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HAPPY 4th of July! INDEPENDENCE DAY

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UPCOMING EDITORIAL THEMES

August Transitions

ad deadline Mon., July 20

September Home Tours

ad deadline Mon., Aug., 17

October DIY

ad deadline Mon., Sept., 14

welcome!

from the editor



Amber Bouthot

Greetings
HOME
readers,

It's hard for me to believe, but this issue marks two years as the executive editor of HOME Living and our sister publication, Glo. The old cliché—time flies when you're having fun—truly applies here. From researching and planning each issue to working with our freelance writers, our rock star account executive Rebecca and the staff in our corporate office, every day is different and presents a new set of challenges. I have also enjoyed meeting and talking to readers at events we sponsor like the Home & Garden Show, The Boat Show, Tapestry and more.

Sadly, due to COVID-19, many of our remaining sponsored events for the year have been cancelled, postponed or rescheduled. We certainly miss being out and about in the community, but we want all of our supporters and readers to stay safe and healthy.

Even though we don't get to see you right now, we still want to hear from you. Do you have an idea for an article? Or maybe you've taken on a DIY project—we'd love to read about it and include it in our Reader DIY feature. You can email me anytime at ambouthot@the-papers.com. I love hearing from our readers.

On another note, many readers have expressed that they cannot find our publication at newsstands. One of



the grocery store chains in our area stopped carrying ALL free publications. Rest assured, we have worked hard to replace those newsstands and you can view our full list on our website: homeindooroutdoorliving.com.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer. 🏠

Amber




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Front Door Makeovers

By Mary Jane Bogle

Nothing says “home” like your front door. It’s visitors’ first glimpse of your personal style, but a front door is so much more than just a design feature. When done right, it provides a portal to safety and comfort for friends and family alike. In other words, a beautiful front door creates a focal point for your home, drawing people in with grace and beauty.



If your front door isn’t accomplishing all that you hope to achieve at your home’s entrance, consider giving it a makeover. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

First, remember that while the color you choose should reflect your personal taste, you should also consider your home’s architectural style when selecting your new hue. For example, a symmetrical home evokes a sense of formality. Complement that look with a stately blue.

Contemporary homes can pull off more vibrant tones, such as lime green, electric blue or vivid orange. Craftsman-style homes, on the other hand, might call for no paint at all. Instead, opt for a dark stain that complements the home’s other design features.

Likewise, a small cottage might call for turquoise blue with an antique finish, creating instant old-world charm. And don’t forget Victorian homes, whose ornate features call for bold, bright hues that draw the eye to the front door.

Next, consider the message you want to send. A green door evokes feelings of renewal and growth. Oranges and reds, on the other hand, communicate warmth and energy. Purple is a stately color that offers elegance and a touch of royalty.

You might also want to complement the other colors in your home’s exterior. Oranges, reds and even chocolate brown can bring out various hues in the brick. A home with large, mature trees near the entrance might call for a cheery yellow front door, bringing some sunshine to an otherwise shady space. And don’t forget tone-on-tone. If your home’s siding is light blue or gray, a dark blue door set off with white trim can create a stunning effect.

For those wanting to play it safe, you can still create contrast with a neutral color if you choose the opposite temperature as your home. Beige brick or siding might call for a cool grey door, whereas a beautiful, butter-yellow door can warm up cool blues.

Finally, remember to highlight your new entrance with updated lighting, a pleasant walkway and potted plants, helping everyone who enters feel welcome. 🏠

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Kitchen Pantries



By Haiden Hibbert

The pantry may seem like an afterthought when it comes to spaces in your home, but oftentimes, it's an underutilized area with tons of potential. Whether you have a small corner closet that serves as your pantry or a large walk-in space, there are plenty of ways you can get the most out of your kitchen space, from functionality to organization and appearance.

Here are four simple ways you can improve your pantry or get ideas for home renovation projects.

Open Shelving

The perk of cabinet space is that you can hide all your items and avoid organization. So, why is open shelving a growing design trend in homes? With open shelving, you can see everything - which is inherently both good and bad. While it allows people to quickly scan the space for what they are looking for, it requires homeowners to keep their spaces organized and decluttered. There are several ways you can incorporate open shelving into your pantry system, whether that's hallway storage, floor to ceiling shelving, or metal shelving units (an affordable way to add shelving without building new units into your pantry).

Extra Prep or Counter Space

One common complaint from homeowners is that they do not have enough counter space in their kitchens. Being able to spread out while preparing food or working on projects is a luxury, but if your kitchen doesn't allow for it - maybe your pantry will. For homeowners with walk-in pantries, adding counter space is an excellent way to improve the functionality of your kitchen, giving you an area to prep dishes away from the hustle and bustle of the kitchen.

Add an Appliance

If you have more space to work with, you have the flexibility to not only use your pantry as a place to store food but a home for small appliances, like a microwave.

