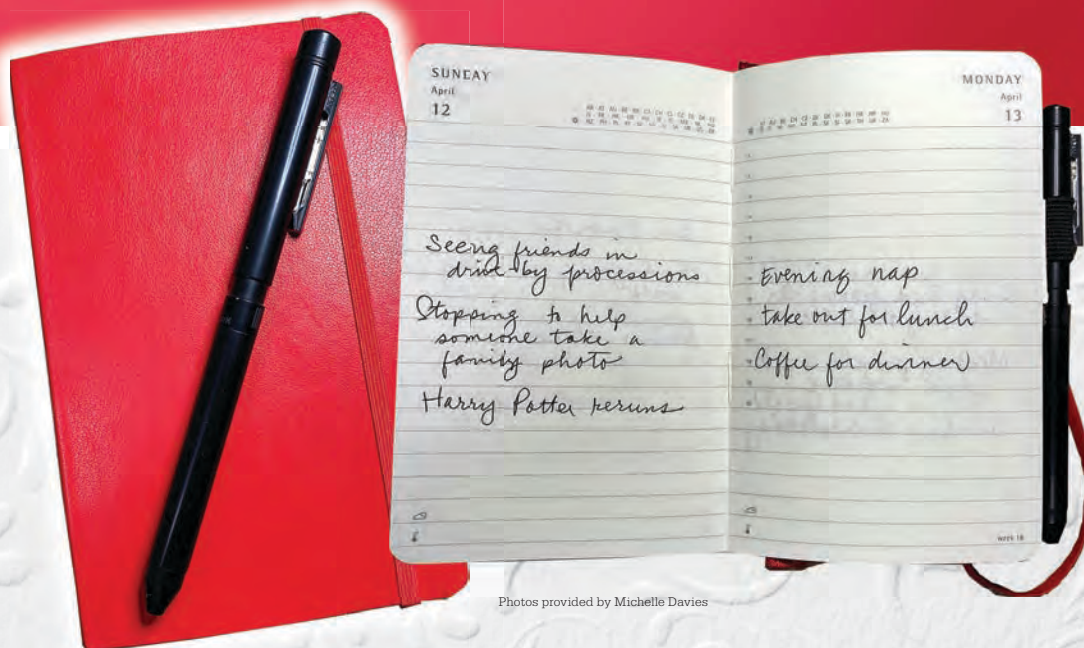
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Practicing *gratitude*

By *Jaclyn Youhana Garver*

Michelle Davies has kept a gratitude journal for three years. She uses a 3x5-inch Moleskine page-a-day calendar, and each night, she jots down three things that made her feel gratitude that day.



Photos provided by Michelle Davies

The entries are simple, and it's

A-OK if she repeats something within a week.

Sunny day, afternoon dog walks, Crock-Pot dinners.

Some weeks, she might include coffee every day.

"Yesterday was kind of sad," said Davies. "It was a stretch: it was coffee, dinner by myself, because everybody left, and the house to myself."

Health benefits of gratitude

The Greater Good Science Center at the University of California, Berkeley, reports that grateful people—those who take the time to consider what they are thankful for in their lives—might sleep better and have fewer aches and pains and healthier hearts.

Gratitude can even help after a hospitalization. Psychiatrist Jeff Huffman writes in "Greater Good Magazine" that motivation, hope and gratitude are all crucial to recovery after having a major heart-related event.

"The presence—or lack—of positive emotions played a huge role in how well people did after the hospitalization," he writes. "I'd meet people who were temporarily depressed—but hopeful about getting better—and they did well. And I met people who were not depressed, but not happy or grateful or hopeful—and they did not."



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Davies was raised by a pessimist, she says, and keeping her gratitude journal has changed her mindset a bit.

"I look for what actually was good during the day instead of focusing on the bad," she says. "Because of that, I'm more optimistic. Before starting the journals, I would think of what would go wrong, and now I don't do that as much."

Seeing friends in drive-by processions.

Stopping to help someone take a family photo.

