OUR 63RD YEAR



Serving Eastern Berks & Western Lehigh Counties.





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You can directly link to any display advertiser's website through our online edition. HIGHLIGHT & CLICK





Sunday, March 19 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Leesport Union Fire Department E. Wall Street, Leesport 19533

Find All Your Pet's Needs at Adorable Pets in the Leesport **Farmers Market** on Wednesdays located in Building 1.

Haulmark.

GIVLER'S

Auto Clinic

Sno-Pro BRI-MAR

Cat Shots FVRCP

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Trailer

Inspections &

R'epairs

162 N. Centre Ave., P.O. Box 365, Leesport, PA 19533

www.AdorablePetsOnline.com

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EAR CLEANING

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Clinic

Special

\$800

each

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Monday through Friday 7am – 5pm. PST (*231799)



DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER? You may qualify for a substantial cash award even with smoking history. NO obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help!! Call 1-888-650-9135 (*235628).

MOTORCYCLES/ATV'S

WANTED! MOTORCYCLES! Antique and Classic. Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki, Yamaha, Triumph, BSA and other foreign models. Paying Ca\$h. Please Call 717-577-8206 KR-Miller1965@yahoo. (*234829).

MOBILE HOMES

Drive A Little, \$ave a Lot! New single wides \$60,900; Double wides \$101,900; Modulars \$139,900; We will not be undersold. 717-875-1288.

MISCELLANEOUS SEASONAL **EQUIPMENT** HAND MADE QUILT: Earthy

/Camping themed with neutral FREE REMOVAL of uncolors. 168X78. Can see pics at wanted riding mowers, 484-523-5514. Machine quilted motorcycles, snowmo-biles, rototillers, generafor stability and lasting wear. \$300. Brand New, Just fintors, ATV's, 3-wheelers, go-carts, golf carts, snow-blowers, lawn carts. Call NEED IRS RELIEF \$10K-610-554-2946. \$125K+ Get Fresh Start or For-

EMAIL in your advertisment

LARGE DOWNSIZING AUCTION

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES, FARM PRIMITIVES, **AUTO., BEER & SODA ADV. ITEMS** AND SO MUCH MORE!

Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

Location: Indoors at Shoemakersville Fire Co. banquet hall, 300 Church Ave., Shoemakersville, PA 19555. WAGNER AUCTION SERVICE, LLC **Auction For:** AU-3172L, AU-1427L · 610.741.3828 KING FAMILY

KERINGS)

Boiler Assemblers & Block Assemblers!!!

Healthcare 1st day (see side bar)

Great USW Union Benefits, after 60 working days Call 610-473-1009 for an interview

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

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(The company will pay one month of Cobra and enroll new employee after 30 days for those new employees who can provide an active healthcare card)

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10:15 am: Die Schwadore Schalle - Children and adults sing in PA German 11:00 am: Children's Activity - PA German rhymes and songs with Mary Laub 11:30 am: James Dibert - "Following the trail of our PA German Ancestors" 12:15 pm: Children's Activity - PA German story with Mary Laub 12:45 pm: Dave Carlson - "Clothing through the Centuries" 1:30 pm: Children's Activity - PA German songs with Mary Laub 2:00 pm: Doug Madenford & Chris LaRose - "Ask a Pa Dutchman: a Mix of PA Dutch Humor and Music' Silent Auction will be operating all day! Food from Midway Diner! Contact: zammelaaf@gmail.com

II PA German Zammelaaf



Order by phone or email: 610.488.1783 stmichaels529@gmail.com

Please pay at pick-up in social hall.

St. Michael's Church

529 St. Michael's Rd., Hamburg, PA 19526



Sun., March 26, 2023 12 NOON - SOLD OUT All Preorders Must Be Picked Up By 3 PM KUTZTOWN GRANGE HALL

TAKE-OUT DINNER INCLUDES: Homemade Pulled Pork - 1/3 lb., Kaiser Roll On Side, Homemade BBQ Sauce On Side, Side of Homemade Macaroni & Cheese, Side of Homemade Macaroni & Cheese, Side of Homemade Baked Beans, Applesauce Cup, Bottle Of Water Cost: \$12/Meal

TAKEOUT DINNERS ONLY
Preorders Accepted But Not Required
Preorders Due By Friday, March 17, 2023
Preorders Contact:

Nancy: 610.763.3063 or Stacey: 570.449.9656 lease Leave A Message w/Name/Phone Number # Of Dinners If No Answer

WINTER HOURS: Wed. & Thurs. 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Fri. & Sat. 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Sandwiches **Platters** Homemade Desserts The-Eck.com VISA COD EST...