"A large pantry offers a place to tuck away your coffee maker while still being plugged in and functional, while not on display in your main kitchen area," said Andrea Sonnenberg from Windsor Homes. "A pantry is also a great place for a charging station to keep all cords and electronics easily accessible and still hidden."

Exposed Shelves

A pantry may serve as a hiding place for your items, but one of the hottest trends lately is adding rows of exposed shelving units to your kitchen. Plus, if you have a smaller pantry or limited cabinet space in your kitchen, exposed shelves can maximize your storage space and add character to your kitchen. Typically, homeowners use this space for added storage for things like China sets, pots and pans or wine glasses. 🏠



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Photos provided

By Jaclyn Youhana Garver

The chickens don't like to be cuddled. But if they know you bring their food, they'll approach you at least, and the fluffy chickens might let you pick them up, which you'll probably want to do. Look up the breed—Silkie breed—and the little fellows beg to be nuzzled, a two-legged poodle that lays small, rich eggs with bright yellow yolks.

Tessa Gochtovtt-Stine and her family live on the outskirts of Fort Wayne, near Fox Island, on a four-acre property perfect for raising chickens. The space is large enough for the coop and outside the city, so it's legal.

Raising chickens in the backyard is becoming common enough that in May, the U.S. Department of Agriculture posted resources for backyard poultry keepers.

"This year in particular, the number of new flock keepers appears to be growing quickly," according to a USDA May 13 release about the Defend the Flock campaign.

Gochtovtt-Stine shares some tips and necessities for getting started with your flock.

Investment

Gochtovtt-Stine calls her seven chickens (two Silkies and five black Marans, which are larger than Silkies and produce brown eggs) low-maintenance. They're not a huge time investment, but there is a monetary investment up front. She estimates the project will run at least \$300.

For one, chickens are social, so Gochtovtt-Stine recommends purchasing at least three or four. Depending on the age and breed, the animal can range from \$4 for a baby to up to \$100, for a laying Silkie.

There's the chicken coop itself, not unlike a shed, plus enough fencing to let the chickens run around the yard. Gochtovtt-Stine's chickens have about 20 square feet to roam. Inside the coop, the chickens have nesting boxes on a board about a foot off the ground. They sleep and lay their eggs in the boxes.

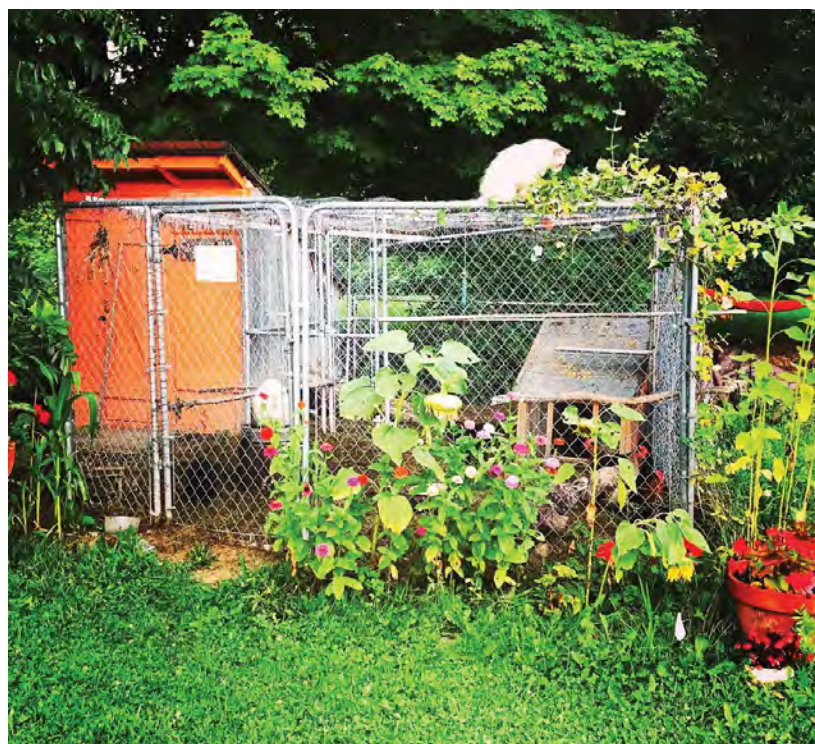
Safety

The entire area—including the fenced-in space—needs to be covered, and the fence needs to be securely into the ground to keep out predators, which is a major worry in backyard coops.

While Gochtovtt-Stine is currently working from home due to the coronavirus, she's able to let her chickens free range in the yard because she can keep an eye on them. Otherwise, they're locked in the fencing to protect them from hawks, foxes and coyotes. One of the latter two is what she suspects took out her first flock by digging under the fence.

After that experience, she reinforced the fence, and her chickens are safer.