Harry Potter reruns.

How to practice gratitude

If this is a habit you'd like to strengthen, you can keep a journal, like Davies, or, if you need a little more guidance, the American Heart Association suggests answering five simple questions each day. You can write them down before bed or even share them around the dinner table with your family. Simply follow the acronym HEART:

- **Health:** What did your body do for you today?
- **Eat:** How did you nourish yourself today?
- **Activity:** What's something you really enjoyed doing today?
- **Relationship:** Who do you look forward to seeing?
- **Time:** What are you doing right now?

There are also a variety of apps you can download to help. Gratitude Happiness Journal, for example, lets you set reminders and prompts, like "What made you smile today?" And "Write a thank you note to yourself." Live Happy shares "scientifically proven tips and ideas to live a happier and more meaningful life through interviews with positive psychology and well-being thought leaders."

Evening nap. Takeout for lunch. Coffee for dinner.

You can even take a class. Yale University's most popular class, The Science of Well-Being, teaches you how to be happy, and it's available online—for free. According to the course listing on Coursera, students will gain skills including happiness, meditation, savoring and, yes, gratitude. 🏠



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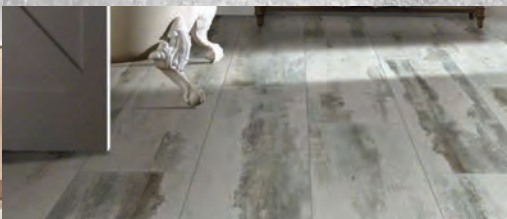
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Summer Garden Checklist

The garden is a love song, a duet between a human being and Mother Nature ~

By Barb Sieminski

Early summer, an energizing time where screens and open doors reign; where clotheslines billow with freshly-laundered sheets; and where gardeners and would-be gardeners eagerly begin the joy of mixing clean hands with soil. Even though we are living through a pandemic, there's something so therapeutic about melding clumps of dirt with your fingers. Whether you're a novice or a longtime gardener, becoming one with Mother Earth will energize you and fill you with anticipation of watching your plants grow.

Here are some tips to start you off right and make gardening a little easier:

- Decide whether you will plant flowers or veggies, shrubs or trees; Google all your preferences and arm yourself with knowledge before stepping outside.
 - Many nurseries and florists in this age of COVID-19 are offering curbside pickup or delivery; check with your go-to plant facility to see if they offer this time-saving and safe option.
 - Want to get your soil tested first? Check out Buesching's Peat Moss & Mulch and they will do a testing for you. They can also provide custom soil blends
 - Get your lawn in condition first – rake up grass clippings, gather up sticks, pull weeds, and give the grass a nice haircut, leaving about 2-3" of blades for an appealing and healthy look
 - After you've raked your garden bed, add mulch to help keep the soil moist. According to Dan Buesching, "Novices should be aware that when applying colored mulch, it is best if they use a 24-hour rain-fast window to prevent color wash-off as the color is not fully cured until the mulch is spread out."
 - Don't forget to water; that summer heat can be brutal.
 - Apply a good pest control product over the garden.
 - Get your plants or seeds in the ground, being sure to not to get them too close to each other. Follow the directions on seed packages.
 - Plant bulbs for summer and fall.
 - Consider making part of your yard a rain garden to absorb stormwater, using these plants: cardinal flower, black-eyed Susan, swamp milkweed, Joe Pye weed, sedges, Bluestar or Turtlehead.
 - Use creativity in edging your beds and borders.
 - Remake any bed that may be better productive of your plants.
 - Plant blooms that will attract beneficial insects (butterflies, lady beetles, lacewings, ground beetles, soldier beetles, hover flies).
- Finally, sit back and anticipate the summer loveliness that will come of your sustainable creation – you've earned it! 🏡

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Ramping up the Shade

By Cathy Shouse

Now that the days are warmer and often stay bright and sunny into the evening, we sometimes find ourselves longing for shade. Maybe we are trying to protect our skin from damaging rays. At other times, the heat index is high and relief is the goal.