Dine-In & Takeout

LENHARTSVILLE, PA • 610.562.8520

This Week: Mar. 15, 16 & 17 Next Week: Mar. 22, 23 & 24 Mar. 29, 30 & 31 Apr. 5, 6 & 7

Pork Mit Kraut Shepherd's Pie Pig Stomach Corn Pie Chicken Pot Pie

Mother's Day Buffet Info Available On The-Eck.com

Apr. 12, 13 & 14



Mon.: Burger Night Tues.: Tex Mex Night - Fajita & Quesadilla Specials Wed.: Steak Night • Thurs.: Shrimp Night



Friday, March 17[™] - Saturday, March 18[™]

Feast On Some Irish Favorites Including Corned Beef & Cabbage, Rueben's & Guinness.

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223 Peach Street Leesport, PA 19533 610-926-2737

Donna Leibensperger Parr, Supervisor

and Grip the Road in Cold Temps

230 South Franklin Street SHOEMAKERSVILLE • 610-562-2567 HOURS: MON. THRU FRI. 7:30 TO 5; SAT. & SUN CLOSED www.kantnerstire.com

Derek M.D. Leibensperger, Supervisor

Fax: 610-562-9140 • www.leibenspergerfuneralhomes.com

Service Rating

'SENIORS" 60+ **COLORING CONTEST**

www.epvmerchandiser.com CALLING ALL AMATEURS AGE 60 & OVER! ENTER TO WIN PRIZES!

Contest Rules: Color the picture with crayons, paints, pens, markers, or anything you like. For this contest, an eligible 'Senior" is anyone age 60 or older. Entries must be received before 4 pm on Thursday, March 30, 2023. Mail or drop off entries: The Windsor Press, Inc., 6 N. Third St., PO Box 465-SCC, Hamburg, PA 19526-0465. Be sure to include all entry form information. Prizes scheduled to be announced in the April 5, 2023 issues of the East Penn Valley & the Northern Berks Merchandisers! PRIZES <u>MUST</u> BE PICKED UP IN PERSON WITH I.D. BY THE WINNER AT OUR OFFICE (preferably Thursday or Friday, April 6th or 7th, 2023 between 10 am to 4 pm). Do your best and have fun! ONLY ONE ENTRY PER PERSON.

The Windsor Press, Inc employees & their immediate families are not eligible.



RECEIVE AN EMAIL TO VIEW OUR ISSUES EACH WEEK!!!

Email Your Email Address To: display@windsorpress.com with your request!

YOU MAY ALSO CALL US TO PROVIDE YOUR **EMAIL ADDRESS, BUT EMAILING IS BEST!**

DEAN R. ARNER, AUCTIONEER, LLC PUBLIC AUCTION!

Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 10:00 AM Location: Andreas Station House, 42 Andreas Road, Andreas, PA 18211.

Pyrex bowls, Fenton glassware, Tonka trks., Matchbox cars, CI items, adv. tins, vintage toys, vintage lamps, Plasticville platform houses and much more! Check full listing and photos at

www.deanarnerauctions.com.

DEAN R. ARNER AUCTIONEER, LLC

AY-002077L • Ph.: 570.386.3389

DEAN R. ARNER, AUCTIONEER, LLC

5TH ANNUAL CARBON COUNTY FAIR CONSIGNMENT AUCTION!

Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. Location: 275 Grange Road, Lehighton, PA 18235. Hit & Miss engine, lawn mowers, snowblowers, chainsaws, chains, pressure washers, string trimmers, patio set & air tools, pancake air compressor, snow blades galvanized tubs, garden tools & much more! Check full listing & photos at ww.deanarnerauctions.com. DEAN R. ARNER AUCTIONEER, LLC AY-002077L • Ph.: 570.386.3389

DEAN R. ARNER, AUCTIONEER, LLC 5TH ANNUAL CARBON COUNTY FAIR **CONSIGNMENT AUCTION!**

Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. Location: 275 Grange Road, Lehighton, PA 18235. The Fair Association is still accepting consignments for this auction! Please call the fair representative. Butch Wentzel at 570.386.2190 or 570.516.2746 or Kristen Simmons at 570.778.9026.

Check full listing & photos at ww.deanarnerauctions.com. DEAN R. ARNER AUCTIONEER, LLC AY-002077L • Ph.: 570.386.3389

DEAN R. ARNER, AUCTIONEER, LLC PUBLIC AUCTION!

Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM Location: Andreas Station House, 42 Andreas Road

Andreas, PA 18211. Advertising signs, menu boards, clocks & crates/boxes antiques, crocks, sleigh bells, rooster weathervane

country smalls, Pez dispensers, farm bowls, locks washboards, humpback trunk & much more! Check full listing and photos at www.deanarnerauctions.com.

DEAN R. ARNER AUCTIONEER, LLC

AY-002077L • Ph.: 570.386.3389

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306 State St., Hamburg, PA 19526 610.562.2738

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5246 (*228692)

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PRESS. INC.

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For more information contact our Classified Department



Six North Third Street P.O. Box 465 Hamburg, PA 19526-0465 610-562-2267 classifieds@windsorpress.com www.windsorpress.com

DERFLER'S ONLINE AUCTION

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. **ONLINE AUCTION OF TOOLS, FURNITURE** & COLLECTIBLES.

Another Large & Varied Auction. Bidding will be at derflers.hibid.com.

DERFLER'S AUCTION ROBERT W. DERFLER, AUCTIONEER, AU2682-L Pine Grove, PA • 570.345.8262

FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE: 1275 sq ft \$1850/mo. Fleetwood. Large reception area, 3 offices, conference room, kitchen, full bath. 2 file closets, 4 parking spaces. Info: eastpennselfstorage.

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Yourself?

15085 Kutztown Rd.,

Kutztown, PA

610.683.7324

We Sell Parts!

FOR RENT

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East Penn Valley Service Directory

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Total Amount Paid \$ Check #

STEP #6 choose method of payment

(PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY AD)

Bring Ad and Payment To Our Location At: 6 N. Third St., Hamburg, PA 19526

Please have your wisa account number and expiration date available.

☐ East Penn Valley Merchandiser

■ Northern Berks Merchandiser

☐ Both (Cost Would Be Double)

Enter Starting Date Of Ad

Credit Card Information: NAME ON CARD

TYPE OF CARD: VISA_____ MasterCard__

Place Your Ad By Phone By Calling 610.562.2267

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AMF Real Estate Services

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for Sale or Resale, Babysitting Service, Help Wanted, Busi-

NESS LISTINGS, etc.

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FOR RENT

FIRST FLOOR 2 BR Apt. the country near rigsburg. \$1000/mo. Orwigsburg. \$1000/mo. Plus security deposit. Most utilities included, no pets. Call 570-728-3769.

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FOR RENT

Summit Station 2 BR, 2 story house, newly renovated. Washer/ dryer hookup, large yard \$995. Call 610-562-8603. No pets please.

REAL ESTATE OFFICE SPACE: 1275 sq ft Fleetwood, \$1850/mo. Large reception area, 3 of-

fices, conference room, kitchen, full bath, 2 file closets, 4 parking spaces. Info: eastpennselfstorage.





CREAM PUFF DESSERT

1 c. water 1/2 c. butter 1 c. flour

1 (8 oz.) cream cheese 1/4 c. milk

2 pkgs. instant vanilla pudding 2-1/2 c. milk

Heat water & butter to near boiling. Remove from heat, add flour. Add eggs mix with wire whisk until smooth. Pour in greased 9x13 pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 25 minutes. Mix cream cheese and 1/4 cup milk until smooth. Mix pudding and remaining milk. Stir together. After the pastry is cool; pour the pudding mixture on top; spread evenly. Serve with Cool Whip.