Egg supply

Today, with summertime and the ability to free range, Gochtovtt-Stine estimates her seven chickens produce four or five eggs a day. She does not refrigerate them—it would cause the eggs to spoil faster—and they'll last for three to four weeks on the counter.

During colder months, egg production drops off, but heating the coop can encourage egg laying.

Resources

Gochtovtt-Stine recommends the following resources for those considering raising chickens:

- MyPetChicken.com, for researching different chicken breeds
- Rural King, for purchasing coop equipment and the chicks
- "Locally Laid: How We Built a Plucky, Industry-changing Egg Farm—from Scratch," by Lucie B. Amundsen, about a small farm's experience raising chickens

For more tips on raising chickens, visit bit.ly/glochicken online to check out the USDA's Defend the Flock campaign. 🏠



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Backyard Playsets



By Mary Jane Bogle

Backyard playsets have always been a popular way to help children grow, learn and explore, all in the safety of your home's surroundings—or your watchful eye from the kitchen window. How much learning and growing your children experiences, however, can vary greatly. Backyard playsets can be as simple or ornate as your imagination... and budget... allow.

Considering installing one this year? Here are a few things to keep in mind.

1. Cost – Custom playsets can cost anywhere from \$2,000 to \$20,000, depending on the type of materials, number of play elements and size of the set. Walking into the store with a budget in mind will help you make wise choices when it comes to materials and play elements.

Need to trim back? Consider an open, straight slide instead of a covered, spiral slide. Baby swings are typically more expensive than regular swings. And you can always opt for one tower instead of two.

2. Materials – Today's playsets can be made from yellow pine, cedar or vinyl. Each offers pros and cons and will have the biggest impact on the overall cost. Wood is always a good choice and is cheaper than vinyl but requires more ongoing maintenance.

Vinyl, on the other hand, provides the least amount of maintenance and greatest durability, but that longevity comes at a price. Knowing



how long you want to use the set will help you determine if the extra cost is worth it.

3. Safety – Make sure any openings are smaller than 3.5 inches or larger than 9 inches to prevent heads from getting trapped. You also want to cover any metal hooks and provide railings for any decks or towers higher than 30 inches off the ground.

Remember to install a fall zone, too, with plenty of shock-absorbing materials. Consider using rubber mulch instead of wood mulch, which can give kids splinters, although pea gravel works, too.

4. Space – Keep in mind that you need to create a buffer around the playset. Plan on at least a 4 – 5 feet buffer zone around the entire set. You'll need to choose a level space in your backyard, and be sure to call your local utilities before you dig. (Most playsets come with anchors, which keep the equipment stable and protect the playset from wind damage.)

Consider placing the set in a shady spot, within easy sightlines from multiple windows in your house. And be sure to look up before you settle on a site. You'll want to avoid placing the set under any power lines or large limbs.

5. Room to Grow – Finally, as you design that perfect playset, keep in mind that children grow quickly. Adding elements that will continue to offer physical challenges for older children, such as monkey bars and climbing ropes, is important if you want to reap the biggest rewards from your investment. 🏠

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Create an Accent Wall



By Lauren Caggiano

When it comes to decorating, there's a lot to be said for making the most of all angles, including vertical space. An accent wall is one way to create a focal point while flexing your creative muscles.

And the best part? There's no right or wrong way to go about it. Your home is unique, so your accent wall should reflect your tastes and sensibilities. Accent walls can be used in any room, and there's no shortage of inspiration from which to draw.

Kelley Graber with Kelley J Interiors said accent walls can be a fun feature to add to a room, without having to put much time or effort into the project.

"Accent walls are a great way to bring life to a room without overwhelming the space," she said. "Paint is by far the easiest and least expensive way to add drama. However, wallpaper is also making a comeback in a big way."

This isn't your mother's wallpaper either — and that's a good thing. Temporary wallpaper on the market can provide a classy look while having the long-term commitment. Plus there's no shortage of color, designs and textures.

But this is just the beginning. Texture can add another element of dimension — and the sky's the limit.

"There are so many exciting textures you can use," said Graber. "Things like tile, stone and those ever so popular shiplap walls. Don't be afraid to use color or heavy textures with your materials. Get creative with your space."

Speaking of color, don't overthink it. Experts agree that as long as the wall color fits the other elements in the room, you can have free reign to paint it whatever your heart desires. This is the time for high drama! Think a bright red accent wall when the rest of the room is a more neutral brown. If you're not sure about what colors will play nice, look online for a color wheel. Many paint manufacturers and hardware stores have their own versions you can access.

The same philosophy can be applied to the details. You might pull in a gallery of photos, collection of mirrors or artwork or even drape fabric or hang a rug on this surface. Mirrors are an interior designer's secret weapon, because they can make small spaces look larger.