Photo provided by Windows, Doors & More

The first step to a solution is asking questions:

1. How permanent is the need for shade? Having a handful of friends over to celebrate a milestone birthday is one thing, and desiring to eat outside on your deck is another.
2. What is your budget? There are simple solutions that could cost under \$100 and extensive set-ups that run into the thousands.
3. How strong do you need the coverage? Anyone who has spotted his or her latest patio umbrella in the neighbor's yard, bent beyond repair understands this question.
4. How much effort will you make? With quick weather changes, temporary solutions require tracking the forecast and potentially taking gear up and down, sometimes multiple times per day.

For shade-lovers wanting more permanent solutions, we consulted local experts. At Felger's Peat Moss, you can order a pergola with slats that can be slanted at 50%, 75% or 90%, depending on how much sun protection you want. According to DeeDee Felger, "These are vinyl with aluminum core so they're not going to rust and will last a long

time. They're in white or beige and you have to have a concrete slab or paver so it will stay in place."

Kevin Hunter, president/owner of Windows, Doors & More, has been in the business 34 years and sees increasing interest in permanent awnings. "I think that as people are aging in place and becoming more knowledgeable about the sun and skin damage, they're getting awnings to protect themselves, their children and grandchildren. They give added comfort to the home."

For around \$2,000 to start, you can get an awning that is professionally installed. Retractable awnings that are motorized work best because it's physically challenging to roll them back in manually. You can get lifetime warranties, fade-resistant warranties for the fabric, and a wind sensor so if the wind picks up, it pulls up automatically. Knowing how high to securely install the awning on your house, and assisting you in covering the patio or partially shading a pool is beyond the abilities of most people. Don't consider this your next do-it-yourself project.

"A lot of people don't understand the complexity of installing them. Statistically, about two out of ten awnings that people purchase to install themselves are laying in garages, never used and not returnable.... It's not an easy thing to do at all," Hunter said. 🏠



Shutterstock.com

Resources:

Felger's Peat Moss, Fort Wayne, 260.693.3134, felgerspeatmoss.com

Windows Doors & More, Fort Wayne, 260.399.6037, wdmfactorystore.com

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Feel-Good Summer



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.



Close up photo of refinished console table.
Photos provided

This month's Reader DIY project comes from Jennifer Fox who recently refreshed the foyer of her home.

1. What was your inspiration for the project?

We moved into our 1954 Mid Century Modern fixer upper 5 years ago, with the best of intentions to make it into our long-term dream-house. Both our boys were very young at the time, and doing large-scale projects with a baby in the house seemed like a good idea in theory (still not sure why it even was in theory), but in reality, we put lots of things off and just lived with the very dated decor while getting through the baby/toddler years.

2. How long did it take from start to finish?

This foyer/hallway project took about 3 months from start to finish, because we chose the oh-so busy winter holiday season to start it. We didn't intend for it to last that long, but we're a busy family and other things got in the way. We have a long to-do list and we haven't really accomplished much so far, so we're taking this as a big win and a step in the right direction, motivation-wise.

3. Was it easier or harder than you anticipated?

Both! Taking down the paneling was daunting and messy; removing the wallpaper was tedious; and filling in the holes then sanding was (again) messy, yet gratifying. But since we did it in chunks over a few months, it wasn't overwhelming. We just learned to live with the appearance of each phase, knowing the final result would be worth it.

4. What was the total cost of the project?

Just about \$500, which accounts for the spackle and the paint and the various little tools/implements needed for each phase.

5. What did you like best about the undertaking?

Because of the aforementioned long list of projects, we often feel overwhelmed by it all. Our house has so much potential, and we know exactly what we want and need to do, but time and money are the big obstacles (always seems to be the case, especially with homeownership). So with this small project, the feeling of doing it ourselves and getting the exact result we envisioned, made us so happy and proud, even.