Send your recipes to: The Windsor Press. Inc. 6 N. Third St., PO Box 465, Hamburg, PA 19526-0456 Fax: 610.562.2770 or E-mail: display@windsorpress.com

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03-16-23 03-16-23 03-18-23 03-18-23 03-19-23 03-20-23 03-20-23 03-25-23 03-26-23 04-01-23	Online Only Andreas Station Hs., 42 Andreas Rd. 3462 Sweet Arrow Lake Rd., Pine Grove 275 Grange Rd., Lehighton Beltzner Hall, Kutztown Fairgrounds Shoemakersville Fire Co., Banquet Hall Andreas Station Hs., 42 Andreas Rd. Leesport Fire Co. Social Hall 31 Hill Alley, Bethel 3 Hickory Court, Orwigsburg 120 S. Hilltop Rd., New Ringgold 124 Rhoads Rd., Kutztown	R. Derfler D. Arner R. Derfler D. Arner G. Miller IV Wagner Auc. Serv. D. Arner K. Leiby Millers Auc. Ctr. K. Leiby Wagner Auc. Serv. Wagner Auc. Serv. Wagner Auc. Serv.
04-08-23 04-08-23 04-15-23	1126 Moselem Springs Rd., Rt. 662, Hamburg Shoemakersville Fire Co., Banquet Hall Birch Hill Rd., Perry Twp., Shoemakersville	K. Ľeiby Wagner Auc. Serv. K. Leiby
04-29-23 05-06-23 05-20-23	120 S. Hilltop Rd., New Ringgold Rt. 61, Perry Twp., Shoemakersville Shoemakersville Fire Co., Banquet Hall 3116 Mar Cor Drive, Sinking Spring Leesport Fire Co. Social Hall	Wagner Auc. Serv. K. Leiby Wagner Auc. Serv. K. Leiby K. Leiby

K. Leiby THE ABOVE AUCTIONS ARE CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN THE EAST PENN VALLEY AND/OR NORTHERN BERKS MERCHANDISER.
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33.

DEADLINES FOR ALL CLASSIFIEDS IS THURSDAY, 5:00 PM

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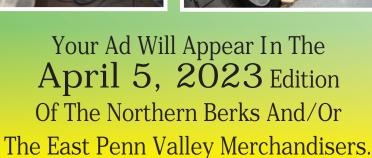
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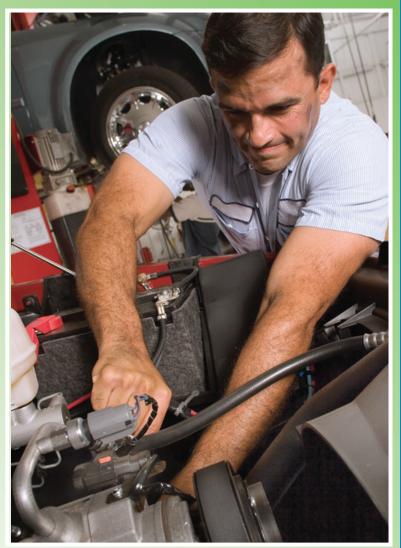












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DEADLINE: Monday, March 27, 2023



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Inflation is at 40 year highs. Interest rates are way up. Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Do you have \$10k or more in debt? Call NATION-AL DEBT RELIEF and find out how to pay off your debt for significantly less than what you owe! FREE quote: Call 1-866-272-0492 (*236737).

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TOYS WANTED: Trains and accessories, makes. Toy soldiers and other figures, Christmas things, space toys, robots, mechanical banks, trucks, boats, wagons. buildings, fire engines, airplanes, windups, pedal cars, marbles, farm toys, candy, containers, erector sets. Call George 610-372-1681 with any old toys.

AUTOMOBILES/ TRUCKS

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NORTHERN BERKS **Merchandiser** EAST PENN VALLEY Merchandiser

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OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. YOU CAN CALL. FAX OR EMAIL US ANYTIME Family owned and independent since 1958 WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

The Windsor Press, Incorporated, publishers of the Northern Berks Merchandiser and East Penn Valley Merchandiser, reserves the right to review all material submitted for publication, and to reject any material, in whole or part, which The Windsor Press, Incorporated, in its sole opinion deems inappropriate for publication.