While you're at it, don't limit yourself to the vertical space. An on-trend decorating trend is to add color to the ceiling. This ceiling color can be your accent wall. Accent ceilings can be created with soft or bold colors. White crown molding is a must, because it helps separate the wall color from the ceiling and draws the eye upward.

Here's to making this corner of the house truly your own! 🏠



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Kelley J Interiors, Fort Wayne, 260.704.2206, kelleyjinteriors.com

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Chair Yoga



By Lauren Caggiano

The beauty of yoga is that the practice can be adapted to your ability, goals, environment and other factors. However, when you think of yoga, you might envision a specific type that requires a great deal of movement and works up a sweat. But that doesn't have to be the case. Enter chair yoga.

Vicki Eber, with Divine Dwelling, said chair yoga is beneficial for all ages and abilities.

"Chair yoga is often associated with seniors and those who may be confined to a wheelchair (elderly or young). However, I have taught chair yoga to my college and high school students as a means of using it as a tool when studying," Eber explained.

As for the older crowd, she said she has observed many small wins that underscore the power of chair yoga for this population.

"My favorite (success story) was back when I worked for one of our local assisted living apartment complexes," she said. "Over time, I saw balance improve greatly to where some of the residents moved from walkers to canes to assist in their walking abilities. It also gave our seniors a time to socialize, which is so valuable at that stage of life."

Grandma may swear by chair yoga, and her granddaughter can equally benefit. For example, Eber recommends it for students to get calm, re-center and loosen up, especially after hunching over a laptop or study materials.

And newbies to yoga might find a friend in chair yoga because of its gentle nature. In her words, "chair yoga is great for beginners who wish to get acquainted with the postures without feeling strained. If you're looking at videos, know there is a lot to choose from, just like

standard asana (posture) practice, so be patient and take the time to feel into what works best for you."

Regardless of the specifics, all chair yoga practices have the same thing in common: a chair, of course. Eber offers some tips for going about it correctly.

"(The) most important tip is to use a chair with no wheels or if it does have wheels, that they are locked," she said. "You can use a couch or ottoman, so long as they aren't going to slide out from under you as you use them to support your body. Otherwise, let go of the idea that you are or were once able to do more and go toward the intention behind what chair yoga is about: to support and restore the body and mind."

Eber reminds readers that yoga is not fitness, but rather a marriage of breath, movement and meditation, which can ultimately lead to a peaceful way of living. And who wouldn't want that? 🏡

Resource:

Divine Dwelling, Fort Wayne, vicki@divine-dwelling.com, divine-dwelling.com

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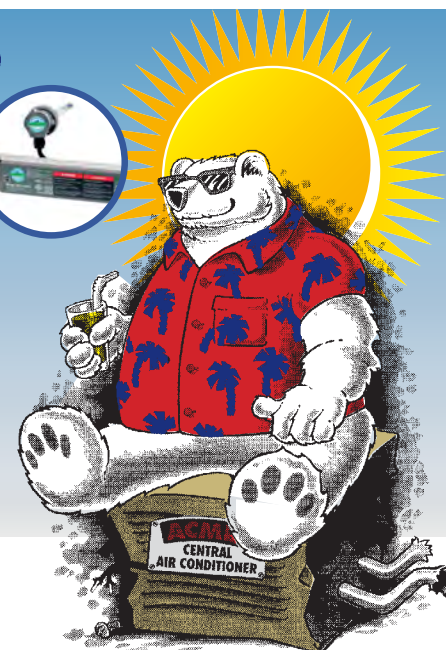
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Harvesting Herbs

By Barb Sieminski

In July, many gardeners look forward to corn and tomatoes. But while those are the prized plants of summertime, others have been patiently waiting in the wings: herbs.

Salad lovers enjoy growing basil, mint, thyme, oregano, rosemary, sage, marjoram, lavender and other herbs in their gardens.

If you started your herbs from seeds in pots, get them outside as soon as possible as they prefer to be in the ground where they can spread out – sometimes as much as 4 to 6 feet.

Outdoor planting in our zone (# 5) begins after May 15, although it was a close call this year, as we had snow the day before that. Benefits to growing your own herb garden include being able to pick just the right amount needed for a salad, as one pack of herb seeds can produce literally hundreds of dollars of herbs. Plus, growing your own ensures your garden will be clean and safe.

Perennials like sage, thyme, lavender, chives and mint do not need to be replanted each year. However, do not plant mint with other herbs due to its invasive properties. Another tip if you're growing herbs in pots is to avoid mixing those that like abundant water (chives, mint, chervil, coriander, etc.) with those that prefer well-drained soil, such as rosemary, thyme, sage, bay and oregano.

Want to plant companions with your basil plants? Go with asparagus, beans, beets, cabbage, eggplant, oregano, potatoes and marigolds. It's been thought that growing basil near tomatoes makes each crop taste better. Basil, however, should not be planted with sage or rue.