6. What was the most challenging aspect?

One challenge was that because this is the front foyer/hallway, every time we came back home, we were greeted by an ugly mess in various stages/forms. But the biggest challenge was that we had to take down lots of artwork and wall decor/accents (I have a thing for objet d'art and unrealistic faux taxidermy), and we didn't think through where all those would live over the time period of the project. The pile started out on our dining room table, then moved from place to place so we could eat as a family again (once it was clear the project would last more than a couple weeks). Ultimately, the growing frustration with the mess of artwork all over the place motivated our final push to get the paint and trim finished.

7. Where did you source your materials?

We purchased our paint from Sherwin Williams on Illinois Road, and all the other supplies from Lowe's and Menards. In past projects, we've gone with less expensive paint but this time we splurged, because we wanted a particular color and didn't want to compromise. The difference was astounding in the application, number of coats and finish. Going forward, we're going to use the highest quality paint possible. Sponsor us, Sherwin Williams. 🏠



By Ray Balogh

Due to the CDC recommendations to stop the spread of the coronavirus, many June events have been postponed or cancelled. Please check the websites of our community partners for details specific to their venues and events.

Embassy Theatre

- Sunday, June 7, 2020 Film Series: "Milk," 2 p.m., doors open at 1 p.m., free admission
 - Sunday, June 14, "Summer Nights at the Embassy," 5 p.m., \$15 for public flex pass (general admission)
- 125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne. 800.745.3000, fwembassytheatre.org.

Fort Wayne Museum of Art

Exhibitions:

- Planes, Trains & Automobiles: Classic Toys and Americana (ongoing)
- Glass Sculpture from the Collection (ongoing)
- Art Starts Here (ongoing)
- Hope Dies Last: The New Armenia — Photographs by Michelle Andonian (through July 12)
- Hidden Truths: New Paintings by Francisco Valverde (through Aug. 30)
- Here and Now: A Survey on New Contemporary Art (through Aug. 30)
- Salvador Dali's Stairway to Heaven: Illustrations for Les Chants de Maldoror and the Divine Comedy (June 13 through Aug. 16)

Traveling exhibitions (through Dec. 31, 2021):

- AFROS: A Celebration of Natural Hair by Michael July
- Graphicanos: Contemporary Latino Prints from the Serie Project
- Donald Martiny: Freeing the Gesture
- Geoffrey Hillier: Daybreak in Myanmar

Events:

- Thursday, June 11, 2nd Thursday in the Paradigm Gallery, create your own mismatch earring with Ronia Krieg, 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m., free admission, fee for materials. Call to sign up.
- Wednesday, June 17, Print Room Talks: Kiki Smith, 2 p.m.
- Thursday, June 18, bilingual (Spanish/English) tour, 6:30 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.

Memorial Coliseum

- Sunday, June 14, for King & Country "'burn the ships' North America: The 2020 Encore," 6 p.m., \$140/\$70/\$40/\$20
- Parking \$6 main lot, \$10 preferred lot. Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne. 260.482.9502, memorialcoliseum.com.
- Niswonger Performing Arts Center
- Summer Concert Series, 7 p.m., food vendors 5:30 p.m., Fountain Park, free admission, bring your own lawn chair.
- Friday, June 5, Walden
 - Friday, June 12, Farewell Angelina
 - Friday, June 19, Rumours: Fleetwood Mac
 - Friday, June 26, The Wayfarers
- 10700 SR 118, Van Wert. 419.238.6722, npacvw.org.

Shipshewana Blue Gate Theatre

- Selected days and times through Oct. 31, "Josiah for President: The Musical," Music Hall, \$38.95
 - Friday, June 19, Newboys united with Adam Agee, 8 p.m., \$29.95 to \$99.95
 - Saturday, June 20, Karen Knotts, 7 p.m., Music Hall, \$19.95
 - Thursday, June 25, Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives, 7 p.m., \$24.95 to \$79.95
 - Friday, June 26, The Duttons, 7 p.m., \$14.95 to \$54.95
 - Friday and Saturday, June 26 and 27, Sandi Patty, 7 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday, Music Hall, \$49.95
 - Saturday, June 27, Asleep at the Wheel, 7 p.m., \$19.95 to \$64.95
 - Tuesday, June 30, The Inspirations Quartet, 7 p.m., Music Hall, \$24.95
- All shows add \$18 for dinner theater. All performances held in Performing Arts Center unless otherwise indicated. Music Hall address is 195 N. Van Buren, Shipshewana.
- Performing Arts Center, 760 S. Van Buren St., Shipshewana. 888.447.4725, thebluegate.com.