We assume no financial responsibility for any typographical errors in any advertisement, but will reprint that portion of an ad in which an error

The closing time for both the Northern Berks Merchandiser and the East Penn Valley Merchandiser "classified advertisement" and the East Penn Valley "display advertisement" is Thursday at 4:00 p.m. of the week prior to publication; the Northern Berks display advertisement is Friday noon. Any deviation from this will be published in both papers.

Play Our Monthly Search Game I OOK FOR THE EYES! (minimum of a \$25.00 prize)

Look for the owl's eyes somewhere in the last issue of the month in the East Penn Valley or Northern Berks Merchandiser and win!

Once you have found the eyes, e-mail the page number, edition & advertiser's name on ad, along with your Name, Address and Phone Number to: display@windsorpress.com. Please enter "EYES" in subject line of your e-mail. Entries must be received by Friday at 10 AM the week of the issue.

Winner will be announced in the following week's Merchandisers.

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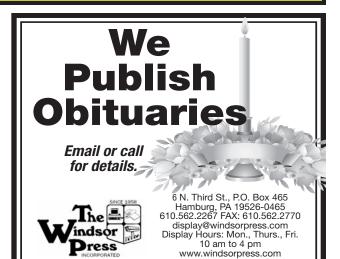
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What Causes Curled Shingles?

No homeowner wants to look at the exterior of his or her home and see roof damage. Such damage may lead homeowners to think they need a new roof, a potentially costly expense that can quickly throw household budgets into a state of disarray. Various factors, including the size of a home and the type of roof homeowners prefer, will affect the cost of a roof replacement. In addition, homeowners who see roof damage can rest assured that not all roof problems will necessarily require a replacement roof installed.

Curled shingles are a problem homeowners encountered. This particular problem is not always indicative that a roof is on its way out. In fact, the home improvement resource This Old House notes that, as asphalt shingles age, their corners often begin to curl downward upward. Homeowners who notice this

early enough can glue down the curled section of each shingle that's beginning to curl.

Some shingles may be curling because they're defective. Fortified Roofing, a New Jersey-based roofing company that specializes in the repairing and replacing of various roofing configurations, advises home-owners to contact a local roofing professional to diagnose the cause of the curling. Doing so quickly can prevent curled shingles from contributing to more widespread damage.

Moisture and poor ventilation may be contributing to curled shingles as well. Homeowners with attics in their home may see curled shingles on their roofs because moisture is building up in their poorly ventilated attics. In addition to causing damage such as curled shingles, a poorly ventilated attic allows moisture to build up, potentially contributing to mold growth. Mold presents a host of



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additional problems, including some that can adversely affect the health of a home's inhabi-

Improper roof installation also may be the culprit behind curled shingles. When a roof is not installed correctly, shingles may not be aligned or nailed down in the right way. This might be what's causing shingles to curl on recently installed roofs.

Curled shingles are unsightly and can pose a significant threat to a home if not addressed promptly. Homeowners can protect themselves and their roofs by working with skilled roofing professionals, who can diagnose issues like curled shingles and offer the right solutions.



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Get Ahead Of Chimney Repair This Season

Woodburning fireplaces or fuel stoves can add warmth and ambiance to a home. These appliances are particularly coveted in the cooler months when people spend more time indoors. Maintenance is necessary in order for fireplaces and stoves to function safely, and that upkeep must include paying close attention to the functionality of the chimney.

Chimneys are designed to last for decades. Cracks and spalling in brick chimneys are common concerns that can cause significant damage if left unchecked.

Chimney maintenance involves more than cleaning the flue. Rather than running the risk of costly repairs, which can cost several thousand dollars, homeowners can take some simple steps to keep their chimneys in tip-top shape. Certain components of chimney maintenance are do-it-yourself tasks, while others may be better left to the preferences.

ter left to the professionals.

• Start from the inside and ensure that dampers are working properly. When using fireplaces and other appliances, dampers need to be open to allow smoke to vent outside; otherwise, smoke will be trapped in the home and could lead to carbon monoxide buildup. Dampers need to be fixed or replaced if they are not operational. Replacement fireplace dampers should be snug



and not have any gaps, states Vertical Chimney Care.