Bonus tip: if basil is planted near parsley, rosemary, oregano and chili, it has the added benefit of repelling harmful insects, as well as mosquitoes.

Most herbs thrive in full sun about 6 hours a day with well-drained soil. If you don't have such an area in your yard, plant herbs that don't need as much sun.

Would you prefer growing herbs inside year-round? Choose aromatic plants that can live years inside pots, such as scented geranium, bay

laurel, chervil, parsley and rosemary, among others. Start with good quality potting soil that gives good drainage. **Tip:** ordinary garden soil does not drain well in a container. If they are moved outside, use liquid fertilizer; once brought back into the house for winter, much less fertilizer is needed.

We've included a delicious lemony herb salad recipe here.

2 medium carrots, peeled, very thinly-sliced into rounds
½ small red onion, very thinly sliced, rinsed and patted dry
3 cups torn mixed tender herbs (such as mint, parsley and dill)
½ lemon
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
Kosher salt, freshly ground pepper

Toss carrots, onion and herbs in a medium bowl to combine. Finely grate zest from lemon over salad, then cut lemon in half and squeeze juice over. Drizzle with oil, season with salt and pepper, and toss again to coat.

Enjoy your aromatic salad and celebrate the zenith of the year with your own herbs! 🏠



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Power washing - Do's and Don'ts

By Cathy Shouse

Exterior home maintenance typically focuses on landscaping and painting, but another area may creep up—literally. Siding and other exterior surfaces become less attractive because of growths and the elements of nature.

At first, the look of some greenish tint may not be that bad or even noticeable. But, if left there over time, the discoloration can deepen and spread. Procrastinating is easy because the stuff can be most obvious from afar and isn't always at ground or eye level. Then you're preparing to celebrate a graduation or milestone anniversary by inviting a few people over, and removing the mossy stuff makes it onto your to-do list. But what's the best method for getting the job done?

Ross Stanley has owned and operated American Power Wash for about three years and has worked at the 24-year-old company for many years longer. Stanley and his crew are kept busy this season by scheduler Kim Wagner. She shared some reasons why people get expert help with power washing and provided considerations for doing it yourself (DIY).

"We have commercial equipment, which has to do with the PSI (pounds per square inch of pressure)," she said. "The guys can have as much power or as soft as we want. We can reach the second story effectively if that is needed. Also, if you need your siding done, it's best to hire a professional because you don't want water getting under the siding."

The green/blackish moss or algae on the home is normally on the north side, because of the way the sun hits the home's exterior. Not



getting enough sunshine to the area contributes to the moss growing and how much it will grow.

"Last year, it was really bad," Wagner said. "It's dependent on the weather. We spray with a retardant and clean with a cleaning agent, but no matter what you do, you can't stop it from coming back."

Wagner said that safety at home should be a top priority. A homeowner who rarely uses a ladder may put themselves at risk. Plus, when you add in the effort of operating and maneuvering a power sprayer while on a ladder, there is significant risk involved. How much have you really saved if you end up on a trip to the E.R. or worse?

"I always send two men to any job that involves a ladder," Wagner said. "One to do the job and the other to watch the ladder to make sure nothing happens."

DIY power washing involves getting spraying equipment, buying the spray to use, and spending your time and effort. Purchased



equipment will require storage space, and possible damage from animals getting into a storage barn or just lack of use.

Still can't decide? Wagner's last bit of advice is to get a free quote to hire a power wash service, with no obligation.

"We do hundreds of free estimates and that's how we get a lot of our customers," she said. "We also have a lot of repeat customers."



Resource:

American Power Wash, Fort Wayne, 260.486.4061,

www.americanpowerwash.com

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Historic Home Bathroom remodel

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.

This month's Reader DIY project comes from John Renz and Sarah Aubrey who recently remodeled the bathroom in their historic home in the 46807 neighborhood in Fort Wayne.

What was your inspiration for the project?

We always disliked the décor from previous owners, but it was functional and there always seemed to be other rooms or projects to tackle first. Additionally, there was VERY limited storage and none of it made sense. We wanted a brighter, more functional and more open-feeling space.

How long did it take from start to finish?

We started slow – evenings and weekends – fitting work in as we could. Also, we had started the project just before the world turned upside-down due to the COVID-19 crisis. This made it easier in some ways (more time to work on the project) but made sourcing the remaining materials a challenge. Luckily, we had already purchased almost everything prior to the shut down. So, the timeline was initially spread out, but about 80 hours of total work.

Was it easier or harder than you anticipated?

Harder. It always is with these types of projects.

What was the total cost of the project?

About \$2,500.

What did you like best about the undertaking?

The sense of accomplishment when it was all done! Plus, seeing the plan come a little closer to fruition with the completion of each step. It's now not only a space we use, but also a space we enjoy.