Strode Center for the Arts

- Thursday, June 18, Girl Named Tom, 7 p.m., Kingsbury Park, Defiance, free admission
 - Saturday, June 13, Cinema at the Stroede: "Plaza Suite," 7:30 p.m., free admission
- 319 Wade Ave., Defiance. 419.784.3401, defiancearts.org.

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 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 p.m. Tuesday, Arrowhead Prairie, 6801 Engle Road. 260.478.2515, info@lrwp.org, lrwp.org.

4 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.

5 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.

6, 13, 20, 27 FORT WAYNE: South Side Farmers Market

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

6, 13, 20, 27 FORT WAYNE: Barr Street Farmers Market

Fresh and unique local produce, plants, meats, baked goods, and homemade crafts in producer-only market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday (through Sept. 26), 302 E. Berry St. 260.527.0060, ylni.org/farmers-market.

7 DECATUR: Flea Market

Nearly 100 indoor vendors, hot food available. Sponsored by the Adams County Coin Club. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Riverside Center, 231 E. Monroe St. (Highway 224 East). Contact Carla at 260.517.8182, facebook.com/decaturingianafleamarket.

7 FORT WAYNE: Mather Sunday Lecture Series

Jack Lawson presents "Historical Weaponry: Artifacts from the Revolutionary War, Civil War and More." Free admission. 2 p.m. Sunday, The History Center, 302 E. Berry St. 260.426.2882, fwhistorycenter.com.

12 DECATUR: Sculpture Tour Unveiling

Ninth annual citywide sculpture tour unveiling with art-centric activities, food, wine tasting. Free admission. 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Friday, downtown. 260.724.3939, decatursculpturetour.org.

12-13 LAFONTAINE: Ashland Days Festival

Car and motorcycle show, lawn mower poker run, cornhole contest, live music, parade, more. Free admission. Friday and Saturday, Branson Street and Wabash Avenue. 260.330.0742.

18-20 LAGRO: Lagro Good Ole Days

Food, fireworks, crafts, face painting, moonwalks, bands, games, car show, parade, Granpa Cratchet. Free admission. Thursday through Sunday, downtown. 260.571.6664, lagroindiana.com.

20 FORT WAYNE: Day Trip

Day-long history adventure to South Bend and Goshen. Luncheon at Tippecanoe Place in the Studebaker mansion. Trip includes river walk and stop at an art/antiques store in Goshen. Leave Swinney Homestead at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, return at 5:30 p.m. \$95 includes lunch. Swinney Homestead, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne. Reservations at 260.432.7314 or 260.747.1501, settlersinc.org.

26-27 FREMONT: Musicfest

Musical entertainment from jazz to country, parade, kids' games, fireworks, special merchant sales. Free admission. Friday and Saturday, downtown. 260.495.9010, fremontchamber.org.

27 DECATUR: DeKegger Homebrew & BBQ Festival

Craft beers, BBQ vendors, BBQ competition, live music. Admission charge. Saturday, Riverside Park. 260.724.2604, decaturin.org. 🏠

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Arnold Lumber

Paul Brite

By Rod King

Like everyone else during the pandemic induced quarantine, Paul Brite, installation sales manager at Arnold Lumber in Decatur, has had to make many adjustments to the way he quotes jobs, orders materials and manages installers. The 32-year veteran employee still goes into work every day at the company's Winchester Street location (the building industry is considered essential) but has had to rely on e-mail and phone communications in order to limit exposure.