 Conduct a visual inspection of the chimney to check for any cracks or spalling. Spalling is the wearing away of masonry due to water, weather and time. If enough of the material erodes, that erosion can adversely affect the structural integrity of the chimney. Some repairs can be made by patching up cracks or replacing missing bricks. Chimney tuckpointing is the process of repairing mortar.

• Think about waterproofing the chimney to prevent damage. A water sealant applied to the outside of the chimney can prevent moisture from breaking down the masonry.

• Inspect and replace the chimney cap if it is worn out. A chimney cap is a contraption that sits atop the chimney to allow the smoke to vent while also preventing critters and water from going inside the flue, helping to extend the flue life. The chimney cap attaches to the flue liner, so outside dimensions should be taken to ensure the cap is the right size for the chimney.

 Have the chimney swept. Sweeping helps remove the soot and debris that clings to the inside of the flue, known as creosote. The amount of time the fireplace is used will determine how often the chimney must be cleaned. Generally speaking, the chimney liner needs to be cleaned if it has 1/8-inch or more of soot.

Regular inspection and maintenance can help keep a chimney working safely for decades. For those who do not like working at such an elevation, leave exterior chimney repair to a certified professional.





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Why Homeowners Show Add More Exterior Light To Their Properties

Homeowners are increasingly realizing the benefits of improving the exteriors of their home, which can be just as valuable as improving the interior spaces. As individuals design picturesque garden beds and cultivate lavish lawns or revamp exteriors with architectural features, they probably want to spotlight these improvements. This is where exterior lighting can be put to great use.

Exterior illumination can cast a glow on various features, but there are many other reasons to increase lighting around the exterior of a home.

- Safety: Trips and falls can occur at night when trying to traverse walkways and landscapes in the dark, as it can be difficult to see rocks, stairs and uneven pavement. Outdoor lighting can illuminate pathways, entryways and other areas for safer access for homeowners and their guests.
- · Extend outdoor entertaining: Ample lighting can increase the amount of time one can use outdoor spaces and make them the perfect gathering spot. As autumn arrives, days become shorter. However, patios, porches and more can get extended use with lighting.
- Safeguard security: A well-lit home may be less likely to be targeted by burglars than one swathed in darkness and shadows. Lights can remain on all evening or be motion-triggered. Setting lights on timers also ensures that the home is illuminated whether residents are home or not.
- Create drama: Landscape lighting designers can establish focal points around the landscape and highlight the best features of a property. Uplighting in trees, silhouetting techniques to showcase plants and spotlights to show off architectural features are all options for homeowners to consider.
- · Add value: The experts at Parker Homescape, a landscape design service, say that exterior lighting can add roughly 30 percent to the value of a home. They also indicate that 50 percent of all home buyers say that outdoor lighting is important when buying a home. If current residents are thinking about selling, now may be the time to invest in exterior light-

Improving a home's exterior may be as simple as adding more lighting to improve functionality and beauty.





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How To Remove Mildew From Your Home's Exterior

Homeowners want their residences to look inviting inside and out. Part of keeping an attractive property involves addressing issues that can compromise not only the appearance of a home, but even its integrity.

People who live in regions with high humidity may find their homes are vulnerable to exterior mildew growth. Mildew is a kind of mold. Molds include all species of microscopic fungi that grow in the form of hyphae, which are multicellular filaments, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Mold thrives on any organic matter and surfaces with moisture management problems. Mildew, in particular, lives on shower walls, windowsills and other places where moisture levels are high. Mildew also can grow on home siding as well as fences and other exterior structures. While typically gray or white, mildew can be various colors.