What was the most challenging aspect?

Since it is our only full bathroom, we had to plan the renovations very carefully around our lives. This was complicated by the fact that working with older plumbing and electrical equipment always has unexpected challenges (our house was built in 1905). Replacing some of the in-wall wiring and refitting the claw foot tub with a new faucet and shower were particularly difficult.

Where did you source the materials?

North Side Plumbing, Ikea, Home Depot, Amazon, Signature Hardware. The finishing touches (all art and décor, including the plant and a shelf built from wood scraps) were found items from other areas in the house – because we had to shelter in place. 🏠



After



Before



July

By Ray Balogh

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

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Botanical Conservatory

- "Miracle of Flight" Live Butterfly Exhibit (through July 5), regular admission
- "Present Tense, Future Calm" garden exhibit (through Nov. 14), regular admission
- Saturday, July 11, Daylily Show, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Thursday, July 16, Forest Bathing Walk, 9:30 a.m.-noon, \$17/person
- Tuesday, July 21, Garden Preschool, 10 a.m.-11 a.m., \$6/child
- Sunday, July 26, Iris Sale, noon-3 p.m.

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

Embassy Theatre

- Sunday, July 8, "Summer Nights at the Embassy: Sunny Taylor," 5 p.m., \$5 general admission
- Sunday, July 15, "Summer Nights at the Embassy: Kent Young," 5 p.m., \$5 general admission
- Sunday, July 22, "Summer Nights at the Embassy: Todd Harrold Band," 5 p.m., \$5 general admission
- Sunday, July 29, "Summer Nights at the Embassy: Shelly Dixon Band," 5 p.m., \$5 general admission

125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne. 800.745.3000, fwembassytheatre.org.

Memorial Coliseum

- Saturday, July 4, Independence Day parade and ceremony, parade will commence at 11 a.m. at State Street and Parnell Avenue, with ceremony to immediately follow at the Coliseum Memorial Hall at Veterans Plaza, free admission
- 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 (unless otherwise indicated), free admission, bring your own lawn chair.
- Saturday, July 4, "Fresh Horses" Garth Brooks tribute, on Niswonger PAC lawn
- Friday, July 17, "The Linda Ronstadt Experience" touring tribute
- Friday, July 24, Fort Wayne-based Old Crown Brass Band

10700 SR 118, Van Wert. 419.238.6722, npacvw.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)
- Salvador Dali's Stairway to Heaven: Illustrations for Les Chants de Maldoror and the Divine Comedy (through Aug. 16)
- Hidden Truths: New Paintings by Francisco Valverde (through Aug. 30)
- Here and Now: A Survey on New Contemporary Art (through Aug. 30)
- Hope Dies Last: The New Armenia — Photographs by Michelle Andonian (through Sept. 27)

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, July 9, 2nd Thursday in the Paradigm Gallery, glassblowing demonstration and trunk show, 5 p.m.-7:30 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.

Shipshewana Blue Gate Theatre

- Selected days and times through Oct. 31, "Josiah for President: The Musical," Music Hall, \$38.95
 - Friday-Saturday, July 10-11, PBR Bull Fest, 7:30 p.m., \$24.95/\$49.95/\$89.95, Michiana Events Center, 455 E. Farver St.
 - Monday, July 20 through Saturday, Sept. 5, selected days and times, "Salute to the Stars: Presley, Parton & Cash," Music Hall, \$24.95
 - Friday, July 24, Anthem Lights, 8 p.m., \$19.95 to \$54.95
 - Saturday, July 25, Gary Puckett & the Union Gap, 8 p.m., \$19.95 to \$59.95
 - Friday, July 31, Ball Brothers, 7 p.m., Music Hall, \$24.95
 - Friday, July 31, Lonestar, 8 p.m., \$29.95 to \$89.95
- 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.

Stroede Center for the Arts

• Saturday, July 11, Cinema at the Stroede: "Stalag 17," 7:30 p.m., free admission
319 Wade Ave., Defiance. 419.784.3401, defiancearts.org.

1, 3-4, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29 SHIPSEWANA: Shipshewana Flea Market

Midwest's largest flea market with more than 700 open-air booths on 40 acres.
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Also open noon-8 p.m. with fireworks
at dusk Friday, July 3, and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, July 4. Free admission.
260.768.4129, shipshewanatradingplace.com/flea-market.

2 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.

3 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, wabashmarket-
place.org.

4, 11, 18, 25 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.

4, 11, 18, 25 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.

5 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.

10-12 ANGOLA: Balloons Aloft

Hot air balloon pilots compete for prizes over Northern Indiana lakes country.
Includes classic car cruise. Free admission. Balloons fly Friday and Saturday eve-
ning, Saturday and Sunday morning. Angola High School, 350 S. John McBride Ave.
260.665.5386, angolaballoonsaloft.com.