"I really have missed working directly with customers on their projects," said Brite. "I love helping with their design, working up quotes, keeping current on their project in case changes need to be made and following up with them to make sure everything is going smoothly."

When he was younger, Brite was into designing and building things like forts and tree houses. He lived on a farm south of Decatur where he was always picking up discarded sticks and boards to make "stuff" when he wasn't helping out with the livestock. So it was a natural that his first job after high school was with a construction company that mainly built residential homes.

"I really do enjoy coming to work every day. The variety is great, because we handle all kinds of agricultural structures from horse barns, machine sheds, hog and poultry buildings to hay storage buildings and livestock shelters. We also do residential garages, workshops, shelter houses, lofts, cupolas, lofts, lean-tos and more. Never dull!

"The fact that my manager, Adam Harlamert, and co-workers are fantastic to work with, make it fun and helps the time pass quickly. We're like a big extended family that actually gets along well."

Brite, who lives on the farm where he grew up just a couple miles from work, farms 700



Paul Brite has worked at Arnold Lumber in his home town of Decatur for the past 32 years. He particularly enjoys the variety of work and the family atmosphere.

acres when he's not helping customers with their projects.

"I just like to get my hands in the dirt, and I like the smell of freshly worked soil. I like riding the tractor, planting the seeds and cultivating and harvesting the corn. I also really enjoy working with my son, Luke. In fact, I think that if I could pick my dream job I would choose to be a full-time farmer. Whenever I decide to retire," he said, "that's probably what I'll do."

The Decatur native is a Belmont High School graduate where he participated in the shooting club and the track team.

He and his wife, Karen, who he met in high school, have two sons. Kyle lives in Terre Haute and Luke lives in Decatur and helps on the farm. The Brites are active in St. Marys Catholic Church and are passionate supporters of the Salesian Missions sponsored by the church. 🏠

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NE Indiana Nature Preserves

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By Mary Jane Bogle

Most Americans have been rediscovering the great outdoors during our recent quarantine. If you're looking for some new areas of Northeast Indiana to explore, you're in luck. Thanks to a vast, interconnected set of trails in the Greater Fort Wayne area, not to mention multiple properties through ACRES Land Trust, along with two state parks within an hour's drive of Fort Wayne, your biggest problem might be which amazing trail to hike or bike first.



Photo provided by ACRES Land Trust, Cedar Creek Corridor

Here are just a few possibilities, broken down by interest and ability.

ACRES Properties

ACRES offers trails on about 50 of its 117 properties. Whether you're looking for an easy stroll or a strenuous hike, trails through forests or meadows or even views of rivers and lakes, ACRES has you covered. "Picking just one as a favorite would be like a parent selecting their favorite child," said Heather Barth, advancement director at ACRES Land Trust.

Water Ways

Those looking for scenic water views will enjoy the Tom and Jane Dustin Nature Preserve, with trails that overlook the Cedar Creek tunnel valley. Bicentennial Woods, the most popular preserve, affords a sturdy bridge over Willow Creek. For those seeking a full day's adventure, Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run in Wabash County offers stunning views of a winding creek and waterfall.

Little Feet

"Hiking with little ones is a great way to see the natural world through their eyes," said Barth. "All of our trails are family-friendly, but a few nearby that are easy on little legs are Blue Cast Springs near Woodburn, Indiana, and Mengerson Nature Reserve, located in the heart of Fort Wayne on Stelhorn Road."

A Bigger Challenge

For those looking for a more vigorous outing, Kokiwanee provides trails winding up and down bluffs along the Salamonie River. "Another challenging trek is Tel-Hy near Huntington, Indiana," said Barth, "which features winding trails on bluffs along the Wabash River." You can find longer descriptions of all these trails and more at acreslandtrust.org. One more benefit to exploring an ACRES property is the no-fee entrance, perfect for the pocketbook as well as the exercise!