Experts recommend various cleansers to help combat the issue of mildew on a home. One of the first products that homeowners tend to reach for is sodium hypochlorite, which is a standard bleach used in laundry and pool sanitation. While sodium hypochlorite seems to make mildew vanish, those at This Old House say that chlorine evaporates too quickly to get to mildew's roots on porous surfaces, such as wood or vinvl siding. Bleach also can stain clothing and damage foliage around the house. Hydrogen peroxide, or oxygen bleach, is less volatile, will not affect foliage and can clean mildew, algae and dirt on and below the surface

Trisodium phosphate is another effective cleanser. Commonly known as TSP, it often succeeds where other solutions fail in regard to stubborn stains and mildew. TSP also works well on various exterior surfaces. TSP needs to be used with extreme caution. When using TSP, wear long sleeves, gloves, goggles, and a respiratory mask, says I oday's Homeowner. The product also requires adequate ventilation. There also are some environmental concerns, as TSP can damage foliage. In addition, if the product ends up in lakes and streams, it can trigger an overgrowth of algae that results in the depletion of oxygen levels in the water. Ecoconscious homeowners may want to try oxy cleansers before

Mildew shies away from bright sunlight, so it tends to grow on the north side of homes. Removing trees or other foliage that can further block sunlight to areas of the house can help eradicate mildew growth and stop it before it starts. Another tactic is to clean out gutters regularly and thoroughly to reduce moisture and to prevent decomposing debris from running over the edge of the gutters. This runoff can drip down the home-'s siding and spread the mildew to other areas.

Mildew can be problematic any time of year. Clean up mildew when the weather cools down to spruce up the look of a home.



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Why Excavation Is Best Left To The Professionals

Email: twoguys61@yahoo.com

When shopping for a home, buyers often try to envision themselves living in a given property. Images of family gatherings and holidays may instantly come to mind, but prospective homeowners also may begin to envision changes they would make to a property if they were eventually to call it

Changing an existing structure or building an entirely new home on an empty plot of land can be exciting. Such changes typically require excavation, which is a complicated process that may be necessary for pro-

jects big or small. WHAT IS EXCAVATION?

Excavation is the process of extracting material from the ground by digging. Earth, rock and other materials may be moved during the excavation

CAN DO-IT-YOURSELFERS EXCAVATE?

Skilled DIYers who have participated in excavation projects in the past may be able to handle a project on their own. However, it's important that homeowners recognize that excavation is about more than just digging in the ground. It's a complicated process that requires the use of specialized tools and equipment. In addition, a strong understanding of the land that will be excavated is required for the project to be safe and go smoothly.

WHY HIRE AN EXCAVATION PROFESSIONAL?

Even the most skilled DIYer might be better off hiring an excavation professional than going it alone. That's true for a number of reasons.

· Liability: Homeowners who hire a fully licensed and insured professional excavation firm can rest easy knowing that they will not be responsible for any damages or injuries that may occur during the project.

· Permits/requirements: A professional excavation firm typically files all the necessary paperwork for work permits or can advise which permits homeowners will need to go forward with the project. In addition, professionals will know the local laws regarding building and excavation. For example, homeowners may be unfamiliar with the concept of lateral support, which refers to landowners' right to have their land physisupported in its natural state by adjoining land and underground structures. This is an important concept to understand during an excavation project, and professionals can advise homeowners if a project they want to undertake will vio-

late lateral support laws. • Experience: Perhaps the best reason to work with excavation professionals is their experience. A lack of excavation experience can result in damage to a homeowner's property and surrounding properties, which can prove costly. DIYers may not know the type of soil they have on their property nor recognize the different types of challenges each type of soil can present during an excavation project. Such knowledge comes with experience and is often invaluable.

Skilled DIYers can tackle many home improvement projects on their own. However, the complex nature of excavation makes these types of projects the kind that are best left to skilled professionals.

Design Ideas To Give Your Home A Farmhouse Feel

Farmhouse style homes are having a moment. A 2020 survey from Homes.com asked more than 5,000 adults across the United States about their favorite house style from a list that included bohemian craftsmid-century modern ranch, French chateau, and Tudor, among others. Modern farmhouse was the runaway winner, as participants in 42 of the 50 states indicated this simple, cozy style was their favorite.

Home renovation projects can help homeowners put their own unique stamp on their homes, and such projects can be both aesthetic and functional in nature. The following are some farmhouse design elements homeowners can consider as they look to transform their home interiors with this popular style in mind.

· Exposed beams: Exposed beams instantly evoke images of a farmhouse. The home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that this rustic renovation project can utilize real wood or faux beams that look like the real thing. Decorative beams that have nothing to do with a home's structural integrity can be installed by skilled do-it-yourselfers. However, even faux beams are heavy, and BobVila.com recommends homeowners have an engineer assess their existing structure prior to installation.