11-18 LAGRANGE: LaGrange County 4-H Fair

67th annual family-friendly fair. Admission charge. Fairgrounds, 1030 E. 075.
260.463.3826, lagrangecounty4hfair.org.

16-18 ST. JOE: Pickle Festival

Celebrate everything pickles. Pickle derby, pickle tastings, fish fry, vendors, live
music, parades, kids' area, contests, fireworks. Free admission. Thursday through
Saturday, downtown. 260.337.5461, stjoepicklefestival.org.

18-23 BLUFFTON: Wells County 4-H Fair

Exhibits, livestock shows, musical groups, nature programs, kids' activities, rodeo.
Free admission. Saturday through Thursday, fairgrounds, 1240 4-H Park Road.
260.824.6412, wells4h.com.

24-25 ANGOLA: Crooked Lake Sandbar Music Festival

A variety of acts perform at the Crooked Lake sandbar. Proceeds benefit the
Community Humane Shelter of Steuben County. Free admission, donations accept-
ed. 3 p.m.-10 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday. Crooked Lake. 260.348.4085,
crookedlakesandbarmusicfest.com.

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5 favorite spots to kayak in Northeast Indiana



Photo by Alec Johnson

By Jaclyn Youhana Garver

Northeast Indiana has 566 miles of flowing water. Stretched end to end those waterways would reach from Fort Wayne to Minneapolis, Minnesota.

With so many rivers, creeks and reservoirs, this region is perfect for exploring on a kayak, a light-framed canoe with a small opening for seating. Here are some of the experts' favorite local routes to take.

Spencerville to Leo

"The seven-mile trip along the St. Joseph River from the Spencerville Covered Bridge into Leo-Cedarville is about a four-hour paddle," said Cara Hall, who owns Fort Wayne Outfitters & Bike Depot, an outdoor specialty shop that rents out kayaks. The route follows State Route 1 southwest, and paddlers will spend most of the time surrounded by nature.

"This route is ideal for beginners," Hall said, so long as you're comfortable with the trip length.

Shoaff Park to Promenade Park

The trip along the St. Joe River to the St. Mary's is one of Hall's favorites, because of the change in scenery: When you start in Shoaff Park in Fort Wayne, the trip is nature-filled, but as you approach the confluence of the three rivers near Headwaters Park, the city appears.

"You're still feeling like you're in nature, yet you have the downtown right beside you," Hall said. "That's pretty cool."

While this trip is good for beginners, Hall warned that kayakers will need to portage their boat around the St. Joe Dam near Johnny Appleseed Park. To portage a kayak is to carry it between two bodies of water or through low water levels. Hall estimates this trip takes about three hours.

Cedar Creek

Kayakers can get on Cedar Creek on the Tonkel Road bridge, which spans the creek about a quarter mile north of Hirsh Road. This trip has a few end-point options: Stay on Cedar Creek and exit before it joins the St. Joe, which will take about three miles and five hours, or paddle onto the St. Joe south to Shoaff Park, which will add a few more hours to the trip.

"Because many Fort Wayne rivers have a silty bottom, they're brown," Hall said. Cedar Creek, however, is clear, and it winds through Metea Park, which means you could see wildlife, including turkey, deer and hawks.



Photos courtesy of
Mongo River Run

Because you'll need to assure the water levels aren't too high or low, Hall recommends this for kayakers with some experience.

Mississinewa Dam

"While this trip is technically outside the Northeast Indiana Water Trails' coverage area, it's a can't-miss paddle," said Kyle Quandt, the water trails' program manager. It stretches from the Mississinewa Dam in Peru about five miles, or three hours, west to the bridge across State Route 124. It passes through the Francis Slocum State Forest and past the Cliffs of the Seven Pillars, a 30-foot high cliff dotted with hollowed-out spaces.

"This formation is the result of hundreds of years of wind and water erosion of the beautiful Limestone banks," Quandt wrote in an email, and the cliffs are often used by the Miami Nation for tribal meetings.

Be sure to check the water levels before making this trip, because they're directly affected by the dam.

Pigeon Creek to Mongo Millpond

The nine-mile, four-hour trip along Pigeon Creek in Orland, Indiana, to the Mongo Dam flows west through LaGrange County. Enter river left on County Road 1100 W (use GPS coordinates 41.67073, -85.19519).

This trip will pass through Department of Natural Resources property, which means the chance of seeing wildlife—including

water fowl, blue heron, cranes, deer, raccoon and beaver—is high. Due to the curving creek, Quandt recommends the trip for experienced kayakers. 🏠



Photos Courtesy of Fort
Wayne Outfitters

Copp Farm Supply

Mike Copp



By Rod King

Farmers within a 100-mile radius of Columbia City have come to know that when they're in need of seeds, fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and expert advice on how to use them, the place to go is Copp Farm Supply. They've been at it since 1957 in the same location.