State Parks

Most of us know Pokagon State Park for its legendary toboggan run, but this state park also offers nine, mostly moderate trails with views of Lake James, along with woods and wetlands and even glacial debris. A little closer to Fort Wayne, Chain O'Lakes offers 23 miles of forested trails and even a little fishing along any of the nine connecting lakes that give this property its name. Just remember that you'll have to pay a \$7 entrance fee at each state park, unless you purchase an annual state park permit, available at any park entrance for \$50.

Fort Wayne Trails

Those living in the Greater Fort Wayne area are already familiar with the vast system of interconnecting trails, with over 120 miles of multi-use trails in all. Finding your favorite could be as simple as visiting fortwayneparks.org and choosing one of several places to start. 🏠



Photo provided by ACRES Land Trust, Mengerson Nature Reserve

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I am HOME

Irene Walters

Jaclyn Youhana Garver

Irene Walters — former IPFW Champion, American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana Humanitarian of the Year and recipient of the United Way Bill Latz Award for Leadership — moved to Fort Wayne for a boy.

Oh, that ol' cliché.

But nothing about her path to town is clichéd. Originally from Chicago, Walters attended the University of Michigan. She met Bob on a double date her sophomore year, just after breaking up with her high school sweetheart. She only agreed to the date because her roommate asked.

After, Walters said, Bob went home and said, "I met the girl I'm going to marry."

"I didn't feel that way," Walters said. "I liked him and thought he was interesting, but it took a while."

After graduation, Bob moved to Boston to go to Harvard Law School. Walters' parents wouldn't let her follow him.

"So we got married first," she said, "the old-fashioned way."

Walters finished her education at Boston University. The couple would study together so often in the library, no one else would sit in their seats.

Bob was from Fort Wayne, and when they wed, Walters made him promise that they'd never be Hoosiers. She was a big city girl, and Fort Wayne was not the big city.

"I thought it'd be a cultural wasteland," she said.

But then Bob was offered a federal clerkship with Judge Jesse Eshbaugh. It was too big a deal to pass up, so the couple moved to Fort Wayne in 1968.

"And guess what? I fell in love with the city," Walters said.

She not only fell in love, but over the years, Walters has worked her way into Fort Wayne's fabric and foundation.

She joined the Junior League of Fort Wayne and attended Leadership Fort Wayne. She substitute taught while her children were young. In 1994, then Mayor Paul Helmke hired her to lead the city's bicentennial efforts.

She accepted a position at the then-IPFW as its executive director of university relations.

Again, Helmke asked for Walters' help: He asked her to lead Fort Wayne's efforts to receive the All-America City Award. Presented by the Colorado-based National Civic League, the award recognizes cities that successfully address local issues with civic engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness and innovation.

Fort Wayne competed twice. In 1997, Walters said, the goal was to learn from that year's winners and find the best way to tell Fort Wayne's story. Then, in 1998, Fort Wayne received the All-America City Award—for the second time. It previously won in 1983, and it won again in 2009. Of the 13 Hoosier cities that have won the national award, Fort Wayne and Bloomington are tied for the most wins.



Next, the mayor asked if Walters would help plan Fort Wayne's millennial celebration.

"What we decided then was, it's wonderful to have fireworks and celebrations, but we need to move Fort Wayne forward," she said.

The committee created Invent Tomorrow, which learned the No. 1 topic on community members' minds: "Let's rediscover our rivers. They are huge assets, and we've ignored them," Walters said.

Friends of the Rivers came out of Invent Tomorrow, and the group is responsible for IPFW's RiverFest in the early 2010s. It also had a hand in the construction of and continued improvements at Promenade Park.

In 2014, Walters retired from IPFW, but it's more like she "retired." She's still involved in the community and loves seeing the city's current momentum, from community murals to the reinvention of The Landing.

"The arts are thriving. Sports are thriving. Hopefully, Electric Works will be developed," she said. "Fort Wayne really does have the best of both worlds: the attributes of a big city and the quality of life (with) that Midwestern feeling, a vibe where people really care about each other and reach out."



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