Distressed wood finishes: Distressing is designed to make something look less than perfect. Distressed wood finishes can be found throughout many farmhouse style Furniture and picture frames can provide the distressed look farmhouse fans are looking for. This is a relatively inexpensive project that many homeowners can tackle on their own after watching some online tutorials that recommend the right tools and techniques to get the job done right.

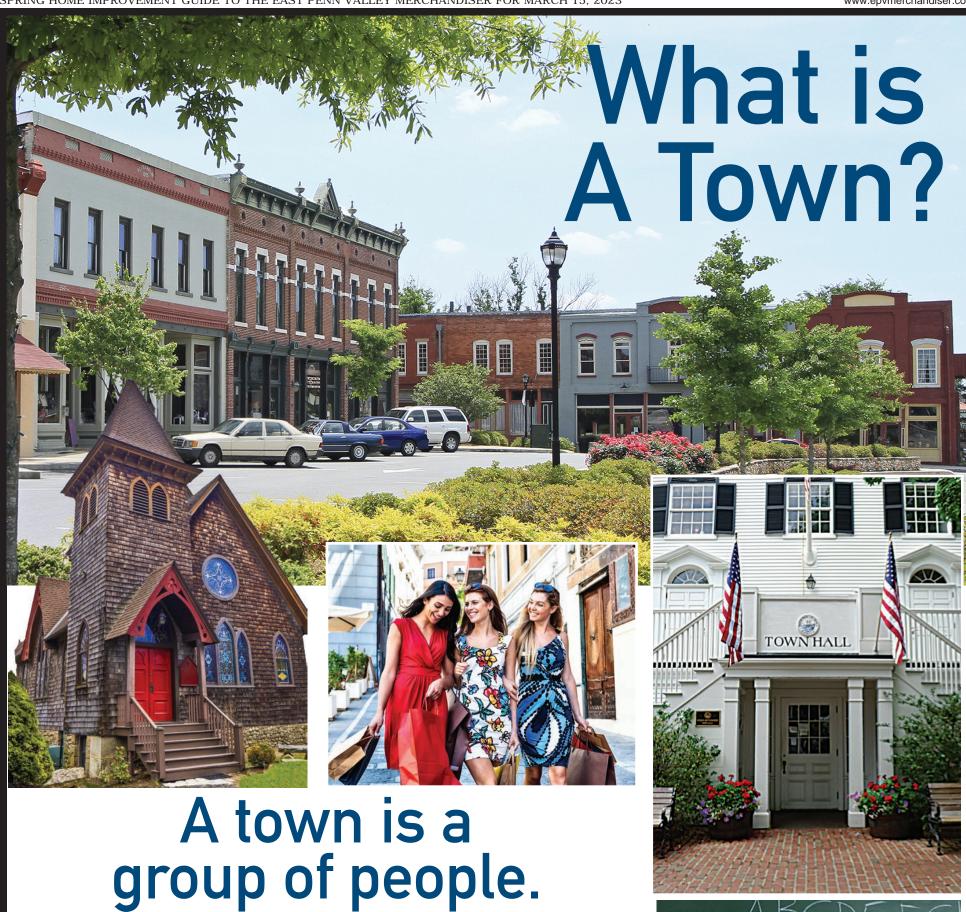
· Kitchen sink: Many components combine to create a truly classic farmhouse kitchen. But perhaps no component is more essential than the classic farmhouse sink. The renovation experts at HGTV note that a classic farmhouse sink features a deep, wide basin. Farmhouse sinks are large enough to handle all the dishes that come after a big family meal. Oldfashioned porcelain sinks are worth consideration by homeowners who want their kitchen sinks to evoke a traditional farmhouse feel.

 Countertops: HGTV recommends butcher block countertops for homeowners who favor European farmhouse style. Homeowners overhauling their kitchens to create a farmhouse feel should consider installing a large island with a walnut butcher block countertop for an authentic farmhouse feel.

Farmhouse style homes are wildly popular. Some simple renovations can help homeowners with a fondness for farmhouse style bring this classic look into their homes.



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