As CEO Mike Copp put it "every product we sell is used on our 800-plus-acre farm west of Columbia City. We're essentially testing them so that we're able to know what our equipment or new products are going to do for our customers. That's what built this business and what our customers expect from us."

Copp Farm Supply's main focus, especially in the spring, is getting seeds to farmers who are preparing their fields for planting. They provide seed corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, oats, rye, cover crops (sorghum, radishes and turnips) and pasture mixes, along with wild-flower, lawn and food plot seeds. Copp is an authorized dealer for Bayer, BASF, Corteva, Syngenta, FMC, AmVac and Valent and also sells Stine, Specialty, Champion & Brevant seeds.

In addition, their inventory includes the equipment to cultivate the ground and get the seeds planted, the machines to spray and the rotary cutters to maintain the fields.

Chemicals, too, are a big part of Copp's business. They sell bagged fertilizers for lawns and gardens, liquid fertilizers for crops, herbicides to control broadleaf weeds, fungicides for field crops, micro nutrients for gardens and field crops, specialty chemicals to control algae growth in

FARMER'S FRIEND--Son of Copp Farm Supply founder, Mike Copp, has been heading the company since 1999 when his father died. The company has been supplying seeds, chemicals and parts to farmers from Central Indiana, Western Ohio and Southern Michigan for the past 74 years. (Photo provided by Copp Farm Supply)

ponds and insecticides for insects. In other words, Copp's has just about everything covered.

The three-generation firm, which was founded by Harold "Bud" Copp and his wife, Miriam, got its start in Bunker Hill, Indiana in 1947. They had five children and were involved in various farm and farm supply endeavors. He started selling seeds, appliances and furniture and became the Oliver Tractor dealer. They moved to Columbia City ten years later to farm and were active in the farm store until Bud died in 1999.

"Everybody knew dad and he knew everybody," said Mike. "He was loved and respected in the community, and we all turned to him for help, advice and information, which he was always ready to share. He loved to sell and was good at it."

Copp has always been a strong supporter of Columbia City High School sports teams, Little League and Future Farmers of America (FFA). They are heavily involved in the Whitley County 4H Fair. One of Bud's favorite activities was the annual Rotary Club scholarship fundraiser.

"Farmers from as far away as Central Indiana, Western Ohio and Southern Michigan rely on us to provide them with the highest quality seeds, chemicals and parts for their equipment," said Mike. "That's what we do. We've been doing it for a long time and we do it well." 🏡

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Michael Galbraith



By Stacie Ball

"If you really want to live a life that's rewarding professionally, have a great quality of life, work/life balance, and do it in a place that you can raise a family, Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana can't be beat." -Michael Galbraith

I bet Michael Galbraith, originally from Michigan, didn't know he would be saying those words with such fervor when he first moved here several years ago. Before coming to Fort Wayne, he received his undergraduate degrees in French horn and History at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Seeing his passion for music and prestige on the French horn, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic snapped him up; and despite his newfound love of Tex-Mex and southern food, he said goodbye to Texas and hello to Northeast Indiana. Once an Indiana resident, he decided to add to his skill set. He tapped into his inner history nerd and began pursuing his Masters in Historic Preservation from Ball State University.

From there, several opportunities opened up for Galbraith in Fort Wayne. He became Executive Director of the historic preservation nonprofit ARCH and wrote many studies on the historic architecture of Steuben, LaGrange, Wells and Allen Counties for the State of Indiana. Then, he became Director of the Road to One Million at the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership. There he managed the \$42 million Northeast Indiana Regional Cities Initiative Grant and worked to foster population growth, among other responsibilities. Now, he is President of the Downtown Improvement District and hopes to transform the downtown area into the best it can be. And he still plays for the Fort Wayne Philharmonic.

Galbraith has some big plans for downtown.

"I'd like to see Downtown continue to flourish as we build on our existing momentum," he said. "I'd love to see more people on the sidewalks, more thriving shops and restaurants, and more public art and gatherings. There are large parts of Downtown that can still be improved, and I'd love to build better connections with the neighborhoods and commercial corridors that surround downtown. Downtown has to be for everyone. We're not there yet, but we've come an amazing distance in the last twenty years."

Galbraith, his wife (also a musician), and two daughters all share a love for music and Fort Wayne.

"Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana still have a 'niceness' and community spirit that a lot of big cities have lost," he observed, "If you're here for any length of time, you discover that Fort Wayne is a big small town, and that you probably know people in common with a lot of the people you meet."

After moving here, he quickly realized how amazing the quality of life is compared to other cities. His family feels fortunate having the ability to afford a lifestyle that would have been impossible to afford in a bigger city. Galbraith and his family have definitely found their home in Fort Wayne and encourage others to check out this amazing city. 🏡



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